

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 13 1987

date entered

FEB 12 1987

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

**1. Name**

historic Cannelton Historic District

and or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Roughly bounded by Richardson St. (N.E.), Taylor (S.E.)  
First (S.W.) and Madison (N.W.) N/A not for publication

city, town Cannelton N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Perry code 123

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse, Office of the Recorder

street & number 7th Street

city, town Cannelton state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cannelton Historic District consists of the central business district, selected adjacent residential areas, and two adjacent industrial areas which were central in the historic development of the town. A river town, Cannelton was limited in its expansion by the Ohio River, itself, and also by high rock bluffs which rise sharply approximately 2200 feet from the river. The proposed boundary of the Cannelton Historic District encloses approximately 2050 feet by 1700 feet; the first measurement reflects the available building space on the terrace between the river and the bluffs, and the second measurement reflects the first development of the town of Cannelton.

In May, 1841, a map called "Plan of the Town of Cannelburg" named only two streets, "Water Street," parallel to the Ohio River, and "Centre Street," perpendicular to the river. (Centre Street is the present-day Adams Street.) This plat comprised the central portion of the present Cannelton and was made for the American Cannel Coal Company; the area at that time was traversed by the coal railroad. In July, 1846, the town plat was revised and resurveyed. A map drawn in March, 1849, shows the streets laid out and named much as they appear today, and the boundaries of the historic district extend very little beyond this original plat.

Two large sandstone structures dominate the area. Largest, and most significant to the historical development of the town, is the Indiana Cotton Mill, 1849-50, the twin spires of which may be seen from any part of town (photo #88). The other large sandstone structure is St. Michael's Church, 1859, situated at the base of the bluffs at one end of the main street (Washington Street) of the central business district (photo #3). After passing St. Michael's Church, the street extends sharply up the bluff to two cemeteries (Cliff Cemetery, established 1854, and St. Michael's Cemetery, established 1864) which contain many carved sandstone tombstones, crypts and sandstone retaining walls. About midway along the street up the bluff is the site of a sandstone quarry. Marks may still be seen in this sandstone layer where blocks were separated from the walls to be used as building materials in the town below. Very few towns are related so directly to their geophysical environment.

Besides the significant number of sandstone block buildings, native sandstone is used in many of the foundations of early buildings, both commercial and residential, such as the house shown in photo #45. Sandstone blocks were used as side walls in several early commercial buildings, such as the F. H. Clemens Store (photo #17). Yet another sandstone feature found in abundance in Cannelton is retaining walls of sandstone block. These retaining walls line much of Seventh Street (Highway 66) which parallels the bluffs, and they are also found in other parts of town. Often, at house sites, these walls are pierced by worked sandstone steps (photo #74). While the sandstone retaining walls add much to the visual character of the town, this character is more subtly enhanced by the remnants of high sandstone block sidewalks and slender sandstone curbs still found in several places in the historic district (photo #53).

Cannelton's central business district is located along Washington Street, perpendicular to the river. The Indiana Cotton Mill property comprises three of the six blocks on the northwest side of the street, beginning at the river. The early residential area of Cannelton is approximately contained by the two streets which parallel Washington: Adams and Taylor. In fact, only two other parallel streets were named in the original plat: Madison and Congress; these flank Adams and Taylor. Within the proposed boundaries of the historic district there are approximately 240 buildings. Of these, approximately 25 percent are intrusions. Of these 240 buildings, 25 percent are commercial, 60 percent are residential, 12 percent are public, and three percent are industrial.

## 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1837-1936 Builder/Architect Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cannelton Historic District is significant as an early Indiana industrial area. Cannelton was established because of its rich coal resources and for its advantageous location on the Ohio River. Manufacturing operations such as the Indiana Cotton Mill (photo # 1 ) and the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company (photo #31 ) further encouraged development of the town. The commercial area which developed as a result of industrial activity is virtually intact and is significant for the variety of time periods represented and for its high integrity. A large number of structures in Cannelton are significant for their architecture. Many of the buildings and other structures (including sidewalks, curbs, and retaining walls) are constructed of native sandstone, giving the town a distinctive appearance (photos #5 and 6). Other buildings are significant as early or outstanding representations of architectural styles, such as the Josie Nicolay House (photo #42 ), an early Cannelton house which was probably constructed in the 1850s; and a commercial building at 519 Washington Street, which is an excellent frame example of an Italianate commercial structure (photo #26 ).

The Cannelton Historic District contains buildings which were built in the 1840s and 1850s of native sandstone, quarried from the bluff directly above the town. Most of these buildings are presently being used and are in good condition. Only in Cannelton may such a concentration of these distinctive structures be found. Within the boundaries of the Cannelton Historic District there are several buildings of native sandstone. Throughout the district, native sandstone has been used liberally as foundation stones for later buildings of brick or wood frame (photo #45 ). Native sandstone is also used for the many retaining walls within the district (photo # 9 ), and remnants of its widespread use at an earlier time include large sandstone block sidewalks in two areas (photo #53 ) and some sandstone curbs between sidewalks and streets (photo #54 ). An area where sandstone was quarried for the cotton mill may still be viewed at the bluff above the town. Although most of the sandstone buildings are simple residences, two of the buildings are architecturally distinguished. These buildings are the Indiana Cotton Mill, 1849-1850 (photo #1 ), and St. Michael's Church, 1859 (photo #3 ).

Of the 1880s and 1890s buildings on Cannelton's commercial streets, a large number retain features from their period of construction.

Cannelton (or "Coal Haven," or "Cannelsburg," as it was called until 1844) owes its development to its rich deposits of coal. In the summer of 1835, General Seth Hunt, of Walpole, New Hampshire, traveling on the Ohio River, observed a heap of coal near Hawesville, Kentucky (across the river from Cannelton and leased a tract of land there. Upon his return home, he joined in enterprise with Samuel J. Gardner, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and James T. Hobart, of Boston. They raised \$10,000, and General Hunt returned to purchase the land. He also contracted for about \$50,000 worth of other lands to be paid for in a few months, employed hands, and began mining. He encountered many misfortunes, including loads of coal lost when flatboats sank, loss of money to dishonest employees, a partial loss on a \$10,000 sawmill, and a total loss on a small steamboat. Meanwhile, James T. Hobart had come to the area and, after inspection, concluded the facilities for production were better on the Indiana side of the river. In 1836 he bought some land in what is now Cannelton and made preparations to begin work there.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 61 acres, more or less

Quadrangle name Cannelton, IN-KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 6	5 2 2 9 5 0	4 1 9 6 2 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 6	5 2 3 0 0 0	4 1 9 5 5 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 6	5 2 2 3 8 0	4 1 9 5 4 8 0
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D	1 6	5 2 2 1 0 0	4 1 9 5 8 3 0
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E	1 6	5 2 2 4 0 0	4 1 9 6 4 3 0
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Please see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 *Richard Mantz for J. M. Robinson*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-8-86

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

<i>J. M. Robinson</i> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register	date	<u>2-2-87</u>
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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Cannelton Historic District Item number 6

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The Cannelton Cotton Mill  
American Engineering Record (HAER), 1973.

The Cannelton Cotton Mill  
National Register of Historic Places, 1976.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
National Register of Historic Places, 1983.

