

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 27 1987
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Anderson-Thompson House

and or common Thompson-Schultz House

2. Location

street & number 6551 Shelbyville Road N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Schultz

street & number 6551 Shelbyville Road

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46237

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building, Recorder's Office

street & number 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records None

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 Anderson-Thompson House faces north on the crest of a hill amidst century-old trees overlooking the countryside southeast of Indianapolis. The house is ell-shaped in plan with a parlor wing on the east side. The house originally had a summer kitchen and ice house on the west side which connected with the kitchen (see photo 1), but this wing has been removed.

The sill and supporting crossmembers of the house are comprised of 8" x 10" hand-hewn oak timbers held together with wooden pegs. There are 1½ floors plus a basement with 11 rooms in all. The house has 10 ft. ceilings on the first floor and 9 ft. gabled ceilings on the second floor.

The foundation is low and is constructed of brick. On the main facade the foundation has one centrally-located window opening and on the east side of the parlor wing there are two window openings.

The exterior of the house is finished with oak board-and-batten siding. In 1938 the owner applied asbestos siding which, in recent years, has been removed and the original siding restored. The original board siding experienced very little damage from the asbestos siding; however, many of the batten strips have been replaced with strips lathed in an identical pattern to the original ones. The house is painted in its original shades of brown, fawn, and dark green.

The main gable and facade of the house has three bays, with the entrance in the easternmost bay (photo 2). The entrance has a wooden door with round-arched panels and plain trim (photo 6). The door frame has ancons at the top, and the same form mirrored below at the sill level. A rectangular transom and a low, projecting, pedimented hood are above the door. While the door and transom are original, the canopy is not. Th historic photo (photo 1) shows a similar, but wider, canopy set several inches above the transom, supported by brackets. A front porch was added in the 1930s but was recently removed. At the entrance are hand-cut limestone steps which were apparently moved from the front to the rear entrance, but which now have been returned to the front.

There are two windows west of the door, and the upper story has one window opening. The window sash were changed around 1930 from six-over-six to one-over-one, double-hung windows (three windows at 34" x 78" on the second floor and seven windows at 34" x 66" on the first floor). At this time, first floor windows were shortened by about 12". Scars can be seen on the board siding, indicating the original height of the windows. The windows were, until recently, trimmed with plain board surrounds and sills. The current owner has, however, installed window heads similar to the originals, i.e., low pediments extending slightly beyond the edges of the vertical trim. Also, antique louvered shutters have been installed on the front windows, similar to the originals.

A stained glass window of smaller dimensions than the windows on the main facade is on the eastern side of the main section of the house. The north elevation of the adjacent parlor wing has recently been restored to its original configuration, using the original door and window which had been stored in the basement. A new porch similar to the original has also been reinstalled on this elevation.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates c. 1855–1860 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Anderson-Thompson House is architecturally significant as one of few local examples of Gothic Revival architecture. Its prominent, steeply-pitched gables and ornately carved brackets, and its original board-and-batten siding make it stylistically one of a scant number of Gothic Revival houses in the Indianapolis area. The house was also the last residence of James Lee Thompson, a civic leader.

The house was built by Stephen H. Anderson, who was born in Kentucky in 1815 (2)*. In 1848 he purchased the tract of land consisting of 160 acres from Duly Masters, a land speculator in Boone County, Kentucky. Anderson built his house c. 1855–1860, based upon census and tax records. He located it at the highest point of land on one of Franklin Township's earliest roads, Shelbyville Road. Shelbyville Road was a toll road during the 1870s and 1880s, operated by the Indianapolis and Shelbyville Gravel Road Company. One of the toll gates was located approximately 600 feet from the house at the southeast corner of Southport Road and Shelbyville Road (3). Ledger records of the gravel company show that Anderson was paid for scraping the road on several occasions (4).

Anderson and his family farmed the land until its sale in 1891 to James Lee Thompson (1818–1899), a farmer and civic leader. His father, Wilson Thompson, was a Baptist minister, farmer, physician, and Representative for two terms in the Indiana Legislature (5, 6). James Lee was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1818 and as a boy moved to Fayette County, Indiana, in 1834. Thompson married Elizabeth McCarty in 1839. He moved to Rush County, Indiana, where he lived for three years, then to Clinton County, and later to Howard County, where he purchased 80 acres in 1852 (7). His wife, Elizabeth, died and his five children went to live with Grandfather McCarty. He then married Eliza Heffner, who lived for one year following their marriage. In 1861 Thompson married Nancy Adair Kemper, a widow who had one son, Joseph Kemper. Federal census and Marion County land records indicate that Stephen H. Anderson was the legal guardian for Joseph Kemper, who lived with the Andersons in 1870. Six children were born of Thompson's marriage to Nancy (7). James Lee Thompson was a sergeant in the 4th Cavalry of the 77th Regiment during the Civil War (8). Thompson settled in Marion County in 1867 and served three terms as Franklin Township (Marion County) Trustee (1868–74 and 1878–80) (9), and one term as Representative in the Indiana Legislature (1875) (5). He served two terms as Marion County Commissioner (1887–89), and was given a gold-headed cane by fellow commissioners (7). In politics, it was said that "he was a staunch Democrat, one not ashamed to stand up before the world and avow the principles of his party through good and through evil report" (10). Thompson moved to the Anderson 80-acre farm from the Irvington district of Indianapolis. Thompson was an elder of the Old Piner Primitive Baptist Church, which stood adjacent to the property. He died in 1899 and was buried in Acton Cemetery. An inventory in the Probate Court records of Marion County lists the house's furnishings. Nancy Thompson lived in the house until her death in 1904, and her children sold the house in 1906.

