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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 18 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ohio Boulevard-Deming Park Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet

N/A not for publication

city, town Terre Haute

N/A vicinity

state IN

code IN

county Vigo

code 167

zip code 47807

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

[X] private

[X] public-local

[] public-State

[] public-Federal

Category of Property

[] building(s)

[X] district

[] site

[] structure

[] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

30

2

3

5

40

Noncontributing

24 buildings

0 sites

1 structures

0 objects

25 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7-24-89

Signature of certifying official

Patrick R. Ralston

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[X] entered in the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.

[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

LANDSCAPE: park

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

LANDSCAPE: park

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Tudor Revival

Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof TERRA COTTA

other STUCCO

OTHER: fieldstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ohio Boulevard-Deming Park Historic District is a linear district originally planned as the first stage in a comprehensive parks and boulevard plan for Terre Haute. After its partial development, however, no other aspects of the system were constructed. Development of this eastside tract began in 1919, when Demas Deming, Jr., the son of a prominent Terre Haute settler, built out Ohio Boulevard between 19th and 25th Streets. In that same year, a 155 acre parcel was purchased from Deming by the Terre Haute Parks Department to establish Deming Park, along with a 190 foot corridor connecting the park to the portions of Ohio Boulevard which were under construction. Thus Deming Park became the natural terminus for Ohio Boulevard as recommended by noted planner and landscape architect, George Edward Kessler. Both city officials and the Deming Land Company intended the boulevard to be a fine residential area. Between 19th and 25th Streets, this concept was realized during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Lots facing the boulevard between 25th Street and the park were not developed in any way until the 1950s, and, in fact, some of these lots remain vacant today.

The district has three components. An enclave of 25 historic homes anchors the west end of the district; these homes are perhaps the most tangible result of the construction of the boulevard and park. The boulevard itself is an important resource to the district. Deming Park occupies the east end of the district. These three components are all that remains of Terre Haute's proposed boulevard system. The following sections describe each of these elements in detail.

Residential Development

From 19th to 25th Streets, Ohio Boulevard is lined with large scale 1920s period Revival homes (photos 4 and 3). The terrain is level and lots are ample so that each home appears as a free-standing, individual statement. The houses have uniform setbacks of about 30 feet and are serviced by straight driveways placed to one side. Most homes in the district are two stories tall and feature brick veneered walls.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1919-1939

Significant Dates

1919
1921

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kessler, George Edward

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ohio Boulevard-Deming Park Historic District is the most significant existing element of a proposed Park and Boulevard systems for Terre Haute. The district is significant under Criteria A. The establishment of the boulevard and park were locally important events which made eastside the most desirable residential area in Terre Haute. As the only local example of City Beautiful planning and landscape design, the district has significance under Criterion C. The homes built on Ohio Boulevard during the 1920s and 30s are also of local importance for their outstanding architecture.

As with many Midwestern cities during the 1920s, Terre Haute was experiencing its share of urban growth problems. The busy, narrow streets, congested downtowns, and dense housing conditions (aggravated by building restrictions during WWI) were not compulsive to the City Beautiful atmosphere most progressive leaders favored. During this period, many cities sought to emulate the formality of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition or Daniel Burham's 1909 Chicago Plan, as well as incorporating the needs of the automobile into city planning. Other Hoosier towns initiated boulevard and parkway plans during the early 1900s, including Fort Wayne, and most notably, Indianapolis. The Indianapolis plan, implemented under the guidance of George Edward Kessler, included miles of scenic boulevards and new designs for several existing parks, and is the largest system of this type in the state.

George Edward Kessler (1862-1923) was born in Frankenhausen, Germany, but was raised in America. He received formal training starting in 1878 in Germany. During the 1880s and 1890s, Kessler built his reputation as a master landscape architect and city planner. One of his most important early commissions was his park and boulevard system for Kansas City. From 1900 until his death in 1923, he was contacted by a number of Midwest cities for his services.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Big Development is Coming on East Site," The Saturday Spectator,
May 24, 1919, Deming Section.

"Board Accepts Deming's Offer of New Park Site," Terre Haute Star,
March 2, 1921, p.1.

The Book of Terre Haute. Issues for 1920, 1921, and 1922.

Chronological History of Terre Haute and Vigo County, 1800-1974.

Terre Haute: Banks of the Wabash Festival Association, 1974.

Citizen's Historical Association. "Walter Scott McCloud."
Unpublished manuscript, collection of Indiana State Library.