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The major building periods are the early years, 1840 to 1860, during which building was primarily related to the American Cannel Coal Company and to the Indiana Cotton Mill, and the later years, from about 1880 to 1910, when many of the commercial buildings and residences were built. Cannelton's early buildings of sandstone are unique in southern Indiana, and the fact that there are many of these buildings surviving in one concentrated area makes Cannelton even more remarkable.

Buildings from the late 19th century period are similar in style to those in many southern Indiana towns, and they are well represented in Cannelton's central business district as they line one street (Washington Street) with relatively few intrusions (photo #56). Some of the buildings of the area have been inappropriately remodeled, but they still have visible vestiges of their original architecture (photo #61).

Others are original in design, but need rehabilitation. Of these, several are in the process of being rehabilitated. The downtown commercial area has deteriorated to some extent and some of the buildings are vacant. In 1981 a rural development grant to buy paint and materials enabled the American Jewish Society to spend the summer painting some of the buildings in the downtown area, giving an added stimulus to merchants and land owners to enhance the area by revitalizing other building. Waldschmidt & Werner (photo # 73) is a good example of a remodeled modern building that complements the surrounding historic buildings.

The residential areas adjacent to Washington Street also represent late 19th century architecture with a scattering of earlier residences suggesting the pattern of building. The general condition of the historic buildings can be described as poor to excellent. Inappropriate remodeling (such as that of the building in photo #54) and lack of maintenance (photo #47), are the main visual problems. Fire seems to have been the cause of destruction of most of those buildings whose places have been taken by the few modern residences and mobile homes which intrude upon the historic district (photo #39). Unfortunately, several historic sandstone buildings have been torn down and other historic buildings have similarly been lost; this emphasizes the importance of increasing the awareness of historic treasures in the area.

Although architecture is discussed more specifically in the descriptions of individual buildings, it should be noted that quite a few of the historic buildings have many of their original details intact. In the central business district, most of the buildings were constructed in the late 1800's. Many of these buildings have dates on them and share common walls and cornicing. Some have been restored, but most of these buildings have had the lower story altered, with the upper story retaining its architectural integrity. The Jacob Heck store (photo #18), the Rosenblatt store (photo #28), and the August Heck store (photo #60) are notable exceptions, with original detailing existing in the entire buildings. Most of the commercial buildings in Cannelton have two stories, as do many of the residences. Only the Indiana Cotton Mill, one commercial building on Washington Street, and the Community Building have more than two stories.

Building materials for both commercial and residential buildings include sandstone (both as a primary building material and, in many cases, as foundation stones for buildings of other materials), brick (often with stone sills and lintels), and wood clapboards. Decorative details are found in carved sandstone, ashlar sandstone, carved Bedford limestone, stone quoining, wrought iron, brick corbeling, cast iron pillars, pressed tin, wood scalloped shingles in gable ends, wood dentil ranges and an abundance of wood Victorian "gingerbread."

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Among building styles represented in the historic district are Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Craftsman. The residential areas generally have large yards and the houses line the streets, although there are some houses set back on the backs of the lots, especially along Seventh Street (photo #49). A few old decorative iron fences remain (photo #13). Large trees on many of the lots and along many of the streets combine to give a nicely shaded townscape. There is a small park on the Community Building lot, facing Seventh Street, which contains a bandstand, built in the 1920s (photo #35). The district contains 178 contributing buildings and 69 non-contributing buildings. It also contains 42 contributing structures, two contributing objects and zero contributing sites; eight non-contributing structures, zero non-contributing objects and 11 non-contributing archaeological sites.

Indiana Cotton Mill and adjoining office

Washington Street

Photos: 1, 2, 88, 86, 90

Once the largest industrial building in Indiana, the Indiana Cotton Mill of Cannelton, built in 1849-1851, is one of the most impressive manufacturing structures of the pre-Civil War period. The building cost \$80,000 when it was built and over \$175,000 worth of machinery was installed as soon as the structure was completed. Employment in 1851 quickly rose from 400 persons, including many young women and girls from New England. The mill's boilers and steam driven machinery operated on what appeared to be an inexhaustible supply of "cannel" coal at 75¢ per ton. The mill was built by a combination of local investors, New England financiers and southern landowners as part of a plan to create great industrial development in the midwest to rival the textile industry of New England. Although the overall plan was to prove unrealistic, the mill has had a colorful and varied history, including the manufacture of Union Army uniforms in the Civil War years. The Civil War, however, ended the unique bonds of financial cooperation between the northern industrialists and southern cotton planters which had given birth to the idea of a cotton mill with a midwest location.

The cotton mill operated continuously from 1851 through 1954 when it closed. The Cannelton News, March 25, 1954, noted that "from the early 1850s to the mid 1940s, the Cannelton economy was dominated by the manufacturing of raw cotton into thread and cloth. A weave shop was added in 1919, further increasing capacity. In 1946, the mill was sold to Bemis Bag Company, which converted it to the manufacture of rayon, a commodity more in demand than cotton. As this venture proved less and less profitable, the old mill closed in 1954."

There is a controversy over the identity of the architect of the Indiana Cotton Mill. Goodspeed and de la Hunt both name Alexander McGregor, an engineer from Rhode Island, as the architect, and General Charles T. James, who had built and equipped several successful mills, as responsible for the overall construction. When the building was researched by HAER in 1973, an article was found which stated that the architect was Thomas Tefft, of Providence, Rhode Island, and that drawings for the Indiana Cotton Mill were found among his papers. HAER credits the building to Thomas Tefft; there is little doubt that McGregor was director of the project.

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The Indiana Cotton Mill structure faces the Ohio River several hundred feet from its north bank. The building has 280 feet of frontage and is 60 feet deep. Most of the building is five stories tall but it is dwarfed by 100 foot high twin towers on either side of the main entrance. One of these towers houses a fire escape stairwell and the other was a water storage tower for fire protection. The building walls are three feet thick, built of blocks of native sandstone outside and inside, and filled with spalls (rubble). A frame office building is situated on the southeast side of the cotton mill between the cotton mill and Washington Street.

The Indiana Cotton Mill was described in the 1973 Historic American Engineering Record evaluation by the National Park Service as "a relatively austere structure with its fine sandstone ashlar walls relieved only by window sills and their brackets, the cornice with its brackets and the oculi (eyelets) in the gables." The description continues, "The good proportions and the twin towers, a favorite Tefft motif taken from the Lombard architecture, make the Cannelton mill one of the most impressive buildings of its date in the United States."

St. Michaels Church  
Washington and Richardson Streets  
Photos: 3, 4, 91

The parish was organized in 1849 and held mass in various buildings in town. In 1850 they built a stone building on a lot on Seventh Street at the head of Madison Street. However, by 1858 the parish had outgrown this church, St. Patrick's, and St. Michael's church was built.

St. Michael's Catholic Church, built in 1859, is one of the remaining Cannelton structures built with sandstone quarried from the nearby hills. The church is constructed with finished sandstone blocks on the exterior and interior walls and loose rock chips (spalls) and mortar on the inside, with walls from 38 to 41 inches thick.

St. Michael's spire, added in 1860, rises 156 feet and the tower contains four bells. The largest bell weighs 1,060 pounds, and the other three weigh 623, 336, and 119 pounds, respectively.

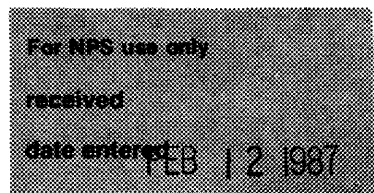
The Gothic Revival structure has pointed arched windows, steeply pitched roof, rose window, pointed arch doors, elaborate stonework, and other stonework at the bell tower entrance.

