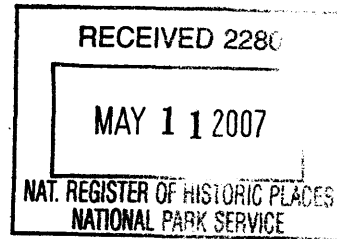


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wolf, George John, House  
other names/site number Wolf-Knapp House 089-090-50100

2. Location

street & number 7220 Forest Avenue N/A  not for publication  
city or town Hammond N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46360

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 5/1/2007  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 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:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 6-21-07

Wolf, George John, House  
Name of Property

Lake IN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling

**DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**19th & 20th c. REVIVALS:** Tudor Revival

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE: Limestone

roof STONE: Slate

other METAL

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bernard, Leslie Cosby, Sr.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Hammond Public Library

Wolf, George John, House  
Name of Property

Lake \_\_\_\_\_ IN \_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	456340	4603530	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Barbara Stodola  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 04-10-2006  
street & number 100 Johnson Road telephone 219-874-7668  
city or town Michigan City state IN zip code 46360

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Judith A. Knapp  
street & number 7220 Forest Avenue telephone 219/ 937-9005  
city or town Hammond state IN zip code 46324

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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*George John Wolf House, Lake County, IN*

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**SECTION 7 DESCRIPTION**

The George John Wolf House, located in Hammond, was built in 1929-1930 for George John Wolf, a Hammond car dealer and civic leader, and his wife Elizabeth. It has been occupied by members of the Knapp family for the past 47 years. In this narrative, it is alternatively referred to as the Wolf House or the Wolf-Knapp House.

Hammond is a mid-sized industrial city in Lake County, in the northwest corner of Indiana. The City of Hammond borders on Lake Michigan (to the north), the Illinois state line (to the west) the City of Gary and portions of East Chicago and Whiting on east. In the 1920s, when the community was experiencing a building boom, the prominent architect Leslie Cosby Bernard, Sr. designed the house for the Wolf family. It is located on the northwest corner of Forest Avenue and 172nd Place, in the survey-identified Roselawn Forest Heights Historic District of Hammond. The Wolf house is listed as "Outstanding," as part of the identified district in the Lake County Interim Report of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Across the street from the Wolf House, on the southeast corner of Forest Avenue and 172nd Place, stands the Tudor Revival house that Bernard designed as his own home-studio, and where he lived and practiced architecture for 26 years.

The Wolf House is also done in a Revivalist style, with Tudor and Norman elements. (Photo #1) It is a two-story limestone structure with a slate roof. The house rests on a foundation of poured concrete, which is not visible from the exterior, as the stone extends to ground level. The overall plan and footprint of the Wolf House is roughly L-shaped. At the inner corner there is a two-story tower enclosing a winding staircase, and a stone chimney with the upper half finished off in patterned brickwork. The tower and stone work recall manor houses in the Normandy district of France, and the steeply-pitched cross-gabled roof is characteristic of the English Tudor style. The gable roof intersects with a hip roof, and the tower has a conical roof. (Photo #2) The house is built of limestone quarried in Lannon, Wisconsin, commonly known as Lannon stone. The quality of the stone veneer work is exceptional. The stones are rough-cut and stacked against a framework of brick bearing walls. The doors and windows are accented by stones specially selected for their size and shape, to set off the architectural details. At the corners of the house there are stone quoins, varying in size and shape.

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*George John Wolf House, Lake County, IN*

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The front elevation faces east onto Forest Avenue. The house is situated on an impressive 97 x 125-foot corner lot. The front landscaping consists of well-trimmed, mature yew trees along the foundation of the house. A row of tall evergreens extends along the north border of the property, running from the house to the street. The house is set back from the street, on a slight rise. There is a narrow back yard running parallel to the driveway of the neighboring house; at one time the back yard was fenced-in.