Culbertson, Kurt. "The Landscape of the American Renaissance:
The Work of George Edward Kessler." Research Paper submitted
to the University of Nebraska, February 28, 1981.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and
Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 181

UTM References

A 1,6 | 4,6,6 | 6,1,0 | 4,3 | 6,8 | 3,1,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1,6 | 4,6,9 | 0,2,0 | 4,3 | 6,8 | 0,0,0
 E 16 4 6 9 8 1 0 4 3 6 8 7 8 0

B 1,6 | 4,6,9 | 0,2,0 | 4,3 | 6,8 | 3,0,0
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1,6 | 4,6,9 | 1,9,0 | 4,3 | 6,8 | 8,0,0
 F 1 6 4 6 9 8 1 0 4 3 6 8 0 4 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land in Vigo County, City of Terre Haute, as follows:
Starting at the intersection of the east curb line of South 19th
Street and the rear property line of 1904 Ohio Boulevard, then
south to the rear property line of houses on the south side of Ohio
Boulevard from 1903 - 2201 Ohio Boulevard

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been figured to include two resources related to the
development of Terre Haute's Parks and Boulevard System. As noted in
sections 7 and 8, the construction and development of Ohio Boulevard
as a residential area and the acquisition and development of Deming
Park were simultaneously planned and closely coordinated events.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Tillotson/David Buchanan

organization Terre Haute Park & Recreation Dept. date April 29, 1986

street & number 17 Harding Ave., City Hall, Rm.208 telephone 812-232-2727

city or town Terre Haute state IN zip code 47807

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(Location) continued

Roughly bounded by Ohio Boulevard between 19th Street and Fruitridge Avenue, including Deming Park on the west.

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(Architectural Classification) continued

Other: City Beautiful movement

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The Colonial Revival Style is well represented in the district; 14 of the 25 homes in the district were erected in this mode. Other styles found in the district include Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and two examples of Mediterranean Revival.

Although this segment of Ohio Boulevard was completed by 1922, by 1925 only seven houses had been constructed. The north side of Ohio Boulevard between 21st and 23rd Streets was developed first, and by 1935, most of the homes in the district were standing. As noted earlier, the boulevard was intended to be lined with fine homes. Beyond 25th Street, however, this concept was not realized until the 1950s, and today, many ranch-style homes can be found in that area (outside of the district.) The historic homes in the district have been meticulously maintained and the area still has the qualities associated with an upper class residential neighborhood.

Descriptions of individual residences which are representative of the district follow. Four digit numbers refer to street addresses, all of which are on Ohio Boulevard.

2026 - Photo 6

A sturdy example of American Four-Square/Craftsman architecture is located at 2026 Ohio Boulevard. This is one of the earlier homes in the district, it was built in about 1925 for John H. Burget, the President of Prox and Burget Company, a plumbing, gas, and steam fitting manufacturing company.

2026 is a two story red brick house with a one story sunroom to the east and west. The entrance is sheltered by heavy engaged piers holding a segmental door hood. Triple groupings of four-over-one windows (with four vertical upper panes) flank the entry. The second story has paired windows and two small windows in the center. A broad, red terra cotta tiled hip roof with deep eaves completes this fine house.

2100 - Photo 7

This 1931 residence is one of several Tudor Revival statements in the district. It was first occupied by Jacob Schwartz and later

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in the 1930s by Demas D. Waterman, Vice-President of the Deming Hotel and probably a relative of both Demas Deming (developer of Ohio Boulevard and donor of Deming Park) and L. E. Waterman, Manager of the Deming Land Company.

The Schwartz-Waterman House is a 1 1/2 - 2 story building with tan brick walls. The main facade is balanced between a recessed unroofed porch area and a sunroom with bands of multi-paned casement windows. A small gable shelters the round-arched front door which is located on the porch. A pair of casement windows is centered over the door. The gable roof continues across the sunroom. The roof is covered with terra cotta Spanish tile and a semi-octagonal dormer is centered over the sunroom. A blank cross gable is centered over the front door and window grouping. Gable end walls of the house are stuccoed. A side gabled porte-cochere with square brick piers is located to the east of the house.