Although the building was dedicated in 1859, the elaborate interior was not completed until 1869. In 1878 a rectory was added, and in 1877 a second clock was installed in the tower. The old tower clock was entirely restored in 1981. The clock, which belongs to and is maintained by the town, got a new face with aluminum hands and numerals replacing the original wooden face; electricity replaced hand drawn chains which originally ran the clocks. The newly restored clock on the steeple is called the Town Clock and chimes every quarter hour, and strikes on the hour. St. Michael's has been the subject of major remodeling efforts in 1927, 1954 and 1977. The church has been kept in excellent condition.



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Commercial Building

105 East Seventh Street

Photos: 73, 92

This Greek Revival building was built between 1845 and 1855. It is of dressed sandstone, with stone window facings, six-over-six windows, and shutter hangers. The building has a dentiled cornice and entablature-like window heads. The storefront is virtually unaltered. It is composed of square columns, which define the central entrance bay and flanking display window bays, and a wide entablature.

Residence

109 East Seventh Street

Photos: 5, 73

This building has many original features intact: shutters, six-over-six windows, stone pilasters, and a long window above the doorway. Built between 1845 and 1855, this is one of Cannelton's earliest buildings. The exact date is unknown.

The entrance with sidelights and transom light above the door, architectural detailing above the door, cornice molding and window lintels and sills suggest this building is of the Greek Revival style.

Commercial Building

309 Taylor Street

Photo: 21

The interior of this sandstone building is different from other sandstone buildings in town. It has a hall on one side of the building with all rooms entering off the hall. The building was heated with stoves; there are no fireplaces in the building. The native woodwork has no ornamentation that would indicate a private dwelling. The basement is of cut sandstone blocks with an arched ceiling; it has an entrance from the front (now walled up and under the sidewalk) and in the rear. There is a subcellar under the floor of the basement. The building has a gambrel roof. It originally had six-over-six windows and a balcony on the second story; notice the stone cantilever braces. The building is in the process of being restored.

Residence

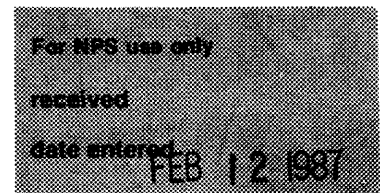
239 West Seventh Street

Photo: 7

This two-story sandstone double residence has a hip roof from which projects a central brick chimney. The stone on the side and rear elevations is irregularly cut while that on the front facade is laid in even courses. Although aluminum storm windows and doors have been added, the original two-over-two wooden sash remains. The structure dates from the 1840s-1850s.

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Residence

233 West Seventh Street  
Photo: 8

This sandstone residence was built in the 1840s or 1850s. Aluminum awnings and cornices, as well as a stockade fence, obscure historic details. Note cut stone blocks on front of the house, random size blocks and pieces of stone on side.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Third and Washington Streets  
Photo: 9

St. Luke's Episcopal Church was erected in 1845 and is in an excellent state of repair today. It is the second oldest Episcopal church in Indiana still in use. Originally built as the home of a local Unitarian church, it became an Episcopal church in 1858. After a fire destroyed the Cannelton Methodist Church in 1925, the Methodists used the church until theirs could be rebuilt. The bell which hangs in St. Luke's belfry first hung on the hurricane deck of a coast trader packet, the Major Barbour. The boat was wrecked on a sandbar and burned. The bell was retrieved for the church by Thomas W. and John L. Irvin.

The building, facing Third Street, sits on ground above the intersection of Third and Washington. The land is retained by a sandstone wall. The rectangular, central aisle sanctuary is entered through a tower that partially projects from the main mass. It is topped by a rectangular belfry. Doric pilasters support full entablatures at the corner of the main mass, tower and belfry. A projecting gabled porch appears to have been added later.

The church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 3, 1983.

Myers' Grade School/The Free School

Sixth and Taylor Streets  
Photo: 10

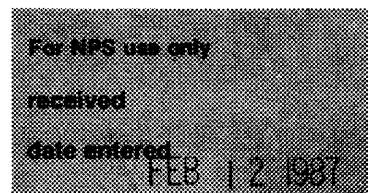
Myers' Grade School/The Free School was built in 1868. It is constructed of brick, now painted, and is in excellent condition both inside and out. The name was originally the Free School but in 1935, upon the retirement of Oscar Myers, the school was renamed in his honor, and today it is known as the Myers' Grade School. It is believed to be the oldest school in Indiana in continuous use.

In 1932, an "Industrial Survey of the City of Cannelton" said this about the already historic 64-year-old structure:

"The elementary building, although erected in 1868, is modern in every respect. The stairways, corridors, toilets, lighting, furnace, ventilation and natural light are all according to state regulations. When the building was first planned and erected considerable foresight was exercised for the wood could not be duplicated at this time, the arrangement of the rooms could not be improved upon, the size of the rooms is above standards at this time, and the playground could not be more ample. All in all, it is a remarkable building with an interesting past and has many more years of useful service in it for the children of Cannelton."

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The Cannelton "Century and a Quarter Celebration" publication in 1962 noted this about Mr. Myers:

"A discussion of Cannelton education would not be complete without mention of a most fabulous character, Oscar "Daddy" Myers. He taught for more than three decades here, and his stories to students remain classics to this day, as they are repeated over and over by those who studied under him. Upon his retirement in 1935, the grade school building was renamed in his honor and today is known as the Myers' Grade School."

The two story building has a five bay facade, composed of a central, projecting pavilion topped by a pediment. Other details include Doric pilasters separating the bays, an elaborate, bracketed cornice, and bracketed window heads.

Perry County Courthouse  
Seventh and Taylor Streets  
Photo: 11

Built in 1896-1897 and designed by Louisville Architect John Bacon Hutchings, it is an example of Renaissance Revival. The building, a square, two and one-half story mass with two-story flanking wings, is made of pressed yellow brick with cut trim of Bedford limestone. Its yard is banked with a dressed sandstone retaining wall, common along the length of Seventh Street. The courthouse was built to replace the first courthouse at Cannelton which was in a schoolhouse remodeled for the hasty move of the county seat from Rome in 1859. The new courthouse was built at a cost of \$30,000. It is in excellent condition. It is significant as the center of county government for 90 years.

It has a low pitched hip roof. Ground floor windows have flat arches.

Plaque  
Photo 12

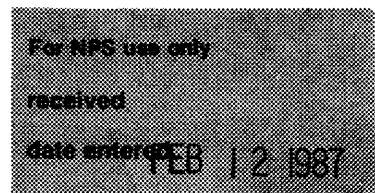
The Lafayette Springs Chapter of the D.A.R. erected this cast plaque on a worked sandstone block on the courthouse lawn in 1934; it honors Perry County's Revolutionary War soldiers and Lafayette. The plaque notes the occasion of a riverboat wreck in which Lafayette's tour of America in 1825 was interrupted and the well-respected general received the visits of the local people. The inscription reads, in part: "Gilbert Mortier Marquis de Lafayette who spent a night and a day at Rock Island four miles from here May 9, 1825. His steamboat was wrecked. Pioneers for miles came to see him. The spot is now called Lafayette Spring."

