

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 068 414 7  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 12 1978  
NOV 28 1978  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC BEDFORD, WILLIAM, SR., HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 838 Washington Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Evansville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Eighth

STATE Indiana VICINITY OF CODE 18

COUNTY CODE Vanderburgh 163

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Joseph R. & Shirley W. Duncan

STREET & NUMBER 838 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN Evansville VICINITY OF

STATE Indiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Vanderburgh County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER City-County Administration Building, Room 231

CITY, TOWN Evansville

STATE Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture

DATE 1977  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Willard Library 21 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN Evansville

STATE Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Bedford, Sr., House faces south on Washington Avenue, a tree-lined residential street. It is set back on the lot which carries through the entire depth of the block, so that the rear of the house is easily visible from Blackford Avenue. A dependency is adjacent to the house on the east side; a connected garage, probably of a later date, is entered from Blackford Avenue.

The house is basically rectangular in plan with a small projecting one-story bay on the west side and a two-story polygonal bay on the rear (north). It is a two-story structure of red brick bearing walls laid in common bond. The three-bay facade has a one-story open porch extending across the entire front, with four white columns on brick piers and a central double entrance (probably a later addition). A projecting clapboarded bay, also possibly a later addition, is centered over the porch on the second story. Front windows are broad with stone sills and lintels, doublehung with single lights. Rear windows are narrow with stone sills and flat arches, and are doublehung with six lights over six.

The roof is gabled, of medium pitch, with a steep gable on the central front bay, and conical roof over the rear bay. The present roofing material is asbestos shingling although, considering the trade of the owner and other houses of the period, it was probably originally slate. Compound chimneys are of brick with corbeled caps. The central chimney has two flues; two interior chimneys on either side have three flues each.

The dependency is also of brick construction. One end of the gabled roof is parapeted with raking bond coursing along the roof line. It has a single end chimney.

It is apparent that the house was altered at some time, but the dates and nature of the alterations are not known. Architects Wood and McKennon were hired in 1877 to design improvements to the house, but their plans do not appear to have been carried out. A fire in 1879 did some damage to the "cornice" and roof, according to a newspaper account.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES      1873-74                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown, probably Bedford family

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Bedford House stems from its design--unusual in this area--and its owner and probable builder, William Bedford, Sr.

The Bedfords came to Evansville in 1853 from Ramsey, Huntingdonshire, England. William, Sr., was a bricklayer, plasterer, slater and stonecutter. Together with William, Jr., also a bricklayer, he began contracting in 1856. Over the course of several years they worked on many prominent local buildings together and separately, including the old U.S. Post Office and Custom House, the Grein Building, the Viele house, the Carpenter Street School, the St. George Hotel, and the Baptist church at Cherry and Third. Bedford Avenue was named after them.

In 1873 the senior Bedford purchased land on Washington Avenue, then east of the corporation line, and the house was completed by 1874. The English influence is quite evident, particularly in the rear, and seems closer in origin to the architecture of Virginia than that of the Midwest. Another Bedford home at 20 E. Chandler Avenue (now demolished) may also have been built by its owner. Its compound chimneys and flat brick arches closely resembled those of the house on Washington Avenue, suggesting the same English derivation for both houses.

In 1879 William Bedford, Sr., constructed a racetrack, which no longer exists, across Washington Avenue from his house. The horse races held there were well publicized.

In 1887, William, Jr. was a co-founder of the firm that since 1901 has been known as Bedford-Nugent.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reflections Upon a Century<sup>of</sup> Architecture, Evansville Junior League, 1977.  
 Who's Who and Why, Richard W. Remy, The Legeman Printing Company, Evansville, 1907.  
 Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, originally published by D. J. Lake  
 and Company, Philadelphia, 1880. Reproduced by Unigraphic, Inc. Evansville, 1975.  
 The Evansville City Directory.  
 The Evansville Daily Journal.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .63 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	4	5	1	6	1	0	4	2	0	1	7	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the North line of Washington Avenue at a point Four hundred twenty-seven (427) feet East of the Southwest corner of said Block and running thence North Two hundred seventy-five (275) feet to the South line of Blackford Avenue, thence One hundred (100) feet East, thence South Two hundred seventy-five (275) feet to the North line of Washington Avenue, thence West along the North line of Washington Avenue One hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jeffrey L. Marston, Director

ORGANIZATION

Dept. of Metropolitan Development

DATE

August 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Administration Building, Room 308

TELEPHONE

(812) 426-5580

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

9/1-78

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-28-78

ATTEST:

Ruby S. Franklin

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER