

243

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase
other names/site number _____2. Location See continuation sheetstreet & number _____ N/A not for publication
city, town Corydon, N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Harrison code 061 zip code 47112

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒
- private
-
- ☒
- public-local
-
- ☐
- public-State
-
- ☐
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐
- building(s)
-
- ☒
- district
-
- ☐
- site
-
- ☐
- structure
-
- ☐
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>222</u>	<u>80</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>222</u>	<u>81</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

2-20-89In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒
- entered in the National Register.
-
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
-
- ☐
- determined eligible for the National
-
- Register.
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
-
- ☐
- determined not eligible for the
-
- National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIA/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other METAL/Cast Iron

STONE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Map 2 clearly shows the relationship between the historic district listed on the National Register in 1973 ("existing district") and the new boundary increase area ("amended district"). In general, the total area roughly corresponds to the land between the confluence of Indian Creek and Little Indian Creek as platted by 1900; that is, the original incorporated town and its early additions. As is more fully explained in the Boundary Justification of Item 10, the district's new boundaries have been closely drawn around the concentrations of contributing buildings within this general area, as determined by survey and research methods.

New commercial and residential development in Corydon has largely occurred outside of the boundaries of the district, leaving the old town bounded by the creeks with a strong sense of its 19th century/early 20th century character intact. The general topography tends to reinforce this impression, since the old town site is comparatively flat and graded in contrast to the steeper, wooded hills that encircle it. The amended district's land rises northward and eastward from the flatter area near the creeks. There is a change of elevation of approximately 60 feet between the southern and northern/eastern boundaries. Viewed from the hills to the south of Corydon, the town site appears to rise from the creeks to a second plateau or shelf of residential development.

Chestnut Street is the major east/west street of the amended district. Reflecting the mixed commercial and residential nature of the district, the two-third-mile section of the street within the boundary increase contains one solid block of commercial buildings between Capitol Avenue and Mulberry Streets. Outside of the half-block area around this commercial core, residential buildings extend to the west and east along Chestnut and to the north on Walnut, High and Summit Streets. Mulberry Street forms the dividing line between the existing district and the new amended district and could therefore be considered the new north/south axis of the combined districts.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Exploration/Settlement
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

c.1808-1929

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Harrison, William Henry

Architect/Builder

Mesker, George L. and Co.

Mitchell, William

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary of Criteria and Area of Significance

Corydon is best known for its years as both territorial and state capital of Indiana (1813-1825). Overnight it had come into prominence from an undistinguished, small frontier settlement to a political center with great influence upon the early laws and issues of the state. It therefore, possesses statewide significance in the area of "politics/government" and "exploration/settlement" and meets Criterion A.

The District is significant under Criterion B because Corydon's founding is associated with an important figure in early American history, William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States. In addition to purchasing the site of Corydon in 1807, Harrison is documented to have had a role in the actual town planning.

Corydon's significance goes beyond its greatest, albeit short-lived period of fame in the early 1800s. It is important as a county seat --the fourth oldest in Indiana-- and in the area of significance "commerce", as a marketplace town for Harrison and Crawford Counties. In 1808, when it was designated as a county seat, it became the judicial center for a vast region from which portions of nine counties were later partitioned. Using this same area of Southern Indiana for purposes of context, Corydon as a whole has managed to retain its contained, small town qualities of 19th century development better than any other community in the region. The geographical isolation of Corydon's secluded valley helped to preserve these qualities, as did the stagnation of growth during several decades. Corydon therefore, represents "a significant and distinguishable entity" under Criterion C.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 72

UTM References

A 16 576670 4229920
Zone Easting Northing

C 16 577320 4229220

B 16 577320 4229920
Zone Easting Northing

D 16 576160 4229210

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian

organization Consultant to Main Street Corydon date June 24, 1988

street & number 4431 North Illinois Street telephone 317/283-5668

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana zip code 46208

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Roughly bounded by Mulberry Street and Indian Creek on the West, Elliott Avenue on the north, College Avenue on the east, and Little Indian Creek on the South.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Because of the generous size of the average residential lot, there is not a high density of building development, and the town presents a somewhat more sprawling aspect than might be expected of a town of its age. Part of this owes to the topography itself, especially when the grade drops off sharply from street level as it does on the south side of Walnut Street in the 400 block. The lots here are 250 feet deep, with only a single structure at the front of the lot within 10 feet of the street. Similarly houses at the east part of E. Walnut Street are set back over 80 feet from the street due to the grade (see Photo No. 26). This creates a feeling of expansiveness that exceeds suburban standards of the late 19th century.

Despite Corydon's varied topography, the streets were laid out in a conventional, orthogonal grid, the lines of which ran parallel to the lines of latitude and longitude. For the most part, the east/west streets extend along level grades, with the more northern of these (such as Walnut) along terraces. The district's north/south streets run up sloping grades. Most streets are 82.5 feet wide; however, there are numerous exceptions to this rule. The narrowest street in the residential area is Best Avenue (35 feet wide) while the narrowest in the commercial area is Beaver Street.

Despite the availability of good building stone nearby, there are no stone buildings in the boundary increase area and a comparatively small number of brick houses. The one-story, frame cottage is by far the most common house type. In the entire commercial area, brick buildings prevail, but it was not until the 1890s that such was the case. Corydon's frame commercial buildings were numerous but gradually succumbed to successive fires. Finally in the early 1890s, the town passed an ordinance requiring that its commercial structures be of brick.

Of the 208 primary buildings within the boundaries of the amended area, 171 can be considered as contributing to the overall historic and architectural character of the district. This high percentage of contributing buildings has been fieldchecked and verified against a Sanborn map surveyed in 1927, near the end year of the district's period of significance. This process has also been followed in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FEB 28 1989

Section number 7 Page 3 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

evaluating the 94 outbuildings, 51 of which can be considered as contributing. Thus the total count of all buildings within the boundary increase area, primary and outbuildings, is 302, with 222 evaluated as contributing. The sketch map graphically identifies all 80 non-contributing buildings with shading. There are no structures, objects or sites among the historic resources. The one non-contributing object is a street clock on Capitol Avenue that dates to the 1980s addition to the Old Capital Bank and Trust Building.

According to the Harrison County Interim Report, a segment of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory published in February 1987, there are 91 contributing historic resources within the boundaries of the existing district listed on the National Register in 1973. This count was obtained by adding the number of resources designated as "O" (outstanding), "N" (notable), and "C" (contributing) for all addresses of the existing district.

There follows a description and integral brief history of 17 structures selected as "pivotal buildings" largely because of their architectural merit. The descriptions address scale, structure, plan, materials, design and stylistic features. The opening paragraph summarizes the history, focusing upon the original construction and major owners and/or tenants. For the convenience of viewing the accompanying photographs while reading the descriptions, the buildings are listed numerically by map number. Starting at the south of the district, the numbers run from west to east (left to right) along the streets and progress northward.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 10 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Corydon Historic District Boundary IncreaseKintner House Inn
201 S. Capitol Avenue

Photo No. 4

The present Kintner House Inn is the third building in a succession of Corydon hostelryes operated by the same family since the state capital period of the early 1820s. Following a fire in 1871 that consumed the entire block upon which the second Kintner House was located, this structure was built at a new location and completed in 1873. Originally there were 26 guestrooms on the upper two floors while the main floor was devoted to public rooms such as the dining room and a double parlor. Sometime between 1910 and 1922, the hotel function ceased and the building was converted to apartments with various commercial uses. (In 1922 it left the Kintner family and passed into new ownership upon the death of Sallie Kintner Jones, daughter of Jacob W. Kintner (1802-1880) who built the inn.) Its numerous commercial uses included a tearoom, a doctor's office, a watch-making school, and various offices. In 1986-87, the building underwent extensive renovations for its current use as a bed-and-breakfast inn with 14 guestrooms.

Although Italianate in some of its design elements, this two-and-one-half-story brick building follows the most simple, traditional box form with gabled roof. The central, double-loaded corridor with its two load-bearing walls divides the building longitudinally into three bays. At the main elevation on Chestnut Street, the paired arched windows are the most characteristically Italianate features. The side elevations, divided into seven bays at the north and five at the south, have windows of segmental arch form. At both the gable ends and the side walls, a deep, overhanging wood cornice is supported by scrolled brackets. The most distinctive features of the inn are the roof dormers, six at each slope, which alternate with chimneys that formerly sported tall chimney pots, creating a lively roofline. The gabled dormers, which exhibit horseshoe arch windows and finely carved detailing, are more reminiscent of 18th-century models than those of an Italianate structure. Recently a one-story wooden porch has been built across the main elevation to simulate the original one, which was torn off sometime after 1930. In the same vein, a one-story garage attached to the rear, western wall in the 1920s was removed. Originally the one-story frame kitchen was in this location. On the interior, the walnut and poplar hall staircase is one of the finest features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Bulleit Building
202-208 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 8

Until the construction of this building in 1912, the two-story Bean House, a hotel operated by Jim Bean, was located at the northeast corner of Elm and Chestnut Streets. John J. Bulleit (1844-1926) cleared the site of the old hotel and its assortment of frame additions and erected a large brick commercial block with his hardware store as the prime tenant. The hardware business had its roots in the blacksmithing and wagon-making concern established by the four Bulleit brothers upon their arrival in Corydon in 1882. J. J. Bulleit had numerous partners in the hardware branch of the business, which he took over in 1888, including his son Edward. In addition to this successful business, he speculated in real estate, was a director in the First National Bank in Corydon, and was influential in establishing St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Cemetery.

This two-story brick building was the largest commercial structure in town at the time of its construction. Although designed with four storefronts along Chestnut Street, J. J. Bulleit and Son occupied the entire building. On the interior, the westernmost storefronts were divided only by iron columns at the first-floor level, while the two eastern units were divided by a stairhall and a load-bearing wall. On the second floor, there was a large assembly hall often used for dances. The cast-iron piers and steel lintels of the storefronts were supplied by the Mesker Ironworks of Evansville. Most likely this firm also supplied the decorative sheet-metal window lintels and cornice, originally matched to the color of the salt-glazed brick. In the late 1920s and early 30s, a one-story gallery with metal roof, extended across the entire Chestnut Street facade and part way around the corner on Elm. In recent years, the storefronts were rebuilt when the interior ceiling heights were lowered. Although the modern infill materials are unsympathetic to the original buildings, the basic spatial configuration of the storefront is still apparent.

Knights of Pythias Building
213 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 9

The Knights of Pythias Lodge Number 79 was organized in Corydon in 1878. Thirteen years later, the fraternal organization and J. J. Bulleit, hardware dealer and prominent Corydon citizen, constructed this building together as a joint venture. Both parties owned half shares of the property, with Bulleit in possession of the first floor commercial space and the Knights owning their second floor "Castle Hall." The 1894 Sanborn map records the first business located here to be a "stoves, tin shop and harness" concern. This was run by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Bulleit's son, Victor. Later George Wahl had a tin and saddle shop here. A succession of shoe repair shops have been located here in recent years. The Knights, now sole owner of the property, still hold their meetings on the second floor and look forward to their 100th anniversary at this location in a few years.

The proportions of this building are somewhat unusual in that the upper story is so much taller than the ground floor. This design anomaly as well as the large, second-floor windows point out the hall function of this dual-purpose building. The iron storefront structure was manufactured by the Mesker Iron Works of Evansville. Its three tall, slender columns and steel lintel across the width of the facade enabled very large display windows in this brick structure. Although new doors and window remodeling detract from the original storefront design, the basic configuration survives as do the paneled wood bases. The second floor's arched windows are currently boarded. Their stone lintels feature delicate bush-hammered scroll ornamentation. Originally the building sported a wood cornice with a central fan, but this has been removed and the parapet rebuilt in concrete block. In the 1920s, a one-story porch was built over the sidewalk and one-story additions were made to the rear of the structure. These have since been removed.