Joseph F. Sulzer House  
120 Third Street  
Photo: 13

The article in the Cannelton Reporter on August 2, 1873, speaks of Joseph F. Sulzer's new home being built on Third Street, and on September 20, 1873, an article in the same paper notes that he had moved into his new residence.

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Joseph Sulzer and his brother, Samuel, ran a clothing store in the Rosenblatt's Store building (photo #28) at the corner of Third and Washington Streets from 1879 to 1895. In 1896, St. Luke's Episcopal Church bought the house to use as a parsonage. In 1926, Philip and Elizabeth Wittmer used the house for a hotel. For years the house was empty and in poor condition until the present owners, the Robert Hafeles, bought and restored the house. (Mrs. Hafele is a granddaughter of the Wittmers.)

The house is a two-story brick house with wide eaves and a steep roof. It has 13 rooms. The ceilings are 11½ feet high. Originally, there was a fireplace in every room. The front yard has an ornate cast-iron fence set in a stone ledge with stone pillars supporting the iron gate. It is an exemplary restoration. Important details include the decorative porch, gables and finials and the roof lines.

Thomas de la Hunt House, "Virginia Place"  
205 Taylor Street  
Photo: 14

This is one of the oldest houses in Cannelton (approximately 1860). The original owner was Joshua Huckleby whose daughter, Isabelle, married Thomas de la Hunt. Thomas was an officer in the Civil War. His son, Thomas James, wrote The History of Perry County in this house in 1915 when he was the owner. There was a sundial in the front yard for many years; a stone retaining wall with an iron rail fence surrounded the yard at one time. Originally, the building had a wrap-around porch and the top of the porch roof had decorative gingerbread. The living room had two large bay windows overlooking the river.

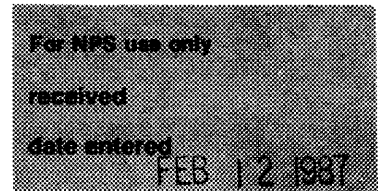
Mason/Newcomb/Sulzer House  
Third Street  
Photo: 15

This house was built in 1868 by Judge Charles Holland Mason. He was from Walpole, New Hampshire, and had been in Louisville following his graduation from law school when he was influenced by Hamilton Smith to come to Cannelton. He decided to begin a career in journalism and founded Perry County's first newspaper, The Cannelton Economist, in 1849. He edited this paper for two and one-half years. His law practice was well respected, and he served twice as a judge on the Common Pleas bench. In March, 1856, Mr. Mason went before the county commissioners with a petition for the removal of the county seat from Rome to Cannelton, but nothing was done until 1858, when Judge Ballard Smith presented a second petition, accompanied by deeds and other pertinent information, securing the change. In later life, Judge Mason contributed writings to many journals and magazines; during the 1860s and 1870s he wrote under the nom-de-plume "Sandstone." In 1890, he was appointed commissioner of the Northwest Indian Territories by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1881 Dwight Newcomb bought the house. Dwight Newcomb was a brother of Horatio Dalton Newcomb, then Treasurer of the Indiana Cotton Mill, who came to Perry County in 1851 to look after his brother's interests in the cotton mill. (H. D. Newcomb became owner of the cotton mill in 1853 and the controlling interest was held for the next 30 years by the Newcomb family.) Dwight Newcomb clerked for five years in his elder brother's grocery, then engaged in steamboating for another five years. He was, for a time, president of the Indiana Cotton Mill, and from 1855 until 1870 he leased the American Cannel Coal

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Company's mines under the firm name, D. Newcomb and Company; the other partners were H. D. Newcomb and James C. Ford. Dwight Newcomb lived here until his death on July 4, 1892.

In 1892 Samuel Sulzer was the owner of the building and from 1924 until 1935 it was the K of C Home. In 1935 it was purchased by the Cannelton Public Schools. It served as a school annex for years. The front two rooms have been remodeled and now serve as offices for the school.

The two-story brick building originally had a porch eight feet wide with elaborate ginger-bread trim that ran across the front and extended along both sides. The house has a large entrance hall with stairs to the second floor. The stair wall has wainscoting of decorative embossed cardboard used during the late 1800s. Originally, small coal grate fireplaces were in each downstairs room. The fireplaces in the two front rooms were decorated iron with imported glazed tiles. A sandstone wall fronts the yard, and originally an iron fence was on top of this wall at the yard level. The ornately carved sandstone pillars supported an iron gate at the base of the sandstone stairs.

The tall, narrow windows, low pitched hip roof, decorative brackets, window detail, first story bay window, and elaborate cornice detail are indicative of the Italianate style.

Union Hotel  
121 Taylor Street  
Photo: 16

This gable roofed, brick building has been known as the Union Hotel for more than 100 years. It was built by Ernest Heck in 1871 and later owned by his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Denny. There are about 25 rooms in the building which is now a rooming house and tavern. The frame part of the building has been replaced with concrete block construction. Solid brick construction makes up the inner partitions between the rooms. The foundation is of huge sandstone blocks. The basement runs half the width and the full length of the building.

Carriage House  
Photo: 16

The Carriage House was used in connection with the Union Hotel for many years. It is now used principally for storage.

Brickwork has been covered with a stucco type finish.

F. H. Clemens Store  
Seventh and Washington Streets  
Photo: 17

This store was built by Peter Clemens in 1861 as a general store with a residence on the second floor. Peter Clemens was the second mayor of Cannelton in 1886. The store was also operated at various times by his sons, F. H., Henry, Peter, and Charles. His son Henry added a line of farm implements in the 1890s before he left to form the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company. Henry was also a mayor of Cannelton in 1898 or 1900. The building has an ornate

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iron balcony on the east side which has been temporarily removed for repair. An unusual corner window in the second story also has decorative iron brackets. Sandstone blocks make up the side walls.

Jacob Heck Store  
Sixth Street  
Photo: 18

Built in 1882, this building was operated as a hardware store until the 1960s. The building has retained its original facade with corbeling, dentil range, brackets, shutters, cast columns, and front awning. Two modern one-story additions flank the sides of the building.

The building has narrow arched windows with arched crown moldings and wide, overhanging eaves with decorative brackets.

Irvin's Store  
324 Taylor Street  
Photo: 19

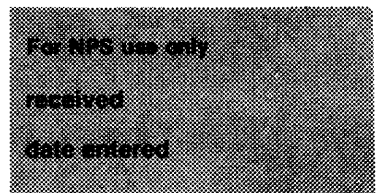
This building has recently been purchased by Jack and Joy Harris, who continue to operate a grocery on the premises. They found the date of 1857 carved in one of the second store window lintels. The building was a three-story brick and sandstone apartment house in the 1880s. In 1892 it was sold by George G. Ernst to Mrs. Thomas Irvin, who remodeled it by removing the third floor and doubling the size of the first two floors. It was then converted to a general store providing groceries, hardware, and drygoods to a large segment of Perry County. Thomas Irvin started business by trading and selling goods from a flatboat on the Ohio River. When he married, his wife, Mary, joined him in the business. They settled in Cannelton in 1861, tying up a steamboat at the Cannelton riverfront. Later, they moved their business, now groceries, into town. They owned or rented several buildings, including the Jeffries Building, from 1864 until 1892, when the family business was moved to this building. From 1892 to 1957 the store was run by members of the Irvin family. Since then there have been several owners and it continues to be the town's only large grocery store.