2126 - Photo 9

This house was occupied for many years by the McCloud family. Walter Scott McCloud was the president of the Dominion Mines Company, a large coal mining and leasing concern. McCloud was born in Mason County, VA., and raised in Wellston, Ohio. In 1909-18, he organized and ran his own coal mining business in Ohio. McCloud came to Terre Haute in 1918 and became vice-president of the Rowland Power Consolidated Collieries, a firm which he organized with his father-in-law George Rowland. The Rowland Power Company is said to be one of the first firms to use strip mining techniques in Indiana. In 1921, this firm was sold and McCloud began his own enterprise, Dominion Mines. The McClouds lived here from 1929 (the date of construction) until 1941. The McCloud House is a typical building in the district, in terms of its Colonial Revival style, quality of design, and high state of maintenance. It is a 2 1/2 story, red brick, side facing gabled house with a one story Scamozzi Ionic pedimented portico marking the centered entry. Six-over-one windows with wood shutters are placed symmetrically, with two on either side of the entry bay on the first and second stories. Windows feature lintels with limestone keystones. A wood cornice with modillions starts the roofline. The cornice has gable end returns. Three pedimented dormers crown the roof. A one story sunroom extends to the west

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of the main block. It may be a later addition. An older, contributing garage building occupies the rear yard.

2222 - Photo 13

Otto Spigler, a doctor, occupied this outstanding example of Tudor Revival architecture from its construction in 1930 until the mid 1940s. The Spigler House is a 1 1/2 - 2 story residence combining dark red brick, stucco with false half timbering, and stone facing materials. The main elevation is picturesque with a steep gabled block projecting from a hip roofed block to the right. The brick gable features recessed porches with round arch entries flanking a stone bay window. A small decorative oriel window is placed at the upper apex of the gable. The hip roofed section has a brick first story and stucco with false half timbering. Multi-paned casement windows are used in various combinations on the exterior. Green terra cotta tiles cover the roof. There is a matching 1930s garage behind the house.

2270 - Photo 16

2270 Ohio Boulevard is a well-designed example of Colonial Revival architecture. This house was apparently built in about 1928 for William Cheney and his family. Cheney was the owner of the Walk-Over Boot Store, a downtown (659 Wabash Street) specialty store. The Cheneyes lived here into the 1940s. The Cheney House is a 2 1/2 story, stuccoed building capped by a side facing gable roof. Triple groups of six-over-six windows flank the spacious entry. A flat-roofed, balustraded Tuscan Order portico shelters the doorway. The doorway has sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight. The second story front has symmetrically placed six-over-six window pairs. The red terra cotta tile roof is punctuated by three round arched dormers. The east end of the Cheney House features quarter-round windows in the gable end, a massive brick chimney, and a porch similar in detail to the entry portico.

1909 - Photo 18

Built in about 1943, this house is considered non-contributing mainly because of its recent date of construction. The same could

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be said for 1903 Ohio Boulevard (Photo 17) which was built in 1949. Both of these houses are very much in keeping with the period revival theme of the district; in this case, Colonial Revival was the style used. Both 1909 and 1903 feature red brick walls, multi-paned windows, and "colonial" entries. The proportions and massing are less skillfully handled than in their 1920s predecessors.

2001 - Photo 20

This ranch style house was built in about 1955. For obvious reasons, this house is rated non-contributing. 1920 Ohio Boulevard is a similar case.

2153 - Photo 25

This impressive Mediterranean Revival home was built in about 1928. Lee Whitney and family were the first occupants. As with most of the other homes in the district, the first owner of 2153 was an upper management level businessman. Whitney was the president of the Vigo American Clay Company and vice-president of the National Drain Tile Company. Both firms were major industries in Terre Haute. The Whitneys lived here until about 1939, after which time the house was owned by Laura Conlon. Apparently, Ms. Conlon was a wealthy widow.

The Whitney-Conlon House is a symmetrical, 2 story, tan brick structure with limestone detailing. The most noteworthy feature of the main facade is the centered entry portico. It has Diocletian Arches with Tuscan columns in antis on the north, east, and west sides, all of limestone. A classical stone balustrade caps the portico. Projecting bays flank the portico. There are segmental arched openings on the first story of these bays with french doors and blind tympanums. Stone belt courses divide the first and second stories. Paired one-over-one windows are found on the second story, but in center, a triple arch arcade overlooks the portico. A narrow cornice with modillion-like brackets and deep eaves runs above the second floor. The Whitney-Conlon House has a hip roof, with separate hip structures over the front projecting bays. Green terra cotta roofing completes the Mediterranean look of this large residence.

