

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Taylor-Zent House

and/or common Hart Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 715 North Jefferson Street not for publication

city, town Huntington vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Indiana code 018 county Huntington code 069

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Presbyterian Church

street & number Tipton & Warren Streets

city, town Huntington vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Huntington County Court House

street & number Jefferson & Franklin Streets

city, town Huntington vicinity of state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Taylor-Zent House is one of the finest Romanesque Revival Style residences in the state of Indiana. Its cubical form, hipped roof, large round fortress-like tower, arched entrance-way, and arcaded porch are all characteristic of the H. H. Richardson-inspired style.

The house is located at the corner of Jefferson and Tipton Streets near downtown Huntington. A house of similar size is located to the north, and a Presbyterian Church with its attending parking lot is located to the east. The site, encompassing a quarter of a block, has large trees in the south and east lawns and is raised from the street, with a rough-cut stone retaining wall at the outer edges along the sidewalks. Stone steps lead up the hill from the southwest corner to the entrance of the house.

In plan, the house is in the form of a square, accentuated with a large round tower on the southwest corner, the main entrance recessed behind a double arcade in the west wall, a porte-cochere on the north, a sun room on the east, and an arcaded porch on the south. Its three levels plus basement contain thirteen rooms including a large ballroom on the third floor. Each floor is connected by a central open staircase which is surrounded at the second level by balconies on the three sides. This floor also has a round projecting turret on the northwest corner. The house has hardwood floors with mostly oak woodwork throughout, and a marble fireplace with a mosaic tile hearth in every room.

The exterior of the house is clad with glazed orange-red brick with terra cotta detailing. The foundation is stone, cut to a finish smoother than that of the retaining wall around the edges of the lawn. It is topped by a stone half-round water table drip molding which forms the base for the brick walls. A stringcourse separates the first from the second level, and a wide cornice with dentils tops the walls at the roofline. This cornice, with the addition of block modillions, carries around the southwest corner tower separating its second and third floors. A similar bracketed cornice again appears at the top of the tower.

Each facade of the house is formally different in massing and window placement; however, the entire composition reads as a unified whole. The prominent tower at the southwest corner is balanced by a Jacobean style gabled projection at the southeast and northwest corners. The latter is emphasized further by the cantilevered corner turret on the second level. This west wall also contains a double bay entrance arcade which ties together the corner tower and the end projections. Carved oak entrance doors are recessed behind the paired arches. The stone foundation continues across the base of the southernmost arch, but is left open at the second arch to allow passage into the entrance space. The north wall, which has a third gabled projection, has also a double bay porte-cochere with a drive passing through from Jefferson Street to a parking area in the rear. The east side of the house has a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular projection with a porch on the first level and extensions of the bedrooms on the second. The arched openings of the porch are glass-enclosed, with short thick columns with foliated capitals supporting terra cotta Roman arches. The parapet around the top of the porch is punctuated with small recessed quatrefoils.

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 1896-1898

Builder/Architect D.D. Whitelock-builder-Huntington

T.J. Long, Architect-Chicago, Ill.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

While significant as a characteristic example of late nineteenth-century Romanesque Revival architecture, the primary importance of the Taylor-Zent House lies in its association with one of the major businessmen and bankers in Huntington, Indiana. Enos T. Taylor followed a Horatio Alger route to financial success. He began as a grade school dropout working in his father's shoe shop and rose through hard work, thrift, and sound investment to become one of the wealthiest men in the area. The mansion that he had built in 1896-1898 remains as both symbol and proof of his financial and social success.

Enos T. Taylor was born in New Carlisle, Ohio, on January 17, 1840. His father, William, moved his family to Huntington, Indiana during the following year and opened a small shoe shop. At the age of fourteen, financial hardship forced Enos to leave school and become a cobbler in his father's business. By 1860, Taylor was managing the shop. It expanded greatly during the next few years, probably aided by the substantial increase in demand for shoes stimulated by the Civil War. Taylor bought the store from his father in 1866. In that year, he also erected a block of buildings on Jefferson Street using his capital and all that he could borrow. The expanded shoe business became one of the largest boot and shoe stores in the Wabash Valley. In 1861 he and G.V. Griffith began manufacturing plow handles and barrel hoops. Soon after establishing the handle and hoop factory, Taylor, Frederick Dick and John Morgan organized the Citizens Bank of Huntington with Taylor as vice-president. He also developed interests in the milling and timber industry, was a major stockholder in the Baker, Brown & Company shoe factory, and was a director in the Kokomo Steel & Wire Works. Taylor thus contributed greatly to the growth and expansion of business and industry in Huntington County. By 1888, he found himself too busy to properly manage his many affairs. He sold his other holdings and concentrated upon managing the bank. Taylor became its president in 1897 upon Frederick Dick's death.