This building is representative of changes in building styles. The remodeling shows the early sandstone building, later Victorian style with decorative pressed metal brackets and star tie rods, and modernized glass and aluminum facade.

An early photo from about 1907 shows the first floor facade to have been divided into five sections by brick columns; the door was in the center section and windows were arranged symmetrically in the other four sections. The second floor was separated from the first by a wide band and the upper windows and bracketed cornice appeared as they do today.

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Busam's Store  
502 Taylor Street  
Photo: 20

The building has retained its original facade of 1881. Pat Shea, who was a drayman, built this building and operated his business from it. He had stables behind the building. It was sold in July, 1899, to Ann Conway who resided here until it was sold in April, 1901, to Joe Gerber. In August, 1906, Frank Busam bought the building and operated a wallpaper and paint store here. The Busams' business continued here until 1984. It is now a residence.

This Italianate building has tall, narrow windows, transoms over the door and windows, window detailing, and a wide cornice.

Commercial Building  
301 Taylor Street  
Photo: 93

This building is a clapboard double. It has an oak stairwell and paneling, all oak trim and plank floors. It was once covered with asbestos siding; this has been removed and it has been painted and partially restored. The foundation is of cut sandstone blocks and the small basement is of sandstone. The building has a two-story porch on the back side.

Masonic Lodge  
Sixth Street  
Photo: 22

The first charter of the Cannelton Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #152 was April 29, 1849. For many years they held their meetings in various public buildings around the community. In 1921 they acquired the Marcum Store building which was probably built in the late 1890s. It is a brick building with elaborate cornice. The lower story has been remodeled.

The tall, narrow windows, ornate cornice, eave brackets, and decorative lintel crowns are typical details of the Italianate style.

Commercial Building  
619 Washington Street  
Photo: 23

Constructed in 1879. The date is carved in the middle window lintel.

Although not common, there are a few examples of this style with a front gable. The building has an arched window in the gable and flat window lintels on the three front, second-story windows. Walls are brick.

Commercial Building  
509 Washington Street  
Photo: 27

Ca. 1900. Storefront remodeled.

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Tall, narrow windows with decorative pedimented heads and cornice. Pressed metal "block" siding.

Rosenblatt's Store/James Lodge #100 I.O.O.F.  
Washington and Third Streets  
Photo: 28

The Odd Fellows Lodge was chartered January 21, 1852. They completed this building in 1878. The second floor has always housed the Lodge. The first floor was originally divided into two parts called the east side and the west side. On the east side a clothing store was operated by Joseph F. and Samuel Sulzer from 1879 to 1895. From 1895 to 1921 the Casper and May Company operated a clothing store here. The Peltiz Company operated a clothing store here for a short time. In 1926, Rosenblatt's started their clothing store here, and about 1937 they expanded to include the west side, which had previously had several other tenants, including May's Variety Store from about 1921 to 1936. Rosenblatt's continued as a clothing store until 1985. This is a two-story brick building with stone corner quoining, metal and stone trim and arched windows with decorative keystones. It has not been remodeled. It has been well maintained and is an excellent example of the Italianate style. It has the original shed roof awning supported on iron columns, and a hitching post on the street. The basement is arched stone construction with a space under the street for use as a coal bin; this bin is made of arched brick. Photo #94 shows a small commercial building attached to the back of Rosenblatt's store. Now used as a residence, the original facade has not been remodeled.

A decorative cornice and eaves with eave brackets, tall arched windows with highly decorative crown, sill and jambs, and decorative stonework at corners indicate this architecture to be an Italianate style building.

Jeffrey's Building  
108 Second Street  
Photo: 62

This is a two-story brick building, built in 1866 or 1867. From 1877 until 1892 it was used as a general merchandise store by the Thomas Irvin family. Following destruction of the first Sunlight Hotel by fire in 1917, George Washington Pohl used this building as a saloon for a few years and, during Prohibition, as a soda fountain and restaurant. Thomas Farquhar published The Perry County Herald, a weekly newspaper, here for a short time. It is now used as residential apartments and storage.

The building has arched windows with decorative lintels and widely overhanging eaves.

Sunlight Hotel  
First and Washington Streets  
Photo: 29

This 1928 building replaces the first Sunlight Hotel which burned in 1917. The hotel was operated by Mr. and Mrs. George Washington "Wash" Pohl. The present building has been remodeled several times since 1928.



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August Heck Store

Sixth and Washington Streets

Photo: 60

This building appears today much as it did when it was built; it retains the original trim and detail, including the fenestration in the storefront. It has cast iron columns, a bracketed cornice and the original shed roof awning supported on slender iron columns over the sidewalk. It was recently repainted as part of the downtown revitalization project.

Commercial Building

Fifth and Washington Streets

Photo: 30

This building has a high degree of integrity and has been maintained well. Note the third floor segmental arched windows and round-arch attic vents. The three bays of the storefront have round arch openings.

The wide, overhanging eave with decorative brackets and the tall, narrow arched windows with ornate crowns are all indicative of the Italianate style.

Can-Tex Building

402 Washington Street

Photo: 58

This yellow brick building was built as the office for Can-Tex, a corporation which included the former Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company. Today it is the office of Can-Clay, who succeeded Can-Tex as the operator of the sewer tile and brick industry in 1983. This is the site of the former Cumming's Store and the Wittmer Hotel, which were destroyed by fire in November, 1926. The words, "Hotel Wittmer," are set into the sidewalk in front of the building. Because this building was partially constructed in 1937 and partially in 1960-61, it is non-contributing to the district.

Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company Industrial Site

Adams Street

Photos: 31, 32

The Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company was started by Henry M. Clemens, one of seven sons of Peter Clemens. (Peter and his sons organized and operated several retail businesses in Cannelton.) There was an abundance of good fire clay and shale in the vicinity of Cannelton from which sewer pipe and stoneware were being made by the Clark Bros. Pottery, established in Cannelton in 1866. Joseph M. Hirsch, a Cannelton banker, George W. Hufnagle, manager of the Cannelton Flour Mills, George W. Pohl, owner of the Sunlight Hotel in Cannelton, and the retail drygoods firm of Casper, May and Company, Cannelton, were among original stockholders, as well as investors from other cities. The cornerstone of the new four-story brick factory was laid on November 25, 1908. The original plan, completed in 1909, consisted of a small factory building used for production and drying equipment, and six 30-foot periodic kilns. Within a short time the demand forced the construction of six more kilns. About 1915 two additional 36-foot kilns were built.

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After World War I the country experienced a building boom, and to help supply the growing demand for pipe, a large addition was built in 1923 and 1924 consisting of a four story drier building, twelve 32-foot kilns, and equipment to double the plant capacity. During the early years of operation, much of the pipe was shipped by river barge. Today, the company has a fleet of trucks to transport their products. Operated for more than 50 years by the Clemens family, the industry became Can-Tex about 1958, and the name change reflected a sister operation which had been started in Texas. In 1966, Can-Tex merged with Harsco Corp., of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Over the years a yellow brick office was built and many other additions have been made to the organization, including a research and development lab, steel "periodic" kilns similar to the original brick beehive kilns and "continuous kilns," which use conveyor systems to move the molded, dried clay products through the firing chamber. The company is now known as Can-Clay, incorporated on December 31, 1982, and continues to produce sewer tile; bricks have also been added to the product line.

