NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received

date entered

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 Ellsworth Historic District

and or common Ellsworth Addition

2. Location

street & number Please see continuation sheets N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X museum
___ building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder, Tippecanoe County Office Building

street & number 20 N. Third Street

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lafayette Historic Building Inventory (See continuation sheet) has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Lafayette Redevelopment Commission

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	X deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date
X fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ellsworth Historic District is geographically located at the foot of the hills which define the east side of the Wabash River valley. The district is roughly defined by two converging railroad lines and the central business district. The easternmost rail line follows the foot of the hillside running diagonally through the gridiron plan of the district. At the western edge of the district the rail line was laid after the area developed and was placed in the middle of Fifth Street.

The gridiron pattern varies throughout the district primarily because of changes in topography. In the northeast corner, blocks bounded by Columbia and South Streets (north and south) and Seventh to Tenth Streets are smaller in size, roughly square, with alleys running through east to west. Immediately south the blocks are longer north to south, or are truncated as a result of the diagonal rail line and the hillside. The heart of the district, roughly bounded by Alabama, Fifth, Romig, and Seventh Streets, is essentially the area platted by Ellsworth and others c. 1850. Blocks between Sixth and Seventh Streets in this area are oriented east to west and are cut through by the diagonal of the rail line at the southeast. Blocks between Fifth and Sixth Street are oriented north to south and alleys run north to south. Streets throughout the district are consistently wide. Most are paved in asphalt, although Seventh Street between Columbia and South Streets retains its original brick paving. Streets are flanked by concrete sidwalks with a strip of grass separating sidewalk from curb. There remain sections of the original brick paved sidewalk with limestone curb along Romig Street (photo 96). Most streets are lined with mature hardwoods.

Facade lines are consistently close to the street, allowing for only small front and side yards. Outbuildings such as carriage houses, stables and sheds were originally placed at the rear, facing the alleys. Several of these outbuildings remain (photos 70, 72). Some of the larger homes built east of the diagonal rail line along the hillside have more sizable yards.

There are approximately 200 buildings in the district. Architecturally, most of the structures date from the 1870s to early 20 century, and reflect the taste for the Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and bungalow styles. However, the district contains examples of a wide range of styles including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and the Richardsonian Romanesque. A concentration of larger, finer structures is located in the northern part of the district, although high style homes are scattered throughout. Some of the smallest and probably oldest residences are located along Sixth Street and Alabama Street at the northern edge of the largest Ellsworth plat. Generally speaking, fabric on the west side of the district is more deteriorated than that along the eastern and northern borders, although fabric condition varies throughout the district even within a half block. With the exception of the application of sidings and, in some cases, window alterations, changes to the fabric have been minimal.

There are 147 contributing and 58 non-contributing buildings, four contributing structures (brick paving on North 7th Street, brick sidewalks and limestone curbs on Romig Street, the Norfolk and Western Railroad right-of-way and the Seaboard Railroad right-of-way), and one contributing site (northwest corner of 7th and South Streets: original location of H. L. Ellsworth's house).

The following is a list of representative structures:

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	X religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1844-1936 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ellsworth Historic District is significant because it was an important residential neighborhood in Lafayette during the middle to late 19th century when the city experienced substantial growth as a railroad crossroad and as an agricultural center. A number of Lafayette's leading citizens lived in the proposed district during this period. Their homes, as well as the homes of craftsmen and laborers, remain today as an intact record of the impact of the railroad and agriculture on the residential, commercial and religious architecture of the city.

Early District Development

Local prosperity helped Lafayette's population grown rapidly from 2000 in 1840 to 13,500 in 1870. The dense development of the Ellsworth Historic District resulted as people desired to stay within walking distance of the commercial district and industrial areas. Both working class and wealthy lived in the district. It was home to bankers, merchants, craftsmen and common laborers. Moses Fowler, who was a wholesale merchant and president of the National State Bank, built the house at 630 South Street (photo 15) for his daughter, Annie. He also built the house at 711-717 South Street (photo 19) and his own residence at 909 South Street (photo 43). Brothers Owen and Peter Ball were local, wholesale grocery and drug merchants. They built the house at 629 South Street (no longer standing) as an investment. They resided at 617 South Street (no longer standing) and later at 221 South 7th Street (photo 86), originally Greek Revival twin to State Senator Robert Gregory's house at 213 South 7th Street (photo 87). The Ball Brothers' house was later added to, inside and out, to reflect the Queen Anne styling that became popular in the latter part of the 19th century. James B. Falley was a hardware and farm implement merchant. He built the house at 601 New York Street (photos 68, 72) as his residence. An employee of Falley's was Patrick Flynn, who built and resided in the house at 617 New York Street. Lewis Falley, Jr., nephew of James B. Falley, was a wholesale boot and shoe merchant. He built and resided in the townhouse at 620-22 South Street (photo 13). Shoemaker Jacob Deinhart, who was employed by Lewis Falley, Jr., resided in the cottage house at 642 New York Street (photo 82). James Alexander is thought to have been the architect who designed the present Tippecanoe County Courthouse. He built and resided in the house at 420 Lingle Avenue (photo 98).

The Ellsworth District was home to local and state politicians and government officials. Robert C. Gregory was elected in 1841 to serve a two year term in the State Senate, after which he built the house at 213 South 7th Street (phot 86) was built as a twin to Gregory's (see preceding paragraph). In 1865, he began a six year seat as judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana. John Connelly was a member of the bar association and the Mayor of Lafayette in 1859-60. He built the house at 633 New York Street (photo 79) for his son and resided in the house at 206 South 6th Street (photo 50). Louis Kimmel was born in Germany and came to Lafayette in 1854. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, was Justice of the Peace in 1867-71 and was the Mayor of Lafayette in 1871-73 and again in 1877-81. He built the house at 617 Alabama Street (photo 34) and resided in the house at

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 34

Quadrangle name Lafayette West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	509725	447390
B	16	509745	447320
C	16	509140	447320
D	16	509140	447390
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheets

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

state	N/A	code	county		code
state	N/A	code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Don Staley, Assistant Director		
organization	Lafayette Redevelopment Commission	date	July 25, 1986
street & number	324 Ferry Street	telephone	317/742-1145
city or town	Lafayette	state	Indiana 47901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Richard Hartz for J. M. Pedersen

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-7-86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

LOCATION

The Ellsworth Historic District is located immediately south and slightly east of the Central Business District and the Downtown Lafayette Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lafayette Preservation Notebook, which was published in 1978 and based on the Lafayette Historic Building Inventory of 1976, identified fifteen historic districts in Lafayette. The Ellsworth Historic District, therein identified as the Near Southside Historic District, is located just west of the Columbia-South Street Hill District and the Ninth Street Hill District. The Upper Main Street District is immediately north of the Ellsworth District. The Lingle District is immediately south of the Ellsworth District.

The enclosed USGS map, Lafayette Preservation Notebook Historic Districts map and Ellsworth Historic District map show the exact location and boundaries of the district.

Inclusive Address List

South Fifth Street	116-415
South Sixth Street	101-408
North Seventh Street	10- 31
South Seventh Street	9-308
North Eighth Street	12
South Eighth Street	(3-31-82) 8 ~~10~~-212
North Ninth Street	11- 15
South Ninth Street	6- 14
Columbia Street	717-913
South Street	616-909
Alabama Street	609-643
Oregon Street	609-643
New York Street	501-641
Romig Street	501-650
Lingle Avenue	420

Item number 6

The following properties have been listed individually in the National Register:

Temple Israel, 17 South Seventh Street, 2-19-82

Moses Fowler House, 909 South Street, 8-5-71

Falley Home, 601 New York Street, 7-15-82

Second Presbyterian Church
31 N. 7th Street

1894-95
Photos 1, 8

This Richardsonian Romanesque church is built of rough cut limestone. An intricate grouping of one and one-and-one-half story spaces surround the steep, gabled sanctuary to yield a compact overall massing. The rectangular entrance tower at the northwest corner firmly ties the structure to the intersection of 7th and Columbia Streets. Entrance to the sanctuary is made through a round arched doorway on the north face of the tower. Heavy voussoirs and the recessed wooden doors and open tympanum give emphasis to the entrance. Two one-story apsidioles project from the north face of the sanctuary and are connected to each other by a small gabled chapel. The chapel has five slender, round-arched windows on the north side, grouped under a segmental arch. Large round-arched windows in cross gables on the east and west also light the sanctuary. Church offices and other support spaces are grouped around the south side of the sanctuary and unified under a slate roof with decorative tile ridge course. A slate roof with tile ridge course covers the sanctuary.

Temple Israel
17 S. 7th Street

1866-67
Photos 38, 40

The Temple is a two-story, red brick structure with its exterior architectural enrichment confined to the west facade. That facade is divided into three sections by four pilaster masses that extend above the gabled roofline as corbeled, chimney-like elements. All openings are round-arched with corbeled hood moldings except for a roundel at the gable peak inscribed with the Star of David. A simple corbel table enriches the roofline. A one-story projecting vestibule, added in 1898, has a crowstep gable and the same corbel table motif used in the main gable. The structure was individually listed on the National Register on February 19, 1982.

Alexander House
420 Lingle Avenue

c. 1880
Photo 98

This two-and-one-half story High Victorian brick structure combines elements from several modes of Victorian design. Its irregular massing, with a polygonal bay on the south and one-story porch wrapping around the east and north sides, is a typical Queen Anne element. The deep roof overhang supported by paired brackets is Italianate in spirit. The gabled wing of the east facade is distinguished by a projecting enframement of the fenestration composed of rough cut limestone voussoirs, and lintels, brick corbeling, and smooth-cut limestone sills. Hammer beam bracing fills the gable end.

Ball Brothers House
221 S. 7th Street

C. 1845
Photo 86

This two-and-one-half story masonry and frame structure has elements of the Queen Anne and Free Classic styles. Its tower with steep conical roof is pierced by double-hung, beveled glass windows at the first and second floors, and shorter, beveled glass lights at the attic story. A one-story porch supported by slender Doric columns wraps across the west facade and around the tower. An ornamented dormer breaks the steeply pitched shingle roof.

Falley Townhouse c. 1892
620-622 South Street Photo 13

This handsome residence is a two-story brick, double townhouse in the Second Empire style. The rectangular mass with projecting central bays on the south facade rests on a stone foundation. Full length, double-hung basement windows are set in deep wells. Its south facade is distinguished by segmentally-arched, double-hung windows capped by limestone lintels with keystones. Multi-colored hexagonal and rectangular slate shingles cover the mansard roof. Round-arched, double-hung windows with keystones are set in gabled dormers. The deeply overhanging cornice with dentilated frieze is supported by paired brackets. The entry doors were originally double doors with shared transoms and were flush with the exterior wall.

Howe
~~Home~~ Block c. 1870
624-628 South Street Photos 9, 12, 15

This townhouse row is composed of three attached units with polygonal bays. They provide a regular and rich facade rhythmn. The window openings are segmentally arched with hood-molds. Entrances have projecting hoods. A round-arched carriage entrance occupies the westermost bay of the group. A flat-arched brick frieze supported by corbels defines each second floor bay and, in turn, is capped by a deeply overhanging bracketed cornice.

Annie Fowler House c. 1870
630 South Street Photos 15

This two-story brick residence is similar in scale and proportion to the Home Block to the east, and generally maintains the overall street facade rhythm despite changes in fenestration pattern and architectural detail. The structure has a square projecting bay at the east and the whole mass is capped by an overhanging cornice supported by heavy, paired brackets. Windows across the front are paired under Neo-Grec pedimented lintels. Limestone beltcourses band the first floor lintels together, as well as second floor sills and lintels. Entrance is made through double wooden doors with glass panels. The west wall of this structure is shared with the Home Block.

Moses Fowler House 1851-2
909 South Street Photo 43

This residence is Gothic Revival in style. It is built of stucco-covered masonry on a crossgable plan. The main central gable is flanked by smaller dormers. These, and end gables, are all enriched by elaborate bargeboards with pendants. A polygonal bay with Gothic arch lights projects from the front facade. A one-story porch supported by polygonal medieval columns covers the entrance.