The front gabled section of the house projects from the central core, forming the base of the L-shape. Centered on the first floor of this projection are four attached vertical windows, massed together under a wooden beam, which is set horizontally into the stone. This same window treatment is used on the second floor, where three vertical windows are centered above the four ground-floor windows.

Another gabled-roof section, smaller, is set into the corner of the "L", with two smaller windows above an arched copper hood which shelters the front entry to the house. The front door is arched, with recessed wooden panels, fourteen panels altogether (5 vertical x 3 horizontal) with one eye-level window in lieu of a panel. The decorative hinge and door-plate are original, as are the front door and arched screen door. (Photos #9 and 10) Also original to the house are copper gutters and down-spouts.

The tower is adjacent to the front entry. It has a conical roof topped by a ship-shaped copper weather vane. Four diamond-paned, leaded glass windows are set into the tower. (Photo #14) Extending to the south is a single-bay section with two windows above and three below. All the windows in the house are casement windows with wood sills and original metal hardware. (Photos #11 and 12) The south section of the house has a hip roof. The chimney, set into the angle at the tower, is made of stone with the top half finished off in brick stacks with triangular-profiled vertical ribbing. (Photo #15)

Across the front of the house, the placement of windows was planned with considerations of symmetry and picturesque effect. This is not entirely the case with the rear (west) facade, where the windows are distributed according to the needs of the interior rooms. (Photo #3) A ground-floor projection with two windows houses a breakfast nook. A narrow window is in the first-floor bathroom. Two sets of windows are placed in the south section of the house, one above the other, in the living room and master bedroom.

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*George John Wolf House, Lake County, IN*

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In the gabled-roof section of the house, a bedroom was planned for the Wolfs' daughter section of the house, a bedroom was planned for the Wolfs' daughter, Jane, and to indicate this room a shield-shaped stone was centered above the windows. (Photo #11) A windowed dormer was placed at the rear of the garage, to bring light into the room above the garage.

A two-car garage is at the north end of the house. It is an attached garage, which was an unusual design feature for this period. The garage is also made of stone and was evidently important to Mr. Wolf, who was a car dealer. Two garage doors open to the driveway, which leads into the alley. (Photo #4) Centered above the garage doors are two casement windows. The garage doors do not face the street. At the south end of the house there is a frame porch, which was originally fitted with screens; in the 1950s Mr. Knapp had the porch glazed. The porch now opens onto a redwood deck which was added to the southwest corner of the property in 1975 by Clement B. Knapp Jr. A wrought iron gate was also added to the original stone wall which extends to the west of the house. (Photos #6 and 7) Another small porch leads from an upstairs bedroom to the "room above the garage;" this porch also has been enclosed. (Photo #5) Other than these minor alterations to the porches, the exterior of the house remains as originally built.

The interior of the Wolf-Knapp house is very intact. Finishes include wood floors, plaster walls and plaster ceilings. Floors in the living room and bedrooms have been carpeted. The interior doors are paneled, each having one large recessed panel. The doors and windows have four-inch wood moldings with double curvatures. Most of the woodwork is varnished and has never been painted. Pointed archways, made of plaster, are used at the entry to living room, dining room and upstairs hallway spaces. Eight-inch crown moldings at the ceilings are also made of plaster and are composite-curved.

The floor-plan is straightforward. The front door opens onto a central hallway, with the winding staircase to the left (south), at the front of the house. The stairway is set against the curved wall; it has a curved wooden handrail and twisted wrought-iron spindles. (Photos #16, 17, 18) A closet is tucked into the space beneath the staircase. Also to the left of the front entry is a sunken living room, with a wrought-iron hand-railing beside the two steps leading into the room. Windows face the front and back yards, and French doors open onto the porch. (Photo #19) The living room has a decorative plaster mantel with a molded floral design. (Photo #20) Light fixtures in the front hall are original. (Photos #21 and 22)

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A small half-bath is located at the end of the front hall, facing east. To the right (north) is a dining room, at the front of the house, with windows facing east and north. The kitchen is at the rear; it has a built-in breakfast nook with banquette seating. The kitchen was updated in 1974, with new appliances and cabinets, but its floor plan remains as originally designed. Four doorways are in the kitchen: one from the front hall; one opening to the dining room, another to the back hall, which opens into the garage; and another leading to a back staircase, which leads up to the "room above the garage." This "extra" room may have been intended as a maid's room, but it was not heated until the 1960s, and prior to that time was used only for storage.