Cannelton High School

Third Street  
Photo: 33

Cannelton High School was built in 1922 on the site of the Cummings Opera House. The builder was Hafele Supply Company, one of Cannelton's earliest construction and carpentry companies; among other buildings the firm has built are the Cannelton Community Building (photo #34) and the Court House (photo #11). The Hafeles started business in the 1880s with a planing mill in the "St. Louis" area of Cannelton. The present mayor, Hargis Hafele, is a member of this family. The high school is a two-story brick building with concrete border trim. It has hardwood floors on the top two floors and has been kept in excellent condition. A recent addition has been made to the east side.

St. Michael's School

Richardson Street  
Photo: 3

St. Michael's School was built in 1915 to replace the old St. John's School. The building is still used as a school.

This is a two and one-half story, square-planned structure with a hip roof and a projecting, gable roofed central bay topped by a cupola.

Community Building

115 Sixth Street  
Photos: 34, 35

The Community Building was built in 1928. It is a brick building with decorated limestone trim, a segmental arched roof, and projecting entrance. It is on the site of an early school built in 1856. The Community Building also houses the Cannelton Public Library, City Hall and the Police Station; the Fire Station was built adjacent to its back. Behind the building is a small park and bandstand. The bell that hangs on the tall pillars and lentil beside the building came from the Indiana Cotton Mill.

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
Taylor and Seventh Streets  
Photo: 36

The St. John's German Evangelical Association was formed December 7, 1854. The first church was built in 1855 and was a frame building. The present brick church and its accompanying frame parsonage were built in 1890. The church has retained its original appearance except for the steeple, which has been replaced with brick, and the doorway, which has been remodeled.

The steep gabled roof, side gable, pointed arch doorway and windows are all representative of the Gothic Revival style. The base of the church is stone.

First Methodist Church  
Taylor and Third Streets  
Photo: 37

The English speaking Methodist Church was first organized in 1839. The German Methodist Society was organized in 1855 and consolidated with the English speaking Methodist in 1914. They built a frame building between Taylor and Congress Streets which was used until 1927, when the current church was built.

The church is a one and one-half story brick building with a raised basement and an entrance tower at the north corner. The building has a gable roof. Windows are round or flat arched. The building has a small amount of stone trim and decorative brickwork.

German Methodist Society  
201 Seventh Street  
Photo: 38

The frame church was built in 1855. The rectangular gable-roofed building is now used as a law office; its original lines are evident, but it has been covered with asphalt and asbestos siding. Note the sandstone double stairway in front of the building.

Workers' Houses  
Hutchings Street  
Photo: 39

These late 19th century cottage type houses may have been built to house the clay miners who hauled clay with mules from the mine site down Adams Street to the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company. At one time there were six of these similarly constructed houses on Hutchings Street. Most have been remodeled, but two are still in fairly original condition.

Details of these shotgun houses include pedimented porticos, dentiled cornices, and square columns. Many of the windows have their original sashes with six-over-six lights.

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Clemens House  
132 Seventh Street  
Photo: 40

The house was built by Peter Clemens in 1878 to be used as a rental house. The original part is a rectangular, five bay brick structure with a hip roof. The tower and side room of frame construction is a late, 19th century addition. Until recently, the porches had round Ionic columns as supports. The house has large rooms with high ceilings, golden oak woodwork, and a Victorian mantel and fire grates. Until around 1970 the house contained the original gaslight fixtures converted to electricity.

This building has hints of the Second Empire style in the mansard roof, the iron cresting on the tower, and the window detailing of the addition. The original section is very plain, without stylistic ornamentation.

Latimer House  
604 Adams Street  
Photo: 41

This house was built by Tom Latimer in the 1800s. It has 14 foot ceilings, marble and wood mantels, and cast iron fire grates. From the exterior, the house appears to have been a Greek Revival building to which a tower, bay window, and porch in the Queen Anne style have been added.

Details of the tower include roof cresting, a bracketed cornice, and stained glass windows. Although aluminum siding has been added to the house, architectural details have not been obscured.

Josie Nicolay House  
515 Adams Street  
Photo: 42

Jean Baptiste and Josephine Nicolay were French-Belgian immigrants who came to the United States in 1840 and settled in Leopold Township, later moving to Cannelton in the mid-1850s. The Greek Revival house has the original woodwork and fireplaces and has been well cared for over the years. It has a sandstone retaining wall.

The frame house has a gable roof, clapboard siding, six-over-six windows, pedimented window heads, and a columned portico.

Webb House  
217 Taylor Street  
Photo: 43

This house was built in the late 1800s. It is a one-story brick with a hip roof. It has oak woodwork inside and a Victorian fireplace and mantel. Mr. Webb, who was traffic manager for the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company, lived here in the early 1900s.

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Residence

303 East Seventh Street

Photo: 44

This building is one of the clapboard Victorian frames in original condition. Note the gingerbread on porch and gable, stained glass windows, and boxed eaves. The house was built around 1880 and inside has large rooms with high ceilings. It has plank oak floors, oak woodwork and an elaborate oak mantel with green glazed tile. It has a sandstone foundation and a cut sandstone block basement. The front retaining wall is five feet high and originally had an iron fence which surrounded the yard; it had a large gate at the bottom of the sandstone stairs. The walks around the house are also made of large cut sandstone blocks as are all the outside steps.

Residence

601 Hoskinson Street

Photo: 45

This residence is in excellent condition and is a good example of a clapboard frame. It has pierced attic vents, window trim, leaded glass design in the upper front window. It is on a sandstone block foundation. At one time this was the southeastern extent of the town.

Jacob Heck House

606 Taylor Street

Photo: 46

This house was built in the late 1880s by Jacob Heck. The family had lived next door in the upper story of the Heck store (photo #18) until this house was completed. The exterior is virtually in its original condition.

The Free Classic house is of frame construction with clapboard siding and a hip roof. The house has a three bay facade with gable roofed, projecting end bays and a gable roofed dormer in the central entrance bay. The main door has a transom and sidelights. A columned porch extends the width of the facade.

Fred Hafele House

616 Taylor Street

Photo: 47

Built in the late 1800s, probably around 1870-1880, this house has large rooms, 14 foot ceilings, and golden oak trim. The outside is in its original condition. The two-story frame house has a three bay facade and a front gable roof with diamond shingles in the gable. Other siding is clapboard. Windows are two-over-two. A columned porch extends the width of the facade.

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Residence

124 Fifth Street

Photo: 48

This house is of frame construction and has a front gable roof. Although the house is covered with asbestos siding, virtually all other features of the house are intact, including eave brackets, a pierced, round attic vent, windows and window trim, the front door, and a cast iron fence. Italianate in style, the house was probably built around 1875.

Residence

137 West Seventh Street

Photo: 49

The outstanding feature of this otherwise ordinary house is the decorative spindlework porch with a latticework porch base. The house is a one-story, side-gable-roofed house which has been covered in a synthetic stone siding. Otherwise, window and door details are original.

St. Michael's Nuns' Home

101 Richardson Street

Photos: 52, 3

The old St. John's school, built in 1887, was originally on this site. The old school building was demolished and the nuns' home was built in the summer of 1914. It now serves the religious education needs of the parish.

The house is a very plain, two-story brick house with a front gable roof, a rectangular plan, and a three bay facade. Among the few decorative details are quoins at all corners of the house, a concrete front porch, and a bay window on one side of the house. There is aluminum siding on the gable.