Luckett Building
210 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 10

In the spring of 1899, James L. Luckett of Crawford County built this new commercial building for the businesses that he and his wife Delia conducted. Until that time, a large, two-story feed barn was located on the site. Mrs. Luckett ran a millinery establishment in the main, first-floor storefront area while her husband carried on his undertaking business at the rear, accessible by a separate back entrance on the east. In the mid-1920s, the Modern Woodmen, a fraternal organization, used the second floor as its lodge hall. Later the Russell Yetter Restaurant was located on the first floor with the family's living quarters above.

Although the ground floor facade of this two-story commercial building has been completely rebuilt, the upper floor is of great interest for its stamped sheet metal facade, unique in Corydon. The exuberant decoration seems most appropriate for the interests of a millinery shop. The five bays of the second story are defined by engaged colonettes resting upon fanciful bases with stacked floral ornaments. The center three bays contain double-hung windows, while the end bays are covered with stamped metal sheets featuring urns and marine life. The frieze is similarly ornamented with a repeating pattern of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

swirling lines and fleurs-de-lis. Under the cornice runs a line of pressed scallop shells, spaced between the brackets. At both the head blocks and the parapet, the fleur-de-lis motif recurs.

Ford Garage
220 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 11

The imposing residence of Dr. A. E. L. Smith, built in 1847 and illustrated in the 1860 wall map of Harrison County, stood at the rear of this lot. Called "Strangford Place," it was moved in 1920 to construct this Ford auto showroom and garage. The firm of V. H. Bulleit and Sons, organized in 1902 as an implement, seed and fertilizer business and located directly across the street at number 225, expanded into the auto business with the construction of this building. J. Fred Beggs of Scottsburg was its contractor. The opening of the Ford Agency and formal dedication on May 7, 1921 was the occasion of a complimentary lunch for all the citizens of Corydon, with entertainment by a popular New Albany orchestra. In the first four years of operation, over 1,200 cars were sold. The Ford car dealership continued to do a successful business here until 1987 when it relocated. The building is now vacant.

With a capacity for 40 cars and overall dimensions of 70 by 120 feet, this became the largest commercial building then constructed in Corydon. Because of its size, the name "Corydon" was painted on the roof in 1928 as a guide to aerial navigation. Considered to be "semi-fireproof construction," the structure consists of internal steel columns and beams, a concrete floor and roof, and exterior walls of wire-cut brick. The auto showroom was located across the front of the building. The majority of the structure behind this was devoted to auto repairs, including vulcanizing and welding. The asymmetrical main facade along Chestnut Street is largely glass: seven-foot squares of plate glass are surmounted by transom sash with nine lights. Contrasting with the grid of these transoms is the transom over the entry to the showroom, which features thick, molded mullions in an interesting curvilinear design. The entry bay rises to a full two stories, where a small office is located above the showroom. Here the limestone capped parapet runs in a graceful fan between the brick piers that demarcate the bay. Perhaps the Ford Garage's most interesting decorative features are the "zipper-edge" concrete panels that occur vertically on the piers and horizontally above the transoms.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Louis S. Riely House
326 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 12

Pharmacist Louis S. Riely (1863-1916) had this house constructed circa 1895 by William Mitchell, the most prominent carpenter/builder in Corydon at the time. Mitchell's lumber yard and carpenter shop were conveniently located due north of this property across the alley. Mr. Riely, whose family was originally from Breckenridge County, Kentucky, had come to Corydon as a child in 1874. That year, his father established the drugstore business that he continued. After his death, his second wife continued to live here until her death in 1973. Thus, the house was owned and occupied by the same family for nearly 80 years after its construction. It is currently divided into two apartments.

Builder William Mitchell undoubtedly played a big role in the popularity of this style of frame house in Corydon at the end of the 19th century. It is basically an elaboration of the post-Civil War L-plan cottage of intersecting gable roofs, wherein a taller, hipped pyramidal roof rises well above the gables. A porch then wraps around connecting the two front gabled sections. At the southwest corner, this house exhibits the cut-away corner (echoed in the main porch) which was so popular universally in the 1890s. Although missing the lower architectural members, both porches still retain their friezes with an interesting pattern of reversed, jigsawed triangles within a grid. The treatment of both gable ends is also of note. A horseshoe arch compliments the fanlight and diagonal weatherboards add texture to the gable wall and its screen. The original, corbelled chimneys are also noteworthy. By 1910, the one-story rear addition had been added. Its brick foundation is easily distinguished from the sandstone block foundation of the original house.

Hisey-Thompson-Irvin House
406 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 13

Between 1852 and 1854, Jacob, Willison and Abraham Hisey each alternately owned this property. It appears that the brothers had built this house by 1857 when it was sold to Isaac Love, who in turn sold it two years later to Marinda Beeman Thompson (1803-1869). Mrs. Thompson, a school teacher, lived here with her only daughter Matilda and her husband, James Doak Irvin, until her death. The Irvins resided here approximately 45 years longer, celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in this house in December 1909. Dr. Irvin (1823-1913), a dentist, and his wife Matilda (1824-1914), had no children; however, two neices, Sarah and Ella Logan, resided with them.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

The basic form of the main section of this frame house harkens back to one of the most common vernacular house types of the early 19th century: the one-room deep, two-room wide I-house. Here the proportions of the tall and narrow, two-story, side gabled section seem somewhat attenuated. The narrow windows, narrow clapboards, the two tall doors at front and the steep pitch of the roof all tend to reinforce this. The one-story section directly behind the main section is probably original to the house, judging from its foundations. However, the one-story wing attached at the east, which creates the L footprint notable as early as the 1882 map, was likely a later addition. The present front porch may have replaced an earlier one.

Friedly House
526 E. Chestnut Street

Photo No. 15

Henry J. "Jack" Friedly (1866-1965), a well-known Corydon photographer, presumably built this house soon after purchasing the lot in September 1893. His studio was located here in a back room until 1908, when he opened another studio at the southwest corner of Capitol Avenue and Walnut Street. Friedly, who lived to be 99 years old, moved to a similar house at 339 E. Walnut in 1916 with his wife Anna. Sometime around 1970 Pete Routh operated a rest home for the elderly here.

This one-story, frame cottage follows a T plan with a short three-sided, gabled stem projecting forward from the main, side-gabled section. A large, five-sided porch surrounds the stem of the T, giving the appearance of a larger house. The jigsaw trim is very spare and probably represents the few surviving elements saved from a later remodeling, when new posts, balusters and newels were added. The front gable end and the walls of the "stem" are covered in diamond and fishscale shingling typical of the mid 1890s. Portions of the house were re-sided at a later date. At the front of the east wing is a window typical of the Queen Anne style: the panes of the double-hung windows are divided at the edge into rectangular lights of colored glass. Mr. Friedly's studio took full advantage of one of these windows formerly at the rear as a backdrop for posed portraits.

Corydon Public Library
117 W. Beaver Street

Photo No. 17

Prior to the construction of this library building, there were large stables remaining at the west end of the site. These had once served

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

hotels fronting Capitol Avenue. In June 1914 the library board laid the cornerstone of the building on the newly graded site; on December 22 of the same year, the dedication ceremony took place, marking the end of construction. The Carnegie Foundation of Pittsburgh provided over 90 percent of the total construction cost of \$8,000. Val Collins was its architect, while J. Frederick Beggs of Scottsburg, Indiana, served as contractor. Local citizens Harry Kepner and Dr. J. C. Bottorff played important roles in organizing a new library for Corydon, serving respectively as president and treasurer of the board. Between 1985 and 1987, the building underwent extensive modernization, particularly in the basement.

The one-story library building sits on a site gently terraced above the sidewalk grade. Rectangular in plan with a projecting entry pavilion on the north side, the building's simple form is defined by a plain hipped roof. The buff-colored glazed brick is accented by limestone trim most prominently at the entrance, where Ionic columns carved in Bedford, Indiana, flank the stone enframing of the double doors. Originally the roof was covered with red tile; when this was removed in recent years and replaced by shingles, a large skylight at the ridge line on the south side was also removed. The entry pavilion provides an interesting contrast to the rest of the building by use of such features as a tall parapet above a projecting, modillioned cornice, and recessed bricks at every fourth course, which create a banded effect.

Old Capital Bank and Trust Building
101-109 N. Capitol Avenue

Photo No. 18

The large frame residence of Benjamin Aydelotte (1793-1874) and his six wives originally stood at the corner of Beaver Street and Capitol Avenue. This two-story, hipped roof building, constructed circa 1820, gradually took on a variety of commercial uses in the late 19th century, including a succession of millinery shops and hotels. In 1910 George W. Applegate, Sr. (1842-1910) leased the property from its owner, milliner Flora Kleber (1857-1942), and began construction of a new building for the Corydon National Bank. Although its origins dated back to 1880, the bank failed in 1922 and ownership reverted to Miss Kleber. She then sold it to Sam Elsby of New Albany, who opened the Old Capital Bank and Trust Company here in March 1922. Later the narrow building adjacent to the south, which had also been built in 1910 for R. L. Miller's grocery store, was incorporated as part of the bank. Then in 1986-87, the bank undertook a major enlargement that more than doubled its size.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

The original bank building fronted north onto Beaver Street with a powerfully designed Classical Revival facade. Here the red brick facade and Bedford limestone design elements contrast in a stylized classical vocabulary. Recessed behind the plane of the main exterior wall and set off by a stone enframingent is a composition of three glazed Roman arches between paired, fluted columns placed on projecting brick bases. The main entry door is located at the east side in a pedimented enframingent with sidelights set into the arch. On the Capitol Avenue facade of the original bank, this basic design is repeated in a single bay. Here there is another entry within a wider Roman arch; however, modern aluminum doors have replaced the original set. When the bank undertook its recent expansion, the Miles Building to the south, a two-unit commercial building built in 1917, was largely demolished. (Only the south brick wall and foundations were saved.) The new addition designed by C. J. Garner compliments the original bank in materials and general design, if not in scale. Interestingly the arched entrance and columns incorporated in the modern addition were salvaged from the smaller Cannelton National Bank, which was built circa 1910 by the same contractor.

Odd Fellows/Masonic Building
110-114 N. Elm Street

Photo No. 20

In June 1880, a fire destroyed all the buildings on the east side of Elm Street from the alley south of the Methodist Church to Jim Bean's Hotel, formerly at the corner of Chestnut. The Gregg Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Pisgah Lodge of Masons jointly undertook the construction of this building, which combined commercial space on the first floor with lodge halls on the second. By 1882 the building was completed, for it is clearly indicated on the map published in the Atlas of Harrison County of that year. The first ground-floor tenants included a grocer named Cortez M. Miller (1843-1918), whose store and warehouse were in the 110 and 112 units, and a drugstore run by Dr. John E. Lawson (1855-1942) in 114. The Odd Fellows Lodge occupied one large room located over the grocery concern thru the 1960s. The Masons maintained their hall over 114 from the 1880s until 1926, when the new Masonic Lodge was built up the block on Elm Street. Currently Conrad of Corydon, a furniture company, occupies both floors of the entire building.

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

The asymmetrical facade of this two-story brick building helps to convey the original joint tenancy function. The gap in spacing of the second floor windows between the three units at the north and the five at the south is the first clue to this unequal division of the building. Upon closer inspection, the windows caps of the tall, segmental arched, double-hung windows are different as well. At ground level, the Odd Fellows portion employed a cast-iron storefront combining slender columns with piers at both ends and flanking the central doorway to the second floor. In contrast, the Masons used chamfered stone piers for their storefront. Even the attic level vents are differentiated, the Odd Fellows' side exhibiting round ones while the Masons' side are rectangular. Other than the uniform common bond brick work, the bracketed wood cornice is the sole unifying element. At various times in the early 20th century, porches and awnings have extended from the storefronts. Other than the stone and cast-iron elements and one set of original doors, all storefront materials are modern. The Odd Fellows' Lodge hall on the second floor still retains its original spatial configuration and most of its woodwork, notably door and window surrounds.