The second floor of the Wolf-Knapp House has a full bath and three bedrooms, one above each of the first-floor rooms. The master bedroom, situated above the living room, has windows on three sides. It has a walk-in closet, which was unusual for the 1920s, and a door leading directly from the closet into the bathroom. Also in this closet, set into the ceiling, is a 1950s-era pull-down staircase leading into the attic. It is a partial attic with flooring, but otherwise unfinished. Built-in cabinets for storage of linens are in the upstairs hallway; they have wooden doors which have never been painted. The upstairs bathroom has original tile, lavender and green, and original toilet, lavatory and bathtub -- all reglazed in their original green color. (Photos #25, 26, 27) Another closet in the upstairs hallway has an original laundry chute connected to the basement. (Photo #28)

The east bedroom, above the dining room, has a small closet and windows facing east and north. The bedroom at the rear of the house, the room originally occupied by Miss Jane Wolf, has a door opening onto a small porch. A set of four stairs leads from the porch down to the room above the garage. The porch is too small for a sleeping porch, but was evidently intended for ventilation.

The house has a partial basement, which was paneled in the early 1950s as a "rumpus room" for the Knapp teen-agers, Barbara and Carolyn. Mr. Knapp, home-owner at the time, supervised the renovation and hand-selected each knotty-pine board, preferring the ones that had the most knots. The basement room extends under the kitchen, dining room and front hall. The remainder of the basement is crawl space.

High-quality building materials were used originally, and the owners have taken great interest in preserving the historic character of the house. The slate roof was replaced in 1972, with slate



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specially ordered from Virginia, and great care was taken to replicate the original roof. On the interior, there are many original details: light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and wood paneling. Original metal railings are still at the front porch, the winding staircase and the steps leading to the sunken living room.

Most of the original casement windows are intact. A curious incident occurred in July, 1967, causing damage to some of the windows. As reported by the Knapps' housekeeper, Caroline Swezey, a sonic boom was observed, damaging those windows which had permanently-attached storm windows.(Photo #13) Investigators confirmed that a vacuum had been created, cracking the windows. The windows without storms were unaffected. The United States Air Force reimbursed the Knapp family in the amount of \$239.74 to cover the cost of replacement. The current owner retains copies of the correspondence and subsequent settlement.

Through the years, the Wolf-Knapp House has been meticulously maintained and documented. In its 75-year history, only three families have owned the property. It is in excellent condition, a landmark house in the still-prestigious neighborhood of south Forest Avenue in Hammond, Indiana.

**SECTION 8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Wolf House was built in 1929-1930 on South Forest Avenue, a newly-developing and upscale residential district of Hammond, Indiana. It was designed for George John Wolf, his wife Elizabeth Wolf and their three children by Leslie Cosby Bernard, Sr., a locally well-known architect who built his own home across the street from the Wolfs' large corner property. George Wolf was a car dealer who had a Studebaker-Pierce Arrow dealership in downtown Hammond, near the Indiana-Illinois state line. He was also a Hammond city councilman, past president of the City Council and a member of the Board of Education. The Wolf House meets Criterion C as one of the best examples of period revival architecture in Hammond.

Architectural Significance

When architect L. Cosby Bernard, Sr. moved to Hammond in 1927, the downtown commercial district was thriving and leading businessmen were commissioning large homes to be built a few miles south of the downtown area. The city's first planned subdivision was Glendale Park, now

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a local historic district; the first house in Glendale Park was built in 1903 for the superintendent of schools. The City of Hammond was a business and industrial center experiencing rapid growth. In the decade between 1910 and 1920, the population climbed from 20,925 to 36,004, and in the next decade almost doubled again, reaching 65,559 in 1930. Residential developments continued expanding south, into areas which were named historic districts in the Lake County Interim Report of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Forest-Moraine Historic District; Forest-Southview Historic District; Roselawn Forest Heights Historic District; and, farthest south, Forest-Ivanhoe Historic District.

Forest Avenue became the most prestigious address. It was a wooded street, running parallel to the Indiana-Illinois state line, between State Line Avenue and Hohman Avenue, the main thoroughfare. L. Cosby Bernard Sr., a native of Kentucky, became the premier architect of Forest Avenue. All sixteen Bernard-designed homes are listed in the interim report; seven of them are designated Outstanding, and twelve of them are on Forest Avenue. Bernard's own home, at the southeast corner of 172nd Place and Forest Avenue, has been remodeled several times. (Photo #8) It once had an architectural drafting studio where Bernard trained several younger architects -- his own son, L. Cosby Bernard, Jr., and William J. Bachman among them. Local history enthusiasts maintain a web site with two pages devoted to "L. Cosby Bernard Sr., Famous Architect." ([www.hammondindiana.com](http://www.hammondindiana.com))

Hammond has many examples of Tudor Revival houses. Most are simple houses with minimal references to authentic Tudor details. In the 20th century neighborhoods named earlier, there are at least 80 examples of the style. Bernard's works stand out locally for their detail and quality. The home Bernard designed for his own family was Tudor Revival, his favorite style throughout the 1920s. He used a great number of English Tudor elements in its design: patterned brickwork with stone trim, a half-timbered second story with stucco and brick infill, steeply pitched gabled roofs, and multi-paned windows, some with stained glass. The house is cozy and picturesque, but quite unlike the impressive place he designed for his car dealer friend across the street.

Bernard's home is set close to the street, just where Forest Avenue begins to curve. The Wolf house is set back from the street on a slight rise, and is approached along a winding flagstone path, establishing a sense of importance immediately upon arrival. The Wolf House echoes some of the Tudor features seen up and down the street -- particularly in its cross-gabled roof and decorative chimney. However, it is entirely built of stone and has a two-story round tower --

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unusual features for the Tudor style. In designing the Wolf House, Bernard drew more heavily on French sources, especially the manor houses of Normandy and Brittany. In the decade following World War I, many American architects had adopted European idioms and freely combined elements from one culture and another. The house Bernard designed for the Wilke family, at 7245 Forest Avenue, is another hybrid design, with a half-timbered second story, a lower level of brick with stone trim and a circular tower. However, the Wilkes' front door has been placed in the tower -- which was usually done in this "tower-type" of French eclectic design. The Wolf House also differs in that respect -- the tower contains a winding staircase and tiny windows, creating a more picturesque effect. The front door is placed beside the tower, beneath a gable. The Bernard, Wilke and Wolf houses are all about the same size -- roughly 2,800 to 3,200 square feet. However, the Bernard house reached that size through subsequent additions, unlike the homes the architect designed for his prosperous clients.

L. Cosby Bernard, Sr. (1890-1963) practiced architecture in his Forest Avenue home-studio until 1953, when he retired and moved with his second wife to Sarasota, Florida. He was a Kentucky native and graduate of the University of Illinois. Mr. Bernard's first architectural practice was in Michigan City, Indiana, where he lived from 1924 to 1927. He then relocated to Hammond. At that time he made contact with officials at the Indiana State Prison, and over the years much of his architectural practice consisted of designing prisons in Kentucky and West Virginia, as well as Indiana. In the early 1930s, Bernard designed a series of three branch libraries for the Hammond Public Library. All three still exist, all were stone-veneered Tudor Revival buildings. Other public buildings designed by his firm included the Hammond Technical Vocational High School at Calumet Avenue and the International Style Hammond Civic Center on Sohl Avenue. L. Cosby Bernard, Sr. is best remembered as the designer of luxury homes.