The grounds were originally landscaped in a Downingesque English country style. In 1916, a more formal, three-tiered terrace was added to the south elevation, along with a reflecting pool and summer house. The pool and summer house have since been removed. The building, listed on the National Register in August, 1971, is currently the Tippecanoe County Historical Museum.

Falley House
601 New York Street

1862-64
Photos 68, 72

This house is Lafayette's only remaining example of the Italian villa style. It is a complex massing of one and two-story elements that roughly form a cruciform plan. A three-story, square tower visually ties the various elements together. The house is built of masonry covered with stucco. The windows on the west and north elevations are four-over-four double-hung with limestone sills and decorative iron, segmental-arched hoods. The deeply overhanging gabled roof is supported by carved brackets at the eave corners and gable peaks. A two-story masonry carriage house with hip and gable roof sections is located at the rear of the property. The house was individually listed on the National Register in 1982.

Duplex Townhouse
220 South 6th Street

c. 1890
Photos 67, 69

This brick structure, built in the Second Empire style, has a two-and-one-half story main wing with mansard roof, and a two-story flat roof wing at the rear. A central pavilion projects from the east facade dividing it into three major bays. Windows on the ground floor front are round-arched sash paired under limestone lintels. Second floor windows have limestone bracketed hoods, as do windows on the south face of the building. The paired, recessed entries represent a change from the original format. Windows in the attic story are recessed at the sill except for the paired, round-arched lights in the pavilion.

304 South 6th Street

c. 1880
Photos 71, 74, 75

This two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne structure is of frame construction sheathed in clapboard on the first floor and shingle on the second floor. A one-story porch supported on Doric columns runs across the east and partially across the north elevation. Two-story polygonal bays on the east and north facades expand the basic volume. A broad, cross-gable roof is sheathed in shingle and pierced at the northeast by a tall Queen Anne chimney. Windows throughout the house are generally one-over-one, double-hung sash except for the lunette in the gable.

707 South Street

c. 1890
Photo 18

This one-and-one-half-story wood frame, cross gable cottage has many of the complexities of massing associated with the Queen Anne style. The one-story porch which extends across half of the front, turns into an open, round pavilion at the northeast corner, then extends partially down the east elevation. The pavilion is capped by a conical roof with finial. Polygonal bays project from the north and east elevations, while the front gable projects forward at its peak.

711-717 South Street c. 1895
Photo 19

Symmetry characterizes this two-story, masonry duplex. The main floors rest on a high, rusticated foundation. A one-story, neo-classical porch covers the double, recessed entrances and is flanked by polygonal bays. A heavy stone belt course runs across the top of first floor windows, meeting the porch at the entablature level. The central second floor windows are round-arched, surrounded by rusticated voussoirs, giving them a Romanesque quality. The bays are surmounted by tall polygonal caps with finials. A heavy entablature with swag decoration in the frieze intersects these caps and provides a strong horizontal roofline for the structure.

105 South 6th Street
Photo 32

This small, one-story, masonry cottage is very classical in proportion and detail. Its gable end faces the street and is fronted by a shed roof porch supported by four slender, Doric columns across the front. The porch entablaure and the raking cornice of the gable create a classical pediment. A louvered lunette fills the center. The tall entrance with transom is centrally located and flanked by two-over-two, double-hung sash windows.

609 Alabama Street c. 1870
Photo 33

This two-story frame cottage is very similar in general format to 106 South 6th Street. The gable end, here sheathed in fishscale shingle, faces the street and is fronted by a shed roof porch. Six turned posts support the porch roof and are separated by simple rectangular rails and spindles. The entrance is centrally located and flanked by two double-hung sash windows. Two similar windows light the second floor at the front. The tall proportinos, clapboard and shingle sheathing, and more ornate porch supports give this house a Victorian character.

124 South 7th Street c. 1860
Photo #54

This two-story, masonry structure is very Palladian in its squarish massing. A central pavilion projects from the front and rises slightly above the deeply overhanging hip roof. Large, paired brackets separated by cyma reversa molding blocks support that overhang. The pavilion is capped by a gable roof whose deep overhang also is supported by ornate brackets. Four pairs of two-over-two, double-hung sash windows with limestone sills and pedimented lintels flank the pavilion across the front. A large Palladian window with ornate hood enriches the pavilion above the entrance. Added one-story, masonry and wood porches mar the structure's symmetry and balance.

