

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 22

2113

GOLDSMITH C. GILBERT HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Goldsmith Gilbert Historic District is comprised of 98 major structures located on roughly eight blocks of land in the northeast corner of Census Tract. There are 76 contributing buildings, 22 non-contributing buildings, and no sites, structures or objects. The area is primarily residential in nature, and represents part of Muncie's earliest development. The northernmost part of the original plat of Munseytown (1827) lies within the proposed Gilbert District. North street was the town's northern edge and Jefferson Street its eastern edge. It is part of Goldsmith Gilbert's original donation to Munseytown.

One of the earliest residential areas in Muncie, in 1886 the Gilbert District had among its inhabitants many pioneer businessmen who became prosperous during the "gas boom" years. Names such as Gilbert, Ballard, Lacey, Hummel, Lake, Garrard, Leffler, Hemingray, Miller, Meeks and others associated with the great expansion Muncie experienced after 1886.

As the commercial area grew, it expanded northward. Since the district has proximity to the courthouse square, it soon found businesses springing up on its once residential streets. Liveries and saddle businesses were the most numerous in the area. The Miller Livery is the only livery structure still extant today. The expansion of the city's "east end" soon lured many of the area's suddenly prosperous residents away.

However, J. C. and A. L. Johnson chose to make their residences (#98, photo #19, #99, and photo #20) within the old neighborhood. Their success in the lumber business led to other ventures including real estate speculation. A L. Johnson also became involved with the Warner Gear Company which eventually became a division of Borg-Warner. Today, this is Muncie's largest industrial employer. These two brothers built their high style Victorian mansions on the edge of a growing downtown. Today, they remain strong statements of the prosperity of the day.

The Gilbert District has a wide variety of architectural styles. A few buildings remain from the pre-"gas boom" era making this

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 30 1993

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23

district a documentation of Muncie's growth from a small agricultural town into a large industrial city. The styles represented include the Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Bungalow to name a few and many examples in the vernacular idiom.

The boundary of the Goldsmith C. Gilbert Historic District defines the residential historic fabric located in the northeast corner of the central business district and of census tract one. The boundaries in general follow the curblines of public streets and alley ways. The boundary is based upon geographic and visual breaks in the historic fabric and delineates the residential nature of the district from the commercial areas of the central business district.

The following is a description of representative structures in the Goldsmith C. Gilbert Historic District:

224 East North street	American Four-Square/Colonial Revival
Shroyer House c.1895	Contributing Building #6, photo #2

The Shroyer House is typical of the well-constructed, simple dwellings of the district. It is a two and one-half story frame house with a limestone foundation. The house has an "L" shaped plan, with a hipped roof wrap-around porch. The porch has a cross gable alining with the main entry. Tuscan columns support the porch. The house has been covered in aluminum siding. Most elevations have one-over-one windows, but the side bay window has diamond-paned upper sash. A broad hip roof with deep eaves shelters the structure. There are two hipped dormers on the roof, one centered on the main elevation and one to the side.

307 East North street c.1910	Bungalow Contributing Building #60, photo #7
---------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

This bungalow is a good example of the area's 20th century housing stock. The one and one-half story frame house has a full-width porch sheltered under the main gable roof. The porch has battered piers and low walls. The walls have been covered with asbestos

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

2025 3 0 1998

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 24

shingles. The original windows and surrounds remain intact, they are four-over-one double hung sash with entablature header moldings. The gable roof is lined by exposed rafters with notched ends.

306 East North street Queen Anne
c.1881 Contributing
Building #26, photo #3

This house is one of the older properties in the district. It is a two and one-half story brick building. The main facade has a projecting gabled area and a full-width porch with brick piers. The porch was added or replaced an older porch in about 1920. The main entry is located beside the projection and has a single light transom. A small window with rock-faced lintel and sill is to the right of the door. The projection has a one-over-one window with a stone lintel and still. The front corners of the house have alternating rock-faced quoins. Another one-over-one window is found on the second floor of the projection, and the second floor window above the entry has apparently been lengthened and replaced. Windows on the sides and rear of the house have segmental arches. A plain wood entablature finishes the wall surface. A steep gable-on-hip roof crowns the house. The projection has a cross gable with a vent roof. The upper gable has fishscale shingles, while the cross gable has a recessed window and shingles. There is a one story kitchen wing to the rear.

400 East North Street Victorian Gothic
First Christian Church Contributing
c1902 Building #39, photo #4

The only religious building in the district, the First Christian Church is a good example of Victorian Gothic architecture. The church has an irregular plan and rests on a rock-faced limestone foundation. The walls are of red brick laid in stretcher bond. The primary feature of the church are its triple window groups, composed of a broad pointed arch window flanked by narrow lancet windows. Multiple coursed arches with an extrados dentil course spring from ornate stone corbels, embracing each window group. The whole group is marked by a continuous stone sill. This arch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 25

treatment is used for most of the smaller lancet windows of the church. The main entry stands in a chamfered bay and has a quoined stone surround with a label mold and tracery paneled spandrels. The entry area and end sections of the building have a crenellated parapet, while the central wall portions have steep false gables. The southwest corner of the church has an octagonal tower with a broad spire.

309 North Jefferson Street 20th Century Commercial
F. R. Miller Livery Contributing
1916 Building #47, photo #8

The Miller Livery is a two-story, detached commercial building of brick construction. The first floor has five bays divided by simple brick pilasters. One bay has a garage door, which may have been added, and the end bays have doorways as well as storefronts. On the second story, the building has five bays, with square openings in the center and ends and vertical openings in between. The end bays have brick paneling with stone corner blocks and a stone entablature-like molding rests above the windows. The building has a brick parapet with raised piers marking the end bays and a pediment shape bearing the nameplate. All of the windows have been boarded up.

306 North Mulberry Street Italianate
Contributing
c.1865/c.1920 Building #55, Photo #10

306 North Mulberry Street is a two-story, detached apartment building which is rectangular in plan. It has brick wall laid in stretcher bond. The two-story porch was added in about 1920 and has brick piers on the first story and square wood columns on the balcony level. There is a primary entrance on the first floor with one-over-one windows on either side. Another entry is located just south of this grouping. The second floor has randomly placed six-over-one sash. The building has a flat roof and a plain parapet.

322 East Gilbert Street Classical Revival
Hummel House Contributing
c.1915 Building #69, Photo #11

SEP 30 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 26

The Hummel House is one of the best examples of Classical Revival architecture in the district. The two and one-half story brick house has a rock-faced limestone foundation with a plain dressed water table. The two story, tetrastyle Tuscan portico is the most outstanding feature of the property. It has a balustrade of stout columns and a balcony to match. The portico has an entablature with blocky modillions and a raking cornice of the same design. The main facade has three bays on each story with a central door. All of the windows have one-over-one double hung sash with dressed stone lintels. The main block of the house is covered by a side-facing gable roof.

406 East Gilbert Street Queen Anne
Reynolds House Contributing
c.1885 Building #81, photo #13

The Reynolds House has irregular plan and is of frame construction. The main elevation is composed of a semi-hexagonal two-story bay window with a two-story porch at the east. The porch is supported on tripled Tuscan columns with plinths. There is a frieze with rosettes on the first story of the porch, and a short hip roof above the frieze. The second story of the porch is recessed and is missing several of the columns. Massive scroll supports, nearly a story tall, flank the main facade. The house is surmounted by a steep gable roof. The gable area features an alcove with a semi-hexagonal bay window. Windows of various types punctuate the house, most of the sash have multi-paned upper sash.

409-411 East Gilbert St. Colonial Revival
Ballard/Hemingray House Contributing
c.1900 Building #102, photo #15

This house is a large frame double covered in aluminum siding. It has a brick foundation. A full-width, wrap-around porch with a hip roof provides the most visual interest. The porch has massive turned posts and a railing of turned balusters. The first floor has two doors towards the center, with one-over-one windows on either side. The end bays are recessed under the main portion of the double. The second floor repeats this opening pattern. A medium pitch, side facing gable roof with a broad cross gable centered in front. The cross gable has a niche with a balcony.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 27

223 North Elm Street Gabled with wing
Dale House Contributing
c.1870 Building #95, photo #16

223 North Elm Street is "L" shaped in plan and has clapboarded walls. The front gable area has a semi-hexagonal bay window and a window in the gable area. Most windows and doors have a simple entablature header treatment. A square columned porch infills the "L", and small porch of similar design is found to the left of the gable. The main entry is centered in the wing. Narrow corner pilasters and plain frieze boards give the house Greek Revival elements. The wing has a through-cornice gabled dormer.

