

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 27 1984  
date entered SEP 27 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Jones, Margaret and George Riley, Residence House  
and/or common Riley-Jones Club, Incorporated

**2. Location**

street & number 315 East Charles Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Muncie N/A vicinity of  
state Indiana code 018 county Delaware code 035

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Riley-Jones Realty Corp. / Riley Jones Club, Inc.  
street & number 315 E. Charles Street  
city, town Muncie N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47305

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Delaware County Courthouse  
street & number 100 W. Main Street  
city, town Muncie state Indiana 47305

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The present physical appearance has been retained in keeping with the concept of the establishment of a private women's club in an historic structure in the near downtown area of Muncie.

The large, freestanding, 2½ story brick exterior Colonial Revival style residence was designed by English born architect Alfred Grindle, who also was the architect for the former Emerson Elementary School, Muncie; Grace Episcopal Church, Adams and Madison Streets, Muncie; and at least three other impressive homes in the Emily Kimbrough Historic District.

English born, Grindle maintained a Fort Wayne architectural office and was sought after by Muncie residents who wanted impressive structures.

George Riley and Margaret Jones were no different. Grindle planned for them in 1901-1903 the modified "L" plan of wood stud and plaster interior walls. It was a popular construction method in the post-Victorian era.

The roof is gabled with three dormers. Two are single and there is one double across the north (or front) street elevation. These architectural features are typical of the design of early Colonial Revival style, reflecting to the Victorian excesses. The single flanking ones are triangular pediments. The roof over the center dormer is of curved linear design. Originally, there were decorative panels connecting the lower part of the side dormers to the center dormer.

Additional features in the upper half story are arched windows, topped by a voissoir, in the gable ends. The windows throughout the house are double-hung and come in a variety of sizes and shapes. This again reflects the carryover of the Victorian Mode. Some of the upper sashes bear diamond pattern muntins.

The home originally had slate roofing. When purchased in 1981, the roof had 27 holes, some of which had done damage to the third floor. It was replaced with asphalt shingle with the slate color and look, and all of the flashing and guttering was replaced. The flashing is copper. The adjoining wood soffit was replaced where needed. Front and back porch roofs were retarred (they are flat) and some wooden trim reproduced and replaced.

The second story of the main facade has five bays. The round-arched center window is very distinctive; it is slightly recessed and has stained glass and wood molding surrounds. Framing it are four rectangular double-hung sash windows with stained glass, wood surrounds, and a keystone head.

The front porch floor is constructed of mosaic octagon and square shaped blue and white tile, accented in dark brown tile. The exterior dentil trim at the roof line on the porch is exactly the same as the inside woodwork dentil trim in the foyer, although the exterior is a third larger in size.

The entrance door is massive and has a large curved top. It is fitted with beveled and leaded glass. Massive handmade trim decorates the door. Riley Jones Club members installed a custom-made, protective acrylic sheet which meets public safety codes and does not detract from the era of the architecture.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Margaret and George

Continuation sheet Riley Jones Residence

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Once inside, the living or club foyer area has an elaborate oak staircase and fireplace wall. The fireplace wall is set at a 45° angle installed with beveled, leaded mirrors fashioned into the mantel. Throughout the room, the neo-classical Adamesque styled wood trim abounds. A foliated finial post also bears medallions. Elsewhere, at the ceiling, the interior dentil trim is repeated over the stairway and fireplace wall, and turns down the foyer hallway. All is original, except the della robia swags and medallions which were carefully reproduced with compositon material. The reproductions were stained with the original woodwork color. The woodwork, naturally finished, was retained with a thorough cleaning and a new coat of shellac, rather than varnish. At the first landing of the stairway, a handsome stained glass window has replaced a plain, four-part, stained glass window. The reproduced window is very similar to the original.

The descriptions of the other downstairs areas are as follows: Three rooms are situated to the east side of the first floor. At the south side of the first floor is a butler's pantry with built-in floor-to-ceiling cupboards. The original kitchen, a hallway to a small powder room also leads to an exterior first floor exterior door and the entry way to the basement. Adjacent to the kitchen is a second or rear stairway which joins the first landing of the foyer stairway.

The second floor has one large room at the north, and two similarly sized rooms to the east and west, separated by a hallway to the fire exit. Originally, the hallway was the two closets for the second floor rear bedrooms. The walls were removed to create the public code passageway for fire exit. The second floor alterations inside were subtle, according to the tasteful guidelines provided by the modern-day architect, James A. Gooden. In all cases, the relocation or closing of doorways was to facilitate traffic flow and public safety. It also permits food service employees more efficient performance of duties. Closets were used to handle units necessary for the hot and cool air flow for the heating/air conditioning system. Restrooms were installed in the original locations on the second floor.

At the top of the stairs is a second floor foyer. Stair entry to the third floor is located there. A five room apartment had been established on the third floor. It is believed, but not confirmed, that the third floor was built to be used as a ballroom, and later altered to create bedrooms. The home in the late 1930's and early 1940's was used as a rooming house. The second and third floors were the areas used for the rental rooms.