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2175 - Photo 26

2175 Ohio Boulevard is typical to the district in terms of its Colonial Revival style, but is unusual for its use of materials. This two story symmetrical house is faced with random ashlar limestone and has a random-patterned slate roof. It was built in 1931 and was first owned by William Kivits, a co-owner of the Kivits Brothers Store at 428 North 3rd Street. The house has a five bay front with six-over-six windows flanking a one story, wood, semi-circular portico. The roof has close eaves and two massive internal chimneys flank the main block of the house. Gable ends feature quarter round windows. A sunroom, which has been altered, extends to the east of the house.

The residential resources of the district includes a total of 40 buildings; there are 17 contributing houses, 9 non-contributing houses, 11 contributing garages, and 3 non-contributing garages.

Ohio Boulevard

The boulevard provides a linear, uniting element to the district. Starting at 19th Street, the street divides into two 30 foot wide one way road beds separated by a series of 24 grassy esplanades. The esplanades are 80 feet wide, and cement sidewalks and grass plots add 25 feet to the width of the boulevard on each side.

At the entrance to the boulevard, the road is flanked by two ornate limestone gates (photo 1). The gates consist of rusticated piers surmounted by classical urns. The piers are decorated with stylized triglyphs and a bronze plaque with the inscription "Deming." A low stone balustrade extends in a quarter circle from each pier.

The triangular esplanade at the entrance has an ornate limestone fountain (photo 2). The fountain has a circular basin which is surrounded by a semi-circular rusticated wall. A lion's-head spigot is centered in the curving wall, and reclining lions rest on top of the flanking low piers. According to a newspaper ad, the gates and fountain were built by the Terre Haute Monument Company ("Big Development is Coming to East Side"). The fountain originally occupied a separate island located in the center of the

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boulevard just behind the stone gates. At an unknown date, the fountain was moved to its current site on the triangular esplanade. (About 50 feet due east of its original site.)

In all, the boulevard is 1 1/2 miles long. Originally, Catalpa trees lined each side of the roadways, but subsequently, Maple and Sycamore trees were planted to replace the Catalpas. The Maples and Sycamores have since matured to fine proportions (photos 3, 4, 31, 32, 33 and 34). A recently implemented replanting program has infilled locations of diseased trees, and, overall, the concept of a pleasant, tree-lined parkway is still present. The roadway was originally gravel, but has long since been paved. Neither the roads nor the esplanades have been altered into terms of width or length.

The resources of the boulevard have counted as follows: there are three contributing objects (the two gates and fountain) and the boulevard itself is counted as one contributing site.

Deming Park

In 1921, Demas Deming, Jr, son of a prominent Terre Haute settler, began to develop a large tract of land the family owned on the east side of town. In that same year, a 155 acre portion of land was purchased by the Park District. Known as Deming Park, it was planned as the natural terminus for Ohio Boulevard.

According to historic accounts, the park site was recommended by George Kessler, and was intended to remain as natural as possible. A one mile long paved road winds through the park, whose natural beauty has been known throughout Western Indiana for 65 years. Successive park boards, managers, and civil groups have added improvements to the park through the years, but its naturalistic drives and intent remain intact.

The main entrance to the park is from the west, off Ohio Boulevard. A low fieldstone fence, added in the 1930s, marks the entrance (photo 36). A similar stone fence is found at the east entrance, which is now kept secured. As one enters the park, a railroad bed is encountered. This is the Milwaukee Road, which runs across the west edge of the park. The right-of-way was

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originally developed by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and predates Deming Park by at least 20 years. The land between the railroad and Fruitridge Avenue was difficult to use for park purposes and was since leased out to house the U. S. Naval Reserve and a city fire station. Therefore, that portion of land is not included in this nomination.

Just past the entrance to the park, on the left, is the first of two fish ponds (photo 37), created by the Izaak Walton League in the early 1930s, and is used daily for fishing. The road winds up a small hill, passing picnic shelters and wooded slopes before it splits into a Y.

The right fork takes the visitor past the second rearing pond (photo 49). This pond retains its original bronze dedication plaque stating "Izaak Walton League This Rearing Pond Donated by Beech Cromwell April 24--1932." The road continues past a variety of early "improvements" constructed in the 1930s. The majority of the park construction improvements have taken place in this area.

The left fork takes the visitor to a children's play park, the pool (photo 50), picnic pavilions and horseshoe pits (photo 51) before rejoining the right fork near the tennis courts.

The road than winds through the park before splitting again, one side going to the Larrison Pavilion (photo 57) and the other following the crest of the hill. This area has been a favorite spot for winter sledding since the park opened. This is also the site for the park's Frisbee disc course (photo 56).