219 North Elm Street Bungalow
Contributing
c.1912 Building #96, photo #17

219 North Elm Street is an unusual bungalow design in the district. The frame house is one and one-half stories in height and has clapboard siding. The Foundation is of a brick and the porch is located at a corner of the house, under the main roof. The porch has brick walls and a single square pier at the corner. A semi-hexagonal oriel bay is centered in the main facade, and a triple window group is located to the left. Most windows have vertical light upper sash and single light lower sash. The house has a low hip roof with exposed rafters and hipped dormers on each side. A garage has been added to the south.

Alley behind 322 East Washington Street Shingle Style
J. C. Johnson Carriage House Contributing
c.1910 Building #99, photo #18

This is one of the few remaining carriage house buildings in the district. It is a frame, one and one-half story building covered in asbestos shingles on the first level and wood shingles on the upper elevations. Locations of stable doors have been boarded over on the first floor. The upper floor is flared at the sill plate and the east portion is jettied. There are irregularly placed casement windows close under the eaves. The roof is hipped with several cross gables. There are grouped double hung windows in the gables.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1991

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 28

322 East Washington St. Queen Anne
J. E. Johnson House Contributing
1888 (Listed) Building #98, photo #19

An exceptional example of a Queen Anne house, the Johnson residence is built of tan brick and limestone. The house is basically an "L" in plan with a semi-circular bay in the corner of the "L". The foundation is of rock-faced stone with a dressed water table. The front porch has an irregular hipped roof with Tuscan columns on plinths. A portion of the porch wraps around to the east and follows the curve of the semi-circular bay. The front gabled section has a triple window group framed by stone pilasters on each story. The groupings are formed by a fixed, square window with a stained glass transom in the center flanked by one-over-one double hung sash windows. The main entry is located under the porch. Stone quoins mark the corners of the front gable area. There is a wood semi-circular oriel window with stained glass windows and classical decorations above the main entry. The front gable is jettied and is covered in patterned wood shingles. A Palladian arch with Tuscan columns in antis fills the front gable. A Palladian window is recessed behind the arch. The two story corner bay is semi-circular and has alternating bands of rock-faced and dressed limestone. The bay has two windows on the ground and three on the second floor. The central second floor stained glass window is fixed. A conical roof tops the bay. A gable similar in treatment to the front faces east. It is more simplified in design than the front gable, lacking the quoins and pilasters used on the main elevation. The central portion of the house's roof is hipped, but it is broken down by previously discussed gables and conical roof. The house has hexagonal slate roofing with cast-iron ridge work.

328 East Washington St. Second Empire
Abbott L. Johnson House Contributing
c.1885 Building #97, photo #20

The A. L. Johnson House is perhaps the most unique property in the district. It is the only house in the area built entirely of limestone. The structure is two and one-half stories tall and has symmetrical main facade to the east. The walls have alternating bands of rock-faced and dressed stone, with corner quoins. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1999

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 29

main facade has a two bay central pavilion covered by a flat roofed porch supported on unfluted stone scamozz: Ionic columns. The columns have plinths and are paired at the corners. A plain entablature completes the porch. The porch has a stone balustrade which continues to the either side, enclosing open patio areas.

The main entry is located under the porch, beside two windows. Two windows flank the front porch. They have lintels in the form of a swans-neck pediment with a central finial. The second floor has four symmetrical placed windows with plain lintels. Most of the windows of the Johnson House have diamond-paned leaded upper sash and single light lower sash. The house has a plain entablature with modillions. A massive hip roof dominates the house. It has red terra-cotta tile roofing. Large dormers punctuate the roofline. The center dormer has a hip roof and three windows divided by Ionic colonettes. An entablature, a broken swans-neck pediment and urns mark the top of the dormer. Two segmental pedimented dormers flank the center dormer. These dormers also have Ionic colonettes. The north elevation is asymmetrical. It has a hip-roofed porch similar in detail to the front porch. This porch shelters a side entry. A projecting area to the rear has another swan-neck pedimented window. There is a variety of window sizes on the second floor. The roof has two segmental pedimented dormers to the west and one large hipped dormer centered over the porch. Six tall chimneys of tan brick with dentiled cornices break the roofline.

419 East Washington St.
Meeks Mortuary
C.1930

Colonial Revival
Contributing
Building #142, Photo #21

The Meeks Mortuary is a two-story red brick building with a flat roof. A wood, two-story tetrastyle portico with a flat roof, square paneled columns, and a fretwork balustrade is centered on the main facade. The entry has a simple surround with pilasters and a plain entablature. Multi-paned French doors with an iron balustrade stand over the entry. Four windows aline on either side of the center bay on each story of the main facade. The windows are four-over-one or six-over-one sash with keystone label lintels of stone. A brick parapet and simple cornice finish the wall surface. The west elevation has rows of six-over-six windows and a projecting entry with a marquee-like canopy.