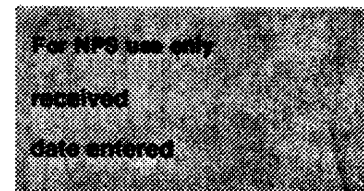
Presently, the third floor is retained as the five room area. The club's office uses two rooms, and the living room is used for workshops, luncheon service, and a cocktail lounge. There is a new kitchen and bath. The woodwork was found as painted, and the decision was to keep it that way.

Generally, the house inside is simpler in style. It is a good example of asymmetrical floor plan, also a carry-over from the Victorian styles.

A large, balconied entry porch projects from the main facade. Limestone columns with Doric capitals extend from a brick base wall to a cornice decorated with dentils and modillions. This cornice trim is identical to the inside woodwork trim in the foyer,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Margaret and George Riley Jones Residence Item number 7 Page 2

---

although the exterior trim is a third larger in size. There was once an intricate design on the cornice fascia above the columns. Originally, there was a decorated pediment above the center of the porch cornice, and it was similar to the design on the center dormer. Finials were once located atop the corners and near the center of the balustrade, and also at the top of the pediment.

---

Margaret and George Riley Jones Residence Item Number 9

---

Haimbaugh, Frank D. History of Delaware County, Indiana, 2 Vols. Historical Publishing Company: Indianapolis, 1924.

Kemper, G. W. H. The Twentieth Century History of Delaware County, Indiana, 2 Vols. Lewis Publishing Company: Chicago, 1908.

Muncie Indiana City Directories, 1891-1903.

Muncie Star, October 3, 1925.

Souvenir Elks Street Carnival Program. B.P.O.E. 245, Muncie, Indiana. June 25, 1899. MSS 37 from the Belle Fuson Parkison Collection in Bracken Library Special Collections, Ball State University.

---

Item Number 10

---

Part of Lot Number Two of Fanny Turner's Subdivision: Commencing at the northwest corner of Lot Number Two of said subdivision and running thence south on the west line thereof to the southwest corner of said lot; thence east on the south line of said lot seventy-five feet; thence north parallel with the west line of said lot to the north line thereof, and west on the north line to the beginning.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1901-1903

**Builder/Architect** Alfred Grindle, Fort Wayne

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Margaret and George Riley Jones Residence, built in 1901-1903, was initiated as an endeavor to provide a gracious and elegant home for their only daughter, Christine. It is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture designed by Alfred Grindle, a well-known architect.

George Riley Jones was born October 3, 1858, in Muncie, the son of Thomas and Eliza Coffin Jones. Thomas moved from Greene County, Ohio, to Muncie to open a cooper's business. George Riley was educated in Muncie, and at age 22 became a clerk in the grocery and feed store owned by J. P. Adamson, Muncie. By the time he was 30 he was a partner with Adamson. Later, he opened his own grocery at Howard and Liberty Streets. Credited as operating a comfortable and safe business, Jones was successful at a time when there were more than 60 groceries in the Muncie area. Thus, he took an active part in the development of the commerce and industry of Muncie. He became a prominent real estate dealer, and was said to be one of the city's largest property holders. He was an active member of the Elks Lodge, 245. He died of heart disease and stroke at age 67, October 7, 1925.

As Jones' business success stabilized in the late 1890's, the construction of the large Colonial Revival brick home was riding on the healthy, rapidly expanding economy generated by the new industries, such as the Ball Brothers glass jar factory and other firms who were capitalizing on the cheap fuel and abundant labor force.

His wife, Margaret E. McConnell Jones, was born June 1, 1863, married February 16, 1888. As wife and mother, she was involved in a number of social clubs. Her impact on the community was typical for the time.

This Colonial Revival structure displays a number of characteristics of its style, including a large balconied entry porch, stained glass, classical detail under the eaves, and pedimented areas. It also adheres to the rectangular shape and symmetrical design of the style.

Architect Grindle's blend of Colonial Revival features makes the house dominate its site. The house, with its many decorative elements, has the charm and grace of elegant living at the turn of the century when the Victorian period was waning. Known for his impressive buildings, Grindle was much sought after and was the architect for a number of Muncie structures, including at least three houses in the Emily Kimbrough Historic District.

The founding group of Riley-Jones Club members formed a realty corporation to fund the purchase, rehabilitation and restoration of the 80-year-old home. It is located in the inner city, across from the YWCA. The area was deteriorating and since its restoration, nearby home owners have cleaned and improved their properties.

Today, the Riley-Jones Club for Women exemplifies the faith its founders have in the future of the downtown, drawing from the hard work and careful investment of an early businessman and his family.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Muncie West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	3	7	6	0	0	4	4	4	9	9	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita Winters, President

organization Riley Jones Club for Women, Inc. date February 15, 1984

street & number 315 E. Charles Street telephone 317/747-4057

city or town Muncie state Indiana 47305

## 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 signature J. M. T. Costello

title Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources date 8-17-84

For NPS use only

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

Joyce M. Sammons Entered in the National Register date 9-27-84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration