

2-20-74

PH0013846

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Indiana	
COUNTY:	Fayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUL 16 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON: Canal House

AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 111 East Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Connersville

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Indiana	18	Fayette	041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Historic Connersville, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: 111 East Fourth St.

CITY OR TOWN: Connersville

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Fayette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Central Ave

CITY OR TOWN: Connersville

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

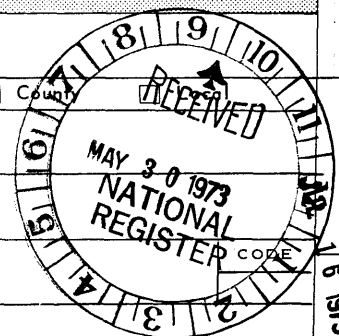
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canal House was built in 1842 by the Whitewater Valley Canal Co. It is the best preserved temple-type structure in the state. Authentic Greek proportions, strong pediment, wide entablature board clearly divided into horizontal bands (architrave and frieze), and fluted columns resting, without bases, on the pavement of the porch, are in the best antique Doric tradition. Since the pillar faced Greek Revival trend was very strong in Indiana during 1835-1850, it seems that the company used the design of the day for that time.

The front door opens on the right side of the porch into a foyer, 7'6"x4'6". The second white hardwood door opens into a hall 8'9"x32'6". The hardwood stairway leading to the second floor is intact and will be restored. The first room on the left is 16'x 18'6" and was not changed from the original. This room contains a fire place and one of the two steel wall safes used by the Canal Company. The second room is 13'6"x 11'6" and also contains an original safe. The second room was modernized with two rest rooms but these have been taken out. These front two rooms will be restored with wallpaper and period furniture of the 1840's. The rear room, 14'x 15'6", will be used as living quarters for a custodian.

The second floor has an open room 18'6"x 37'9" and will be used as an art gallery. A rest room, 3'9"x 7', will be retained and an area 9'x 16'3" will be made into a food preparation area so that ladies' groups may use the second floor.

The stone walled basement will remain intact and be used as a museum and souvenir shop.

The building was completely restored by Congressman and Mrs. Finly H. Gray who lived there from 1936 to 1947 and sold after their deaths to the local V.F.W. Modern additions were made by the V.F.W. but these have been taken out by Historic Connersville. Many of the period furnishings have been found which were in the building during the time the Grays lived there and will be returned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

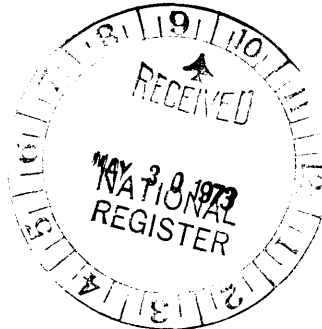
Connersville as a village had its start in 1808 when John Conner, a fur trader and Indian treaty maker for General William Henry Harrison, established an Indian trading post. As settlers arrived and the land was cleared, the fertile valley began to supply a steady amount of farm produce. The market for this produce was Cincinnati, Ohio, sixty miles away, and it took drovers and wagonmen a great deal of time over unstable roads and trails to reach market.

Just twenty years after Indiana became a state in 1816, the legislature enacted a mammoth Internal Improvements Act covering roads, canals, and railroads. The Whitewater Valley received one of three canals in the state. Digging of the Whitewater Canal was started but the state ran into trouble and construction was stopped in 1839. A private company to be known as the Whitewater Valley Canal Co. was chartered and construction started again. Canal House was built in 1842 by the new private company and served as its headquarters through 1853.

The Savings Bank of Indiana used Canal House for a short time then it was used as a private dwelling for a number of years.

The debt incurred by canal building in Indiana made a lasting impression on citizens of the Hoosier State and affected economic decisions in later state laws and government.

Restoration of Canal House is underway and, when completed, will give visitors and local people a chance to see how the people of Indiana endured a stormy period of their history.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1938 Mrs. Finly H. Gray "Old Canal House"
 1962 Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Wilbur Peat
 Described as the best example of Greek Revival in the
 State.
 Jan. 7, 1968 Indianapolis Star Historic Connersville.
 1972 Indiana Canals by Paul Fatout

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

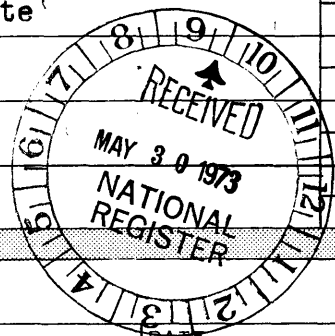
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 38' 24"	85° 08' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana	18	Fayette	041
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Henry H. Blommel Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Connersville, Inc** DATE: **March 5, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **111 East Fourth St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Connersville** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Joseph Peland
 Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 22 - 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/16/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7 9 73