William and Mary Ann Porterfield House
302 Maple Street

Photo No. 21

The early history of this house remains unclear due to the land transactions of the 1840s and 1850s, in which a large number of lots were conveyed in a single deed. It may have been built by Silas and Zerelda Rawson, who purchased the land in 1846, or later by the Porterfields, who bought the lots from the Rawsons in 1852. In either case, it was one of the first houses on this elevation known as Rocky Hill. William Porterfield (1788-1872) and his wife Mary Ann (1808-1876) moved to Corydon from Portland, Maine in the late 1840s.

A simple rectangle in plan, with the longer side parallel to Maple Street, this house's proportions are representative of a vernacular version of the Greek Revival style. Although once common in the mid 19th century, this is the sole surviving example of its type in Corydon. The roof plan of the two-story frame building consists of intersecting gables. The house's original entrance faced south, overlooking the hill. Sometime around 1900 a large brick chimney on its west wall was removed and a one-story columned porch was added. At the same time, the building was re-sided and its windows retrimmed. The basic window configuration survives at the north and south elevations, where the upper-story windows are shorter than their counterparts aligned on the first floor. A few original six-over-six double-hung windows with simple trim survive on the second floor at the south. A wide cornice board, typical of the Greek Revival, occurs

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

at the roofline. Also of note is the dry mortar, rubble stone foundation.

Warford and Catherine Mauck House
325 E. Walnut Street

Photo No. 23

Jonathan Jennings, first governor of the state of Indiana, once resided in a brick house on this site that coincidentally later was purchased by William Hendricks, Indiana's second governor. This early house was razed in 1892. Warford P. Mauck, a cannery owner, then purchased the lot in May 1895 and constructed a new home. His wife Catherine supposedly refused to live here because the building was perched on such a steep site, so in October 1896, it was sold to Mary E. Dick (1867-1949). There has been a succession of nine families living here following Mrs. Dick's sale of the home in 1901. The longest-term residents were merchant Frederick P. Griffin and his wife Eleanor, who owned the property from 1954 to 1976.

This house is one of the few brick Italianate residences to be built in Corydon, the style never having gained great popularity in local domestic usage. It follows a typical T-plan with side wing, a form more common to the 1870s than the 1890s. The decked, hipped roof was originally covered in two materials: shingles on the slopes and tin on the decks. The tall double-hung windows are of a simple, segmental arch form. The front porch retains turned posts, jigsaw brackets and a spindle frieze. An interesting experiment in the house's construction was the insertion of a layer of glass between the foundations and the brick walls above it. This measure was intended to prevent the migration of moisture into the house. In 1948, the house was extensively remodeled and a large concrete addition was made at the rear for a garage.

Davis-Crayden-Rowe House
348 E. Walnut Street

Photo No. 24

In 1899 James W. McKinster, a wealthy farmer who resided west of Corydon, subdivided a large portion of this block of Walnut Street which had belonged to Dr. A. M. Jones, Sr. In partnership with his sons John and Eldridge, he built four modest homes, each on a different plan, 348 being one of them. The first owner/resident appears to have been Amanda C. Davis, who purchased the property in 1906. Ten years later, she passed the house to her daughter Hester Crayden (1860-1937), who in turn sold it to James and Dora Rowe in 1923. Mr. Rowe (1867-1941) was an auto parts dealer whose place of business at 305 N. Capitol was graced by an unusually large sycamore tree. This tree was humorously known as the "Tree of Wisdom" because

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

its shade was a frequent congregation point for the elderly townsmen to discuss current events.

Of the four homes that McKinster constructed in the early 1900s, this one remains the most unchanged. Here the basic L-plan cottage of the late 19th century was elaborated upon by a high hipped pyramidal roof section above the intersecting, gabled sections. The porch that wraps around the south and west sides retains its original turned posts, jigsawn brackets, and spindle frieze. The three tall doors with transoms that occur at this porch, as well as the tall windows of the first floor and the smaller windows in the gable ends, all retain original trim with caps despite the asbestos siding now covering the exterior.

Thomas-Schneider House
419 E. Walnut Street

Photo No. 25

In 1897 Andrew J. Thomas (1865-1940), a farmer and timber dealer, purchased the lot upon which this house was built from John J. Bulleit, who had bought it on speculation soon after his arrival in Corydon. Presumably Thomas constructed the house immediately after he obtained the land. Immediately to the east, Andrew's brother, James Thomas, built an identical house (425 E. Walnut Street). Since 1925, the Schneider family has resided here.

This one-story frame cottage represents the most popular type of new house in Corydon in the late 1890s. Here a high degree of original materials and decorative trim has survived, making it one of the best remaining examples. Built following a T-plan with intersecting gable roofs, the front "stem" of the T incorporates the diagonal corners so popular universally in the 1890s. Twin porches located along-side the stem retain their turned posts, jigsawn brackets and spindle friezes. The same decorative features of the upper part of the porches are repeated above the diagonal corners. The front gable is covered with fishscale shingles at the center section, while a sunburst pattern occurs at the corners. The house has never been re-sided and retains its four original front doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Hickman House
517 East Walnut Street

Photo No. 27

Sisters Anna M. and Martha J. Hickman purchased a portion of Outlot 3 in 1901 and built this house upon the lot the following year. The Hickman family members were wealthy farmers who had lived west of Corydon. Brothers Ephraim and Eliphalet Hickman were millers who owned a grain elevator on South Capitol Avenue. The Hickman sisters and their mother Lucy all resided here until their deaths. The house then passed to a succession of four families.

The steep slope at the back of this frame house no doubt kept the lot from consideration as a housing site until the turn of the century. The sandstone foundation, built into the slope of the hill, was quarried at Pilot Knob, west of Corydon. (This feature is currently masked on the east side by a latticework skirting.) Despite the gable roofs that give the illusion of some complexity in form, the two-story house has a square footprint. Its most prominent feature is the porch that wraps around the north and east sides. Its turned posts and spindle frieze are late examples of decorative features popular decades before. Similarly the lace-like bargeboard trim of the gables is also retarditaire.

Crosier House
616 E. Walnut Street

Photo No. 28

Sidney D. Crosier (1858-1930), a pharmacist by profession, built this house in 1903. Although he worked for the Percy L. Davis Drugstore most of his life, he is best known for his artistic talents. While at the Cincinnati School of Art in 1896, he won first prize in a competition. In the 1920s he was listed in "Who's Who in Art" in Mary Burnet's book on Indiana artists. His paintings were very popular and can still be found in many Corydon homes today. A bachelor all his life, Crosier lived here with his blind mother, Mathilda Boone Crosier, until around 1925. Later residents included Roscoe Attwood, president of Cooperative Enterprise Glass Company, and John D. Mossler, principal of the Corydon High School for 22 years.

This one-and-one-half-story frame house sits atop a steeply sloping site at the east edge of the district. Its multicolored paint scheme serves to highlight decorative features common to other houses of its time, yet usually camouflaged by uniform paint treatment today. In addition to the intersecting gable roofs typical of this form of house, a lower roof sweeps up from the porch located at the southwest corner. Decorative fishscale shingles cover the front gable end, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

in an interesting reverse of this motif, the lower edges of the diagonally cut corners and the porch feature scalloped trim. The rough-faced sandstone block foundation of this house, quarried at Pilot Knob, is very prominent because of the siting. In recent years, the east side of the house has been remodeled with a large brick chimney and a set of sliding glass doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

The town's predominant physical fabric dates from the 1890s and early 1900s (its greatest period of growth) and not from its celebrated state capital period. Following the Civil War and reflective of the statewide prosperity at this time, Corydon assumed greater prominence as a marketplace town. This led to the expansion of its commercial area and the more urban development around the courthouse square, which was not complete until 1929, the end date of the period of significance. In the area of significance "architecture," two topics that are important to Corydon under Criterion C are the commercial buildings that incorporate storefronts manufactured by the Mesker Ironworks, and the turn-of-the-century residential buildings of local builder William Mitchell.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Corydon Historic District Boundary IncreaseCapsule History of Corydon's Settlement, Growth, and Physical Development

In October 1808 Corydon was designated as the county seat of Harrison County, the fourth county to be created in the Indiana Territory. The three older counties -- Knox, Clark and Dearborn -- also bordered the Ohio River, the conduit of much of Indiana's early settlement. For the first two decades of the 19th century, Indiana's population remained concentrated in southern Indiana, which has always been both geologically and culturally distinct from the rest of the state. Even today Corydon's population is largely composed of descendants of the early-19th-century settlers from Kentucky, Virginia and the Carolinas who had traveled north on the Wilderness Road. It still retains a tangible influence from the south.

The new Harrison County was named in honor of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), then governor of the territory. Harrison had been Secretary of the Northwest Territory and later its delegate to Congress before his appointment as governor in 1800. Because of his adopted frontier lifestyle and his ability to deal effectively with Indian problems, Harrison enjoyed some degree of popularity among the common people and is credited with giving the name "Corydon," of Virgilian origins, to the new town. (It came from a character in a popular song that Harrison supposedly heard while visiting the area.) Although he resided in Vincennes, Harrison purchased several tracts of land in the new county, directly from the federal government, guided by his friend Hervey Heth (1770-1816), a U. S. government surveyor. One of the tracts was a quarter section of land at the junction of Indian and Little Indian Creeks, where Harrison and Heth together laid out a new town by 1809.¹

Although the first deeds for lots in Corydon were not recorded until mid 1813, apparently due to a delay in the transfer of property ownership from Harrison to Heth, there is documentation to support the erection of a few buildings by 1810. In that year, Harrison County made its first appearance in the U. S. census, with a grand total of 2,338 people in the two large townships that then comprised the county: Harrison and Exeter. (Nine counties were later apportioned from this vast area of more than 1,600 square miles.) There are no population statistics for Corydon itself, which hadn't any particular spur to its growth at that time. It remained fairly isolated, being connected to the outside world by only the crudest means of transportation -- the buffalo traces that pre-dated colonization.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

On May 1, 1813, the territorial capital of Indiana was moved eastward from Vincennes to Corydon, deemed more central following creation of the Illinois Territory. Thus was created Corydon's special place in Indiana's history, for as a consequence of Indiana's admittance to the United States as the 19th state on December 11, 1816, Corydon then became the first state capital. The territorial legislature met in Corydon several times between these two dates, most notably in June 1816, when 43 delegates of the 13 counties convened to draft Indiana's first constitution. Due to the warm weather at the time, some of the delegates' sessions were held outdoors under the shade of a large, spreading elm tree, thereafter known as the Constitution Elm. The lower trunk of this tree, which died in the early 1920s, is today enshrined in a state monument built of native sandstone by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. Like the other landmarks to be cited in this nomination from Corydon's early history and years of statewide prominence, the tree is located in the historic district listed on the National Register in 1973. (For the sake of simplicity, this will be referred to herein as the "old district," in contrast to the enlarged "amended district.")

The stone building that was begun in 1814 as Harrison County's courthouse (200 N. Capitol Avenue) assumed a greater role in history when it was rented as the new state capitol following its completion for occupancy in late 1816. Built by local stonemason Dennis Pennington, a native Virginian, and carpenter John Smith, it was a substantial structure to replace a log dwelling that had been converted to temporary courthouse use. (This "courthouse on the hill" was located on Lot 12 at the northwest corner of Capitol Avenue and High Streets.) During the years that the state capitol was located in Corydon, it was the only public building in town and therefore was a multifunctional assembly hall.