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In December, 1837, the American Cannel Coal Company was formed. The incorporators were Seth Hunt, James T. Hobart, Elijah Livermore, J. B. Russell, and John D. W. Williams. The object of the company was "to mine stone coal at Coal Haven, Perry County, Indiana, and elsewhere; to mine iron and other minerals; to manufacture iron, copperas and lumber; to build steam- and flat-boats for the transportation of coal, iron, lumber, and other products; and to build mills, furnaces, forges, etc."

In 1837, the company purchased a large amount of land. The total of their holdings at a later high point was 6,456 acres. James T. Hobart began implementing plans for extensive operations including laying off and fencing small tracts of arable land on which log houses were erected to be rented by miners, lumbermen, and laborers. Several mines were opened, the principal one being at the head of Washington Street under the bluff behind the present location of St. Michael's Nuns' Home. A wooden tramway was built from this mine to the river, and coal was conveyed by carts. The merits of coal as a new fuel were extolled by steamboat operators on a large painted sign by the river, but a good supply of corded wood was also maintained for sale, as most of the boats still used it for fuel. Other mines were opened near Sulphur Spring and near the head of what is now Taylor Street. Two saw-mills were also started. A brickyard was started but was soon abandoned; however, a small grist mill proved more successful. The coal company built a large frame hotel in 1838.

In 1839, General Hunt exchanged his holdings in the company for the exclusive right to work the copperas interest of the mines while Mr. Hobart worked the mines under lease from the coal company. Hunt erected a costly factory near the head of the present Washington Street, sending to New York for a cement that could resist the action of copperas water. Upon completion, after a year of building, he found that the cement failed completely, as did other important details. He lost all of his investment and returned to the East where he died at Walpole, New Hampshire, in 1846. He was really the founder of the American Cannel Coal Company and the town of Cannelton.

After Hunt's departure, bad luck continued to plague the company, and "Coal Haven" became nearly defunct. In the fall of 1839 a fire swept away the hotel, stores, mills and residences. This fire explains why more visual reminders of the coal company do not exist today.

In 1840, Francis Yates Carlisle, of New Orleans (born in Providence, Rhode Island), leased the coal company's holdings in Cannelton and began mining operations. It was his executive ability and energy which ultimately put the Cannelton Community on a permanent basis.

In February, 1841, the county surveyor laid out a town plat for the American Cannel Coal Company. In 1844, a second survey was made and the name, Cannelton, was officially adopted from a list of possibilities including Coal Haven, Cannelsburg, Hobartsville, and Huntsville. In July, 1846, the town plat was resurveyed and revised.

In 1843, James Boyd assumed control of mining operations as a lessee. He increased coal production from a few thousand bushels a year to almost half a million bushels. (Ironically, practically no cannel coal was ever found in any paying quantity, though the original belief in its existence had furnished the name for the coal company and for the town.) A stone building was erected by the coal company in 1843 and James Boyd started the first store in it.

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Through the years of its existence in Cannelton, the American Cannel Coal Company gave away many pieces of land to public interests and offered extra inducements to those wishing to become residents. Cliff Cemetery, St. Patrick's Church, St. Luke's Church (photo # 9 ) a Presbyterian Church, a school built in 1850 north of the site of the future St. Michael's, a school built in 1856 by St. Patrick's, and a school built in 1855-1856 which was used as the courthouse in 1859 until the present courthouse (photo #34 ) could be built were among the recipients of this generosity.

The coal company, through its energy in producing large shipments of coal, lumber, etc., had brought the location to the notice of prominent men of means in the East, who were willing to invest capital there. In 1848, twelve companies were chartered for manufacturing enterprise in Cannelton, including five cotton mills, a paper mill, a foundry and a glass manufacturer.

One of these enterprises was the Indiana Cotton Mill (photo #1 ), first called the Cannelton Cotton Mill Company, but soon changed to the Indiana Cotton Mill Company. It was incorporated by Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1864-1873; Charles T. James of Rhode Island, United States Senator, 1852-1858; Elisha M. Huntington, Judge of Indiana District Federal Court, 1848-1862; Randall Crawford of New Albany; James Boyd of Cannelton; John N. Breden; Jacob Beckwith; Perley W. Chamberlain; James Low; Thomas M. Smith, and Hamilton Smith. Of these, the last two were brothers, born in New Hampshire, who had come to Louisville some years earlier. Hamilton Smith had done much to promote the area for development and investment.

In the interest of promoting development in Cannelton, the coal company gave the cotton company the tract of land where the factory now stands and the free use of coal loads for a series of years. Early in 1849 preparations were made to quarry stone near the head of Washington and Taylor Streets for the factory building.

The Indiana Cotton Mill building was completed in that year. More information on the cotton mill's history and architecture are found with the individual building's description. For many years after, the cotton mill used coal to produce steam power to run its equipment.

In 1851, Hamilton Smith, originally from Durham, New Hampshire, was president of both the Indiana Cotton Mill Company and the American Cannel Coal Company. He had done much through his writing to newspapers and periodicals to promote investment in these enterprises, and he had also invested heavily in them. He was the foster father to the young community that F. Y Carlisle had established.

The cotton mill began operation with no problems, but it soon became a financial disappointment to its stockholders, who had been promised a ten percent dividend the first year. Instead, more money was needed. Horatio D. Newcomb, treasurer of the company in 1852, advanced \$30,000 of his own money. The following year he leased the plant, and the next year he bought the property for the amount of the debt against it. The controlling interest in the stock was owned for the next 30 years by members of the Newcomb family. The cotton mill did enjoy a long manufacturing history until it closed in 1954.

In 1855, Dwight Newcomb and Company (his partners were H. D. Newcomb and J. C. Ford), began mining work under a lease from the American Cannel Coal Company. He operated in the Sulphur Springs Hollow area for about 15 years, and steadily increased production to about 900,000 bushels of coal per average year of his lease. Dwight Newcomb's operation provided the return on the American Cannel Coal Company's investment in Cannelton.



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The remarkably rapid growth of the town from 1849 to 1851, when the cotton mill was being built, led to the project of building a public schoolhouse. The American Cannel Coal Company donated the lot and the Indiana Cotton Mill Company gave money toward the cost of the building. A stone structure was erected in 1850 at the eastern part of town. This soon proved to be too small and various other buildings were used until a new brick school building was finished in 1856 on a lot given by the coal company. This last building was used in 1859 for the courthouse, and school was once again held at various places until 1868, when Myers' Grade School/The Free School was built (photo #10 ).

The town was incorporated by action following a public vote, on September 18, 1852. The trustees elected were William Knight, Dwight Newcomb, Frederick Boyd, Hamilton Smith and William P. Beacon. In March, 1856, a formal petition was presented by Charles H. Mason to move the seat of Perry County from Rome to Cannelton, which was more centrally located along the Ohio River. This move was dropped, probably because it lacked two-thirds of the vote. In 1858, the question was renewed and a petition was presented by Ballard Smith and William P. Beacon.

The two-story brick schoolhouse, built in 1856, was selected as the courthouse. Land for this schoolhouse had been given by the American Cannel Coal Company and, at the time the building was selected for the courthouse, the coal company gave more land in the center of Cannelton adjacent to the school. Preparations were made to erect a jail and remodel the school building for the county offices. On March 8, 1859, the County Board accepted the proposals and formally announced the change of the county seat from Rome to Cannelton. By December 7, 1859, all the buildings were ready and the records and offices were moved to Cannelton by steamboat. In 1896, the new Courthouse Building (photo #11 ) was finished and the county offices were moved across Seventh Street to the new building. In 1922, the present brick high school building was constructed (photo #33 ). In 1928, a new community building (photo #34 ) was built on the lot once occupied by the 1856 schoolhouse.

