

No. 7 North Indiana Avenue

In 1857, Moses Dunn, an attorney and farmer, inherited a 160-acre tract of land that encompassed what is now the North Indiana Avenue Historic District. In 1873, he patented 63' by 142' lots in the Dunn Addition, a narrow strip of his land adjoining the eastern edge of the original plat of Bloomington. One year earlier, Jacob Young patented an addition to the city to the north as Prow's Gardens, which bordered the Dunn Addition to the east. The area began to grow after Indiana University moved to its new location in Dunn Meadow in 1884 and the city expanded in this northeasterly direction. The Margaret McCalla School, the northern anchor of the district, was built in 1907 in response to the growth. The corner Sigma Pi House (201 North Indiana) and the district on the south and east encompasses the district's association with the university.

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, professors and Indiana University professors and employees. The period revival houses include Tudor, Colonial and Dutch Colonial Revival styles built in the 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 Nickols. 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 Wyle Furniture Store. Professionals in the neighborhood included a judge, a State Supreme Court professor, an Indiana Limestone Company estimator, a dietitian, a podiatrist, an engineer and Indiana University professors. An Indiana Limestone Company employee and other work-ing class people also lived throughout the district. Indiana University Professor of Philosophy and Psychology 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 the Sigma Delta Tau societies 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.

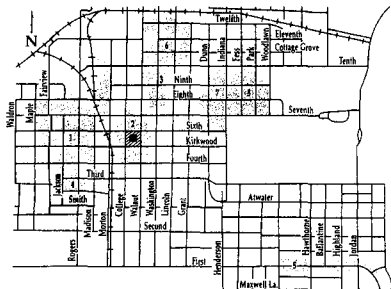
The North Indiana Avenue Historic District was nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in June of 1992. More information on North Indiana Avenue, and a copy of the National Register nomination, may be found in the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library.

North Indiana Avenue

A Walk Through the North Indiana Avenue Historic District

Historic Tour Guide No. 7

Walking Tours Through Historic Districts



1. West Side
2. Courthouse Square
3. North Washington Street
4. Prospect Hill
5. Vinegar Hill Limestone
6. Cottage Grove
7. North Indiana Avenue
8. University Courts

Additional copies of the walking tour brochures are available at the Monroe County Historical Museum, the Department of Redevelopment, City of Bloomington or from Bloomington Restorations, Inc.

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Bloomington Restorations Inc.

A FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MONROE COUNTY
P.O. Box 1522, Bloomington, Indiana, 47402





1. Sigma Pi House
201 North Indiana
1929

The Beta Chapter of Sigma Pi was established at Indiana University in 1905, reestablished in 1924 and built 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 arched porch on the south and a blind arched room on the north. The Sigma PIs occupied the house until 1967.



2. 528 East Seventh
ca. 1890

Pictured here in the early 1930s, 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
ca. 1890

This wood frame L-shaped cottage with classical cornice and stylized gable vent detail is attributed to Bloomington architect John Nichols. C.F. 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
ca. 1926

At the north end of his lot at 527 East Seventh, C.F. 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
ca. 1905

Druggist Clyde 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-paned windows and a slate-shingled, round tower give this one-story cottage a whimsical and delightful grace.



6. Wylie House
321 North Indiana
ca. 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 conditioned 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. Regester House
401 North Indiana
ca. 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. The house is shown here in an early 1930s photograph.



16. Brooks-Henley House
512 East Eighth
1913

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
ca. 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
ca. 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
ca. 1905

This pyramid-roof cottage displays such classical details 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 during the 1920s.



20. 507-509 East Seventh
ca. 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-paned upper sash.



21. 518 East Seventh
ca. 1905

This Craftsman bungalow originally had an open porch, as seen in this early 1930s photograph. 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 North College, and his wife, Dora, lived here in the 1920s.



22. 222 North Dunn
ca. 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.



23. Hoagy Carmichael House
214 North Dunn
ca. 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."

8. 405 North Indiana
ca. 1905

John Foley, a mechanic 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
ca. 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
ca. 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 arched roof structure with classical cornice.



11. Mathers House
419 North Indiana
ca. 1915

This Tudor Revival and Craftsman style house, shown here in an early 1930s photograph, 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
525 East Ninth/501 North Indiana
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. 414 North Dunn
ca. 1928

This Craftsman bungalow was built between 1927 and 1929. Edward Kaser, proprietor of a variety store at 117 South College, and his wife, Minnie, were long-time residents.



14. 403 North Dunn
ca. 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.



15. Lindley House
515 East Eighth
ca. 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.