Outside the city of Hammond, the most remarkable of Bernard's residential projects was the home built in 1930-1934 for Joseph Ernest Meyer, on the Lincoln Highway in St. John Township. Meyer was founder of Indiana Botanical Gardens in Hammond, and he grew many varieties of plants on his large estate. Locally known as "Meyer's Castle," the home was a replica of a Scottish castle. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

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A complete listing of Hammond homes designed by L. Cosby Bernard, Sr. is as follows:

6607 Forest Avenue -- Cook-Hoekema	
6608 Forest Avenue -- Wadas	
6630 Forest Avenue -- Sprout-Yellen	7245 Forest Avenue -- Wilke
7044 Forest Avenue -- Fox-Keeler	7306 Forest Avenue -- E.C. Minas Jr.
7126 Forest Avenue -- Rhind	7326 Forest Avenue -- E.C. Minas Sr.
7127 Forest Avenue -- Taylor- Bomberger	6706 Hohman Avenue -- Roe
7220 Forest Avenue -- Wolf-Knapp	7042 Woodmar Avenue -- Martin
7240 Forest Avenue -- Sprout-Yellen	49 Indi-Illi Parkway -- Funk
7241 Forest Avenue -- Bernard	47 - 173rd Street -- Karl Minas

These homes are all designed in historic revival styles, including American Colonial, French, and English Tudor. The house most similar to the Wolf-Knapp house is the home commissioned by Edward C. Minas Sr. at 7326 Forest Avenue, one and-a-half blocks further south. It is also an English Tudor style, built of Wisconsin Lannon-stone. The floor plans are similar, but the Minas home is considerably larger. In each home, the living room is to the left of the front hall and the kitchen is to the right, leading to an attached two-car garage. Different features in the Minas home are a den, opening off the living room, and the placement of the dining room at the rear of the house, overlooking the Little Calumet River. The Wolf-Knapp house has no den, and the dining room is at the front. In both houses, bedrooms are situated above living and dining rooms and kitchen. An extra room is above the garage. The Minas family used this extra room as a maid's room for many years; it also has a separate bathroom, unlike the Wolf-Knapps' extra room, which was primarily used for storage.

The Owners, Hammond, and its Development

The City of Hammond has a history somewhat less elegant than its well-landscaped and handsomely-designed neighborhoods would indicate. The first industry in the vicinity was the State Line Slaughter House, a 42-acre development along the Grand Calumet River, a stream which emptied into Lake Michigan. The slaughterhouse was established in 1869 by George H. Hammond, a Detroit butcher who came to Indiana by way of the Chicago stockyards. In the annals of the meatpacking business, George Hammond's major importance was

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the role he played in the development of refrigerated railroad cars, which greatly expanded the market for fresh meat. By 1872, Hammond and his partners were able to ship cold meat to Boston and, by 1879, to Great Britain. In 1885, the Hammond plant was processing 3,000 heads of cattle a week and shipping them out in their 800 railroad cars. In that same year, a watch repair and jewelry shop was opened on Hohman Avenue by Alvah Curtis Roebuck, who went on to answer Richard Sears' advertisement for a watch repairman. They later formed a partnership, Sears, Roebuck & Company.

In 1901 the G.H. Hammond Packing Company burned down, putting 2,000 employees out of work. By this time, the city had achieved a diversified industrial development, much of it based on railway services. The railroads had arrived early in Hammond, and they kept on coming: Michigan Central (1850), Baltimore & Ohio (1874), Pennsylvania (1878), Erie Railroad (1880), New York, Chicago & St. Louis, later renamed the Nickel Plate (1882), Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railway, later to become the Monon (1884), Wabash Railroad (1892), Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad (1896), Chesapeake & Ohio (1902). Most of these ran right through the center of town, effectively splitting north Hammond off from south Hammond. In 1908 the South Shore Railroad began passenger service into Chicago, and residents of north Hammond could get into Chicago more rapidly than they could get past all the freight trains running through downtown Hammond. When automobiles became the preferred mode of transportation, traffic tie-ups in Hammond were legendary.