322 South 5th Street c. 1850
Photo 89

One of the finer small cottages in the district, this one-and-one-half story masonry residence is in almost original condition on the exterior. It has a cross-gable, side hall plan. The first floor rises above a low stone foundation.

All openings have simple limestone sills and lintels. Windows appear to be the original, four-over-four, double-hung sash. Scalloped bargeboards enrich the front and side gables. A one-story porch is tucked into the southwest corner of the structure. The house is located on a corner lot and has an expanse of cast and wrought iron fence in good condition extending around the property along the south and east.

717 Columbia Street
Photo 3

A two-and-one-half story masonry structure with mansard slate roof, this house has a one-story enclosed entry projecting from the front center. A rectangular corner tower supported by a carved wooden brace projects from the second floor and the roof, to be capped by a slate shingled hip roof with finial. The half timbering of the tower combines with the mansard roof and segmentally arched windows with Italianate hoods to yield an eclectic appearance.

15 North 9th Street c. 1865
Photo 7

This simple, two-story garage is enriched on its side elevations but has a delicate bracketed cornice across the front, and linear broken pediment lintels over the entrance and three second-story windows.

10-12 South 8th Street
Photo 20

One of the relatively few apartment buildings in the district, this two-and-one-half story brick structure has polygonal bays at each end of its six-bay facade. Shallow concrete stoops give access to each of the two entrances. A limestone belt course running along the top of the basement, combined with limestone lintels and sills, provides color contrast to enrich the main facade.

801 South Street c. 1845
Photo 22, 23

This two-story masonry structure has its gable end to the street. A heavy raking cornice with returns echoed by the pedimented entrance with free standing Doric columns gives the residence a strong classical revival appearance. An expanse of tall cast and wrought iron fence is an important remnant of the large amount of cast iron that once distinguished South Street (photo 14).

805 South Street

Photo 24

This three-story masonry and frame apartment building is very residential in scale despite its substantial size. The grouped windows with transoms, recessed entrance bay, substantial set-back of the third floor, and balustraded roof decks all break up the mass to yield a structure that is quite compatible with its residential setting.

206 South 6th Street

Photo 50

This two-and-one-half story stuccoed residence, set on a high foundation, rises impressively above the sidewalk. The front gable has been treated as a full pediment with horizontal and raking cornices. Simple rectangular stone lintels crown the double-hung sash. The entrance has sidelights and transom framed with heavy classical moldings. The one-story porch across the front, though later, is appropriately scaled to the original house. Short Ionic columns set on high, rusticated concrete block plinths, support the porch roof.

609 Alabama Street (photo 33). The fact that people from all walks of life chose to live in the district is an indication of the significance it had in the local community.

While predominantly residential, the district shared its west border with Lafayette's commercial/industrial area. This proximity had significance since, at the time of the district's development, individual transportation consisted of non-mechanized forms, primarily walking and riding on horses and in horse-drawn carriages (note the predominance of hitching posts in photo 14). The working class did not have the means to traverse long distances to the workplace.

Henry Leavitt Ellsworth

The district is named after Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, the son of U.S. Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth. Born in Windsor, Connecticut, on November 10,1791, he graduated from Yale in 1810 and became president of the Aetna Insurance Company in 1819. Ellsworth was appointed to an Indian relocation committee in 1832 by President Andrew Jackson, and subsequently made several visits to the midwestern states. He kept notes on the farming potential of the Wabash Valley on one such trip.

In May, 1835, Ellsworth was appointed U.S. Commissioner of Patents. Through this office, he began to exploit the development of new farming mechanization, and plant introduction and testing. He became known as "The Father of the U.S. Patent Office" and "The Father of American Agriculture". He was a prairie farming advocate and, that same year, began acquiring lands in the Wabash Valley area.