The other structures that survive from the state capital period were all private residences, some with quasi-official roles. For example, the brick home of Davis Floyd (200 E. Walnut Street, constructed in 1817) was used by Governor William Hendricks as his headquarters during his term of office (1822-1825). The Brewster House (417 Mulberry Street, constructed the same year) has come to be known as the first state office building because it was the rented quarters of the State Treasurer, Auditor and Secretary of State. (State funds were kept in strong boxes in the cellar of this building.) Other brick houses located in the old district that survive from state capital days are the Wilford Heth House (227 Mulberry Street, 1817); the Thomas Posey House (225 Oak Street, 1817, of which only one-third

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

survives); and Cedar Glade (740 N. Capitol Avenue, 1808), constructed by Jacob Kintner and since 1849 the residence of the McGrain family. There are also two log structures that were clapboarded for most of their history but now stand in restored form; the Hiram Westfall House (210 W. High Street, c. 1807), near the Constitutional Elm, and the William H. Branham House (419 N. Capitol Avenue, 1809), which served as a tavern in its early years and purportedly was built for William Henry Harrison. The old district thus contains nine historic resources that remain from Corydon's best-known period of prominence.

During its time as both territorial and state capital, Corydon was the social and cultural center of the state as well as its political center. All of the state's first officials resided here (since travel to other parts of the state was too difficult to undertake on a regular basis). These included such leading figures in the annals of Indiana history as Jonathan Jennings, the first governor (1816-1822), who had successfully promoted Indiana's statehood in Congress. An entire new population that otherwise would not have gravitated toward settlement in Corydon was thus brought together. In addition to the members of the state legislature and both the state and federal courts that held forth in Corydon, a large number of attorneys were attracted to the town. In general a better-educated class of people was assembled here than would otherwise be expected for a small frontier settlement. Dr. David Mitchell, a local physician, organized Indiana's first medical society here in 1820 and became its first president. Today's Indiana State Library had its origins in a small lending library begun in the John T. Jamison Tavern. Undoubtedly the high point of Corydon's role as a political center was the visit of President James Monroe and General Andrew Jackson in June 1819.

Corydon exerted an influence upon the early laws, statutes and political issues of the state that was totally out of proportion to its size. But its period of prominence was short-lived. In 1820 a committee was appointed to investigate an easier-to-reach, more central location for the state capital, as settlement of the state had advanced northward considerably by this time. The committee members chose a site in central Marion County that would become the new town of Indianapolis, created from the wilderness. The new capital was even less developed than Corydon had been in 1813 when it was chosen as the territorial capital, for the land had not even been platted nor a town planned. In October 1824, wagons loaded with the state's records pulled north out of Corydon towards the new site of state government in Indianapolis, thereby ending Corydon's greatest period of fame.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

The history accounts of Corydon have always focused on the period up to 1825, ignoring the town's survival and late-19th/early-20th-century flourish as a unique courthouse and marketplace town of southern Indiana. The people of Corydon are justifiably proud of their town's early influence upon the state, and there has existed locally a strong historical consciousness of this since the 1890s. Statewide today, there is a surprisingly wide knowledge of the fact that Corydon was Indiana's first capital, even among school-age children. Some of this focus on the dozen "glory years" has tended to obscure the subsequent history and significance of Corydon. Just as the boundaries of the old district were narrowly drawn to encompass the nine historic resources that pre-dated 1825, so too has the local history tended to place all emphasis on the early period at the expense of later years and the predominant physical fabric of the town.

What became of Corydon following the departure of state government? In many respects, the period of eclipse that followed, with very slow growth and little industrialization, is what makes Corydon as a whole significant today. It did not become an Indianapolis, but rather retained its identity as a small courthouse/marketplace town. Its history must be considered as a whole, with a period of significance that spans over 100 years.

After the wagons headed north with the state's archives and treasury, the state capitol reverted to its intended use as a courthouse and retained this function until 1929. (In many ways, its longevity of use is of symbolic significance in itself.) Although the state's officers and their families moved to Indianapolis, most of the town's residents chose to stay on in Corydon rather than move to follow the capital. For example, Colonel Thomas Posey, the son of Indiana's last territorial governor of the same name, maintained an office in his home for more than 10 years in his position as U. S. agent for military pensions. But after 1825, Corydon's growth did not keep pace with the promise of its years as territorial and state capital.

In March 1817 the first election of town trustees was held in Corydon. Presumably at this time the town was incorporated.² There are no records on the number of people who lived in incorporated Corydon, as distinguished from the general figures for Harrison Township, until the 1830 U. S. Census. At that time, a total of 459 people lived in the town, including 74 "free colored." Twenty years later in 1850, the town's population stood at only 462, which indicates a long period of stagnation. These figures are all the more significant when placed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

original plat was Rice's Survey of August 5, 1854, which added six lots on the south side of E. Chestnut Street, where the course of Little Indian Creek had been altered. There were no other additions until after the Civil War.

The majority of Corydon's streets were laid out 82 1/2 feet wide following the strict north/south and east/west grid of the lines of the range lines, imposed by the Northwest Ordinance. Because Corydon was a county seat that had to be within a day's journey of most of the county's inhabitants, roads developed early in Harrison County's history. Today's Capitol Avenue (originally called Market Street and sometimes known as Main Street) was a main north/south county road. Chestnut Street (also known as Mill Street) was the New Albany and Corydon pike, named for the two destinations it connected. This toll road was also known as the Old Plank Road in the early 19th century. Walnut Street was also a main east/west county road.

Early industry in Corydon focused on the town's greatest natural assets: water power from Indian and Little Indian Creeks. The newspaper advertisement for the sale of Corydon's lots, carried in a Vincennes newspaper in late 1808, had boastfully stated that the land was "better supplied with constant streams for mills than perhaps any other in the Western Country." ⁵ The Red Mill was called the "oldest industrial enterprise in Corydon" in a special souvenir edition of the Corydon Democrat in 1897. It had been built in 1834 by early pioneer Captain Farquar and his son as a steam flour mill. After its first six years of operation, the mill had many ups and downs and successive owners. In 1890, this mill was completely revamped, with the long system roller process replacing the Burr system and millstones imported from France. (The building stood at the southeast corner of Chestnut (Mill) and Mulberry Streets until the early 1920s.) A combined grist mill and saw mill existed at Little Indian Creek and Maple Street where the better-known White Mill was built by the Corydon Milling Company in 1890. (The Nutrena Feed Company now occupies this site, and although it may incorporate portions of the 1890 mill, there is no evident 19th-century character present today.) At the time of the Civil War, there were three flour mills in Corydon, but because of the vicissitudes of the milling business, this industry was never a vital force in Corydon's economic development.

In his book Special Places on selected small towns in America, author Berton Roueché stated that the removal of the state capital had "retired Corydon to the unaccustomed obscurity of a country county seat. It lapsed into ordinariness. The veil was lifted only once,

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

in the general context of the state's growth at this time. During the 1830s, Indiana's population doubled, and by 1850, there were almost a million residents in the state.³ Corydon only maintained status quo from 1830 to 1850.

An 1851 issue of the Corydon Western Argus newspaper carried an article on the many advantages of "the village," which had been reincorporated two years earlier in 1849 after a lapse of some time. Many of the promotional claims are very revealing of the town's sleepy isolation. The editor proclaimed that Corydon was an excellent location for a school because it was "off the line of any great thoroughfare" -- in other words, there were no distractions present, nor any easy means of escape for the students! The town was called "a pleasant place of residence" and its natural attributes were acknowledged:

...nestled down between the hills of a delightful little valley through which flows on the south and west of the town two clear bright streams of water, surrounded by beautiful scenery.⁴

The village and neighborhood were noted for being remarkably healthy; there were no cases of cholera in the widespread epidemics of the past two years. (Corydon was not so lucky in 1833, however, when a severe epidemic occurred. After this time, residents no longer took drinking water from the creeks.) The Argus article said almost nothing about the commercial or industrial advantages of Corydon, which was essentially portrayed as a quiet, country village in a lovely, pastoral setting.

From the time that Harrison and Heth laid out the town circa 1808 until August 1854, there were no additions to the original plat. The only subdivision occurred in the 1830s when the west Public Square (west of the present square) was deemed superfluous, officially vacated, and sold off by the county as 10 new lots. The original 185 town lots on the northwest quarter of Section 31 encompassed an area bounded today by Summit Street on the north, Indian Creek on the west, Beech Street on the south (presumably the course of Little Indian Creek originally ran to the south of Beech), and Hill Street (the alley east of Maple Street) to the east. (See Map 3.) Most lots had a 132-foot frontage on the street and a depth of 132 to 165 feet. The original 185 lots were more than adequate for the town's development through the Civil War years. There were also 10 large outlots at the north and east boundaries of the town lots. The first addition to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

and then only for a day." ⁶ Roueché was referring to July 9, 1863, the day of Morgan's raid into Corydon and the only Civil War battle fought in Indiana. At a site south of the town, the Corydon Home Guard met the far greater force of General John Hunt Morgan's Confederate Raiders who had crossed the Ohio at Mauckport, traveling north from Kentucky. Although the Rebel forces suffered eight casualties and 33 wounded to the Home Guard's two casualties and eight wounded, Morgan (not surprisingly) drove back the Corydon force. The town was shelled from cannons planted on South Hill but suffered very little damage. While briefly occupying Corydon, Morgan received word of Lee's defeat at the Battle of Gettysburg a few days before. While the Battle of Corydon can be considered an unimportant skirmish in the overall history of the Civil War, its significance lies in the fact that it was one of only a few battles fought on Northern soil. The memory of this event has remained vivid among the town's people.

Of the greater significance to Corydon was a social change brought about by the Civil War: namely, the influx of blacks from Kentucky. Although Kentucky remained in the Union, southern loyalties among a large percentage of the state's slave owners caused the slaves to immigrate north in search of emancipation. Many of the blacks who came to Harrison County were from Meade County, Kentucky, though county registers record places of birth from North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland as well. ⁷ The 1850 U. S. Census had reported only 33 free colored in Corydon. An old-time resident recounting her memoirs in the late 1890s stated that indeed only four or five black families resided in Corydon prior to the Civil War. ⁸ By 1870, the U. S. Census enumerated 101 "colored" persons in Corydon, which was then 13.5 percent of the total population (747). There was a cluster of black families who settled in the vicinity of Cedar Hill Cemetery. For example, Lot 182 at the southwest corner of Summit and Maple Streets was subdivided into four lots for the new homes of the four children of a black resident.

Following the Civil War, Corydon took on greater prominence as a market place town for the surrounding agricultural district. Greater business prosperity and a series of fires greatly changed the appearance of the commercial area centered on the public square. In 1865, the town's first serious fire destroyed all the buildings on the block bounded by Beaver, Elm, Chestnut and Capitol. Up until this time, there had existed a mix of residences and businesses, log and brick structures, as well one and two-story buildings. Very often the front rooms of residences were used as stores. The north side of Chestnut Street between Capitol and Elm contained a series of small

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

stables and smokehouses typical of rear lot development.⁹ Subsequent to this fire, true business blocks were constructed occupying the full lots from Beaver Street to Chestnut Street. These were two-story brick structures with party walls and continuous facade lines typical of urban locales. A good example of these buildings constructed immediately following the 1865 fire is the Applegate/Reader Building, 111-113 E. Beaver Street and 110-112 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 7). It is now the oldest commercial building in Corydon. Harbin Applegate and Dr. Reader jointly undertook the construction of this two-unit commercial block. (Their initials still remain over the center windows of the second story.) Another building that survives from the immediate post-fire period is 123 E. Beaver Street, constructed in 1868 by Major Thomas McGrain and his brother-in-law Patrick Griffin. It originally ran from Beaver to Chestnut, but today only the north portion with Beaver Street frontage survives. At the west end of this block, frame commercial structures were built over a period of many years, but these succumbed to another fire in November 1892. From this date forward, brick structures were mandated for commercial buildings surrounding the square.