Downtown Hammond, in the meantime, had been developing alongside the railroad tracks, and numerous commercial establishments were founded. Hammond's first mayor, Marcus Towle, had a general store where he employed young Edward C. Minas. In 1890, Minas opened his own hardware store and then, in 1905, the Edward C. Minas Department Store -- which became the largest store in downtown Hammond, and remained in business for 90 years. Edward Minas and his sons, Clarence and Karl, all owned property in the Forest-Ivanhoe district of Hammond, and all three had homes built there designed by L. Cosby Bernard Sr.

During the 1920s, Hammond participated in what one historian has called "The Golden Era of Indiana." The Hammond Chamber of Commerce was reorganized in 1922. The Hammond schools had 8,375 pupils enrolled in 17 buildings. In 1925, Northern Indiana Public Service Company established its main offices on Hohman Avenue in downtown Hammond. The Parthenon Theatre was opened in 1921 and the State Theatre in 1925. Within the city limits there were nine banks, six hospitals, nine public parks, 49 churches, and 6,750 stores. By 1928,

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there were an estimated 115 different industries located in Hammond. Businessmen could join the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club and Woodmar Country Club, which opened in 1927, in a Tudor-styled clubhouse designed by L. Cosby Bernard Sr.

Hammond's history also includes some incidents with the Ku Klux Klan. Racial discrimination was reflected in restrictions placed on homes in some new neighborhoods -- such as the Dawson Park subdivision, recorded March 31, 1926, where the Wolf and Bernard homes were to be located. Attached to the warranty deeds were lists of nine restrictions, regarding lot lines, fence heights, minimum cost of houses, prohibitions of apartment houses and stores, most specifically those intended "for the purposes of selling or manufacturing any intoxicating liquor..." At this time, Prohibition was in effect nationwide. Restriction #8 further specifies that

"for a period of fifty (50) years from the date hereof, it, its successors and assigns will not sell or convey, or cause to be sold or conveyed, or will use or occupy, or permit to be used or occupied, any of the real estate or area herein described by any person or persons of colored African descent, nor any person, or persons of Yellow or colored Asiatic descent, provided, however, that this provision shall not prohibit the employment by any of the owners of the area herein described of such persons as servants, or the use and occupancy of said premises by such servants of any owner or occupant then living in and in possession of said premises."

Such race restrictions were common in larger city subdivisions, and were later rendered null by landmark Supreme Court decisions in the 1950s. There were no restrictions limiting ownership to Gentiles, as was a common practice at the time in Indiana beachfront communities on Lake Michigan. Although the restrictions were due to expire in 1976, restriction #8 had been invalidated prior to the purchase of the Wolf home in 1969, and was so noted on the deed obtained in that year by Clement B. Knapp Jr. and his wife Judith.

When the stock market crashed, in 1929, the sales of luxury automobiles were severely curtailed, and business in downtown Hammond suffered. George Wolf's automobile dealership moved in 1931, from its original location at 74 Sibley Street to 122-124 State Street, one block south. He sold Studebakers and Pierce-Arrow cars. By 1932, the auto dealership had closed and Prohibition had come to an end. Wolf became a sales representative for Atlas Brewing Company of Chicago and Sterling Brewing Company of Evansville. In late 1934 he moved to a less

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opulent home, at 6330 Hohman Avenue, Hammond. On September 18, 1939 he died, at the age of 51.

In 1935 the Forest Avenue home became the residence of another local businessman, Archie A. Murray (1895-1947), who was general manager of Hammond News Agency. Archie and his wife Lucille were killed in a plane crash October 24, 1947, and their funeral was held on November 2, 1947, the day that would have been their 28th wedding anniversary. They were survived by four sons.