Being an absentee land owner, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth promoted tenant farming and encouraged friends from the "Yale Crowd" to invest in prairie lands in Indiana and Illinois. His son, Henry William, came to Lafayette in 1835 to manage his father's lands and town improvements until 1845, when he entered the diplomatic service as United States Minister to Norway and Sweden. In 1837 and 1838, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth wrote a book, "Valley of the Upper Wabash, Indiana, with Hints on its Agricultural Advantages". The book failed to address issues regarding preparation for living and dwelling in the area and, hence, was dubbed an attempt to attract potential absentee investors. Ellsworth's apparent motives were resented by lawyers in Benton County, who opposed absentee land ownership. Nonetheless, investors close to the Ellsworth family bought 45,000 acres in the Wabash Valley between 1835 and 1855. Due to the high cost of draining, fencing, and breaking the tough prairie lands, Ellsworth began promoting grazing in 1841. In June, 1852, Henry L. Ellsworth was named president of the Tippecanoe County Agriculture Society, which he helped create. In the fall of that year he experimented with sod house construction. In 1855 and 1856 he developed a wooden railroad between what is now West Lafayette and Klondike to the west. By the late 1850s, this area's farmland proved less profitable than Ellsworth had predicted. Many of the "Yale Crowd" sold out at less than anticipated profits and bought land in Illinois and Iowa. Ellsworth's empire in this area waned by the end of 1857 and he finally moved back to Connecticut. Nonetheless, he opened the door to development in the Upper Wabash Valley and with that development came the growth of Lafayette and the district. He suffered a paralyzing stroke on December 17, 1858 and died ten days later.

Ellsworth's first city subdivision was platted August 6, 1844, just 19 years after William Digby and Robert Johnson platted the town of Lafayette. It is the block bounded by 6th, 7th, Columbia, and South Streets, and lies at the north edge of the district. It contained 10 lots, each 5' x 126' and a 14' alleyway. His mansion, a fine Greek Revival structure built in 1845, was located at the southeast corner of this block (current location of 10 North 7th Street, one of the few intrusions in the district). In May of that same year, Ellsworth resigned as patent commissioner and moved to Lafayette. Later owners of the Ellsworth Mansion doubled its size and turned it into the Stockton House, a fine hotel. It no longer stands on the site. 616, 620-622 (the Falley Townhouse), 624-628 (the Howe Block) and 630 South Street (The Annie Fowler House), all contributing structures, are currently located on the block (photos 9, 12-15).

Ellsworth's second subdivision was platted on September 14, 1846. It contained 17 lots, each 25' wide by 82.5' to 128' deep and was located on the south side of the block bounded by 6th, 7th, South and Alabama Streets. Recent demolition on this site razed several significant structures and removed the block's association with the district.

On July 5, 1851, Roswell C. Smith, who had helped manage Ellsworth's land holdings, married Annie Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt's daughter. They moved east so that Roswell could finish his law degree. Upon their return to Lafayette in 1852, Smith and William S. Peckman opened a law partnership Roswell and Annie took up residence at the Cedar Cottage, a spacious home on the northwest corner of 7th and Columbia Streets, just outside the north boundary of the district. Later, this became the site of the Columbia Apartments. Neither of these structures remains today. In 1870, Ellsworth's daughter, Annie, and Roswell C. Smith moved to New York City, where Roswell founded St. Nicholas, Scribners and Century magazines.

Introduction of railroads to Lafayette

The railroad line near the western boundary of the district was the first constructed in Lafayette. It was the product of James Brooks' efforts to connect the Ohio River at New Albany with the Great Lakes. By 1851, Brooks had connected New Albany with Salem and named the line after those two cities. In 1846, Lafayette promoter, Major Isaac C. Elston, and Crawfordsville lawyer, Alexander Thompson, formed the Crawfordsville and Wabash Railroad. By June 1, 1852, this line was complete between Crawfordsville and a point just south of Lafayette.

Fifteen days later, local merchants, John Purdue and William F. Reynolds, spoke publicly to raise $50,000 so the railroad could be brought into town. The following day, June 17, 1852, the Crawfordsville and Wabash Railroad was sold to James Brooks as the N.A. & S. By June 1, 1853, the line was complete to the Salem Street Depot, nine blocks north of the district, via 5th Street.

