

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 30 1986

date entered MAY 29 1987

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

1. Name

historic Irvington Historic District

and/or common Irvington

2. Location

street & number Please see continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Accessible, Present Use. Includes checkboxes for district, building(s), structure, site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, yes/restricted/unrestricted/no, agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, and museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Room 721, City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes S ___ no

date 1985 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Irvington Historic District is composed of approximately one square mile of gently rolling, wooded residential, commercial and park landscape about five miles east of the center of downtown Indianapolis. Perhaps the district's most identifiable quality is its long, winding, wooded avenues. Although existing in all parts of the district, these are probably most apparent in the southeast quadrant around Irving Circle. These narrow drives (photos #1-7) were part of the original plan and were the conscious attempt of Irvington's platters to give the community a unique, park-like character. The curved streets overlay a loose grid pattern with streets such as Audubon, Ritter and Washington (U.S. 40) providing definite north-south and east-west lines. The distinctive nature of the plan is evidenced by a comparison of the Irvington district with more recent developments to the north, east, and west. These areas have much more dense development with a rigid grid. The long, sweeping curves of Pleasant Run Parkway with its undeveloped wooded character, part of the district though not part of the original plan, carry out the irregular street pattern of the original plat. Typically, streets are lined by sidewalks separated from the curb by several feet of grass, which further contributes to the natural appearance (photo #1). Nearly all the streets in the district were originally brick. Today Layman Avenue (photo #11) remains as an example.

The original plat defined two circles. The larger of the two in the northern half of the district is today the site of the Irvington United Methodist Church. The smaller, Irving Circle, remains a park.

Most homes south of Washington Street, the main east-west artery, have little setback (photos #3, 4). Houses built in the northern part of the district, especially those along North Audubon and Pleasant Run Parkway, were built with deep setbacks and large lots (photos #7, 91, 92). For the most part, schools and religious structures have been integrated into the residential part of the district so that, though larger in scale, they maintain the same setbacks and spacing as the residential structures.

Washington Street, the primary commercial artery (photos #9, 10), provides a sharp contrast with its four lanes and dense commercial construction often built right at the sidewalk. The street is not only a major artery in the district but also serves as a primary east-west route connecting Indianapolis with other parts of the state.

Virtually no structures remain from the period prior to the platting of Irvington in 1870. Because Butler University moved to the community only five years after platting, few structures date from the pre-Butler era. The Julian-Clarke House, 115 South Auduton Road, and the Benton House, 312 Downey Avenue, both constructed in 1873, are the oldest remaining structures in Irvington.

The elegant, Italianate Julian-Clark House is a two and one-half story brick structure with L-shaped plan. The main (west) facade is three bays wide, the central bay projecting slightly. The heavily projecting, bracketed cornice is surmounted by a low-pitched hip roof. A polygonal bay projects from the south facade. A one story wood porch runs across the entire front facade and covers the half-round arched entry. Windows on the main floor which extend to floor level are paired and capped by individual segmental arched hoods. Second floor windows are also paired but capped by half-round arched hoods. Attic windows are rounded arches surrounding fixed sash.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 1870 - 1936 **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Irvington Historic District is significant because it contains one of Indianapolis's earliest planned suburbs, as well as a section of Pleasant Run Parkway designed by George Kessler, the city's leading early 20th century landscape architect. It is also significant because, as the site of Butler University from 1875-1928, it developed rapidly into a distinct college community that enjoyed many of the intellectual, artistic and social activities associated with college towns. Architecturally, the district developed rapidly during the Butler era and retains a high percentage of residential, educational and religious structures from that period. Except along Washington Street (U.S. 40/National Road) where constant growth and change have eroded some of the district's original commercial nature, the historic fabric of the district is remarkably intact with few changes and intrusions to alter the historic appearance.

Although the district's major period of historic significance is the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was populated from the first quarter of the 19th century. John Wilson arrived in the area from Connersville, Indiana, in 1820 and farmed 80 acres along Pleasant Run Creek west of what is now Hawthorne Lane. Later, as the National Road, now Washington Street, became the important route into Indianapolis from the east, Wilson erected a ten room inn on the present southeast corner of Washington Street and Emerson Avenue (since demolished).

Warren Township was created in 1822 and was joined as part of Center Township until sufficient population had settled in the area. In 1826 the first officers of Warren Township were elected. In 1853 John Ellenberger arrived from Cincinnati, first renting 320 acres, then purchasing 180 acres of wooded land from Pleasant Run Parkway north to Eleventh Street. Part of this land is now preserved as Ellenberger Park, a part of the district.

In November, 1873, Jacob Julian and Sylvester Johnson, from Wayne County, Indiana, purchased 320 acres which they divided into 109 lots, each of two or more acres. They combined this with an 80 acre purchase made by Dr. Levi Ritter to form the "Suburb of Irvington." Instead of dividing the property into a straight-forward, rectilinear grid, the founders developed a plan of gracefully curved streets that followed the natural topography and incorporated two oval open spaces. The plan was purportedly derived from Glendale, Ohio, not far from Wesleyan Female College, where Julian's daughter attended school. In a broader sense, the plan was influenced by that 19th century thought that prized the natural setting and the incorporation of picturesque landscape elements into a residential setting. In spirit, it is linked with such communities as Llewellyn Park, Orange, New Jersey, designed by A. J. Davis, 1853; Lake Forest, Illinois, 1857, and Riverside, Illinois, 1868, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Interest in Romantic landscape planning had been expressed as early as 1849 by the widely influential landscape gardener, Andrew Jackson Downing, in The Horticulturalist, and remained popular throughout the 19th century. It is interesting to note that Washington Irving, for whom Irvington was named, was a proponent of Romantic landscape ideas and served as president of a consulting board advising the commissioners for New York City's Central Park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 545

Quadrangle name Indianapolis East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	8	4	4	0	4	4	0	3	2	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

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

C

1	6	5	8	0	1	8	0	4	4	0	1	4	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	6	5	7	8	4	6	0	4	4	0	1	8	6	0
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 F. Eric Utz

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc. date January 13, 1986

street & number 1028 North Delaware telephone 317/638-5264

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46202

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 *John T. Coates*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date May 3, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews date 5/29/87

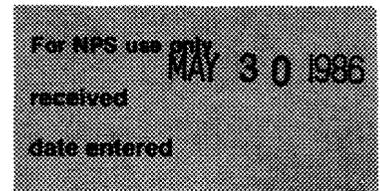
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Hist. Dist. Item number 2 Page 1

The district is roughly bounded by Arlington Avenue on the east, the ConRail right-of-way on the south, Emerson Avenue on the west, Pleasant Run Parkway, Ellenberger Park and the creek bed of Pleasant Run Creek on the northwest and north.

North Arlington Avenue	20 - 366
South Arlington Avenue	18 - 460
North Audubon Road	19 - 578
South Audubon Road	29 - 407
Beechwood Avenue	5602 - 5972
Berry Avenue	101 - 130
North Bolton Avenue	16 - 514
South Bolton Avenue	15 - 124
Bonna Avenue	5541 - 5791
Burgess Avenue	259 - 5438
North Butler Avenue	8 - 15
South Butler Avenue	10 - 144
Campbell Street	15 - 520
Dewey Avenue	5802 - 5954
Downey Avenue	23 - 392
South Emerson Avenue	25 - 268
North Graham Avenue	314 - 351
South Graham Avenue	109 - 125
Good Avenue	105 - 435
North Hawthorne Lane	14 - 99
South Hawthorne Lane	20 - 147
Hibben Avenue	5417 - 5479
Hill Street	5309 - 5342
Irving Court	67 - 83
North Irvington Avenue	12 - 440
South Irvington Avenue	11 - 56
Johnson Avenue	24 - 138
Julian Avenue	5123 - 5935
Layman Avenue	14 - 348
Lesley Avenue	309 - 352
Lowell Avenue	5257 - 5931
East Market Street	5232 - 5252
East Michigan Street	5514 - 5902
East New York Street	5717 - 5912
Oak Avenue	5717 - 5969
Ohmer Avenue	212 - 5356

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MAR 10 1973
1982

Section number _____ Page 2 Irvington Historic District

Item Number 2

East Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive	5070
East Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive	5101 - 5903
Rawles Avenue	5610 - 5975
North Ritter Avenue	16 - 509
South Ritter Avenue	23 - 377
South Spencer Avenue	19 - 159
University Avenue	5102 - 5980
East Washington Street	5102 - 5936
North Whittier Place	14 - 363

Item Number 6

Benton House
312 South Downey Avenue

Listed on the National Register March 10, 1973

Graham-Stephenson House
5432 University Avenue

Listed on the National Register July 15, 1982

Julian-Clarke House
115 South Audubon Road

Listed on the National Register June 20, 1986

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

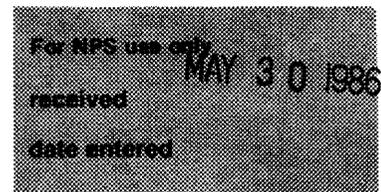
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Irvington
Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3



The Julian-Clarke House is one of the very few houses in the district to retain a large portion of its original two-acre lot. In 1873, when the house was built, George Julian had just begun his service as Surveyor-General of New Mexico under President Grover Cleveland. In 1899 Julian died and the house passed to his daughter and son-in-law, Grace and Charles B. Clarke. Following the death of Mrs. Clarke the house served as the Huff Sanitarium from 1944-73. Only minor alterations were made to meet the facility's needs.

The Benton House, 312 Downey Avenue (photo #13) is a well-preserved, two-story brick structure in the Second Empire style. Its mansard roof surmounts a deeply projecting cornice with paired brackets. A bulky dormer with three arched openings projects from the front. The main entrance is located in the tower which is distinguished by four roundels in the mansard cap. The house was built in 1873 by an Irvington platter named Nicholas Ohmer and first purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Allen R. Benton. Dr. Benton served twice as president of the Irvington campus of Butler University. In June, 1966, the house was purchased by the Irvington Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc., and listed on the National Register in 1973. It presently serves as a community meeting place for Irvington clubs and as a museum of the Victorian era.

The Johnson-Earle-Payne House, located on Irving Circle at 5631 University Avenue (photos #14, 15), is one of the purest examples of the Neo-Jacobean style in Indianapolis. The house, often called "The Castle", was constructed in 1876 for Eudorus M. Johnson, son of Irvington co-founder, Sylvester Johnson. The brick structure is characterized by its irregular shape and two slender turrets. The projecting eaves of the irregular gabled roof allow for exposed rafters and arched bracing composed of collarbeam and kingpost with drop pendant, and two pairs of supporting braces at the eaves. Three corbelled brick chimneys also contribute to the irregular shape of the house. The turret on the north facade has regularly repeating brick insets and piers on either side. It also has stone banding with modillions. The gabled dormers of the turret have collarbeams and kingposts.

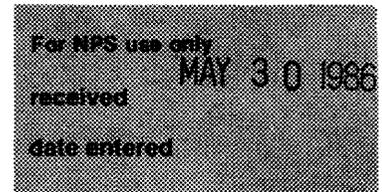
Numerous Carpenter-Builder cottages and vernacular Queen Anne structures are found throughout the Irvington district. The most modest of these are located on Bonna, Good and Burgess Avenues, and were generally occupied by day laborers. The cottages located at 324 Burgess Avenue, 114 South Good Avenue, and 5717 Bonna Avenue are three typical examples of day laborer housing. The gingerbread details of 324 Burgess (photo #16) and 114 South Good (photo #17) highlight the otherwise simple frame cottages. The ornamental treatment of both structures is very similar, both have gables decorated with gingerbread and a drop pendant; both have sawn attic vents; and both have wood brackets. 5717 Bonna Avenue (photo #18) represents a very simple cottage highlighted by three wooden brackets supporting the roof overhang, the turned porch posts, and two-over-two double-hung sash windows.

Vernacular one and one-half story cottages appear throughout Irvington. The striking similarities between 109 South Graham (photo #19), 321 North Whittier Place (photo #20), 315 Lesley (photo #21), and 5823 Lowell (photo #22) suggest the use of a pattern book design. All four houses display cross-gabled roofs with returns, front porches, clapboard siding, and similar window surrounds. Variations appear in the form of window and door location and the use of fishscale shingles.

320 South Audubon (photo #23) and 5451 University Avenue (photo #24) represent more stylized versions of vernacular Queen Anne architecture. The multi-patterned gable shingles and porch features such as jigsawn brackets, turned columns, and ball and spindle gallery, are

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington
 Historic District Item number 7 Page 4

the predominant features of these structures. The hipped roof of 320 South Audubon is interrupted by a centrally located cross gable. The gable is highlighted by a Queen Anne window and fishscale shingles on the peak.

Craftsman style houses and Craftsman influenced bungalows are found in abundance within Irvington. This is attributed, in part, to the style's appeal as a middle class dwelling. The simplicity of its design allowed the house to be easily constructed using local materials and craftsmen. The houses at 303 South Downey (photo #25), 5834 University (photo #26), 322 North Ritter (photo #27), and 5949 University (photo #28), depict many characteristics of Craftsman styling. Each of these houses possesses braces supporting a low overhanging roof with wide eaves. Rafters and purlins are also visible.

Tudor Revival influence was, at times, adapted to the basic Craftsman design as seen at 5621 Beechwood (photo #29). Similarly, 280 South Downey (photo #30) and 28 North Audubon (photo #31) exhibit Tudor Revival influence. Both structures have gabled dormers with half-timbering. 28 North Audubon was designed and built in 1911 by the house's first owner, Layton Allen, an architect. He and his wife, Lelah Frances, occupied the house until 1924. Today, the house is owned by the Irvington United Methodist Church.

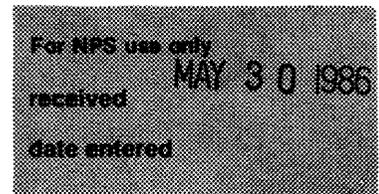
Five bungalow designs, typical of the Irvington area, are 447 North Audubon (photo #32), 5908 University (photo #33), 5830 University (photo #34), 339 North Whittier Place (photo #35), and 72 North Ritter (photo #36). Centrally located shed dormers are common to all of the examples except 447 North Audubon, which has a gabled dormer. Each house possesses the typical bungalow characteristics of overhanging gabled roofs which extend to cover the porch. The porch supports consist of heavy piers, the majority of which are brick. 447 North Audubon, 5830 University, and 5908 University are stained a natural dark brown, likewise a bungalow characteristic.

American Four Square houses are also common in Irvington. A large number of Four Squares were built as duplexes in response to the Butler University demand for housing, such as 5618-5620 Lowell (photo #37). An inexpensive style to build, the Four Square is said to offer the most house for the least price. As a single family structure and as a duplex, we find this style on virtually every corner, street and avenue of the district. 60 North Ritter (photo #38), 270 South Ritter (photo #39), and 5962 Oak (photo #40), typify the Four Square style through the use of the low-pitched hipped roofs, centrally located hipped dormers, and a simple square shape.

Colonial and Georgian Revival styles may likewise be seen in Irvington. 410 North Audubon (photo #41) contains such elements of Colonial Revival architecture as symmetry, end gable roof, and emphasis on the central doorway articulated by classical features. The Abendroth-Oberholtzer House at 5802 University (photo #42) is essentially a Four-Square design with symmetrical shape and central gabled dormers. However, architectural details echo the Georgian Revival style. Dentil molding is located at the roofline of the house and porch. The porch roof is supported by eight Doric columns. The Howe-Kingsbury-Spiegel House at 317 Downey (photo #43) was built in 1907 by Will David Howe, an English professor at Butler University. The two and one-half story rectangular house contains several typical qualities of Georgian Revival architecture. The central bay of the main facade is slightly projected and articulated by pilasters. The gambrel roof has two pedimented gabled dormers on the main facade. The centrally located portico roof is also pedimented and supported by Doric columns.