The Ohio River was the major route inland during the early 1800s, and riverboats are important in Cannelton's history. In 1825, when Lafayette's steamboat was wrecked four miles upstream from Cannelton at Rock Island, Cannelton was virgin forest. Docking at points of easy access along the river, storeboats brought in goods for the pioneers and other riverboats picked up produce to be sold. From 1850 through 1860, more than 20 river packets were in regular trade between Louisville and New Orleans. The Reindeer, Europa, Magnolis, Richmond and Eclipse were sternwheelers and sidewheelers which carried passengers as well as cargo; some of these boats were luxurious, with Oriental carpets, elaborate meals and personal service. Others, such as that operated by Thomas Irvin, who later opened a grocery (photo #19 ) in Cannelton, were simple storeboats. Many others were flatboats, carrying only cargo. The river continued throughout Cannelton's manufacturing history to be a major travel route.

As one might expect in a river town, there were several early sandstone buildings along the riverfront, although few remain. The first record of a stone building in Cannelton is James Boyd's Stone Store, built in 1843, when he was lessee of the American Cannel Coal Company. In 1844, another stone store was built by James Boyd at the same location at First and Taylor Streets. Other early stone buildings by the riverfront which no longer remain are the Clark Pottery building where the present toll bridge spans the Ohio River, and a stone building which was built by Dwight Newcomb and later used as part of the Sunlight Hotel until it was destroyed by fire in 1917; the present Sunlight Hotel (photo #29 ) was built on the site in 1928. Today, a locks and dam at Cannelton raises the Ohio River,

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where barge traffic remains constant. A floodwall separates the city from the riverfront and no docks remain. A toll bridge spans the Ohio River from Cannelton to Hawesville, Kentucky, as a major access route between the two states.

Due to the difficulty of access over the hilly terrain, a railroad was not built to Cannelton until 1887 when, after many aborted proposals, a line was built from Lincoln City to Cannelton. During the 1880s and 1890s, the town continued to be a center of trade. In 1908, the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company was incorporated by Henry Clemens; this provided a second major industry for the town. Modest residences were built adjoining the retail center to house the growing number of workers. Examples of these houses can be seen in photos #77 and #82.

Many commercial buildings were built at this time; a look down Washington Street reveals a wealth of Italianate detailing, especially in the second stories and the cornices of the buildings (photo #56). Some exceptional examples of these commercial buildings which retain their original architectural character are the Jacob Heck Store (photo #18), The Pumper Tavern (photo #26), Rosenblatt's Store (photo #28), Sam's Tavern (photo #69), the August Heck Store (photo #60, and Hawhee's Store (photo #30). The residential area adjacent to the downtown central area also has a fine example of this style in the Mason/Newcomb/Sulzer House (photo #15).

Through the first half of the 20th century, Cannelton remained a prosperous river town with two large industries, a ferry across the Ohio River, and a prospering downtown area. Today, the railroad is gone, and the main road is Highway 66 (known as Seventh Street as it passes through town). Trucks serve as the main form of transportation for the principal manufacturing industry left in Cannelton, Can-Clay, which descended from the Cannelton Sewer Tile Company of 1908.

In 1954 the Indiana Cotton Mill closed, selling its machinery and vacating the building. Over the next ten years several different companies occupied various floors of the building, but eventually the building was no longer used. During this time, many of the older retailers and professionals retired, younger people moved out of the town to find employment elsewhere, and businesses closed. By 1980, many of the downtown buildings were vacant or underused. Historic preservation was well served in 1982 when Hubert and Louise Bruce gave the Indiana Cotton Mill building to Historic Cannelton, a non-profit group which has since been looking for funding to restore the historic structure and adapt it to reuse. Can-Clay is still an employer in the Historic District and other employers in Cannelton include Schwab Safe Company, Fischer Chair Company, and Hydro-Tex Corporation.

Today, the Cannelton Historic District is the hub of an active, functioning town. The outlying residential areas are still dependent on the services provided by the central business district and the adjacent governmental core, and Cannelton still provides for its residents the classic example of small town life.

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M. F. "Mike" Rutherford, Historian, R. R. 1, Tell City, Indiana 47586.

Cheryl Munson, Staff Archaeologist, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

Judy Hargis, Postal Carrier (house numbers), Cannelton, Indiana 47520.

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Beginning at a point at the intersection of the northwest property line of a house at 409 W. Seventh Street and the northeast curblin of Seventh Street,

thence southeast 480 feet to the southeast curblin of Madison Street;  
thence southwest 940 feet to the northeast curblin of Mill Street;  
thence southeast 280 feet;  
thence southwest 780 feet to the northeast curblin of First Street;  
thence southeast 230 feet to the northwest curblin of Adams Street;  
thence northeast 580 feet;  
thence southeast 485 feet to the southeast curblin of Washington Street;  
thence southwest 580 feet to the northeast curblin of First Street;  
thence southeast 490 feet;  
thence northeast 960 feet to the northeast curblin of Fourth Street;  
thence southeast 30 feet to the northwest curblin of Beckwith Street;  
thence northeast 460 feet to the northeast curblin of Sixth Street;  
thence southeast 270 feet to the northwest curblin of Congress Street;  
thence northeast 150 feet to the northeast curblin of Bry Street;  
thence southeast 460 feet to the southeast curblin of Hoskinson Street;  
thence southwest 60 feet;  
thence southeast 180 feet;  
thence northeast 175 feet to the southwest curblin of Seventh Street;  
thence northwest 170 feet to the northwest curblin of Hoskinson Street  
thence northeast 190 feet to the southwest curblin of Richardson Street  
thence northwest 1,075 feet;  
thence northeast 200 feet;  
thence northwest 380 feet;  
thence southwest 200 feet to the southwest curblin of Richardson Street;  
thence northwest 1,140 feet along Richardson Street;  
thence southwest 270 feet to the place of beginning,  
containing 61 acres, more or less.

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Boundary Justification

The Cannelton Historic District boundary lines do not extend much beyond those drawn as a plat map in 1849. Land use remains consistent with that of the early 1900s, with the Indiana Cotton Mill building and the Can-Clay Company industrial site (historically the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company) still occupying what de la Hunt describes as the "manufacturing quarter" of Cannelton. The boundary for the Historic District is justified by its faithfulness to the early development pattern of Cannelton and by its low percentage of structures intruding upon the Historic District (25 percent).

Most of the houses on the northwest and southeast sides of the Historic District are one story modern houses. The "St. Louis" area southeast of the original plat is another older area of Cannelton, but Casslebury Creek effectively divides this area from the rest of the town. There are a few other significant structures scattered throughout the town, but these are not contiguous to the Historic District.

A small area of land between the Ohio River and First Street to the southwest of the Historic District contains a two story brick Italianate residence built in the 1880s by James Clark; it has a recessed doorway with wooden shutters on the sidelights by the entrance door and other original wood bracketing and trim. Unfortunately, this area is periodically flooded by the Ohio River; a floodwall built in 1950 divides the early riverfront area from the rest of the town.

The steeply rising hills on the northeast have restricted development and form a natural boundary for this side of the district.

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