

North Indiana Avenue Historic District



1920s and 1930s. Two Classical Revival style structures in the district, the McCalla School and a late nineteenth century house, were designed by Bloomington architect John Nichols. American styles of architecture are present in Craftsman style bungalows, American four-squares and a Prairie style house. Cut limestone retaining walls and brick sidewalks add to the historic character of the district.

Downtown Bloomington businesses owned and operated by residents of the district were Reed's Steam Laundry, the Vermilya Pharmacy and the Wylie furniture store. Professionals in the

neighborhood included a judge, a State Supreme Court chief justice, a politician, an engineer and Indiana University professors. An Indiana Limestone Company estimator, Showers Brothers furniture factory employees and other working class people also lived throughout the district. Indiana University Professor of Philosophy and Physiology Ernest Lindley, for whom Lindley Hall on the I.U. campus is named, lived with his wife, Elisabeth, at 515 East Eighth. Their house became the home of the Sigma Phi Upsilon and Sigma Delta Tau sororities in the 1930s. The district's most famous resident was Hoagy Carmichael, who lived with his family for a time in a modest L-shaped house at 214 North Dunn.



In Appreciation:

Financial support for this publication was provided by the Housing and Neighborhood Development. This brochure was first published in 1988 and has gone through four editions. (Last update 8/2017) It was originally funded through a grant from the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

Research and design assistance by William Coulter, Nancy Hiestand, Ellen M. Campbell. Updates and photographs taken by Stacy Hardy. A special thanks to Bethany Emenhiser for her assistance.

(Completed on back panel)

The district is characterized by cottages and larger houses in the Queen Anne, Free Classic and Period Revival styles. They were built and occupied by Bloomington business owners, professionals and employees. The Indiana University professors and employees built Dutch Colonial Revival houses include Tudor, Colonial and Period Revival styles. The larger cottages and larger houses built in the 1920s and 1930s are occupied by the City of Bloomington, Indiana.



the district's association with the university. Former Sigma Pi House (201 North Indiana) was built in 1907 in response to this growth. The McCalla School, the northern anchor of the district, in this northeast direction. The Margaret in Dunn Meadow in 1884 and the city expanded after Indiana University moved to its new location in Dunn Addition to the east. The area began to grow as Prow's Gardeens, which bordered the original plat (re-platted in 1927 by Fred and Hallie Prow) in addition to the north of the city to the edge of Bloomington. One year earlier, Jacob Young adjusted the eastern edge of the original plat the Dunn Addition, a narrow strip of his land in District. In 1873, he platted 63, by 142, lots in what is now the North Indiana Avenue Historic inheited a 160-acre tract of land that encompassed Moses Dunn, an attorney and farmer.

North Indiana Avenue

A Walk Through the North Indiana Avenue Historic District

Historic Tour Guide No. 7



City of Bloomington, Indiana



North Indiana Avenue Tour Sites

1. Sigma Pi House 201 North Indiana c. 1929

The Beta Chapter of Sigma Pi was established at Indiana University in 1905, reestablished in 1924 and built in this house in 1929. The large Tudor Revival form is distinguished by a cut ashlar limestone facade, large gables, a small entrance gable and half-timbering on the west side. The steeply pitched slate roofs shelter a formerly open arcaded porch on the south and a blind arcaded room on the north. The Sigma Pis occupied the house until 1967.



2. 528 East Seventh c. 1890

This pyramid-roof wood frame cottage has two gabled bays and a conical roof over the corner of the porch. Bert and Elizabeth Cole lived here from early in this century until the 1940s; Mr. Cole was a civil engineer.



3. 527 East Seventh c. 1890

This wood frame L-shaped cottage with classical cornice and stylized gable vent detail is attributed to Bloomington architect John Nichols. C.P. and Josephine Reed lived here from around 1910 through the 1920s; he was the proprietor of Reed's Steam Laundry at 309-311 South Lincoln.