The two roads join again opposite the security officer's home (photo 40 and 42) and run to the park exit (photo 59). That exit is on the westward side and joins with Ohio Boulevard.

The Izaak Walton League designed a series of fish rearing ponds (complete with ducks and geese) and pathways through the park. A blueprint of the park lakes bears a date of March 1935. Initials are the only signature on the blueprints; no company name is attached. Some of the labor of the construction of the ponds and paths came through the Works Progress Administration. Planted along the paths were every native Indiana tree, fern shrub, and

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flowers that could be transplanted and grown. The paths were then used by families and children to learn of the plant life in their native State. Booklets were even published for students taking nature courses to list their discoveries of flora and fauna within the park.

Due to the high cost of maintenance many of the ponds were filled in during the late 1950's and early 1960's, but two of the original fish ponds remain and are maintained. Though some of the original paths built by the WPA have vanished, many still remain (photo 43 shows the traces of a path in the foreground) threading their way through a second forest growth that must look much like those seen by Indiana's original settlers.

Also remaining from the Izaak Walton League's period of construction are a fieldstone lighthouse, a large stone drinking fountain with wooden roof (photo 42), a stone bridge over which the road passes (photo 46), several cast concrete seats, a wooden footbridge leading to a series of stone stairs, and a fountain whose run-off falls into a series of pools and water falls. The latter three are in disrepair.

The entrance gates on the east side of the park and those of the west side were also constructed during this time. Originally the west gate was surrounded by a large Iris garden, but the garden ceased to exist in the 1940's probably due to the cost of maintenance during the lean war years.

Ducks and geese have also remained a loved tradition in the park, fed by adults and fed and chased by children. A report in the Terre Haute Tribune, dated January 31, 1938, talks about the comic duck inhabitants; those same type of comic antics are still enjoyed today. Since the birds live on the fish rearing ponds near Poplar Street, and have a tendency to cross the road, signs have been erected saying "Duck Crossing" and the residents of Terre Haute automatically slow down and check the roadside to see if any of the ducks or geese are waddling across the road.

A zoo was also started in the park in the early 1930's, but by the 1970's was in such bad repair and so obviously inadequate for the animals' health care that it was removed in 1976.

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The "Comfort Station" (photo 42) built in the park in the 1930's, and then made into the park office, has become a home and is used by a Terre Haute police officer. The home overlooks the main entrance to Deming Park, and retains the appearance of a 1930's bungalow.

In 1950, a not-for-profit corporation was formed to put a small steam powered train, a children's ride, in Deming Park. The funds for the original train were donated by the Wabash Valley Tavern Keepers Association. The first train was a used one and it only lasted until 1955. A second train, a new one, lasted until 1967, when it wore out and was sold for parts. A third train (also new and larger than the second) was purchased in 1967. This train is still running and delighting children during the summer months.

Today, Deming Park boasts 12 outdoor shelters and a large pavilion. The pavilion benches were originally in the Memorial Stadium, torn down in 1970. Included in the park were several mini-shelters that are actually the original platform shelters from the Big Four Depot (photos 48, 54 and 55).

The Big Four Depot was Terre Haute's last railroad depot left from the time when the city was a major railroad center. The depot was demolished in 1986. The shelters were removed from the station when the original railroad beds next to the station were being widened. They were rebuilt in the park between 1960 and 1970.

A large L-shaped swimming pool (photo 50), built in 1962, was renovated in 1986. "Kiddieland Park" was added in 1972, with modern wooden creative equipment added in 1976. Seventeen additional adjoining acres, consisting of 50% forest and 50% open land, were donated to the City Park Department in December of 1981. (This land was not a portion of the original park and is not included in the request for nomination.) The new addition is bordered on the north by U.S. 40 and west by the railroad tracks. It remains wild and undeveloped.

Deming Park is visited by thousands of people a year, both residents of Terre Haute and visitors from around the nation. Though used year round, the natural hills and wooded areas remain as they did at its origin. A report in the Christian Science

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Monitor, October 17, 1936, states "The Donor of the park to the city years ago conditioned that it be left a wooded tract so that coming generations could see there a bit of Indiana as it originally was before the work of burning and digging out trees and shrubs was started." That report, even with the many activities sponsored by the Park Department, including a frisbee course, cross-country skiing, tennis and basketball courts, horseshoe pits, swimming and the classes held in the park's Torner Community Center, remains just as true today. The park, large and well-maintained, easily accommodates those activities, yet retains many of the original improvement, and still has the original natural appearance demanded by the first and all subsequent park boards, the look of a heavily forested and shaded parkland.