During the second half of the 19th century, the east and west sides of the square also fell victim to fires that changed the character of Corydon's commercial core. In the process of rebuilding, the public square took on greater definition as a more cohesive urban aspect developed. In June 1880 a fire occurred on Elm Street which destroyed all buildings between the alley south of the Methodist Church to the corner of Chestnut Street. Two businesses and three or four houses (among them some of the oldest log structures in Corydon) were consumed. Although one residence was constructed adjacent to the alley (the Alex Miller Residence, 210 Elm Street, in the old district), the rest of the land was densely developed with two commercial buildings. The grander of these was the Odd Fellows/Masonic Building, 110-114 Elm Street (Photo 20). In fact, it was the grandest commercial building constructed in Corydon to that date (1882). The two fraternal organizations that jointly undertook construction of the eight-bay-wide building had their lodge halls on the second floor. On the ground floor, there were three generously sized commercial units. Stylistically this building displayed a greater degree of sophistication than the first true commercial buildings on the south side of the square, built a generation beforehand.

The west side of Capitol Avenue between Beaver and Cherry Streets had originally been part of the West Public Square, officially decreed

FEB 28 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

superfluous for public use (other than the jail lot) in the 1830s. Therefore, development of these lots facing Capitol did not occur until the land went to public sale in 1839. Interestingly William Heth and William Applegate each built buildings here that contained saloons on the ground floor and their living quarters on the second. There were also some small, one-story frame buildings in between. They all fell victim to a fire in June 1871 and were replaced by a solid line of two-story brick commercial buildings that together form Corydon's most unified streetscape (201, 203, 205, 209 and 211 N. Capitol Avenue in the old district). Although each building was constructed by a different owner for a different purpose, these buildings share a common height and their cornices, rooflines, and storefronts are all aligned. The similarity in architectural ornamentation stems in large part from their common period of construction (1894-1899).

Between 1890 and 1900¹⁰, the population of Corydon nearly doubled from 880 to 1,610 people. Thus the 1890s stand out as the town's greatest period of growth. What had happened to cause such a rise in the population? One of the most important contributory factors was the arrival in 1882 of the Louisville, New Albany and Corydon Railroad, an eight-mile-long spur of the Southern Railroad which connected Corydon to the outside world. The railroad reached the town decades later than most Indiana communities due to the difficult topography of southern Indiana. Yet its effect was nonetheless marked and served to promote the establishment of some industry. Commerce was also stimulated and a number of merchants were attracted to the town by the improved means of access to goods. The editor of the January 1897 special edition of the Corydon Democrat summed it up as follows:

In recent years there has been an infusion of new business blood into the town, with the result that the mercantile interests have flourished as never before.¹¹

He went on to say that Corydon had managed to avoid the business panics of the early 1890s precisely because of its relative isolation.

Two families contributed greatly to the late-19th-century growth of Corydon: the Bulleits and the Kellers. There still remain numerous buildings in town associated with both these leading families. The four Bulleit brothers-- John J. Bulleit (1844-1926), Victor Henry Bulleit (1848-1916), Amiel L. Bulleit (1851-1914), and Paul C. (Pete) Bulleit (1854-1926) had come to Corydon from New Middletown in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

early 1880s.¹² They were of Belgian extraction. In their early years in town, they joined together in business but soon branched out into different specialties. John (J. J.) engaged in the hardware business; Amiel established a carriage, wagon and blacksmith shop; Pete became a representative for a fertilizer company and in later years moved on to New Albany; and V. Henry (the eldest and most successful of the four) began a farm implement and seed store that grew into a multifaceted business concern. The Bulleit brothers' commercial interests clustered on E. Chestnut Street as indeed did their residential settlement, further to the east.

The earliest four buildings were collectively known as the Bulleit Block and consisted of the following: a two-story brick building at 215 (now demolished); a two-story brick building at 217, constructed circa 1890 for the J. J. Bulleit and Hurst Hardware Store; the original two-story frame building at 219 (its facade now tiled), constructed circa 1886 for the V. H. Bulleit Implement Business; and a two-story brick structure at 225 erected as the new building for V. H. Bulleit in 1894. In 1891 the Knights of Pythias and J. J. Bulleit constructed 213 E. Chestnut Street as a joint venture. (Photo 9) J. J.'s son Victor, who was only 24 years old, operated a shop here that sold tin, stoves and harnesses. In the 20th century, these business concerns were expanded north across the street with new buildings. In 1912 John J. Bulleit and his eldest son Edward (b. 1870) constructed 202-208 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 8) for their thriving hardware establishment. The firm of V. H. Bulleit and Sons, reorganized with William J. and Albert Bulleit in 1902, expanded into the auto business in 1921 with the construction the Ford Garage, 220 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 11). The last commercial building constructed by the Bulleit family in this same area was 229 E. Chestnut, built by William J. Bulleit in 1925 and later used as the Corydon Post Office. One other commercial building must be mentioned in association with the Bulleits, although it is not sited on E. Chestnut. In 1895 F. A. Bulleit, son of John J. and publisher of the 1906 county atlas, constructed a two-story brick building at 205 N. Capitol Avenue (old district). The Bulleit Implement Company also owned three warehouses in the 1890s, two located at the railroad terminal and one at Corydon Junction, all outside the district. The number of "Bulleit Buildings" in town has always created some degree of confusion.

The oldest surviving Bulleit residence is 432 E. Chestnut Street, where John J. Bulleit lived with his first wife Harriet and their seven children from 1882 to 1906. This small, one-story frame house is one of the oldest homes on E. Chestnut Street, believed to have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

been built circa 1850. This house passed to the youngest daughter Blanche and her husband, Will Christley, when J. J. Bulleit moved with his second wife, Ella, to their newly constructed home at 500 E. Chestnut, completed circa 1910. Victor Henry Bulleit, the eldest brother, lived at 400 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 13) from completion of the house circa 1900 until his death in 1916. Edward S. Bulleit, eldest son of J. J., built 200 College Avenue (Photo 22) circa 1892 for his new bride Reta. Amiel Bulleit owned eight houses in Corydon in the late 1890s, but his residence has not been documented. One exception to the cluster of homes in the Chestnut Street area is the home of Victor J. Bulleit (b. 1873), son of John J., constructed in 1895 at 415 N. Capitol Avenue (old district).

The Keller family was also significant to Corydon's late 19th-century/early-20th-century development and is represented by several extant buildings. William H. Keller began in business in 1879 with a grocery store in a frame building on the west side of the square. Soon various lines of merchandise were added (dry goods, clothing, shoes, etc.), and he became one of the town's most prosperous merchants. In 1895 the W. H. Keller Company was established in partnership with brothers L. C. and Edward G. Keller as well as T. J. Hudson. In 1894 their new two-story, brick store at the northwest corner of Capitol and Beaver (201 N. Capitol Avenue in the old district) had been built. A contemporary newspaper account claimed that this new building "should eclipse anything of the kind existing in Harrison County."¹³ (Interestingly this building has just undergone an exemplary restoration.) The editor's opinion was probably due to the interior arrangement, which featured a divided stairway and mezzanine, and the fact that it was electrically lit.

W. H. Keller established Corydon's electric plant, which lighted the town's streets for the first time on January 25, 1895. He also initiated the town's first waterworks in 1894. The 1906 atlas showed that about half of the water mains belonged to Keller, emanating from his reservoir on the hill west of Cedar Hill Cemetery, while the rest were supplied by the town. Therefore, in addition to his mercantile role, Keller played a large part in establishing Corydon's utilities at its greatest period of growth.

Late in 1896 W. H. Keller began operation of a factory, the Keller Manufacturing Company, which first made spokes and hubs for a wagon company in Ohio.¹⁴ Under the management of J. R. Black, who had been with the successful Studebaker Wagon Company in South Bend for seven years, the company soon progressed to manufacturing entire wagons,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 14 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

mostly for farm use. Within its first 10 years, Keller was employing over 100 people. The 1906 atlas called the company "the largest and most noteworthy enterprise ever launched in Corydon or Harrison County."¹⁵ Some of its 10-acre site is within the boundaries of the old district, though few of its late-1890s buildings survived the company's conversion to the manufacture of furniture (primarily dining room sets).

With new employees attracted to settling in Corydon, the factory owner became involved in building workers' housing. Two typical examples in the amended district are 226 and 228 Elliot Street (formerly Pond Street), which are one-and-one-half-story frame "shotgun" houses. In later years, W. H.'s son Charles took over the reins of the company. His fine Colonial Revival house, designed by architect Burton B. Davis in 1916, stands at 720 N. Capitol Avenue, near the site of the factory.

In January 1897, Corydon was in the full swing of its growth spurt of the 1890s. A writer commenting on the building boom caused by the rise in population had the following to say:

The town now covers an area undreamed of ten years ago. At present writing, there is not a vacant residence in¹⁶ Corydon, and building is constantly in progress.

Following the Civil War, several additions and subdivisions were made to Corydon's original town plat (See Map 3).¹⁷ The first of these was William Farquar's Addition of February 1868, directly north of Lots 1-4 of the old plat and extending between Capitol Avenue and Mulberry Street. Thomas Slaughter then subdivided Outlot 10 and added six lots due west of Farquar's addition in December 1870. Similarly Amos Lemmon subdivided Outlot 4 in March 1885 and added seven lots of unusual depth between Walnut and High Streets, east of N. Hill Street (an alley). In 1891 Ginkins and Schaeffer took the unusual step of subdividing eight original lots (72-79) into 26 small new lots, some of which crossed over Indian Creek. This area was subject to flooding and adjacent to the new railroad lines. Despite these drawbacks, a photograph in the county atlas published in 1906 shows a fully developed streetscape of residences along Poplar Street.¹⁸ The last addition of the 19th century was the 20-lot Cedar Glade Addition by Harry McGrain in April 1899. Directly north of the Keller Manufacturing Company, this land was platted for working-class housing. In summary, although Corydon did not actually cover an area "undreamed of" in relation to its original plat, the town was filling

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

in previously undeveloped areas within its first boundaries, as well as adding new lots, which gave the impression that it was physically doubling apace with its population.

The housing shortage cited in 1897 undoubtedly continued on through the first decade of the 20th century, judging from the large number of houses constructed in Corydon during this period. Between 1900 and 1905, the taxable property in the town rose from a value of \$960,348 to \$2,822,030 -- a dramatic increase of nearly 300 percent. ¹⁹ These figures substantiate the observation that a large proportion of the residential architecture in the district dates to the turn of the century.

Certain parts of the commercial district were still developing in the first two decades of the 20th century. The south side of the 100 block of E. Chestnut Street is a case in point. Until 1900, this block retained a mixture of residential and commercial buildings, most of which were one-story frame buildings. The first building to change this pattern was the new U. S. Post Office Building completed in 1904 (109 E. Chestnut Street, Photo 6). Constructed of large, hand-tooled blocks of sandstone from the Pilot Knob Quarry immediately west of town, this two-story structure imparted a good measure of civic pride. Also constructed at approximately the same time was the Lindner Building, 119-21 E. Chestnut Street, which combined commercial space on the ground floor with a hotel on the second floor. The double-unit Beanblossom Building, 129-31 E. Chestnut Street, was the largest commercial building to be constructed on the south side of Chestnut Street. Stylistically it belies its 1913 construction date, harkening back to commercial buildings of the 1880s and 90s. The last building constructed in this block during the district's period of significance was the ²⁰ Brandenburg Building, constructed in 1926 as a restaurant and hotel.