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Item number 7 Page 5
Historic District

Other styles represented in Irvington are Neo-Classical Revival and Free Classic. The most recognized Neo-Classical Revival structure is the Graham-Stephenson House at 5432 University (photo #44). The house was originally built in 1889 by William H. H. Graham, American consul to Winnipeg, Canada, appointed by President Benjamin Harrison. In 1922, still under the ownership of the Grahams, the house was rented by the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority of Butler University. The following year the house was purchased by David Curtis Stephenson, head of the Indiana chapter of the Ku Klux Klan. Stephenson remodeled the house by creating the present south (main) facade and adding a four car garage on the lot behind the house. In 1927 the house was purchased by the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity of Butler, but is currently maintained as a private residence. The two and one-half story wood frame structure is built on a square plan. Four Ionic columns support the portico roof which is topped by a wooden balustrade. The front door contains an etched-glass window by Ivan Pogue, a descendant of one of Indianapolis's first settlers. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

The Hadeleman-McNutt House at 5438 East Lowell (photo #45), and 307 South Audubon exemplify the Free Classic style of architecture. The pedimented porch roof, gabled dormer with return, Palladian windows, and Doric columns are characteristic traits of the Free Classic style. The Zimri Bennett House at 307 South Audubon (photo #46) was constructed in 1908. The cross gable peak of the main facade is highlighted by an ornate wood panel and oval window. The centrally located paired, double-hung sash windows are framed by three engaged Ionic columns.

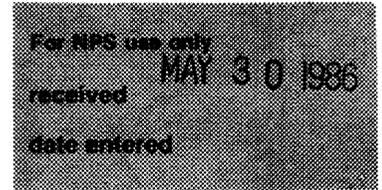
X Numerous public buildings are located within the Irvington boundaries. These buildings include such structures as the Guardian's Home, the Bona Thompson Library, churches, and two schools. The public buildings are randomly scattered throughout the district and incorporated alongside residential properties. The Marion County Children's Guardian Home has existed at 5751 University Avenue since 1983 (photo #47). The present structure was built in a modified Georgian Revival style in 1915. It sits two and one-half stories tall on a raised basement. A limestone stringcourse divides the basement from the first floor. The parapet is capped in limestone. Limestone and brick voussoirs accent the first floor windows. All of the windows are double-hung sash replacements with wood frames and limestone sills. Above the main door is a broken limestone pediment. Below the pediment are two double-hung sash windows with limestone surrounds which flank a limestone garland and medallion. A flat entablature with dentils rests below the windows and is supported by limestone scrolled brackets. The door is framed in wood with a curved, broken pediment which features an urn. Small brackets and rope molding are located on each side of the door.

Of the numerous churches within the Irvington district, two are particularly worthy of mention. The Irvington Presbyterian Church and the Irvington United Methodist Church were both constructed prior to 1930. The Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 South Johnson Avenue, was constructed in the late Gothic Revival style (photo #48). The church, which was officially dedicated on March 10, 1929, was designed by Architect Merritt Harrison. The structure is three stories and is constructed of split face Indiana limestone built on a Latin cross plan. The high pitched gable roof is slate covered. The nave is divided by buttresses into five bays, each with a Gothic arched window with tracery (photo #49). The recessed double doors of the main facade are flanked by two copper lanterns (photo #50).

The Irvington United Methodist Church, located at 30 North Audubon, was originally built in 1910 as the Tudor Revival style Forrest-Howe House (photo #51). In 1914 the house was purchased by Thomas Carr Howe, dean of Butler University from 1907 to 1910, and president from 1908 to 1920. He sold the house to the church in 1924. In that same year architect

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

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



Continuation sheet	Irvington Historic District	Item number	7	Page	6
--------------------	--------------------------------	-------------	---	------	---

Herbert Foltz was commissioned to design an addition to the original residence. Formal dedication of the church additions occurred September 12, 1926 (photos #52-53). Two later additions were made to the church, one in 1957, the other in 1962.

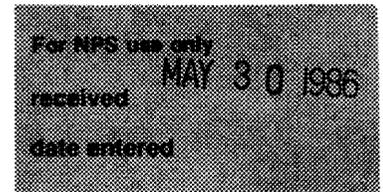
The educational needs of Irvington continue to be met by two public elementary schools: George W. Julian School Number 57, and George B. Loomis School Number 85. The George W. Julian School, located at 5439 East Washington Street, is a Renaissance inspired, two-story square structure of red brick (photo #54). The main facade, which faces Washington Street, is symmetrically divided into three elements by two arched entrances with limestone surrounds. Above each arch is a single window with a limestone balustrade. Stone string-courses surround the structure at the first and second floor levels. The second floor windows have stone lintels and sills. The George B. Loomis School, at 338 South Arlington Avenue, is a flat-roofed red brick structure highlighted by a crenelated parapet (photo #55). The parapet displays diamond patterned brick work. The main facade contains nine bays, four on each side of the central entrance pavillion. The north facade contains one central entrance bay. Above the limestone-trimmed entrance is a large window; above the cornice is a blank stone tablet. The west facade contains nine bays with two small, one-story brick additions on each side of the central bay.

The growth of Washington Street as a commercial corridor came during the Butler era. By 1903 the primary commercial location had switched from South Auduton to Washington Street. Edward Hecker's Print Shop, located at 5237 East Washington Street (photo #56), was among the first new buildings constructed on the street. Three bays wide, the painted white brick and block light industrial structure is one story with a flat sloping roof and parapeted facade. The Irvington Lodge, located at 5515 East Washington Street (photo #57) was constructed c. 1920. The flat iron shaped building is one of the best maintained structures in Irvington's commercial district. The building, which is highlighted by terra cotta details, was constructed in the Renaissance Revival style. The plain flat entrance of the first floor is offset by the classical stucco infill. The block of buildings from 5616 to 5648 East Washington Street was built in 1927 (photo #58). The Tudor Revival complex contains a variety of stores housed within the brick facade which has cross gables with half-timbers and stucco infill.

Another building phase seen in the Irvington area was created by the construction of Pleasant Run Parkway. Houses and lots along the parkway were larger than most of the district homes. These larger houses represented a return to the traditional one and two acre lots platted originally in Irvington. Stylistically, they echo the architectural influences found in other parts of the district. Photo #59, taken in 1915, shows the size of lots and houses along the parkway. 5173 (photo #60), 5255 (photo #61), and 5245 (photo #62) Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive are all examples of "Parkway architecture." 5173 Pleasant Run Parkway features Neo-Classical elements as exhibited by the central Palladian-style window and Doric porch columns. The four second story, double-hung sash windows are each flanked by shutters; the first floor windows have flat brick headers. The Neo-Classical Revival house at 5255 Pleasant Run Parkway is highlighted by a two story rounded portico which has a roof supported by three Ionic columns and two pilasters. Three-quarter sidelights flank the doorway. 5425 Pleasant Run Parkway exemplifies the Colonial Revival style. The gabled tile roof is accentuated by a pair of brick chimneys offset to each gable. The centrally located door has sidelights and a transom. A wooden balustrade is located atop the portico roof. All of the windows are double-hung sash with limesone sills. These three houses, typical of Parkway architecture, display those qualities that differentiate these buildings from the majority of Irvington structures. There is an increase in the lot size, setback, and house size in the Pleasant Run homes.

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Item number 7 Page 7
Historic District

Although not abundant within the district, there exist a few intrusions within the residential areas of Irvington. One such intrusion is the Board of Church Extension/Disciples of Christ Building at 110 South Downey (photos #63-65). The circular building was constructed in 1958. The square portion of the building is faced with Indiana limestone, and has a flat roof. The circular building is glass and steel with alternately colored panels.

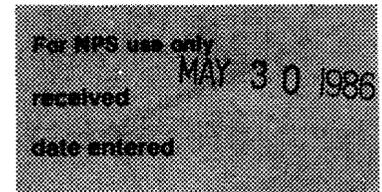
Occasionally, tract houses, such as those seen at 47-49 South Ritter Avenue (photo #66) and 303 Burgess (photo #67), were built as infill among the larger, older homes in the area.

The Continental Convalescent Center at 344 South Ritter (photo #68) is a detriment to the streetscape of the southern end of the neighborhood. The Neo-Tudor structure is faced in brick and has a gabled roof. The small commercial strip at 128-130 South Audubon, likewise an intrusion, sits directly opposite the Julian-Clarke House (photo #69). The three buildings are parapeted and faced in brick.

The combination of vernacular designs interspersed with high-style Victorian structures blend together to make Irvington an architecturally significant area. Its streetscapes and design remain important today. Although Irvington has been incorporated into Indianapolis, it has been able to keep its integrity because of its unique layout. Irvington's development as a university town is reflected in its growth patterns, architectural styles, and community planning. The architectural integrity of the area and the streetscapes remain very much intact and have played an important role in the historic presence of Irvington.

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington
Historic District Item number 8 Page 8

In September, 1871, Dr. Ritter made a small addition north of the original Irvington which extended the community to Pleasant Run Creek and thereby established the creek as the northernmost boundary of the suburb. The following year James E. Downey and Nicholas Ohmer made an addition south of Ritter's and west of the original plat which carried on the same meandering street pattern. In December of that same year, (1872) subdividing the original two acre lots began. This was further encouraged by the panic of 1873.

The social and cultural character of the new suburb was to a great extent set in July, 1873, when Northwestern Christian University, then located in Indianapolis's Old Northside, decided to relocate to Irvington. In 1877 the institution's name was changed to Butler University to honor Ovid Butler, president of the university board for nearly 25 years. The university remained in Irvington until 1928, when it moved to its current location. During the 50 years that it was located in the district it was a significant cultural influence in the community. Butler faculty, administration, and staff lived throughout the district in residences such as the Howe-Kingsbury-Spiegl House at 317 Downey Avenue (photo #43) and a variety of more modest structures. Many Butler employees lived in the numerous bungalows scattered throughout the district or in some of the American Four-Square houses built to accommodate the increased demand for housing. Photos #22 and 37 illustrate this type of housing and are representative of a high percentage of houses built during this period throughout the district.

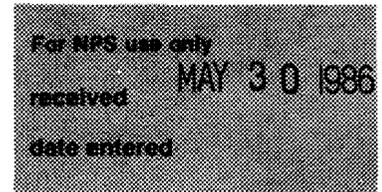
The university, itself, was responsible for a number of buildings. By 1909 six buildings existed on the Butler campus. Today, only the Bona Thompson Library (photo #71) built between 1902-03 to the design of the architectural firm of Dupont and Johnson, remains.

During the same period Butler was also influential in the training of Christian missionaries. In 1910 the Sarah Davis Deterding Missionary School opened in Irvington. Many of its students took courses at Butler and by 1919 the two institutions shared 28 faculty. Among its faculty at this time was Christopher B. Coleman, a Yale University graduate and history professor who later became director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, and acting director of the Indiana State Library. Also on the faculty was David Starr Jordan, an avowed evolutionist, who taught philosophy during the 1870s. In 1928 the United Christian Missionary Society purchased the Deterding Missions building to use as the international headquarters of the Disciples of Christ, and in 1940 the Society expanded into the vacant Bona Thompson Library.

The natural setting and intellectual climate of Irvington attracted a group of Hoosier artists who, during the 1920s-30s, became known as "The Irvington Group." The group became very influential in the development of art in Indiana and the greater midwest. One member of the group, William Forsyth, achieved an international reputation. Eight exhibits of the group were held at Carr's Hall, a large meeting hall on the second floor of Silas Carr's automobile showroom at 5436 East Washington Street. Among the artists who exhibited as part of the Irvington Group were: Simon Paul Baus and his son, Paul; Carolyn G. Bradley, an art instructor at Manual High School, who resided at 617 DeQuincy; Alice D. Cook; Robert C. Craig, an art instructor at Arsenal Technical High School who resided at 1707 Central Avenue; Constance Forsyth and her father, William Forsyth; Martha Lee Frost; Helene Hibben and her husband, Thomas; William F. Kaeser; Dorothy Morlan; Frederick Polley; Robert Selby; Clifton Wheeler and his wife, Hilah Drake; and Charles Yeager.

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Item number 8 Page 9
Historic District

William Forsyth, who lived at 15 South Emerson, studied at the Indiana School of Art and the Royal Academy of Munich, Germany. In addition to his association with The Irvington Group, Forsyth was also a member of The Hoosier Group, whose membership included such famed artists as T. C. Steele. Along with other Irvington artists, Forsyth supervised the sculpture work on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Indianapolis.

Clifton Wheeler studied art in New York under William Merrit Chase. Upon his return to Indianapolis, Mr. Wheeler taught art at the Herron School of Art and Shortridge High School. He was also the artist of the original mural above the Circle Theater marquee. Wheeler and his wife, Hilah Drake, lived at 5317 Lowell Avenue.

William Kaeser, probably the youngest member of The Irvington Group, was born in Durlach, Germany. In the 1920s he was commissioned to paint a mural for the Pendleton, Indiana, post office. Mr. Kaeser and his wife, Mildred Joslin, currently reside at 316 South Audubon.

Helene Hibben primarily worked in sculpture. Her most famous piece, a bas-relief of Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley, is in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Miss Hibben lived at 5237 Pleasant Run Parkway, where she also conducted pre-school classes for children.

By 1939 the artistic activity in Irvington was waning. William Forsyth, the "Dean" of the Irvington Group, had died in 1936 and other members, such as Frederick Polley and Carolyn Bradley, had moved away. The 1938 annual exhibit of the group was, at first, postponed and ultimately never put together. The heyday of the group had passed.

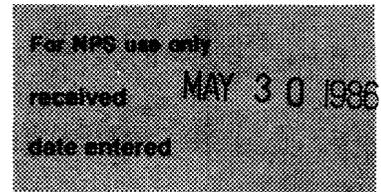
Another artist who was not a member of The Irvington Group but who lived in the community was the influential cartoonist, Frank "Kin" Hubbard. Hubbard lived at 5070 Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive (photo #73) from 1909-28. Hubbard created the comic strip, "Abe Martin of Brown County," which he first introduced in 1904 and syndicated in more than 300 newspapers across the country during the 1920s and 30s.

Irvington also served as the home of a number of significant authors during the early 20th century, many of them women. Of the ten women who have been recognized for their achievements, at least five should be cited. Grace Julian Clarke, niece of Irvington founder, Jacob B. Julian, received her degree from Butler University. She was a founder of the Irvington Woman's Club in 1882 and a weekly contributor to The Indianapolis Star for 18 years. In 1902 she authored Some Impressions, her perspective of her father, George W. Julian, and in 1923 she wrote a biography of her father. In addition to her literary accomplishments, Ms. Julian also was appointed head of Indianapolis's first employment office by President Woodrow Wilson, and in 1931 was appointed to the Indianapolis City Planning Commission. She resided at 115 South Audubon Road (photo #12).

Augusta Louise Stevenson, born in Patriot, Indiana, also received her degree from Butler University. Although she taught for a number of years in the Indianapolis public school system, her primary recognition is as a pioneer in dramatizing historical events for children and as author of dozens of children's books. Among her works are Children's Classics in Dramatic Form, 1913, and Dramatized Scenes from American History, 1916. Although she lived in Irvington for the major part of her life, both of her residences, 5797 E. Washington Street and 5803 E. Washington Street, have since been demolished. In

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Item number 8 Page 10
Historic District

addition, Lucille Carr, from Clark County, Indiana, and a Butler graduate; Evelyn Mitchell Butler, daughter of Butler University president, Scott Butler, and granddaughter of Ovid Butler, for whom the university was named; and Jean Brown Wagoner, an Irvington native and Butler graduate, contributed to the literary life of the community.

The architectural significance of Irvington lies in the fact that the residential fabric of this once suburban community town remains as an intact display of characteristic styles from the late 1800s through 1930. The district contains one of the heaviest concentrations of bungalows and single and double American Four-Squares on Indianapolis's east side.

Modest one and one-half story frame residences, such as 322 N. Ritter Avenue (photo #27), typify houses found throughout the district built to meet the need of housing created by Butler University. The North Ritter Avenue residence also exhibits the kind of Craftsman influenced details that gave these structures their individual character. The Layton Allen residence, 28 North Audubon Road (photo #31) illustrates the high degree of sophistication the bungalow form could achieve in the hands of a skilled architect. The numerous four-squares interspersed among the bungalows, Queen Anne houses and vernacular cottages complete the impression of residential design cohesion. Similar in scale and materials and sharing certain stylistic features, such as roof with deep overhangs, dormers, the frequent appearance of front porches, American Four-Square melded well into the typical Irvington streetscape. A comparison of 5962 Oak Avenue (photo #40) with 322 North Ritter (photo #27) already mentioned demonstrates how well these two residential forms complement each other. Residences in different styles, such as the Colonial Revival house at 410 North Audubon Road (photo #41), the Neo-Classical Graham-Stephenson Residence at 5432 University Avenue (photo #44) or the Neo-Jacobean, Johnson-Earle-Payne residence at 5631 University Avenue (photo #14) offer variation to the overall design unity of the district while still contributing to its turn-of-the-century character.

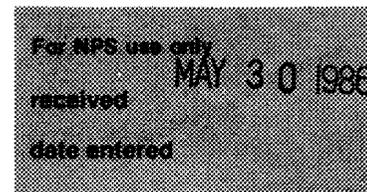
Larger structures also contribute to the historic integrity of the district. The Irvington United Methodist Church (photos #51-53), the Irvington Public School #57 (photo #54), and apartment buildings such as The Victoria (photo #77), though larger in scale, are interspersed into the residential fabric in such a way that they confirm rather than detract from the visual cohesiveness of the district. Along East Washington Street, which remains today the commercial spine of the district as it was through most of the period of significance, structures like the flat-iron shaped Irvington Masonic Temple (photo #57) remain as evidence of the street's long-term commercial significance.

The development of Pleasant Run Parkway in the 1920s to the design of landscape architect, George Kessler, carried on the spirit of Romantic landscape design found in the original plat. Kessler also returned to the use of larger lots intended as part of the original design by Irvington platters. Thus, the architecture along the parkway, while stylistically similar to that of older parts of the district, often appears somewhat grander because of the greater spaciousness (photo #86). It is, nonetheless, visually allied to the rest of the district and provides a firm contrast to the residential neighborhoods to the north and west.

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

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

Irvington
Historic District



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

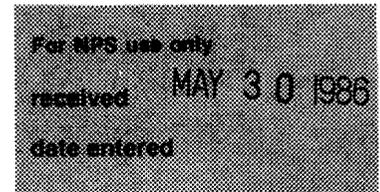
Page 11

Kessler was trained in landscape design at Weimar, Germany, and in civil engineering at the University of Jena. During the 1870s he worked as a laborer on Frederick Law Olmsted's design for Central Park in New York City. As a result of this experience, Kessler's work reflects Olmsted's skill in incorporating nature into the urban setting. Kessler was hired by the City of Indianapolis in 1909, at which time a plan to link Ellenberger and Garfield Parks by a boulevard was developed. His plan for Pleasant Run Parkway preserved the creek bed as a natural element through the east side of the city and tied Pleasant Run Creek in with his other significant designs for Fall Creek.

The Irvington Historic District clearly represents an important phase of Indianapolis's development. As one of the three earliest planned suburbs it represents that late 19th century interest in escaping from increasingly industrialized urban centers to more natural settings. Irvington's plan is the direct descendant of Romantic community planning ideas traceable back to the first half of the 19th century. Its cohesive architectural development reflects the district's rapid growth during the half century when Butler University was the dominant cultural influence in the community. At the same time, the homes of individuals associated with the university or with other cultural activities that thrived during the university years remain remarkably intact today as evidence of Irvington's contribution to Indianapolis's intellectual, social and cultural development.

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

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



Continuation sheet Irvington Item number 9 Page 12
Historic District

Downey, Joseph R. "Boyhood Days In Irvington." East Side Herald, June 25, 1970,
July 2, 1970, and July 9, 1970.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. The History of Greater Indianapolis. Chicago: Lewis Publishing
Company, Volume I, 1910.

Haverty, Kathy. "Irvington: A Planned Community." Indianapolis Magazine, February, 1983.

"Kin Hubbard, Abe Martin Creator, Dies of Heart Disease at Home." Indianapolis News,
December 26, 1930.

"Helene Hibben." (obit) Indianapolis News, March 20, 1968.

Irvington Group, The, 1928-1937. Indianapolis: Irvington Historical Society, 1984.

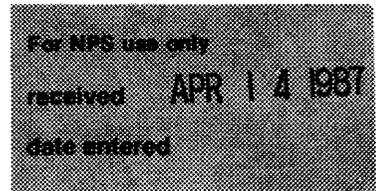
Sehr, Timothy J. "Three Suburbs of Indianapolis, 1870-1880." (unpublished)
Valdosta State College, Valdosta, Georgia, 1981.

Sulgrove, Berry R. History of Indianapolis and Marion County. Philadelphia:
L. H. Everts & Company, 1884.

Wagoner, Jean Brown. "Memories of Irvington." Irvington Historical Society Collected
Papers. Indianapolis: Irvington Historical Society Publishers, 312 Downey Avenue,
October 25, 1970.

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

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



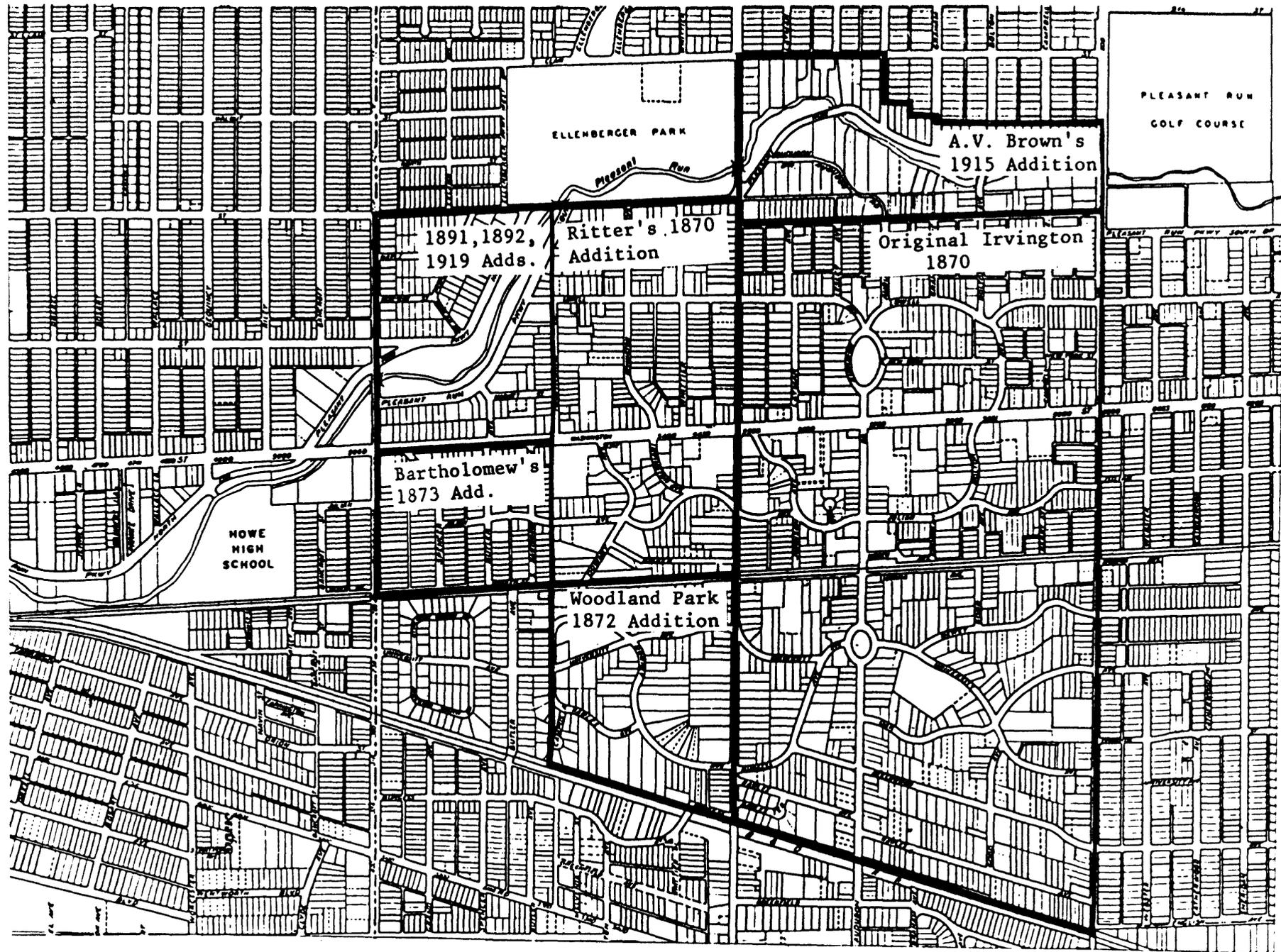
Continuation sheet Irvington Historic District Item number 10 Page 13

- Beginning at a point at the intersection of Pleasant Run Creek bed and North Arlington Avenue, the eastern boundary of the district runs along the west curblineline of Arlington Avenue for nine and one-half blocks to the intersection of the B & O Railroad right-of-way.
- The boundary then turns northwest and runs along the northern edge of the B & O right-of-way to the point of juncture with the eastern curblineline of South Audubon Road and then turns north and continues along that line to the intersection of that part of Rawles Avenue west of Audubon Road. The boundary turns west and runs along the north curblineline of this section of Rawles Avenue to the western curblineline of South Ritter Avenue. The boundary turns south and continues along the western curblineline of South Ritter Avenue to the intersection with the B & O Railroad right of way.
- The boundary then turns northwest and continues along that line to the western edge of Lot 31 of Downey and Ohmer's Woodland Park Addition at 5330 Ohmer Avenue. The boundary then follows the western property line of 5330 Ohmer Avenue north to its intersection with Ohmer Avenue.
- The boundary then follows the western curblineline of Ohmer Avenue to the southern property line of Lot 3 of Collette's Resubdivision of Collette's Second University Addition (221 South Butler Avenue). The boundary then turns westward and runs to the east curblineline of Butler Avenue. It then turns northward along the east curblineline of Butler Avenue and continues to the intersection with the north side of the Conrail right-of-way.
- The boundary then runs west along the Conrail right-of-way to its intersection with Emerson Avenue.
- At the intersection of the right-of-way and the eastern curblineline of Emerson Avenue, the boundary turns northward and extends to the north curblineline of Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive. It then turns westward, crossing Emerson Avenue and following the southern, then western, property lines of Lots 31-34 of Layman and Carey's First Irvington Park Addition (5070 Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive).
- At the intersection of the west property line and New York Street the boundary line turns eastward and follows the southern curblineline of New York Street then the eastern curblineline of Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive across Michigan Street to the southern boundary of Ellenberger Park.
- The boundary then follows the southern, western, northern, then eastern border of the park to the point where it intersects with the creek bed of Pleasant Run Creek. The boundary then follows the creek bed until it intersects with North Arlington Avenue at the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The qualities that define the edge of this district relate directly to the integrity of the historic suburban town plats and additions of Irvington as a planned community. The boundaries consist of natural as well as man-made divisions.

The eastern edge of the district is defined as Julian and Johnson's Original Irvington Plat--Arlington Avenue. East of Arlington the area lacks the streetscapes which are associated with Irvington.



Original Irvington Plat and Additions