SEP 30 1999

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 30

GOLDSMITH C. GILBERT HISTORIC DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE RATING

<u>Bldg. No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Date and Rating</u>
001	House	No rating - deleted from district
002	Building - Modern 211 East Wysor Street	Non-contributing
003	House	Demolished
004	House 415 North Jefferson St.	Cottage c. 1910 Contributing
005	House 413 North Jefferson St.	c.1880 Contributing
006	Shroyer House 224 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
007	House 218 East North Street	c.1880 Contributing
008	House 212-214 East North St.	Non-contributing
009	House 210 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
010	House 206 East North Street	c.1900 Non-contributing
011	House 200-202 East North St.	Non-contributing
012	House 406 North Mulberry St.	c.1900 Contributing
013	House 410 North Mulberry St.	c.1900 Contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1994

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 31

014	House 414 North Mulberry Street	c.1895 Contributing
015	House 416 North Mulberry Street	c.1895 Contributing
016	Grocery Store 309 East Wysor Street	c.1895 Contributing
017	House 315 East Wysor Street	c.1895 Contributing
018	House	Demolished
019	House 323 East Wysor Street	c.1895 - No rating - Demolished
020	House	Demolished
021	House	Demolished
022	House 333 East Wysor Street	c.1895 Contributing
023	House 415 North Elm Street	c.1895 Contributing
024	House 328 East North street	c.1880 Contributing
025	J. Harvey Leffler House 324 East North street	c.1900 Contributing
026	House 306 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
027	House 300 East North Street	Non-contributing
028	House 414 North Jefferson St.	c.1900 Contributing
029	House	Demolished
030	House	Deleted from district

SEP 30 1981

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 32

031	House	Deleted from district
032	House 411 North Madison Street	c.1895 Contributing
033	House 424 East North Street	c.1890 Contributing
034	House 422 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
035	House 416 East North street	c.1900 Contributing
036	House 414 East North Street	Non-contributing
037	House 410 East North Street	Non-contributing
038	House 408 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
039	First Christian Church 400 East North Street	c.1902 Contributing
040	House	Deleted from district
041	House 201 East North street	Non-contributing
042	House 209 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
043	House 207-09 East North Street	Non-contributing
044	House 211-12 East North Street	Non-contributing
045	House 215 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
046	Barn c.1890 Contributing Alley behind 215 E. North St.	

SEP 30 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 33

047	Miller Livery Stable 309 North Jefferson St.	c.1913 Contributing
048	House 222 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
049	House 220 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
050	House 218 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
051	House 214 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
052	Commercial Building 210 East Gilbert Street	c.1910 Contributing
053	House 208 East Gilbert Street	c.1890 Contributing
054	House 202 East Gilbert Street	c.1890 Contributing
055	House 306 North Mulberry Street	c.1865 Contributing
056	House 314 North Mulberry Street	c.1880 Contributing
057	Thomas Apartments 316 North Mulberry Street	c.1920 Contributing
058	House 301 East North Street	c.1880 Contributing
059	House 305 East North Street	c.1880 Contributing
060	House 307 East North street	c.1910 Contributing
061	House 309 East North Street	c.1910 Contributing
062	House 315 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 34

063	House 317 East North street	c.1890 Contributing
064	House 319 East North street	c.1890 Contributing
065	House 325 East North Street	c.1900 Contributing
066	Jeremiah Garrard House 331-33 East North street	Contributing
067	House 334 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
068	House 330 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
069	Hummel House 322 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
070	House 316 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
071	House 314 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
072	House 310 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
073	House 306-08 East Gilbert Street	c.1890 Contributing
074	House 300 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
075	Stable Barn 312 North Jefferson St.	c.1900 Contributing
076	C & N Radiator Shop 318 North Elm Street	Non-contributing
077	Keg and Kask 323 North Madison Street	Non-contributing
078	American Pest Control 307 North Madison Street	Non-contributing