In 1949, Clement B. Knapp (1908-1980) and his wife Alice bought the house from the Murray estate; their deed was dated April 12, 1949. Knapp was also a businessman, president of American Savings & Loan Association, and owner of C.B.Knapp Insurance Agency in north Hammond. The senior Knapps lived in the house for twenty years, deeding it on June 7, 1969, to their son Clement B. Knapp, Jr. (b. 1942) and his wife Judith. Ten years later it was deeded to Judith A. Knapp, who has lived in the house since that time with their daughter Kathryn Knapp (b. 1976).

The neighborhood remains a very desirable place to live. Property values continue to rise. One of the Bernard-designed homes recently was sold for more than \$400,000. The homes are well-maintained and landscaped. The Wolf-Knapp home is situated on a prominent corner lot, and is one of the most outstanding houses in the neighborhood.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 24 and 25 as marked and laid down on the recorded plat of Dawson Park subdivision in the city of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana -- Also known as 7220 Forest Avenue, Hammond, Indiana -- North Township -- Parcel #26-33-0007-0026 of the Dawson Park subdivision

**Boundary Justification**

The above-referenced boundary description is the legal description of the property.



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**Photographs**

All photographs are of the:

Wolf-Knapp House, 7220 Forest Avenue

Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

Barbara Stodola, photographer

All negatives are in the possession of Barbara Stodola, 100 Johnson Road, Michigan City, IN

All photos taken December 3, 2005

Photo #1 of 28

View of east elevation, looking W

Photo #2 of 28

South and East elevations, looking NW

Photo #3 of 28

West elevation, looking SE

Photo #4 of 28

North elevation, looking S

Photo #5 of 28

East roof, enclosed porch leading from upstairs  
bedroom to room above garage, looking W

Photo #6 of 28

Porch and attached wing wall, gate added 1975, on  
SW side of house, looking SE

Photo #7 of 28

South and West sides, including south porch and  
1970 redwood deck addition, looking NE

Photo #8 of 28

View up Forest Avenue, looking N, Wolf-Knapp  
House visible in trees at center left.

Photo #9 of 28

Front door, looking W, showing recessed panels and  
original hardware.

Photo #10 of 28

Copper hood over front door, looking W

Photo #11 of 28

Gable end with triple window on rear elevation, stone  
shield toward apex, looking E

Photo #12 of 28

Casement window / dormer on front elevation,  
looking west.

Photo #13 of 28

Interior view of casement window, showing etched  
glass simulating leading and multi-paned appearance,  
window at left is original, right window replaced by  
Clement B. Knapp Sr. after original window was  
shattered by a sonic boom.

Photo #14 of 28

Interior view of one of four diamond-paned leaded  
windows on winding stairway

Photo #15 of 28

Looking NW at front elevation, detail of chimney,  
stair tower, conical roof, original copper weather  
vane.

Photo #16 of 28

Interior, main stair in turret, looking W

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Photo #17 of 28  
Interior, detail of winding stairs, arched doorways.

Photo #18 of 28  
Interior, Looking down on winding stair and original wood floor.

Photo #19 of 28  
Interior, sunken living room, from arch in front hall  
French doors lead to S. porch, looking S.

Photo #20 of 28  
Interior, living room mantel with decorative plaster work, looking E.

Photo #21 of 28  
Interior, original lantern style fixture in front hall.

Photo #22 of 28  
Interior, original ceiling mounted light fixture, front entry.

Photo #23 of 28  
Interior, kitchen, breakfast nook with built-in banquettes and door which opens onto back stairway, leading to room above garage.

Photo #24 of 28  
Interior, kitchen (remodeled in 1970). Kitchen beams and island added during remodeling; also new kitchen cabinets and appliances. Looking E.

Photo #25 of 28  
Interior, upstairs bathroom, original toilet.

Photo #26 of 28  
Interior, upstairs bathroom, original sink, tile work, toothbrush holder, cup holder, soap dish, etc.

Photo #27 of 28  
Interior, upstairs bathroom, tile detail.

Photo #28 of 28  
Interior, built-in laundry chute, at waist height, in upstairs closet.