Taylor married in 1870, but not until 1896-1898 did he have the mansion built. Designed by T.J. Long of Chicago, the Romanesque Revival structure is typical of that architectural style. The house, in fact, is almost a duplicate in stone of the Hull-Wiehe House in Fort Wayne. Truly befitting the elegant home of a successful, wealthy businessman, no expense was spared in building the mansion, and Taylor had most of the construction materials imported from Italy. Although he only occupied the home for ten years, until his death in 1908, Taylor made it a center for hospitality and culture in Huntington. The few citizens remaining who remember the Taylors attest to the receptions, balls, and musicales they held in the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

INDIANA HOUSES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, Wilbur Peat, pg. 160, PLATE 191. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY, Frank Sumner Bash, pp. 407-408. Chicago & New York: Lewis Pub. Co., 1914. (Cont.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Huntington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 626620 4526820
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 247, 248, and 249 in the original plat of the Town (now City) of Huntington, Indiana excepting 5 feet off the east side of lot 247.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lois Cook---J. Gernand---M. McNow

organization Huntington County Historical Society

date January 10, 1980

street & number 423 West Tipton

telephone (219) 356-2158

city or town Huntington

state Indiana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-12-80

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature]

date

2/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Description Taylor-Zent

Item number

7

Page 1

A unique oval window, surrounded by a terra cotta garland wreath, is located above the porch. Asymmetrically placed to one side, it is balanced on the right by double windows with transoms. With the exception of this oval window and two small square windows above the entrance arches, all of the windows in the house are unframed, based on medieval prototypes. Tall narrow windows in the northwest corner turret and small paired windows in the top level of the southwest corner tower are particularly reminiscent of medieval examples.

The house is topped by a steeply pitched hip roof which peaks at the center. Clad with red glazed tile, it is punctuated by the cone roofs of the corner tower and the smaller turret, the gabled projections, and by intermediate dormers. These dormers, containing paired diamond pane windows, are marked by a pronounced brick gable topped with a pinnacle with crockets. Four tall slender chimneys originally rose from the roof; however, all but one have been considerably trimmed to a much shorter height.

Characteristic of the Romanesque Revival, the Taylor-Zent House presents a bold, massive appearance, yet its smooth-finished brick walls and finely detailed cornices make it a more restrained and sober example of the often exuberant, formidable style.

INTERIOR OF THE TAYLOR-ZENT HOUSE

Entrance to the house is through double doors into a two-story reception room, having the appearance of an atrium, which on the second floor has an arcade with columns and railings of oak accented with slender spindles. Opposite the doors from the front is a tile fireplace, the tile laid a graceful pattern, framed in oak.

The stairs to the left of the fireplace lead to a balustraded landing finished with a filigree of carved oak above the fireplace. The stairs turn and ascend to the second level; the bedrooms open onto the open passageway.

The reception room is panelled in oak to a height of about 4 ½ feet. Oak has been used extensively throughout the house; an exception is the southwest parlor which is framed in beech wood. The opening to the dining room has concealed doors which slide into the wall. One side of the doors is beech wood, the other oak. The original finish is present on all wood and is in excellent condition.

Openings to the southwest and northwest parlors have a filigree of carved oak like the finish of the balustrade over the fireplace.

The Carriage House to the rear of the property is two storied masonry and stucco, with space for three cars below.

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Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Item number 9

Page 2

"Taylor's New Residence," Huntington Herald, September 11, 1896.

"Death was sudden and unexpected," Daily News-Democrat, March 6, 1908.

Huntington Herald, July 5, 1928.