In the early 19-teens, momentum began to build towards the preservation and state acquisition of the first state capitol, still in use as the Harrison County Courthouse. Historical consciousness of the significance of this building had been high among Corydon's residents since the early 1890s, when D. F. Lemmon had written a history of the capitol. Although the measure was initially defeated in the House, the Indiana General Assembly finally authorized the purchase and maintenance of the capitol as a state memorial in 1917. On May 10 of that year, the State bought the courthouse and surrounding public ground for \$50,000. The need for a new county courthouse had been debated for some time. The successive county

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 16 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

office buildings of the 19th century, located nearby on the square, had taken the pressure off the idea of demolition of the old courthouse. Still the 1816 building was barely meeting the judicial needs of the county.

Plans for the construction of a new courthouse required the county to purchase a site. It was decided to vacate Cherry Street, the original north boundary of the public square, and acquire the block between this street and Walnut Street. This block had never developed in the same way as the west, south and east sides of the square and contained large frame livery stables, the wagon shops of Amiel Bulleit, and a hotel of questionable repute. These buildings were all cleared, and a large modern courthouse designed by architects Fowler and Karnes of Evansville was begun in September 1927. The new three-story stone and brick building of classical inspiration was incorporated into the enlarged public square as its northern terminus and backdrop. It faces south, acknowledging its predecessor. When the building was completed in January 1929, the final phase of development of Corydon's public square was completed. That same year, the state's restoration of the old capitol was completed, marking the end of an era.

Architectural Significance

Item 7 contains descriptions of 17 of the most architecturally significant buildings in the amended district. Rather than repeat the information presented in the previous section, this section will focus on two topics in architectural history that are significant to Corydon as a whole: the commercial buildings that incorporate storefronts manufactured by the Mesker Ironworks, and the turn-of-the-century residential buildings of local builder William Mitchell.

Considering the size of its commercial district, Corydon contains a proportionately large number of prefabricated iron storefronts manufactured by George L. Mesker and Company, the architectural iron works of Evansville, Indiana. As one of the leading producers of galvanized iron storefronts in America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Mesker shipped mass-produced architectural elements to every state in the union. The single greatest reason why Corydon's merchants incorporated Mesker's storefronts into their buildings was the availability of cheap rail transport. Via the Louisville, New Albany and Corydon spur, the town was on a direct line via the Southern Railroad with Evansville. Since one of the company's early catalogues claimed that "the cost of putting up our work will not exceed one-half the cost of putting up the work of other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 17 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

manufacturers,"²¹ the savings in installation costs made it feasible for building owners from all over the country to order from Mesker and still benefit from a savings over local iron foundries, even after rail charges were paid. For Corydon's merchants, the relatively low freight costs were an incentive to order from Evansville and realize substantial economy.

In the late 1890s, it was possible to purchase a 24-foot-wide storefront for less than \$250. The galvanized iron front was usually intended to go over the wood framework of a brick building. It enabled large display windows of plate glass on the first floor as well as architectural ornamentation that otherwise would be too difficult and costly to produce individually on the local scene. Merchants could also order prefabricated galvanized iron cornices and sheet metal window lintels, which were less work to maintain than their wood counterparts. As time went on, Mesker branched into more and more architectural ornaments for commercial buildings: all manner of moldings, pediments and cornice fans, and sheet steel siding stamped into elaborate patterns for use over frame buildings. Even the glass and doors of storefronts could be ordered as a complete package. Carpenters and masons could specify variations in measurement or ornamentation for a chosen catalogue model, and the Mesker Company would comply with special requests by furnishing blueprints free of charge.

In Corydon examples of Mesker storefronts are equally distributed between the old and amended districts. They can be readily identified by makers' plates located near the base of the side columns. The earliest known surviving example of a Mesker storefront in town is the Knights of Pythias Building, 213 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 9), constructed in 1891. J. J. Bulleit, who built the structure in association with the fraternal organization, may have become familiar with Mesker because of his work in the hardware trade. Two decades later when he expanded across the street with a large new building of four storefronts, he again chose to order from Mesker in Evansville. This Bulleit Building at 202-208 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 8) displays decorative sheet-metal window lintels and a cornice that were probably obtained from the same source.

The homogeneous line of two-story brick buildings on the west side of the square, all constructed within five years of each other in the 1890s, displays several Mesker storefronts. Surviving makers' plates clearly identify the W. H. Keller & Co. Building at 201 N. Capitol; the building at 203 N. Capitol built as its annex in 1899; and the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1999

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 18 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

First National Bank, 209 N. Capitol, circa 1895. It is also very likely that the iron storefront at 211 N. Capitol is by George Mesker, since the ghost of a diagonally placed plate, typical of Mesker's work, can easily be discerned.

On the south side of the square, the building at 101 E. Beaver Street (Photo 19) exhibits a Mesker storefront with the diagonally cut corner entry way so popular in the 1890s. Built in 1893 by George Armstrong, it has housed Davis Drugs since 1908. The latest example of the incorporation of a Mesker storefront is the Beanblossom Building, 129-31 E. Chestnut Street, constructed in 1913. By this time, the popularity of this style of commercial building, a hold-over from the Victorian era, was waning.

Two other commercial buildings are of note for their prefabricated iron elements. The Luckett Building, 210 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 10), displays a stamped sheet metal facade unique in Corydon. Although the ground floor of this structure has been completely rebuilt, eradicating the columns that may have held an identifying makers' plate, it is quite possible that the facade was made by Mesker. It bears a strong resemblance to Mesker's catalogue designs that featured engaged colonettes on square bases (stamped with a floral design) that flanked the upper floor windows.²² The other iron storefront of interest is definitely not by Mesker. When Victor Henry Bulleit constructed his building at 225 E. Chestnut Street in 1894, he chose to order from a foundry in Jeffersonville, indicating that there was indeed some competition among ironworks in southern Indiana at this time.

The homes of builder William Mitchell (1866-1936), a life-long Corydon resident, are unique to the town and demonstrate a high quality in design and materials not often found in homes of modest scale. John Mitchell (1836-1915), William's father, had been a cabinetmaker and builder of houses in Corydon. Few examples of his work have been documented. His son William's work, however, is far better known, mainly because his greatest period of productivity, 1890-1910, corresponds with Corydon's housing boom. William Mitchell ran his own planing mill at the back of Lot 148, on the north side of the east/west alley between Chestnut and Walnut. Like the majority of Corydon's residences, Mitchell's houses were primarily single-story frame houses. He is known locally for the high-grade oak and chestnut that he used in the woodworking of the interiors of his homes.²³

The Louis S. Riely House at 326 E. Chestnut Street (Photo 12) typifies

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 19 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Mitchell's work. Constructed circa 1895, this one-story frame house is an elaboration of the post-Civil War L-plan cottage of intersecting gable roofs. The taller, hipped pyramidal roof that rises above the gables was a particularly popular feature in more southern climates, and Mitchell made good use of it in his work. The wraparound porch was also very popular universally across the country but was particularly appealing in warmer weather. The number of doors that lead onto the porch is a feature of southern influence. Because of the relatively mild climate in this part of Indiana, more of the ornamental "gingerbread" has survived on Corydon houses than is the case for late-19th-century houses in the northern part of the state. Mitchell undoubtedly made use of pattern books in coming up with his designs, yet his work exhibits much individuality in detailing. For example, the porch frieze on the Riely House has an interesting pattern of reversed, jigsawed triangles within a lattice grid, which is not a common treatment. Mitchell also used indigenous materials which further individualize his houses. The sandstone block foundation, quarried from Pilot Knob due west of town, is a case in point. In fact, Mitchell may have been responsible for popularizing the use of this sandstone.

Mitchell operated as both developer and builder, with many of his houses built on speculation. In several cases, he and his family lived in a new house for a year or two before selling to a new owner and moving on to a newly completed house. Examples include 707 and 753 N. Capitol Avenue and 200 E. High Street in the old district, and 514 E. Chestnut Street in the amended district. The large, two-story house at 753 N. Capitol, constructed in 1902 and known as the Mitchell-Atwood house, is Mitchell's grandest house. Its architectural ornamentation, including fan cut-outs in the porch railing and a wagonwheel gable screen, is in a remarkably good state of preservation. Its second floor porch treatment is most unusual. Mitchell's three surviving children now reside at 200 E. High Street, which has been in the same family for over 80 years since its construction circa 1900. This house was intended to have a brick or stone veneer which was never added.

Other turn-of-the-century residences in the old district that are known to have been built by Mitchell and typify his work include the Victor J. Bulleit House, 415 N. Capitol Avenue, 1895; the Lottich House, 609 N. Capitol Avenue, 1898; and the Major Funk House, 610 Farquar Avenue, a late 1860s house that was substantially remodelled and transformed into a late Eastlake/Queen Anne style home. In the amended district, Mitchell's work includes another two examples from

SEP 28 1990

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 20 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

the 1890s -- 440 E. Chestnut and 511 E. Chestnut (Photo 14) -- and one from circa 1910, the Joe Bender House 510 E. Chestnut Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

NOTES

1. U.S. Land Office, Jeffersonville District VII, Tract Book 2, p. 155 (Indiana State Archives) records William H. Harrison's purchase on July 11, 1807 of a 207.26-acre tract in the northwest quadrant of Section 31, Township 3 South, Range 4 East. The irregular number of acres stems from the creek boundaries.

The Book of the Court of Common Pleas of Harrison County, Vol. I (at Harrison County Courthouse, Corydon) contains the following reference from an entry dated March 9, 1809: "Henry (Hervey) Heth & William Henry Harrison came personally into Court and acknowledged themselves indebted to the Court of Common Pleas of Harrison County...(for) two lots in the Town of Corydon in sd County, containing One acre and four perches each being heretofore laid off by them for the public ground in sd Town." (As quoted in: Frederick P. Griffin, Harrison County's Earliest Years, Corydon: O'Bannon Publishing Co., Inc., 1984, p. 8. This publication has been one of the main secondary sources of Corydon's early history.)

The reference from the Court of Common Pleas documents Harrison's involvement in laying out the town as well as the 1809 date. Military matters drew Harrison away from the area, and it appears that he sold his certificate of purchase for the land to Heth before obtaining his land patent from the federal government. It was not until April 17, 1813 that President James Madison officially conveyed to Hervey Heth the site of Corydon. (Records of Land Offices, Vol. 5, p. 368, from the research notes of Frederick P. Griffin.)

2. The Corydon Democrat's Souvenir Edition of January 1, 1897, p. 1, gives the date of the first election of town trustees. The 1876 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana, p. 326, states: "The town was incorporated in 1816, or near that time, but it was allowed to fall through, and it was not again incorporated till 1849."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 22 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

3. The 1830 U. S. Census figures for Corydon (p. 147) were as follows:

Men	202
Women	183
Slaves	0
Free Colored	74
	<hr/>
	459 TOTAL

The 1850 U. S. Census reported the following

Men	222
Women	207
Free Colored Men	18
Free Colored Women	15
	<hr/>
	462

The information on the trends in Indiana's overall population is from: Furlong, Patrick J. Indiana: An Illustrated History, p. 48.

4. The Corydon Western Argus, as quoted in Corydon Democrat's "Souvenir Edition", January 1, 1897, p. 1.
5. The Western Sun, October-December, 1808, as quoted in: Griffin, Harrison County's Earliest Years, p. 14.
6. Roueché, Berton. Special Places: In Search of Small Town America. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1982, p. 126.
7. "Many Kentucky blacks migrated to Indiana during Civil War era", from Harrison County's Earliest Years, p. 29.
8. Jordan, Agnes Farquar. "Recollections of Corydon -- Seventy Years," Corydon Republican, March 11, 1915, p. 6. Mrs. Jordan claimed that: "They were a very different class of people to what the most of these were who crowded in on us after their emancipation."
9. Ibid., March 4, 1915, p. 6. Since there are no maps of Corydon prior to 1865 that indicate building placement on lots, Mrs. Jordan's recollections here are invaluable in documenting the town's antebellum physical development. Her recollections, in combination with data from the 19th-century

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

22 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 23 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

maps, were used as a major source for the history of the buildings surrounding the square.