The Deming family first noted the significance of this beautiful area; through the last 65 years of the park's existence, the community and park department ensured it remained a crown jewel for the city's park system and the community it serves.

Contributing resources in the park include the following:

1 site - the layout of the park itself
3 structures - the stone bridge, 2 stone fences
2 buildings - one original picnic shelter and the original comfort station
2 objects - the fieldstone lighthouse and an original drinking fountain.

Non-contributing resources in the park include the following:

1 structure - the swimming pool
10 buildings - 8 picnic shelters, 1 restroom building, and 1 barn
12 buildings - 7 picnic shelters, 1 community center, 1 restroom building, 1 barn and 2 storage/concession sheds

A number of items have not been counted because they are not permanent in nature and do not disturb scenic vistas in the park. These include:

The Kiddieland Playground, baseball diamond, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, frisbee golf course, and the train ride.

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Because they were rebuilt in the park to avoid their destruction, the railroad shelters are not counted as contributing or non-contributing.

Although Deming Park has a number of non-contributing resources, the non-contributing buildings are of a scale which does not interfere with the significant, naturalistic design of the park.

A tally of contributing and non-contributing resources for the entire district follows:

Contributing Buildings

Residential area -	28
Boulevard	0
Park	2
Total	30

Non-Contributing Buildings

Residential Area -	12
Boulevard	0
Park	12
Total	24

Contributing Sites

Residential Area -	0
Boulevard	1
Park	1
Total	2

Non-Contributing Sites - NoneContributing Structures

Residential Area -	0
Boulevard	0
Park	3
Total	3

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Non-Contributing Structures

Residential Area -	0
Boulevard	0
Park	1
Total	1

Contributing Objects

Residential Area -	0
Boulevard	3
Park	2
Total	5

Non-Contributing Objects - None

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As early as 1918, Kessler was retained by the Terre Haute Park Board to design a similar boulevard and parks system. ("Planned Boulevard System," Indianapolis News, 3/20/23, p.19). The Book of Terre Haute (1921) states that Kessler visited the site of Deming Park and described the area as ideal for a major eastside park. According to that account, Kessler stated that "Outside of the necessary provisions for the preservation of the trees, shrubbery, and natural lawns, no further artificial effects will be employed in the development." Although several other sources credit Kessler with designs for Deming Park and a boulevard system for Terre Haute, no actual plans have been discovered to date. (The other references to Kessler's Terre Haute works include the March 2, 1922 Journal of the Common Council and a 1922 Terre Haute Star article.)

According to available sources and George Kessler's own description of the area, Deming Park still reflects both the reason it was selected as a public space and Kessler's intended design. It's original, curvilinear paths, which were paved at an early date, have remained unaltered in placement and the naturalistic layout of the park itself is still very evident.

Ohio Boulevard was intended as the formal, classical pathway to Deming Park. (Kessler often contrasted formal, plaza-like forms against naturalistic features.) Unlike the park, the boulevard was graded and laid out in a straight line. The double tree-lined drives and classical gates of Ohio Boulevard are unique in Terre Haute and they are good examples of "City Beautiful" planning.

The boulevard and park were part one comprehensive effort which was to be the initial phase of a city-wide parks system. The Superintendent of Parks indicated this in his 1922 report:

"Last summer, the park district took over by bond issue about 150 acres just east of the city, to be known as "Deming Park", also a strip of land 190 feet wide and one mile long, connecting this park with Ohio Boulevard at Twenty-fifth Street. The Boulevard when improved will give us a beautiful, boulevard drive of one and a half miles. At the time of acquiring this property, we made contract with the Deming Land Company, wherein they are to build and construct at their own cost and expense a boulevard and parkway of the same general design, material and construction as the present

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boulevard between Nineteenth and Twenty-fifth Streets. This boulevard and parkway to be fully constructed and completed by April 1, 1923. For this generous offer on the part of Mr. Demas Deming, he is to be commended by all our people." (Journal of the Common Council, 1922).

The construction of the boulevard and park directed residential growth to the city's eastside. Newspaper reports of the time reported that the "(Deming) Land Company expects to make the territory about Deming Park a high class residence district like unto Woodruff Place in Indianapolis."

