

PH0364304

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 3 1977

DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

## 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  
\* Seminary Square Park  
AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Corner of College Avenue and East Second St. NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN  
Bloomington VICINITY OF 7th  
STATE  
Indiana CODE 18 COUNTY Monroe CODE 105

### CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY                                 | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS  | PRESENT USE   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)     | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH              | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT          | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION     |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:               |

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
City of Bloomington  
STREET & NUMBER  
Box 100, Municipal Buildings  
CITY, TOWN  
Bloomington VICINITY OF STATE  
Indiana

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Monroe County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square  
CITY, TOWN  
Bloomington STATE  
Indiana

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
None  
DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remaining area now known as Seminary Square Park is bordered by South Walnut Street on the east, on the north by East Second Street and by the extension of College Avenue on the west. Beginning at the northeast corner of Seminary Square, the park runs south 185 feet; runs west 288.75 feet; runs north 185 feet; runs east 288.75 feet to the place of beginning. The Park includes about two acres of a large grassy area with some large trees.

This is the entire remaining public-owned undeveloped portion of the original property. As the first site of Indiana University in Bloomington, Monroe County, it is a recognized park.

In the nineteenth century a number of buildings were constructed on and next to the site. In 1824 a three-story building based on Princeton College's Nassau Hall was constructed to house the new Indiana College. When a fire destroyed this structure in 1854, a new three-story structure of Gothic design was built. After extensive alterations in the early twentieth century, this structure was demolished in 1967. Although records are vague on other nineteenth century structures, it is known that a Science Hall was constructed in 1873 and burned in 1883. The 1854 structure was located directly south of the present Seminary Square site. A brick high school was constructed in 1914 east of the 1854 structure. In 1921 and 1925 additions were made to the 1914 structure. This enlarged structure was destroyed by fire in 1967.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1816, 1820, 1883, 1967      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The evolution of the Seminary Park site, the careers of prominent individuals who were educated there, and the coincidences of national, state, and local events over 150 years make the site uniquely significant in education and in social/humanitarian history. In several respects Seminary Park exemplifies distinctive, national trends. Notable among them are the democratization and diversification of formal education through the initiatives of private citizens, and the incorporation of public education into the core of individuals' daily lives.

Seminary Park's significance in education derives from its early and long association with successively lower levels of public education. The site was originally provided for post-secondary education and was one of the earliest Congressional grants in support of higher education. As technological sophistication and popular participation in formal education grew, the needs exceeded the boundaries of the site and its adjacent areas. At the same time, the local community's development created pressures to use all available land.

The motives, means, and careers of individuals associated with stages in the site's evolution invest it with social/humanitarian and possibly political significance through the rise of the general welfare state. At its inception the federal government expressed the idea of popular government by promising to donate means to establish higher education in frontier areas in order to create the informed citizenry upon which the survival of the novel republican form of government depended. After halting federal and state initiatives, the local population rallied to sustain the endeavor when calamities overwhelmed available public resources. Private subscriptions during times of economic adversity reflected the popularity of the notion that higher education had to be available to the public. The gradual appropriation of facilities on the site to uses besides those of a college at the same time that the site was retained within the public domain signalled the broadening conception of governmental responsibilities and an increasing awareness of the value of the public heritage.

A chronological exposition of the site's evolution and a biographical sketch of one individual associated with it show how these strands were interwoven.

Despite brave words, public education got a slow start in the new United States. The Land Ordinance of 1785 reserved Lot N 16 of each township for the support of public schools. In 1806 Congress appropriated a township to Indiana for support of a state university, and the territorial assembly acknowledged the gift. Pursuant to these acts, trustees for a school were appointed, and a circulating library was established at Vincennes, the old French settlement and then the territorial capital. Little else was done to realize the broader goal until 1815, when the territorial assembly's memorial for statehood requested that the federal government confirm the township donation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Thomas D., Indiana University: Midwestern Pioneer. Bloomington: Indiana Press, 1970

Harding, Samuel Bannister., Indiana University 1802-1904. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1904.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

|    |      |         |          |    |      |         |          |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|------|---------|----------|
| DA | 1,6  | 540200  | 4334580  | AB | 1,6  | 540310  | 4334580  |
|    | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |    | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| BC | 1,6  | 540310  | 4334520  | CD | 1,6  | 540205  | 4334510  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Alice Gray, Chairwoman

ORGANIZATION

Bloomington/Monroe County Bicentennial Commission

DATE

July 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1913 Sussex Drive

TELEPHONE

(812) 332-2877

CITY OR TOWN

Bloomington

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

February 23, 1977

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles A. Brown*

DATE

9/18/77

DATE

9-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In 1816 Congress confirmed the donation, with the proviso that none of the lands sold from the donation would be taxed for five years. Consequently, the state's first constitution required the creation of a tuition-free, graded system of public instruction from common school through university.

President James Madison designated a township in what was to become Monroe County as the donation for the state university. Thus, on July 10, 1816, the career of the Seminary Park site began. That James Madison chose the site was eminently appropriate. Among the designers of the United State Constitution, Madison was the principal proponent of David Hume's radical notion that a republican form of government could gain strength by being extended over a vast territory. This notion diametrically opposed the dominant political theory of the era; it was an axiom of classical political philosophy that a republic would collapse as soon as it covered a territory too large to permit direct and active participation in political decision making. Madison's preference for the remote Monroe County area over the older settled area around Vincennes seemed to express his continuing belief that the nation had to develop its untapped resources, both material and mental.

In July 1820, trustees of the state university first met in Bloomington and selected the Seminary Township, of which this park is the sole remaining portion.

The developments on the site in terms of its location relative to the town of Bloomington, the site's successive uses, the private initiatives to sustain some part of it within the public domain reveal the declining elitism of higher education and the progressive evolution of new needs. The trustees in 1820 chose a building plan based upon Princeton College's Nassau Hall, a reminder of a classic curriculum reserved to an elite in the older states. The relationship of the Seminary Township to the town expressed the traditional one between higher education and the lives of most people; they were separate; the Seminary Township occupied 36 square miles of virgin forest.

The year that the first class began actual studies --1824-- was also the year that John Quincy Adams narrowly won the Presidency against a westerner, Andrew Jackson. Both events signalled an impending transfer of power, from spokesman for an oligarchy to proponents of mass participation in politics. The first class graduated in 1828, the year that Andrew Jackson triumphed--the symbol of the beginning of the age of the common man.

Among the ten members of that first class was one who exemplified this rise of the common man; Joseph A. Wright. Born to a poor Pennsylvania family, Wright moved to Indiana as a boy and worked as a janitor while attending Indiana College. He subsequently was a member of the United States House of Representatives, served two terms as governor (1849-1857), served in the United States Senate (1862-1863), and was twice United States minister to Prussia. Wright shared the utilitarian concerns of people of common origins and recognized the potential of public education and administration to meet their needs;

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he early and enthusiastically promoted scientific agriculture. The first state fair was held under his auspices to disseminate information about innovations and to encourage their adoption by offering prizes. He demanded curriculum changes to meet farmers' needs at the university level. His advocacy of their interests aroused Indiana farmers to agitate for changes in higher education.

Subsequent additions to facilities or changes in use of the site reflected progressive democratization and specialization to meet increasingly diverse needs. In 1830 a preparatory school was added and continued until 1890. In 1878 the preparatory division was also serving as a high school for Bloomington, with the state and town sharing expenses. After 1890 the town continued to use the site and building as a high school. In 1914 rapid growth in public school enrollments forced construction of a new brick high school east of the old college building, which became the junior high school. A fire destroyed the high school in 1967, and the city council decided to demolish the old college building after acquiring it from the school board. In 1976, however, the city rededicated the site as a park to commemorate its long association with public education. Thus, the site continues its former role of educating citizens in their heritage.

Changes in the use of the site and its size also reflected the integration of education into the community it served. Whereas the site of the seminary had first been isolated, the settlement expanded, surrounded, and largely absorbed the Seminary Township into other kinds of activities. Homes and businesses developed around the site. Adjacent to the park is the Louisville and Nashville Railroad track, tracing its origin to Governor Wright's vigorous promotion of railroads and to the track that was laid through the site as a result in 1853. The decision in 1883 to relocate the university from this portion of the original Seminary Township to its present location a few blocks east was due to noise from the railroad and to the need for more space to accommodate increasing facilities within the modern university.

The final aspect of the site's relationship to the community is private individuals' concern to preserve the site for public use, leading up to the present nomination to the National Register. When the first building burned in 1854, residents of Bloomington and Monroe County donated \$10,000 to rebuild the university. That sum amounted to more than one dollar for every man, woman, and child in the county.

Furthermore, that subscription was raised at a time when the total wealth of the county was less than \$450 per capita and at a time when a currency crisis throughout Indiana made liquid assets even scarcer than wealth. When a second fire destroyed Science Hall in 1883 and precipitated the decision to relocate the campus, local residents came forward with \$50,000. In 1897 the city purchased the site from the university, preserving it in the public domain, and now has established it for perpetuity as a park with plans to set up plaques telling its story.

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Others besides Joseph Wright have served to spread Seminary Park site's influence beyond the boundaries of Bloomington. Walter Q. Gresham entered Indiana University as a preparatory student in 1851, during Wright's governorship; became a member of the Indiana General Assembly in 1861; a United States district judge, 1869-1883; served President Arthur first as Postmaster General and then as Secretary of the Treasury; was judge of the United States circuit court, 1884-1893; and served President Cleveland as Secretary of State, 1893-1895. After graduating in 1855, John Watson Foster served in a succession of diplomatic posts and finally as Secretary of State during 1892-1893. Ida Husted Harper was a student at Indiana University in 1869, went on to a distinguished career in journalism, and was a delegate and speaker to various meetings of the International Council of Women and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

This site deserves inclusion on the National Register as a mark of recognition of its past and continuing involvement in the evolution of democratic, public education and as a site that in its present configuration reflects 150 years of social and economic development. It also deserves inclusion as a means to insure that the site will remain dedicated to its tradition.

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Thornbrough, Emma Lou., Indiana in the Civil War Era. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society, 1965.

Weir, Orda. Unpublished Memoir for the 50-year Reunion of the Bloomington High School Class of 1908. Bloomington, 1958.

Woodburn, James Albert. History of Indiana University, 1820-1902. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1904.