*Numbers refer to bibliographical references. See Item 9

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.2 acres

Quadrangle name Beech Grove

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	1	2	8	0	4	3	9	1	0	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please 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 Mr. Richard M. Schultz

organization N/A

date 4-4-85

street & number 6551 Shelbyville Road

317/261-5508

telephone 317/782-4179

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46237

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 Richard M. Schultz

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-30-87

For NPS use only

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

located in the INDIANA National Register

date 3-26-87

Alfred Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Anderson-Thompson House

Item number 7

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The east elevation of the parlor wing has a gabled roof, with two windows on the first level and one on the upper level, identical to those on the main facade. The rear (south) elevation has an entrance in the westernmost bay, and three windows on the ground floor, including one in the parlor wing (photo 5). On the second story is a single window centered in the gable end, and a large shed dormer with one window on the roof of the parlor wing.

The gabled roof on both the north and south elevations has decorative scroll brackets, and exposed rafters in the eaves, which are cut in a curved configuration.

The first floor hallway connects with the parlor to the east, and the stairway, library, and dining room to the west. The dining room leads to the kitchen at the southwest corner of the house. There are plaster ceiling medallions in the dining room, hallway, and parlor. The rear entrance to the house, a red brick and concrete veranda, leads into the kitchen.

All doors in the house are carved without separate moldings and have iron locks that bear March 15, 1859, patent dates. The doors off the hallway on both the first and second floors have transom windows. The interior woodwork around the windows and doors is of blue ash, and features low pedimented heads (photo 9). The original floors were also of ash, but oak floors were added to the first floor around 1930.

An elegantly carved, open oak stairway leads from the first floor to an 8' x 13' landing on the second floor (photo 8). The second floor has three bedrooms; two are on either side of the landing, with one smaller bedroom over the library. A washroom and closet were added off the master bedroom in recent years.

The original crib, with board-and-batten siding matching that of the house, stands on the adjacent property to the north, which is under separate ownership. The original bar was moved approximately 700 feet in 1935, and remains today on the 6700 block of Shelbyville Road. An original cistern remains on the west side of the house, with an "1865" inscription chiseled into the wall.

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Continuation sheet Anderson-Thompson House Item number 9 and 10 Page 2

Item No. 9

1. Franklin Township Historical Society, The History of Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana. Area Old Homes. Printed by Central Nine Vocational School Print Shop, Greenwood, IN, 1982.
2. Cline and McHaffie, Marion County Indiana. People's Guide. Indianapolis Printing and Publishing House, 1874.
3. Interview with Mr. Howard White, Sr., 6530 Shelbyville Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 3, 1985.
4. Indianapolis and Shelbyville Gravel Road Company, Treasurer's Record Book, 1872-1887 (kept by Franklin Township Historical Society).
5. Shepherd, R. A., et al., A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Vol. 1, 1816-1899. Indianapolis, 1980.
6. Thompson, Wilson, The Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson, Cincinnati, 1867.
7. Franklin Township Historical Society, Historic Treasures of Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana, New Palestine Press, New Palestine, IN, 1978.
8. Indiana Civil War Volunteers, Indiana State Historical Library, Archives Division, Indianapolis, IN.
9. Sulgrove, B. R., History of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana, L. H. Everts and Co., Indianapolis, 1884.
10. Brief Biographies of the Members of the Indiana State Government; Executive, Judicial, and Legislative, The Indianapolis Sentinel Co., Indianapolis, 1874-75.

Item 10

Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 14 North, Range 4 East of the Second Principal Meridian located in Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana. Commencing at the Southwest corner of the said Quarter, thence North 89°32'20" East (assumed bearing) along the South line of said Quarter, a distance of 190.11 feet; thence North 01°27'46" East and parallel with the West line of said Quarter a distance of 190.11 feet to the point of Beginning of this tract, thence North 01°27'46" East and parallel with the West line of said Quarter a distance of 159.43 feet; thence South 88°32'14" East a distance of 175.00 feet; thence North 01°27'46" East and parallel with said West line a distance of 200.00 feet to a point on the centerline of Shelbyville Road; thence South 46°24'47" East along the Centerline of said Road a distance of 508.25 feet to a point that is north 00°27'40" West a distance of 190.00 feet from the Southline of said Quarter; thence South 89°32'20" West and parallel with said South line a distance of 552.28 feet to the point of the beginning, excluding, however, the present right-of-way of Shelbyville Road.