

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| STATE:<br>Indiana     |            |
| COUNTY:<br>Tippecanoe |            |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY      |            |
| ENTRY NUMBER          | DATE       |
|                       | JAN 2 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Indiana State Soldiers Home *Historic District*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Indiana State Road 43 North  
*N of Lafayette off road 43*

CITY OR TOWN: Lafayette *vic*

|                  |            |                       |             |
|------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>Indiana | CODE<br>18 | COUNTY:<br>Tippecanoe | CODE<br>157 |
|------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |  |   |  |                                   |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of Indiana

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis    STATE: Indiana    CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tippecanoe County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lafayette    STATE: Indiana    CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

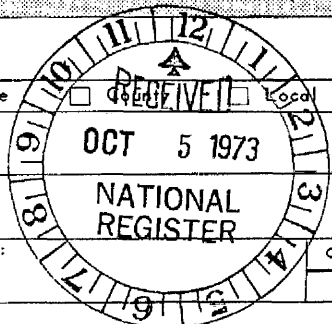
TITLE OF SURVEY: Not represented

DATE OF SURVEY:     Federal     State     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:    STATE:    CODE:



|                       |                            |      |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>Indiana     | ENTRY NUMBER<br>JAN 2 1974 | DATE |
| COUNTY:<br>Tippecanoe |                            |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4-50-8-2

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The area proposed for classification as a National Historic District encompasses only a portion of the 200 acre Indiana State Soldiers Home. The tract is located along a high bluff overlooking the Wabash River and includes the main entrance to the Home, the Post Exchange, the Commandants House, Library Building (formerly the Commissary) and the Administration Building. The entire area is heavily wooded.

The central focus of the area is the complex containing the Commandant's House, Library and Administration buildings. These three structures are the only remaining representatives of the original architectural style of the Soldiers Home, and are indicative of the excellent master planning of the Home. Utilizing a paladium tripartite concept, the major central element is the massive Commandant's House with the Administration building to the north and Library to the south serving as flanking servant elements.

The Commandants House is a fine example of the ante-bellum architecture so popular during the 1890's. The exterior of the House is architecturally striking as far as massing the scale relative to the site, particularly in terms of the original vistas to the east over the Wabash Valley and to the west relative to the parade grounds and flanking buildings. The major architectural feature is the front portico and entry. Because of the dramatization of the entry doorway relative to the size of the House, the entry appears much larger than it actually is. The striking white wood shingling causes the building to stand out in contrast to its wooded surroundings. The interior of the building shows an interesting combination of functional utilitarian design and grandness of concept commensurate with the exterior. The central stairway is a prime example of this functionalism, moving the visitor up the levels of the House without a feeling of climbing. Additional interior features are the nicely carved wood work and the drawing room fireplace with its bas relief frieze.

The Library and Administration buildings flanking the Commandants House are of brick with white wood trim. Both buildings are excellent examples of late nineteenth century institutional architecture, representatives of which are rapidly vanishing. The Commandants House and Library are unaltered; some modification has taken place on the Administration building.

The Post Exchange building is located north of the three structures described above. A one story frame building done in green and white, it is somewhat later than the other buildings. However, it is an interesting and almost unique example of the institutional "cottage" architecture of the period. It is still in use today and its atmosphere substantially reflects life at the Soldiers Home during the early twentieth century. It is unaltered.

The grounds surrounding these buildings and comprising the remainder of the district are located on top of a major bluff some 150 feet above the Wabash River valley, which the site overlooks. Dominated by original oaks, maple and hickory, the heavily wooded area is a prime example of how indiginous woodlands and architectural elements may be combined to create a pleasing whole.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By the end of the nineteenth century, the need for governmental programs to aid the indigent was becoming apparent. In Indiana, there had several initial efforts to aid handicapped persons at the Deaf School prior to the 1880's, but no consideration had been given to the numerous veterans of the Civil War who, for various reasons, were no longer capable of taking care of themselves. Intensive lobbying by the Grand Army of the Republic resulted in the Indiana State Assembly of 1888 resolving to found a Home for veterans, and in 1890 work toward the Home was begun.

Located on 200 acres of land north of Lafayette, Indiana, the Home represented a major and unprecedented effort in the state's activity in humanitarian activities. By 1900, numerous buildings had been erected for the use of the inmates of the Home, and the applications for residence at the Home were far greater than its facilities were capable of handling. This state of affairs continued, and by 1950 it was apparent that a major revamping of the Home was needed. This revamping resulted in the destruction of almost all the original buildings, and today only four structures remain from the earlier years of the institution.

The proposed Historic District encompasses some nine acres of land which remains in its original state, and contains the four original buildings: The Commandants House, Library (formerly the Commissary), Administration Building, and Post Exchange. In addition, a collection of some two hundred oil portraits of Civil War generals, painted by Captain Alexander Lawrie, are housed in the Library. Valued at \$150,000, this collection of art by a relatively unknown American artist adds a major cultural dimension to the district.

The importance of the Soldiers Home District is far greater than the sum of its parts. Combining interesting and rapidly vanishing architectural features with fine landscaping and site maintenance, as well as the Lawrie Collection, the proposed Historic District preserves an almost forgotten segment of Indiana's social history, and allows the visitor to recreate the early years of the Soldiers Home in his own mind by participating in a living portion of the original grounds, buildings and atmosphere of the Indiana State Soldiers Home.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carnahan, et al Prospectus of the Indiana State Soldiers Home; 1895  
Herald Printing Co., Lafayette, Indiana

Dehart, R.P. Past and Present of Tippecanoe County; 1909  
Bowen and Co., Indianapolis, Indiana

Ingersoll, L.E. History of the Indiana State Soldiers Home; 1933  
privately published.

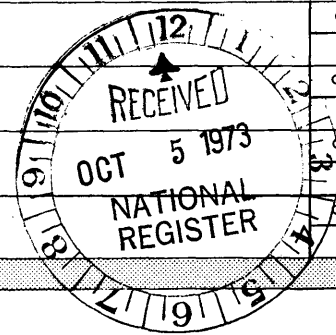
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 86 ° 53 ' 15 "  | 40N ° 28 ' 19 "         |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



UTM  
16/509530  
44 79600  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Clark A. Dobbs Program Director

ORGANIZATION: Battle Ground Historical Corporation

DATE: June 10, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 225

CITY OR TOWN: Battle Ground

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Joseph D. Cloud

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: October 1, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connally  
~~State Liaison Officer and Historic Preservation~~  
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: JAN 2 1974

ATTEST:

Wm. J. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12-27-73