Collaboration between the Michigan Central Railroad and the New Albany and Salem Railroad resulted in a complete line from Michigan City to Lafayette by October 3, 1853. James Brooks extended the N.A.& S. line from Salem to Crawfordsville by June 24, 1854, thus completing the connection between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes. On July 3, 1854, the first train to complete the entire trip passed through the district on its 16 hour journey north

In 1857, the N.A. & S. became the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago. On May 1, 1865, the funeral train carrying President Abraham Lincoln's casket passed through the district and paused in Lafayette on this line en route to Michigan City. In 1893 the railroad became the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville. This line later became the Monon. It was a leader in the conversion of steam to diesel-electric power in 1946. Passenger service was discontinued on this line on September 30, 1967. The Monon was absorbed by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad on August 1, 1971, and later acquired by the Seaboard Coast System. The Amtrack System now provides passenger service on this line.

The railroad line along the southeast edge of the district was completed to Lafayette in 1856 as the Toledo, Wabash and Western. On February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln passed through Lafayette on this line en route to Washington, D.C., to assume his duties as President. The T.W.& W. changed hands several times, reflecting westward expansion. It became the Toledo, Wabash and St. Louis, then the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific. Then it was known, simply as the Wabash Railroad. This line begat the famous Wabash Cannonball. Norfolk and Western succeeded the Wabash Railroad. Today, the Norfolk and Southern Company operates on these tracks.

As noted in The Lafayette Preservation Notebook, the railroads led to general economic expansion--the development of manufacturing, fostering wholesale trade, meat packing, and enlargement of farm markets. When the railroads were built, they symbolized prosperity and continued growth for the community. The citizens of Lafayette at that time anticipated this potential and worked hard to bring the railroads to Lafayette. This involved allowing the railroad companies the freedom to align routes as they desired. The railroads were an amenity. Early trains were short and slow moving, and relatively few came through Lafayette; many were passenger trains. The lay of the land required that the tracks be laid through the growing residential area, including the Ellsworth district. Many people saw this as a sign of prosperity and built elaborate and expensive homes near the tracks. James Alexander, who designed the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, built his house at 420 Lingle Avenue (photo 98). The Ball Brothers, local merchants, built the house at 221 South 7th Street (photo 86). Robert C. Gregory, State Senator and Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, lived in the house at 213 South 7th Street (photo 87). Moses Fowler, who built and lived at 909 South Street (photo 43), had his own private car and siding. It was not uncommon for the affluent to have their own cars, many of which were taken to remote areas in the north part of the state for hunting trips or grand outings. Railroad "excursions" were quite popular in the early decades of the 20th century.

Later District Development

Post Ellsworth speculators included Moses Fowler, who did much to promote agricultural and community development in and around Lafayette. He designed, and had built, the Gothic Revival mansion at 909 South Street (photo 43). Fowler's wife, Elizabeth, donated the land at the southeast corner of Columbia and Seventh Streets to the Second Presbyterian Church in 1893. Two years later the building pictured in photo 1 was completed. Although partially destroyed by fire in 1897, it was fully insured and, therefore, rebuilt as it stands today.

Temple Israel (photos 38, 40), individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, adds to the district's significance in that it is the oldest known structure in Indiana originally built for a Jewish congregation. Formed in 1849, the Ahavas Achim congregation was the second in the state of Indiana.

The district's relationship with nearby commercial/industrial areas is reflected in the 19th century Italianate, commercial structure at 15 North 9th Street (photo 7). The lawn and mature, hardwood shade trees to the north of the building suggest that this part of the district did not support the high density found in the neighboring commercial area further north. The structure, while commercial in nature, was sited to be more sympathetic with the neighborhood in which it existed.

Post Railroad Prosperity Era

After the railroad prosperity era, Lafayette continued to grow in a more modest way. The Ellsworth Historic District became less desirable as train traffic increased. For this reason the Ellsworth District was not involved in the continued growth and rebuilding of the city. Today, it is a cohesive concentration of architecturally significant structures which convey a sense of the character of the district during its prime. This is achieved through the retention of the design features, density and materials used in the construction of the buildings, streets, alleys and sidewalks. The housing stock in the Ellsworth Historic District is deteriorated from neglect due to the changing values which have occurred over the last 100 years. This neglect is also responsible for preserving the density, integrity and cohesiveness of the district.

District Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district have been generally developed by the location of the Central Business District on the north, the railroad and hillside on the east and south, and the commercial and light industrial area and the 5th Street railroad tracks on the west. A substantial portion of the district has remained largely intact since its development. Minor edge fluctuations have been brought about by external forces (see discussion of Ellsworth's second subdivision continuation sheets).

The change in character, the decline in density and concentration of significant properties to the point where the integrity of the district is lost determine the exact location of the boundary. There are other historic districts adjacent to the Ellsworth Historic District, but they are different in character, property use and period of development.

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_____No. 143, May 5, 1985, p. C3.

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_____No. 159, May 19, 1985, p. C3.

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_____No. 191, June 16, 1985, p. B3.

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Boundary Description: Ellsworth Historic District

Starting at the SW corner of the intersection of 10th and Columbia Streets, the boundary runs west along the curb on the south side of Columbia to the SW corner of the intersection of 7th and Columbia to include the brick paved 7th Street.

The boundary then turns south and runs along the west curb of 7th Street to the south side of the alley between Columbia and South Streets.

From there, it turns west and proceeds to the west property line of 616 South Street. The boundary then turns south and proceeds along the property line to the north curb of South Street where it turns east and runs to the NE corner of the intersection of 7th and South Streets.

The boundary then turns south and follows the east curb of 7th Street to a point directly east of the south curb of Alabama Street.

It turns west, crosses 7th Street and proceeds along the south curb of Alabama Street to the SE corner of the intersection of 6th and Alabama, where it turns south and proceeds along the east curb of 6th Street to a point directly east of the south side of the alley between Alabama and New York Streets.

It turns west, crosses 6th Street and proceeds along the south edge of the alley to the SE corner of the intersection of said alley and the alley between 5th and 6th Streets.

The boundary turns south and proceeds along the east edge of the alley to a point directly east of the north property line of 508 New York Street, where it turns west and proceeds to the west property line.

It follows the west property line south to the north curb of New York Street, where it turns west and proceeds to the NE corner of the intersection of 5th and New York Streets.

From there, it turns north and proceeds to a point directly east of the south side of the alley which is on the north side of 116 South 5th Street. It proceeds west to the brick retaining wall which runs along the west edge of the property lines of 116-128 South 5th Street.

The boundary follows the retaining wall south to the north side of the intersecting alley which connects 4th and 5th Streets. It then angles southwest across the intersecting alley to the east side of the alley between 4th and 5th Streets. From there it proceeds south to the north curb of Romig Street,where it turns and proceeds east to the NE corner of the intersection of 5th and Romig Streets.

From this corner, the boundary proceeds south along the east curb of 5th Street to the SE side of the Seaboard Railroad right-of-way. It then turns NE and proceeds along the right-of-way to a point directly west of the south property line of 420 Lingle Avenue.

From that point, it turns and proceeds east to the west curb of Lingle Avenue. Turning north, the boundary includes and follows the limestone curb in a curving, northwesterly direction to the SE side of the Seaboard Railroad right-of-way.

It turns NE and follows the right-of-way to the limestone curb on the north side of Romig Street. Including the curb, the boundary proceeds east to the NW corner of the intersection of 7th and Romig Streets where it turns and proceeds north along the west curb of 7th Street to a point directly west of the north side of the private drive between 221 and 307 South 7th Street.

From that point, it proceeds east to the east property line of 221 South 7th Street. There, the boundary turns north and follows the property line counterclockwise to its intersection with the east property line of 213 South 7th Street, where it turns north and proceeds to a point directly west of the south property line of 125 South 8th Street.

It turns east and proceeds to the east property line of 125 South 8th Street, then turns north and proceeds to the north property line of 115 South 8th Street. The boundary turns west and proceeds to the SE side of the Seaboard Railroad right-of-way, where it turns NE and proceeds along the right-of-way to a point directly west of the south property line of 909 South Street.

The boundary proceeds east to the west curb of 10th Street where it turns north and proceeds to the point of beginning at the SW corner of 10th and Columbia Streets.