10. "County Statistics" from: F. A. Bulleit, Illustrated Atlas and History of Harrison County, Indiana. Corydon, IN: F. A. Bulleit, 1906, p. 78.
11. "Souvenir Edition," Corydon Democrat, January 1, 1897, p. 2.
12. Much of the background information on the Bulleit family came from: "The V. H. Bulleit & Sons Garage," Corydon Democrat, May 4, 1921.
13. "Souvenir Edition," Corydon Democrat, January 1, 1897, p. 3.
14. The year 1894 is often erroneously cited as the date that the Keller Manufacturing Company began operation. This error stems from the 1906 county atlas. The Corydon Democrat's special edition published in January 1897 stated that the spoke factory had begun operation two months before.
15. Bulleit, Illustrated Atlas of Harrison County, p. 58. An illustration of the plant, which somewhat exaggerates its scale, can be found on the same page.
16. "Souvenir Edition," Corydon Democrat, January 1, 1897, p.2.
17. Frederick Griffin compiled the dates cited for the additions and subdivisions from the land records at the Harrison County Courthouse.
18. See "Birds' Eye View of Corydon," in Bulleit: Illustrated Atlas, 1906, p.51.
19. "County Statistics" from: Bulleit, Illustrated Atlas, 1906, p. 78. This 300 percent increase is all the more significant when compared with other towns in Harrison County, none of which experienced such a dramatic rise in taxable property.
20. A major source of information for this paragraph was: Mary Rowland Adams, "Going to Grandma's in the '80s," typescript account of the history of the area including the 100 block of E. Chestnut Street. From the files of Frederick P. Griffin.

FEB 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

21. "Geo. L. Mesker & Co. Catalogue", 189? , p.2, in the collection of the Indiana State Library. Four other catalogues in the Library's collection -- 1897, 1899, 1904 and 1907 -- were consulted in writing this section. Another source of information on Mesker is Lee Nelson's introduction to the company's 1905 catalogue reproduced in the APT Bulletin, Vol. IX, No.4 (1977), pp.3-4.
22. See, for example, catalogue numbers 4033, 4034, and 4043-4046 from the 1905 catalogue. Model No. 4044 bears the closest resemblance because of the three windows, the fanciful style of the facade ornamentation, and the parapet.
23. The information on William Mitchell is from the research files of Frederick P. Griffin, who has interviewed the three surviving children of Mitchell (Gladys, Ruth and George Mitchell) who currently reside in Corydon.

FEB 28 1986

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

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United States Department of the Interior
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73 2 8 1988

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the point of intersection of the east curb line of Water Street and the north curb line of Poplar Street, the boundary line proceeds south along Water Street to the south property line of 225 W. Poplar Street. The boundary then proceeds east to the east property line of 209 W. Poplar Street and turns north, continuing along this line to its intersection with the north curb line of Poplar Street. From this point, the boundary turns east and proceeds to the east property line of 212 E. Poplar Street, where it turns north, following the east property line until its intersection with the lot's rear (north) property line.

From this point, the boundary line extends eastward approximately three long blocks in an uninterrupted line along the rear (south) property lines of the buildings along the south side of Chestnut Street, crossing Capitol Avenue, Mulberry Street, and Maple Street. At the line's intersection with the west curb line of S. Hill Street (an alley), the line turns north for approximately 50 feet until it reaches a point that meets the extension of the rear property line of 501-535 E. Chestnut Street. Here it turns east across S. Hill Street and follows the aforesaid property line until its intersection with the east property line of 535 E. Chestnut Street. The line then proceeds north along this east property line and crosses Chestnut Street, intersecting with the north curb line of Chestnut at a point marking the southeast corner of the property at 528 E. Chestnut Street.

Proceeding eastwards from the intersection, the boundary travels along the north curb line of Chestnut Street, crosses College Avenue, and continues along the north curb line of Chestnut until its intersection with the east property line of 714 E. Chestnut Street. Here it turns northeastward, then northward, following the angled east property line. It continues north along the extension of this line until it reaches the north property line of 200 College Avenue. At this intersection, the boundary turns west along the aforesaid north property line until its intersection with the east line of College Avenue. Here the line proceeds north along College until its intersection with the south curb line of Walnut Street, where it angles to the northwest to meet the east property line of 616 E. Walnut Street.

From this point, the boundary travels north along the east line

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1981

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 3 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

of 616 E. Walnut Street to a point where the eastward extension of the rear (north) property line of 436 E. Walnut Street would meet it. The boundary turns west and continues in a straight line until it reaches the west property line of 424 E. Walnut Street, where it turns south along aforesaid line until it intersects with the north curb line of Walnut Street.

The boundary then proceeds west until it intersects with the west curb line of N. Maple Street. Here it turns north and proceeds approximately two blocks, crossing High Street, to the point of intersection with the south curb line of Summit Street.

The boundary then turns west along the south line of Summit to a point at which the rear (east) property line of 612 Best Avenue would meet it if continued southward. Here the boundary turns north along the aforesaid line until it meets the north property line of 612 Best Avenue, where it turns west. The boundary extends west to the rear property line of 624 and 628 N. Mulberry Street and its continuation south. (The right angle described here is currently marked by the chain-link fence of Cedar Hill Cemetery.)

The boundary continues north along the aforesaid rear property line until it intersects with the north property line of 628 N. Mulberry Street, where it turns west and extends along the same line. The boundary then continues across Mulberry Street to the point at which the east property line of 228 Elliot Avenue would meet it if extended southward. Turning to the north, the boundary travels up the aforesaid east property line to the point at which it intersects with the rear (north) property line of 226 and 228 Elliot Avenue. The boundary then turns west along the lot lines of these two properties.

At this point, the boundary meets the line of the existing Corydon Historic District, a rectangular tract of land placed on the National Register in 1973. (See Map 2.) Thus, the new boundary here becomes contiguous with the old. It extends southward down the west property line of 226 Elliot Avenue, crosses Elliot Avenue, and continues along the west curb line of Mulberry Street for approximately four blocks until meeting the southeast corner of the old district.

The boundary then turns west along the rear property line of 220 E. Chestnut Street and continues westward along the extension of this line, through the center of Beaver Street, to the point at which it intersects the northeast corner of the Town Hall property at 113 Oak

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 4 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

Street. (Again, the line just described is contiguous with the southern boundary of the existing district.) At the northeast corner of 113 Oak Street, the boundary turns south and extends along the west curb line of Oak Street, continuing across Chestnut Street to the east property line of 207 W. Chestnut Street.

At this juncture, the boundary proceeds westward along the south curb line of Chestnut Street, crossing Water Street, and continuing to the point at which the east property line of 314 W. Chestnut Street would meet if extended southward. The boundary then turns north, crossing Chestnut Street and continuing up the east property line of 314 W. Chestnut until intersecting with the rear (north) property line of the same. Here the boundary turns west along the north property lines of 314 and 318 W. Chestnut Street until intersecting with the east bank of Indian Creek.

The boundary then continues southwesterly along the east bank of Indian Creek until reaching the west property line of 329 W. Chestnut Street. Here the boundary turns south along said property line, crossing an east/west alley, until intersecting with the rear (north) property line of 336 W. Poplar Street. At this point, the boundary turns west along the north line of 336 W. Poplar; then south along the west line of said property; then east along its south line and the north curb line of Poplar Street. The boundary continues east along Poplar Street to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

In drawing up the boundaries of the new districts to be added to the one placed on the National Register in 1973, the special circumstances of the original district's boundaries must first be explained. Between the time that the original district nomination was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office in April 1971 and its official nomination by the State Liaison Officer in June 1973, the nomination went through a series of revisions. The boundaries as originally set forth by the form's preparer, Frederick P. Griffin of Corydon, were circumscribed and altered several times. The official map, drafted by the Division of Engineering of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, resulted in an abstract, rectangular tract of land that its compilers believed to correspond to the parcel of land originally owned by William Henry Harrison. (This, in fact, is not the case.) The boundaries of the original district do happen to contain the primary nine historic landmarks then identified as being significant to Corydon during its period as the first state capitol.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

They do not, however, have any historical significance in their own right. The old south boundary bisects the town's commercial district, leaving out the buildings along the south side of the square and the Chestnut Street commercial corridor.

Whatever the reasons and process by which the original boundaries were determined, they stand as the official ones of record and must be amended. In the intervening 15 years, the standards of delineation of district boundaries have evolved greatly. So too have the areas of historic significance broadened to include contexts beyond the early frontier period.

The new district's boundaries have been determined by a process that considers the history of Corydon as a whole, from its initial founding through 1929. Since the contexts have been fully explained in the Statement of Significance, Item 8, they will not be repeated here. However, it must be stressed that historic research and survey methods went hand-in-hand in determining the new boundaries, which were tightly drawn to include the greatest concentration of contributing historic resources.

The entire area of Corydon between the confluence of Indian Creek and Little Indian Creek, as platted by 1900, was considered for inclusion in the expanded district. The natural boundaries would be the most obvious choices as delimiters, since they offer a visual barrier and, historically, a physical barrier as well. Indeed, Indian Creek does now provide one short boundary segment at the southwest. However, because of the destruction of older structures in the floods of 1943 and 1959, with the subsequent erection of a large number of noncontributing buildings, particularly along Poplar and Water Streets, the boundaries had to be drawn more carefully around the contributing buildings. The natural boundaries, convenient as they were for survey purposes, were too broad to define the amended area.

The land history of Corydon's platting and subdivisions was also important in determining boundaries. (See Map 3.) The recording of plats provides documentation of the town's official limits at certain points in time, which is very useful in providing a rationale for boundaries. However, it must be pointed out that the historic research on individual buildings was more important in determining how Corydon actually grew. For example, the development of Chestnut Street as a residential neighborhood extended further east than might be inferred from the platting into lots. Although the land was divided into out lots east of Hill Street, it developed much as did

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1980

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 6 Corydon Historic District Boundary Increase

the town lots along the street to the west. The amended district's easternmost boundary extends to where the tollhouse formerly stood.

Birds'-eye photographs and historic maps were also important tools in documenting the extent of the town's limits at various periods. (See Bibliography, Item 9.) Because the June 1927 map of Corydon from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas was so close to the end date of historic significance for the district (1929), it was particularly important in documenting contributing buildings. The 1927 map was taken to the field and checked building by building. Those structures existing today that were not drawn on the 1927 Sanborn, nor present in the 1934 aerial photograph, were clearly noncontributing structures. The resulting pattern of concentration of contributing buildings was the single largest factor in determining boundaries.

To the immediate north and east of the new district, Cedar Hill Cemetery and St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery provide two major limits to the district, marking the fringe of Corydon's 19th-century development. The eastern limit of the old district -- the west line of Mulberry Street -- forms the west boundary of the new district. It is interesting to note that houses on the east side of Mulberry Street, north of High Street, are actually much older than those on the west side that are within the bounds of the old district. This is because the rear portions of the lots of the houses on the east side of Farquar Street were gradually subdivided and sold to build new homes that fronted Mulberry Street. There are now nine houses on the west side of this part of Mulberry that would be considered noncontributing.