("Deming Boulevard is Under Construction" Note: Ohio Boulevard is referred to as Deming Boulevard in several documents, but upon completion, it was named Ohio Boulevard. Woodruff Place was listed on the NRHP 7/31/72).

As with other 1920s subdivisions in Indiana, the Deming Land Company accomplished this goal by using deed restrictions. Minimum house values on Ohio Boulevard were set at \$5,000.00, houses were to have uniform 25 foot setbacks, and commercial buildings were banned from the subdivision. ("Big Development is Coming on East Side"). The most significant and intact portion of this development is represented by the older houses on Ohio Boulevard between 19th and 25th Streets. As explained in Section 7, the occupants of these homes were among Terre Haute's leading citizens of the 1920s. When considered against other houses of this period in Terre Haute, these homes are among the city's best examples of 1900s period revival and Craftsman style architecture.

Today, the district continues to be one of Terre Haute's most desirable neighborhoods and Deming Park serves as the eastside's major outdoor recreational site.

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(Boundary Description) continued

Then turn north along the east property line of 2201 Ohio Boulevard and continue to the south edge of the south sidewalk of Ohio Boulevard.

Then turn east to the east curb line of Fruitridge Avenue, then turn south to the north curb line of Poplar Street, then east to the west curb line of Keane Lane, then north to the south boundary of Cavalry Cemetery, marked by a fence, about 2,500' north of Poplar Street. Then turn west until the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad right-of-way is encountered. Follow the east railroad right-of-way southwest to a point in line with the north edge of the north curb of Ohio Boulevard.

Then turn west to the west curb of South 23rd Street. Then turn north to the rear property line of houses on the north side of Ohio Boulevard from 2270 - 1904 Ohio Boulevard. Turn west and follow to point of origin.

This boundary does not include that portion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad which falls within the park.

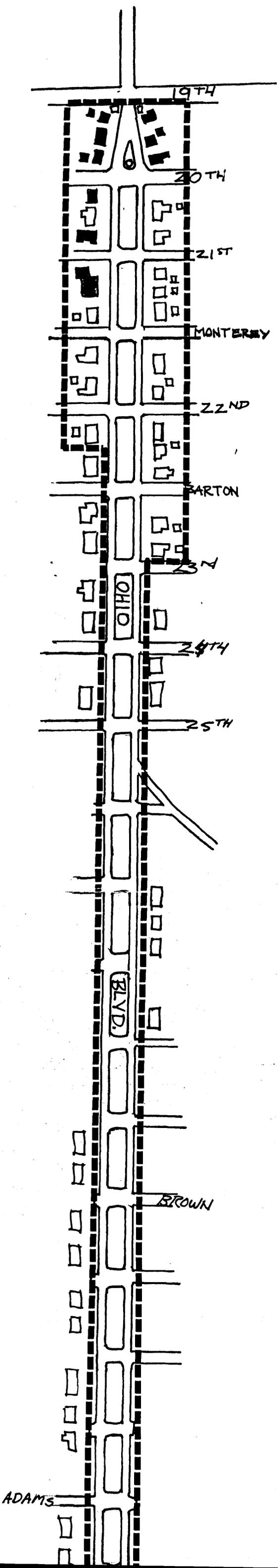
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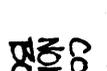
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(Boundary Justification) continued

Houses east of 23rd Street were all built after World War II and do not contribute to the district's period of significance. In those areas, however, the sidewalks and tree allees are included since these elements were part of the original development. The boundary encompasses as much of Deming Park as possible. A triangular parcel in the northwest corner of the park is not included because it no longer contributes to the park and has been leased out for other purposes (a Naval Reserve facility). Overall, the boundaries were drawn to include as many contributing, related resources as possible.