4. Reed Apartments 307-309 North Indiana c. 1926

At the north end of his lot at 527 East Seventh, C.P. Reed built this four-flat Colonial Revival apartment building. The front is composed of private balconies, one for each flat, and a pedimented entrance portico with fluted pilasters. Robinson Hitchcock, manager of the People's Insurance & Realty Co. in the former Kresge Building on the square, and his wife, Marjorie, were early and long-time residents. Other residents included Indiana University students and professors. Josephine Reed lived here in the 1930s after the death of her husband.



5. 317 North Indiana c. 1905

Druggist Oyde Vermilya of the Vermilya Pharmacy at 122 North Walnut and his wife, Angie, were the first residents of this Free Classic style house in 1909. Frederick Dodds, a ticket agent on the Monon Route and later an insurance and real estate salesman, lived here with his wife, Blanche, from the early 1920s into the 1940s. Fancy cut brackets and classical porch columns grouped in threes, colored cut-glass and diamond-pained windows and a slate--shingled, round tower give this one-story cottage a whimsical and delightful grace.



6. 321 North Indiana c. 1905

This pyramid-roof cottage has front and side facing gables and classical details such as the porch columns grouped in threes, a colored cut-glass window, fancy cut exposed roof rafters and a modillioned band across the front. Charles Wylie, who with his brother Allan founded the Wylie furniture store at 118 North Walnut, lived here with his wife, Etta, from 1909 until the 1930s. Winfred Thrasher, owner of The Griddle restaurant at 421 East Kirkwood, lived here with his wife, Ethel, in the 1930s.



7. 401 North Indiana c. 1905

Attorney and Monroe County Circuit Court Judge J. Frank Regester and his wife, Alice, lived in this two story wood frame house from 1909 until the 1940s.

A corner turret with conical roof identifies the house as Queen Anne in style, and projecting gables, simple porch columns and banded entablatures give the house a classical feel.



8. 405 North Indiana c. 1905

John Foley, a mechanician at Indiana University, and his wife, Nellie, were long-time residents of this two-story, wood frame house with simple classical details.

The primary ornament is a front-gabled porch roof supported by Tuscan columns and a south-facing oriel window.



9. 409 North Indiana

c. 1905

The only Dutch Colonial Revival house in the district, this gambrel roof, two-story, wood frame house was the home of Herschel Black, an assistant to the manager at the Showers Brothers Co., and his wife, Emma, in the 1920s. In the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s and 1940s, this was the home of Arthur Berndt, director of welfare at Showers Brothers and later director of safety at Indiana University, and his wife, Ruth.



10. 417 North Indiana

c. 1905

In 1909, civil engineer Leon Dinsmore and his wife, Carrie, lived in this large, wood frame Free Classic style house, where they stayed into the 1940s. The porch is the most striking feature with its Tuscan-balustrade limestone columns, bowed porch railing and arcaded roof structure with classical cornice.



11. Mathers House

419 North Indiana

c. 1915

This Tudor Revival and Craftsman style house has a brick first floor and a half-timbered second floor, as well as multi-paned upper sash and a square floor plan. Frank Mathers, an Indiana University professor of chemistry, and his wife, Maude, made this their home from 1916 until the 1930s. Indiana University's William Hammond Mathers Museum of World Cultures is named for the Mathers' son.



12. Margaret McCalla School

527 East Ninth/

501 North Indiana

c. 1907

Built in 1907 in response to the northeastward development of Bloomington, the McCalla School served as an elementary school for many years. The school was named for Margaret McCalla, a popular Monroe County teacher. In 1974 it became classroom and studio space for Indiana University art students. The oldest part of this large brick Classical Revival school was designed by architect John Nichols and has two full stories on a raised limestone foundation. Architect Alfred Grindle designed the historic addition.



13. 403 North Dunn

c. 1916

A laundress, a chauffeur, a tailor, and a fireman were all residents over the years of this Craftsman bungalow. The low pitched roof, battered porch posts and knee braces are all common features of this style.



14. 505 East Eighth

c. 1920

Four-square style houses, such as this one at 505 East Eighth became popular in the 1920s and could be built relatively cheaply and quickly, providing more living space than a bungalow. This house was first owned by Guss Davis, president of Working Men's Building and Loan. Two years later he sold it to Capt. RH Neely, an educator at IU.

