

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

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 27 1984

date entered DEC 27 1984

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

1. Name

historic THOMAS, Andrew, House

and/or common Camden-Jackson Township Public Library

2. Location

street & number West Main Street
(Northeast corner of Monroe and West Main Street) N/A not for publication

city, town Camden N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Carroll code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees
Camden-Jackson Township Public Library

street & number West Main Street (at Monroe Street)

city, town Camden N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46917

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Recorder's Office

street & number Carroll County Courthouse

city, town Delphi state Indiana 46923

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Andrew Thomas House is located on the northeast corner of West Main (Indiana State Road 218) and Monroe Streets in the center of the original plat of the Town of Camden. The house faces south on West Main Street.

The Thomas House, built in 1896, is transitional with elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. It is a detached, two and one-half story common bond brick building with a three-bay front facade and a flat roof. Roughly rectangular in plan, it is approximately 27 1/2 feet wide and 65 feet in length. The house is composed of a main block, a rear extension, and a frame addition (Photo 1).

On the south side is a wood, one-story porch which extends the width of the facade (Photo 2). This porch has square, carved posts with molded capitals. Running between these is a balustrade composed of molded railings, and spindles. The balustrade is believed to have been installed sometime after the house was built, as a drawing in the 1874 County Atlas shows the porch without it. The posts support an entablature with dentils and a molded box cornice. Three curved, limestone steps lead up to the porch and front door in the east bay of the facade.

The door opening has a wide wood surround, rectangular transom, and is surmounted by a stone lintel. The door, itself, is a paneled wooden door with a large glazed area in the upper half. There is also a wood screen door. First story facade windows are tall, extending nearly to the floor of the porch, and have white sandstone lintels. Both first and second story windows are double-hung with one light in each sash, and have dressed stone sills.

Second story windows have molded entablature heads. Attic windows are small and rectangular with two lights in each sash. These are located in the frieze which is defined by a molded, white sandstone band under the windows. The entablature has dentils and a molded box cornice.

The west side of the main block is two bays wide, and has windows the same in design as those on the facade, except that the first story window in the south bay has a head like the second story windows, instead of a plain lintel (Photo 3). Also, the north bay has a three-sided, one story bay with a window on each side. These are the same as the first story facade windows. The bay has a dentiled cornice. The east side of the house is very similar to the west side.

The entablature described on the facade extends around the east and west sides of the main block. The molded box cornice and dentils continue on the rear of this part of the house. In the west bay of the rear (north side) of the main block is a paneled, transomed door on the first story and a window in the style of other second story windows above (Photo 3). The door opens onto a wood porch identical in design to the one on the facade except that it is without a balustrade. This porch also abuts the west side of the brick rear wing. There is a door on this side of the wing which opens onto the porch.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1869 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Andrew J. Thomas House is significant for its architecture. One of the most imposing buildings of Camden, it has a high degree of integrity and is perhaps the best example of its style in the city. It is designated "outstanding" by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.

The Thomas House is on the site of one of the first five houses of Camden (by 1837). Later, that house, a log cabin, became the first store in town.

In 1869, the present house was constructed for Andrew J. Thomas, a banker and grain dealer. Thomas was a Jackson Township Trustee from 1866 to 1869 and a founder of the Camden Bank.

The house was purchased in 1876 by Philip Ray, a lawyer, after Thomas' death. Ray succeeded Thomas in the banking and grain business and married Thomas' widow. Ray lived in the house until his death in 1922.

The Camden Methodist Episcopal Church bought the house in 1925 for use as a parsonage. The building was used for a short time in the late 1940's for a municipal office building. In 1949 it was converted to a nursing home, which use was discontinued in 1968.

In 1969 the trustees of the Camden-Jackson Township Public Library bought the building, which is now a community library. Some historical artifacts are also displayed in the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Property

Atlas of 1863, Map of Carroll County, Charles Shober, Chicago

Atlas of 1874, O.L. Baskin & Co., Chicago, (reprinted, 1980, by the Bookmark, Knightstown, Indiana,

Helm, T. B. History of Carroll County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1882.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Flora Quad.

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

1	6	5	3	8	8	8	0	4	4	9	5	2	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies the south 89 feet of Lot 13 of the original plat of the Town of Camden, Indiana, and is roughly 87 1/2 feet x 89 feet in size.

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

state N/A code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis E. McCouch (2nd Vice-President
Carroll County Historical Society)

organization Carroll County Historical Society date September 7, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 255 telephone 317/564-3089

city or town Delphi state Indiana 46923

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

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-7-84

For NPS use only

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

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12-27-84

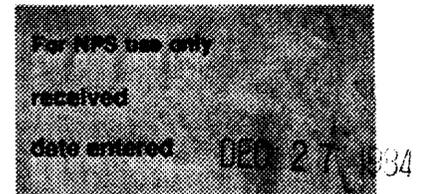
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Andrew Thomas House

Item number 7

Page 1

The wing extends from the two easternmost bays of the rear of the main block (Photo 4). The south part of the brick wing is two stories high. The north part of the brick wing is one story high. The wing has windows and doors and ornamentation in the style of the main block except, because it is not as tall, it has no frieze or attic lights. There is a frame, rectangular-windowed, one story bay with a dentiled cornice on the east side of the one story part of the wing, and a one story frame addition with a molded box cornice at the rear of the wing. The entire brick portion of the house has a rough stone foundation and a smooth, white sandstone water table. There is a full basement under the house.

Alterations to the house include the addition of a fire escape chute on the west side of the main block (1961). The house was sandblasted in 1976.

Interior woodwork, which includes molded architraves and base moldings, paneled doors, and many of the original paneled and louvered shutters, is in place. A once open, curved staircase is now enclosed but its carved, molded stringer is still partially exposed (Photos 7-10).