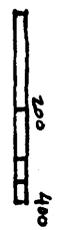


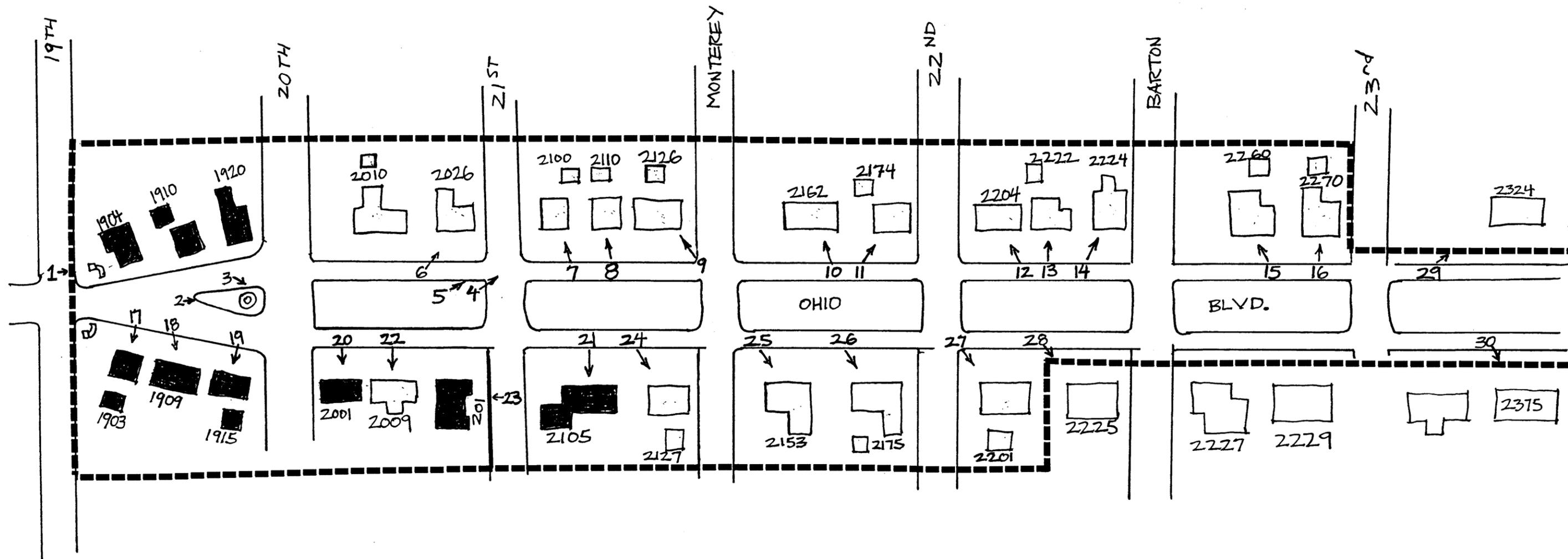
OHIO BOULEVARD - DEMING PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
 TERRE HAUTE, IN

-  CONTRIBUTING BOUNDARY
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING BOUNDARY

MAP 1

1" = 400'



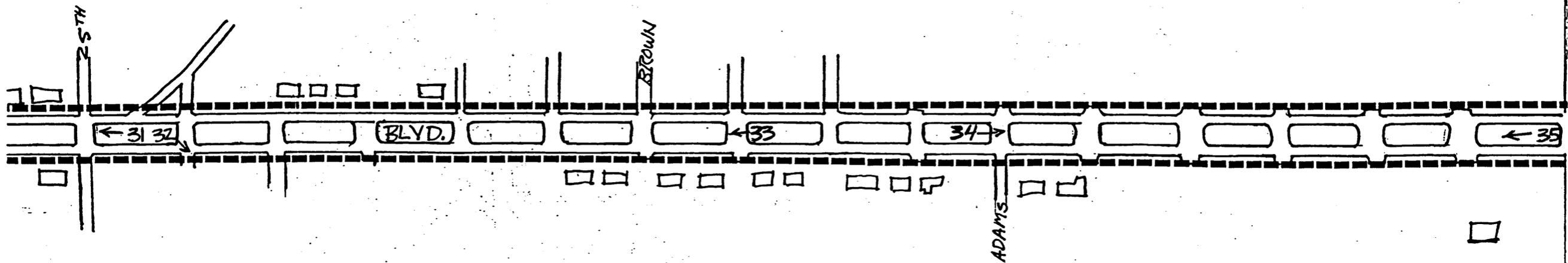


MAP 2 - PHOTOS 1-30
 OHIO BOULEVARD - DEMING PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
 TERRE HAUTE, IN

BOUNDARY
 CONTRIBUTING
 NON-CONTRIBUTING
 ← 12 PHOTOS

NO SCALE

3 or 4 DIGIT NUMBERS INDICATE ADDRESS



MAP 3 - PHOTOS 31-35
 OHIO BOULEVARD - DEMING PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
 TERRE HAUTE, IN
 - - - BOUNDARY
 ←-12 PHOTOS

POPLAR

MAP 4 - PHOTOS 36-60

OHIO BOULEVARD-DEMING PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
TERRE HAUTE, IN

- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- - - BOUNDARY
- ← 12 PHOTOS

NO SCALE

CEMETERY