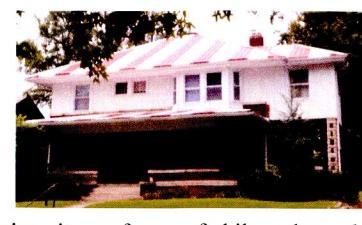


15. Lindley House

515 East Eighth

c. 1910

This brick and wood frame American four-square and Prairie style house was originally the home of Ernest Lindley, Indiana University professor of philosophy and psychology, and his wife, Elisabeth. Two sororities, Sigma Phi Upsilon and Sigma Delta Tau, were housed here in the 1930s. Wide overhanging eaves and an east wing give the square house a horizontal orientation, reflecting the influence of the Prairie style introduced by Midwest architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



16. Brooks-Henley House

512 East Eighth

c. 1905

Indiana University Fine Arts Professor Alfred Brooks modeled this brick Colonial Revival house on his boyhood home in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and lived here with his wife, Ruth, from 1916 to 1922. Attorney and State Supreme Court Chief Justice George Henley and his wife, Elba, lived here from 1922 until the 1960s and 1970s. The limestone entrance portico with Tuscan columns and the colonnaded east porch add distinction to the house, as does the deep, landscaped front yard.



17. Flora Henley House

508 East Eighth

c. 1905

George Henley bought this Craftsman bungalow for his mother, Flora, his sister Violet, and his aunt in 1910. Violet was a secretary in George's Law firm. The large cut limestone blocks that form the front wall of the porch are a unique Indiana variation on this American style. Exposed roof rafters, low-pitched roof, knee braces and multi-paned sash are other Craftsman style features.



18. 317 and 319

North Dunn

c. 1905

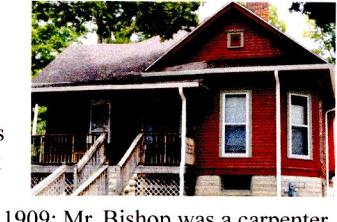
These twin Craftsman bungalows were built by 1909 and were home to a clerk, a storage business operator and William Sears, superintendent of the veneer mill and later assistant general superintendent at the Showers Brothers Co. Knee braces, exposed roof rafters and multi-paned upper sash are all classic Craftsman details.



19. 314 North Dunn

c. 1905

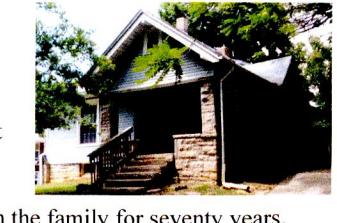
This pyramid-roof cottage displays such classical features as the porch columns and front-facing gable. Frank and Mary Bishop were the first residents of the house in 1909; Mr. Bishop was a carpenter. An estimator for the Indiana Limestone Co., Albert Harn and his wife, Thurza, lived here through the 1920s.



20. 501 East Seventh

c. 1901

Built by limestone company clerk Glen Hepley, this bungalow is one of the oldest of its kind in Bloomington. The house passed to his daughter Ola and remained in the family for seventy years.



21. 507-509 East Seventh

c. 1900

Robert Davis, a clerk, and his wife, Jennie, resided in this duplex in 1900. The simple symmetrical structure has classical cornice returns in the front facing gable and multi-pained upper sash.



22. 518 East Seventh

c. 1905

This Craftsman bungalow originally had an open porch. The brown brick, limestone details, exposed roof rafters, knee braces, and multi-paned upper sash define the style. Joseph Kadison, proprietor of the Kadison and Wolf Clothing store at 113 N College, and his wife, Dora, lived here in the 1920s.



23. 222 North Dunn

c. 1895

George Walker, a painter and decorator, lived in this wood frame American four-square style house from the turn of the century until the 1950s. The simple form and classic details still appear as they did in this early 1930s photograph.



24. Hoagy Carmichael House

214 North Dunn

c. 1890

During his childhood, Hoagy Carmichael and his family lived for a time in this wood frame L-shaped cottage. After graduating from Indiana University, he went on to become a celebrated composer of popular music and is best known for his composition Stardust.



Please respect the privacy of the owners by viewing all private buildings from the street.