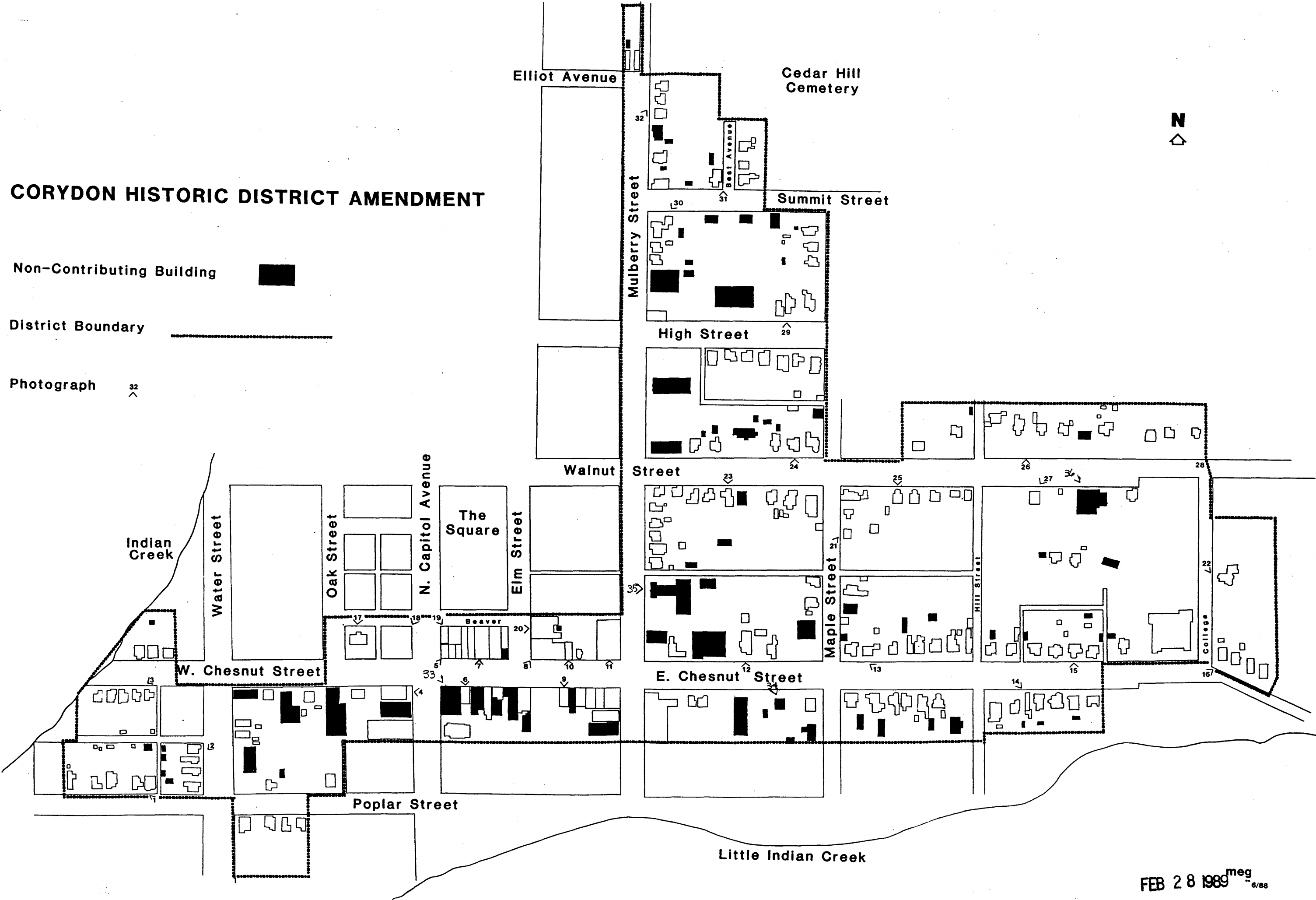
The new district is exactly contiguous to the old at its points of juncture, with one exception: Lots 54 and 55, bounded by Oak, Chestnut and Water Streets. The buildings on this land (a drive-in bank, an automatic teller post, the town hall constructed in 1979, and a warehouse) would all be noncontributing structures and were therefore excluded from the district.

CORYDON HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT

Non-Contributing Building

District Boundary

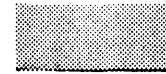
Photograph



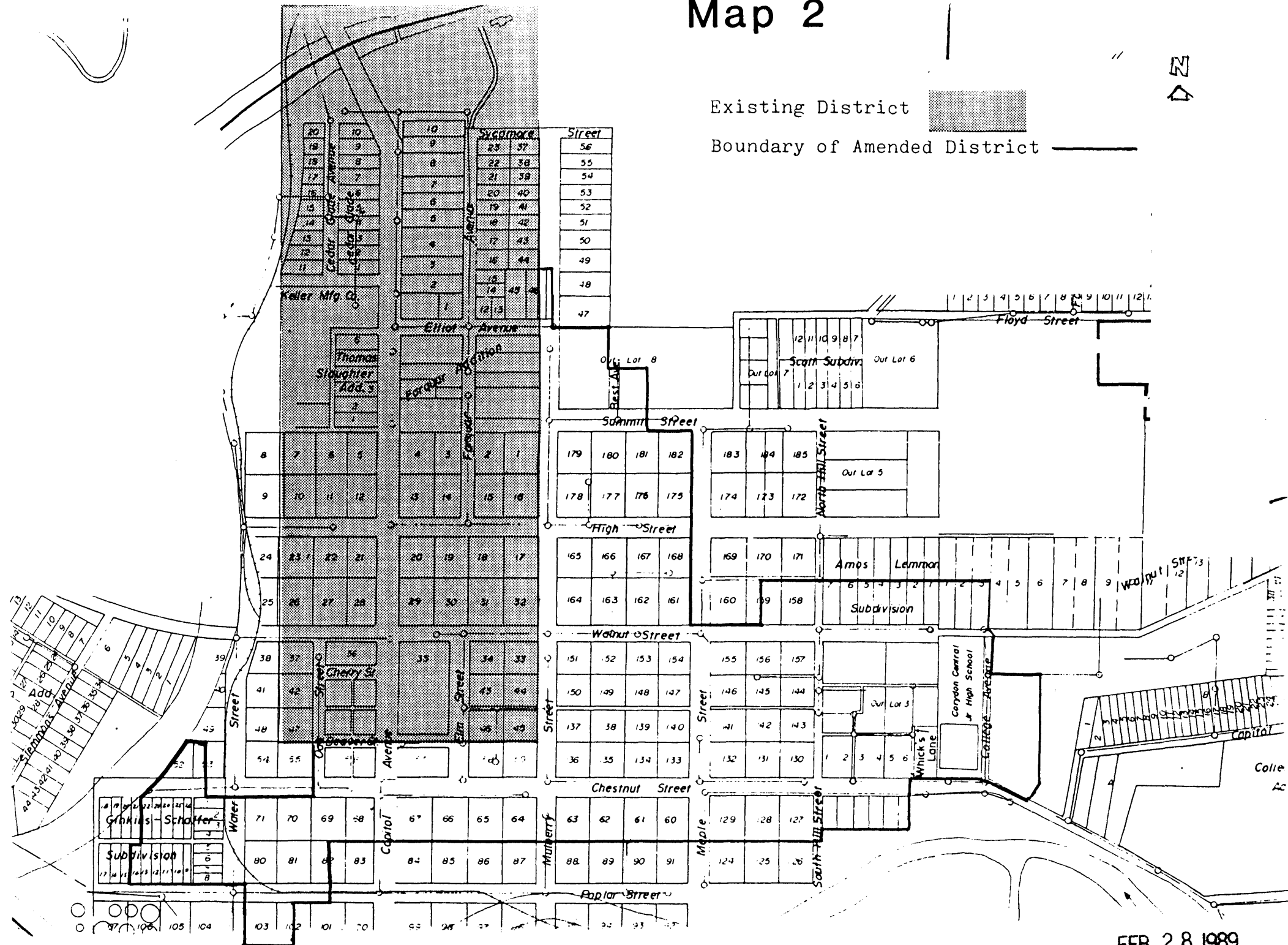
Map 2



Existing District



Boundary of Amended District



FEB 28 1989

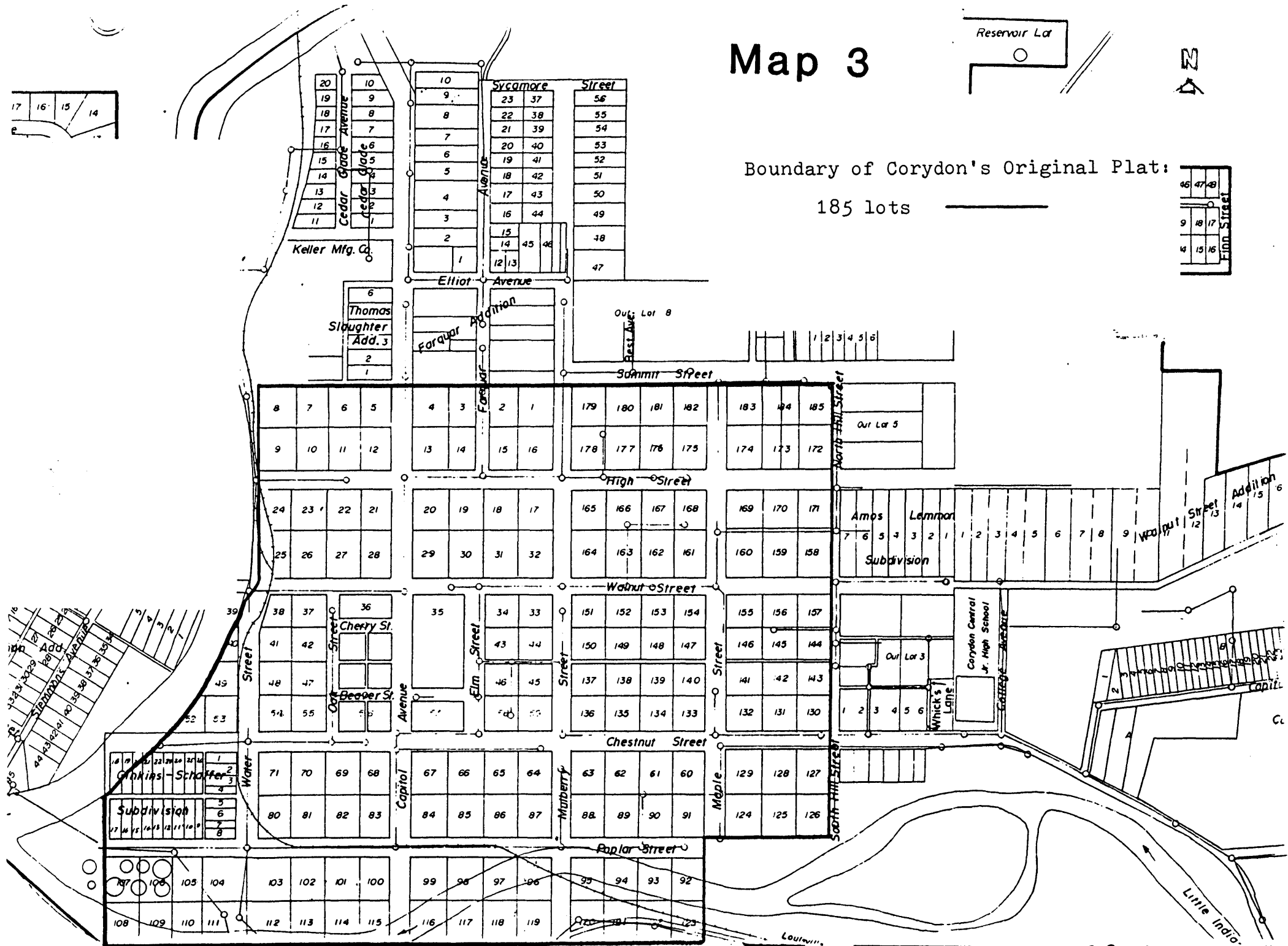
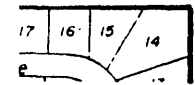
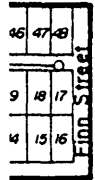
Map 3

Reservoir Lot



Boundary of Corydon's Original Plat:

185 lots



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