SEP 30 1988

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 35

079		Demolished
080	House 414 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
081	Reynolds House 406 East Gilbert Street	c.1885 Contributing
082	House 402 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
083	House 310 North Elm Street	c.1900 Contributing
084, 085, 086	In Walnut Street District	
087	House 219 East Gilbert Street	c.1890 Contributing
088	House 221 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
089	House 223 East Gilbert Street	Non-contributing
090	House 115 North Jefferson street	c.1870 Contributing
091	House 317 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
092	House 319 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
093	Lacey House 321 E. Gilbert Street	c.1890 Contributing
094	House 329 East Gilbert Street	c.1880 Contributing
095	Dale House 223 North Elm Street	c.1870 Contributing
096	House 219 North Elm Street	c.1910 Contributing

SEP 30 1993

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 36

097	A. L. Johnson House 330 East Washington Street	c.1890 Contributing
098	J. C. Johnson House 322 East Washington Street	c.1890 Contributing
099	J. C. Johnson Stable Rear of 322 E. Washington	c.1890 Contributing
100	House 214 North Jefferson St.	c.1900 Contributing
101	W. A. Meeks House 220 North Elm Street	c.1880 Contributing
102	Ballard-Hemingray House 409-11 East Gilbert Street	c.1900 Contributing
103	House 415-417 East Gilbert St.	c.1900 Contributing
104	Jones Locksmith 221 North Madison Street	Non-contributing
105	Garage 221 North Madison Street	Non-contributing
106	Garage 420 East Washington St.	Non-contributing
107	House 414-16 East Washington St.	c.1880 No rating Demolished
108	House 410-12 East Washington St.	c.1900 No rating Demolished
109	House 216 North Elm Street	c.1910 Contributing
110-134	In Walnut Street District	
135	House 309 East Washington Street	c.1900 Contributing
136	House 311 East Washington Street	c.1900 Contributing

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

SEP 30 1981

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 37

137	House 315 East Washington Street	c.1880 Contributing
138	Building 333 East Washington Street	Non-contributing
139-141	In Walnut Street District	
142	Meeks Mortuary 411 East Washington street	c.1932 Contributing
143	Gas Station 117 North Madison Street	Non-contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

GOLDSMITH C. GILBERT HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Gilbert Historic District is located in the oldest residential area of the city. When Munseytown was laid out in 1827 its northern and eastern borders were North street and Jefferson Street respectively. Both of these streets are in the heart of the small Gilbert District. Although this area did not experience the extent of growth that the "west end" and "east end" did during the "gas boom" era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, it is associated with some of Muncie's oldest families. Such names as Gilbert, Ballard, Lacey, Garrard, Leffler, Hemingray, Miller, Meeks, Shroyer, Black, and Wysor are firmly associated with this area of Muncie.

Goldsmith Gilbert, the man credited with founding Muncie, built his first home, a log cabin, on land now partially in the district. That cabin was located on a part of Gilbert's property now bounded by Wysor, Walnut, North, and Jefferson streets. A historical marker notes the site of the cabin and the birth of Gilbert's daughter, the first white female child in Delaware County. Gilbert, who moved to Delaware County in 1823, operated a trading post in the northern part of the county. When that post was burned, he purchased 672 acres in what became Center Township and build his cabin with the compensation he received from the U. S. Government. This land, known as the Hackley Reserve, became the center of present day Muncie. In 1827, the city was laid out with, as mentioned, North and Jefferson streets as borders. From that early beginning this section of the city served as a residential neighborhood. As the city grew this neighborhood expanded to the east and north to the edges of the current district and beyond.

Gilbert's home was later purchased by Jacob Wysor in 1843. Wysor and his partner, John Jack, ran one of the mills that were important to Muncie's limited industrial economy prior to the "gas boom" days. Wysor's significance to the community extended beyond his mill business. He was responsible for the construction of Muncie's first opera house, the Wysor Opera in 1872. That was located at the southwest corner of Main and High streets (outside the Walnut Street Historic District). In 1892, the original opera was replaced by the Wysor Grand Opera House which has also been demolished. In its day however it was considered one of the most

2013 0 1999

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10

elaborate buildings in the city.

Jacob Wysor's son, Harvey, erected the Wysor Block in 1905, one of the most substantial buildings in the Walnut Street Historic District (#148, photo #36). Unfortunately, the Wysor Block was demolished in 1987. During the period when the Wysors owned the original Gilbert homestead major changes were made to it. Harvey Wysor continued to reside on the property even after the death of his father in 1905. The Wysors' importance to Muncie and particularly the Gilbert District is also verified by the fact that the northern boundary of the multiple resource area is Wysor Street.

