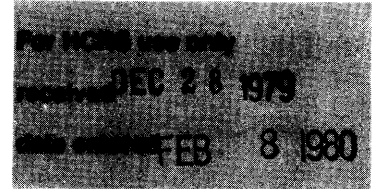


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Whiting Memorial Community House

and/or common Whiting Community Center

2. Location

street & number 1938 Clark Street ___ not for publication

city, town Whiting ___ vicinity of congressional district 1 5th

state Indiana code 018 county Lake code 089

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Whiting

street & number 1443 - 119th Street

city, town Whiting ___ vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lake County Courthouse

street & number 2293 North Main Street

city, town Crown Point 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

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Whiting Community Center occupies the major part of a triangular-shaped block in a residential area of Whiting. The materials and eclectic design are typical of buildings of this period -- rough, red brick over a steel structure, hipped red tile roof, scattered gables and arches, and concrete bracket and medallion detailing. The surface is alive with patterns in brick, and the complicated massing further contributes to the richness of the whole.

The main facade faces northeast. The primary entrance and a major side entrance are in the main section of the building, which has three usable stories -- two stories over an above-grade basement. (See photo #1). This main section houses a lobby, offices, and classrooms. The rear of the main section has an additional story, part of which is used as an apartment (see photo #7).

Directly behind the main section are gyms, lockers, a bowling alley, and a swimming pool. These flat-roofed, relatively plain sections of the building form a continuous wall along the alleyway behind the building.

To the left of the main section is the auditorium. Not quite as tall and set back from the main section, it has its own entrance. This entrance features three archways, with cast concrete ornamentation in the tympanum, and a hipped tile roof. The three arches are repeated in the ground floor windows flanking the entrance, and again above the entrance (see photo #2). The side of the auditorium is textured in brick patterns.

Although doors on the three entrances have been replaced by modern extruded aluminum doors, most window sash are original. Interior decorative features include wood paneling, ornate molded plaster, and wrought iron balustrades.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Center
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1923 **Builder/Architect** Shattuck & Layer, Chicago

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Whiting Community Center is significant for its past role as a community center, and for the role of its builder, Standard Oil Company, in the Whiting Community.

The Standard Oil Company incorporated its Indiana subsidiary in 1889, with the Whiting refinery as its major installation. The Whiting refinery, opened in 1890, was built to process sour crude oil from Lima, Ohio, noted for the high sulphur content and odor which affected its marketability. The odor problem was eventually solved, and the Whiting refinery supplied the Chicago market with kerosene, lubricating oil for railroads, and grease for buggy wheels. Today the Whiting Refinery is the fourth largest in the nation.¹

As the refinery grew, so did its impact on the community. In 1923, the company built the Community Center for the City of Whiting. A memorial to those who died in World War I, it contained a theater, bowling alley, indoor swimming pool, indoor track, two gymnasiums with shower and locker room facilities, and meeting rooms for citizen groups. Many generations enjoyed the activities at the center, but in recent years deterioration and underuse took their toll.

In 1973 Standard Oil Company spent \$250,000 to refurbish parts of the building, before donating it to the City. Currently, the building is used for classes, meetings, and senior citizen activities.

1. Amoco Torch, January/February, 1979, pages 24-29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hermanek, Phil. "The Whiting Chronicles," Amoco Torch, January/February, 1979, pp. 24-29

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Approximately two acres

Quadrangle name Whiting, Indiana

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	5	8	6	7	15	4	6	7	13	9	14	10
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 Lots 55-77 inclusive, except north 25', plat of Subdivision North Road (pt. southwest $\frac{1}{4}$, northeast $\frac{1}{4}$, section 7 T37N R9W) that part of Short Street that is vacated except those parts in dedicated street rights-of-way.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry L. Hahn, Superintendent

organization Whiting Park & Recreation Department date 11-29-79

street & number 1938 Clark Street telephone 219/659-0860

city or town Whiting state Indiana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jane T. Costello

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-5-79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol D. Skel</u>	date <u>2-8-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>William H. Bradbury</u>	date <u>2-4-80</u>
Chief of Registration	