The Johnson brothers also were important to the industrial growth of Muncie and they too lived on property in the Goldsmith District. John C. and Abbott L. Johnson came to Muncie about 1870 from New York and established several businesses, among them a lumber yard. Abbott Johnson later formed the Warner Gear Company. This business ultimately merged with a New York firm to become Borg-Warner, the largest supplier of automobile parts in the U. S. Both Abbott Johnson and his brother John built their homes in the district. The A. L. Johnson House (#97, photo #20) at 330 East Washington street is constructed of masonry and is in a somewhat eclectic style. The house which is in fine condition reflects Johnson's personal success and remains one of the finest homes in the city. The John C. Johnson residence (#98, photo #19, listed 7-15-81) at 322 East Washington Street is somewhat more modest in scale. The house, also in fine condition, is an excellent example of Queen Anne residential design.

The Meeks Mortuary building (#142, photo #21) is associated with one of the oldest pioneer families remaining in Delaware County. Robert Meeks and his older brother Isaac began a business manufacturing furniture and cabinets in 1846. Eventually the firm grew to include handlemaking and a factory was located on the southeast corner of Elm and Washington Streets, a location still used by the Meeks family today. The factory was destroyed by fire prior to 1890. By 1890 the firm was still manufacturing furniture and had added undertaking. The Meeks Mortuary, established in 1846, is the oldest firm operating in Delaware county. It continues today to be owned by the Meeks family. The home of William A. Meeks is located at 220 North Elm Street.

SEP 30 1988

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 11

The Ballard Hardware business is another successful Muncie business owned by a resident of the Gilbert District. Waldo H. Ballard established the business in Ohio in 1877. He moved to Muncie in 1895 and quickly opened a hardware business. During this period he lived in the double house at 409-411 East Gilbert Street. In 1905, he built a more elaborate home at 816 East Main Street in the Emily Kimbrough Historic District. Ballard's neighbor in the other half of his Gilbert Street double was Ralph Hemingray, owner of Hemingray Glass Company. This company developed its largest market in the manufacture of glass insulators and by the 1920's was the state's largest supplier of insulators. Hemingray Glass, the largest glass works in the city, employed approximately five hundred people at the peak of its operation.

Another pioneer Muncie family represented in the district is the Leffler family. At the turn of the century when he was a partner in the firm of Meltenburger & Leffler, J. Harv Leffler lived at 324 East North Street. Meltenburger & Leffler sold real estate and fire insurance and offered other financial services. Leffler's wife was Mary Garrard of another long established Muncie family.

The successful Muncie baker, Joseph Hummel lived in the large Colonial Revival House at 322 East Gilbert Street (#69, photo #11). Hummel is credited with bringing modern baking methods to Muncie. Similarly, W. C. Lacey, grocer and treasurer OF THE Muncie Board of Trade, lived at 321 East Gilbert Street.

Two livery stables remain. One has been converted to a dwelling, and the other is known as the Miller livery. It is located at 309 North Jefferson Street (#47, photo #8). It was built in 1916 by Frank Miller whose large residence stood to the north before it was destroyed by fire in 1983. The livery and harness business was an important part of turn-of-the-century Muncie. Many businesses associated with this early form of personal transportation were located in the district and may have added to its decline in popularity as a residential area.

The Goldsmith C. Gilbert Historic District is representative of Muncie's growth from a small agriculturally based town into a large industrial city. Many of the early residents of the district gained their wealth during the "gas boom" and with that wealth built larger structures, both residential and commercial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1999

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12

throughout the city. The personages associated with this district were Muncie's pioneers, including its founder, and business men and industrialists who struggled to gain prosperity in a boom town.

Geographical Data:

Acreage: 20

UTM References:	16 637 760	4450 660
	16 637 460	4450 460
	16 637 760	4450 350
	16 637 560	4450 350

GOLDSMITH C. GILBERT HISTORIC DISTRICT VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the east side curblines of North Mulberry Street and the southside of East Wysor Street, then proceeding east along the south curbline of East Wysor Street to the west curbline of North Elm Street, then south along that line to the alley north of East North Street, then east along that line to the west curbline of North Madison Street, then south along that line to the alley north of East Main Street, then west along that line to the east curbline of North Jefferson Street, then north along that line to the alley north of East Washington Street, then west along that line to the alley east of North Mulberry Street, then north along that line to the point of origin.

NOTES

1. Mary Frances Abel, You Are Because They Were (Muncie, IN: Royal Printing Co., 1976), p.5.
2. G. W. H. Kemper, A Twentieth Century History of Delaware County, Indiana (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1908), p. 131.