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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Residential Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 28, 103-403 East Union Street; 4-8 West Seminary Street; 2-124 East Seminary Street; 1-7 South Fairground Street; 2 and 102 College Corner Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Liberty ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Union code 161 zip code 47353

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Liberty Residential Historic District
Name of Property

Union County, Indiana
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

X	Private
X	public – Local
X	public – State
	public – Federal

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

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
67	8	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
67	8	**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.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
RELIGION: religious facility
EDUCATION: library
EDUCATION: school
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility
GOVERNMENT: fire station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
RELIGION: religious facility
EDUCATION: library
EDUCATION: library
GOVERNMENT: fire station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman/Bungalow
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE
walls: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; WOOD: shingle
WOOD: weatherboard; BRICK; STUCCO
roof: OTHER: composite shingle
other: Roof: METAL: steel; OTHER: ceramic tile

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Liberty Residential Historic District is located just east of the courthouse square in the Union County seat of Liberty, Indiana. The district is mainly comprised of two main streets, East Union Street and East Seminary Street (US Highway 27). With a total of seventy-six resources, the district includes both residences and public/civic buildings. The public buildings form a buffer between the main commercial center of town and the primary residential area. Of the seventy-five buildings, sixty-seven are contributing and eight are non-contributing.

Narrative Description

Located primarily on two streets (East Union Street and East Seminary Street) in Liberty, Center Township, Union County, Indiana, the buildings within the Liberty Residential Historic District are primarily residences; there are seventy-one residences, two churches, one library, and two public infrastructure buildings. The district is located adjacent to the commercial/political center of the town, and the properties represent a cohesive unit framed by large shade trees and wide streets and sidewalks (see Photos 0001 through 0019). This area is 28.85 acres containing sixty-seven contributing buildings and eight non-contributing buildings. Several public and religious buildings form a buffer between the commercial heart of the town and the primary residential area. These include two churches, the library, the 1872 Sheriff's residence and jail, and the modern police and fire stations. These buildings provide a transition from the "business" area to the "residential" area. The contributing buildings represent over a century of development along Liberty's most prominent streets, close to the downtown of the county seat. Included in this list are civic buildings, stylish homes of prominent Liberty families in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as vernacular homes reflecting general architectural trends of the time periods.

While many of the buildings within the district have undergone changes through the years, the majority retain their historic feeling and setting. Minor changes, such as replacement windows, the addition of vinyl siding, and enclosed porches, are common throughout the district. Several properties are rated as non-contributing because they were constructed outside of the period of significance, but most non-contributing buildings are classified as such because of the overwhelming number and nature of changes to those properties. This includes fenestration changes, unsympathetic additions, and the removal of historic material. Despite these changes, the district retains its overall feeling and character. Lot sizes (while irregular) have remained the same, as have set-backs and building placement. Both streets retain the feeling of prominent

thoroughfares into the center of town, East Union Street being the Liberty terminus of the College Corner Turnpike (today College Corner Avenue) (see Photo 0008), and East Seminary as US Highway 27 (see Photos 0009 through 0014).

Inventory List

C First Presbyterian Church, (IHSSI # 161-357-16014), 1889, 103 East Union Street, Romanesque Revival (See Photos 0001 and 0015)

The First Presbyterian Church at 103 East Union Street was constructed in 1889 in the Romanesque Revival style. The church has a raised basement of limestone and exterior brick walls. All of the windows have stone sills and lintels, some corresponding with a stone course stretching across the bay. A three-story bell tower dominates the southwestern corner of the building; a smaller two-story tower is present on the southeastern corner. Large, arched stained-glass windows with limestone hoods exist in the gable-end (south elevation) and on the west elevation.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-16028), c.1875,[1] 28 East Union Street, Italianate

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-16029), c. 1900, 8 West Seminary Street, L-plan

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-16030), c. 1915, 6 West Seminary Street, American Foursquare

C United Methodist Church, (IHSSI # 161-357-16032), 1886, 4 West Seminary Street, Romanesque Revival

C Union County Public Library, (IHSSI # 1 61-357-16033), 1915/2003, 2 East Seminary Street, Craftsman (See Photo 0016)

The Union County Carnegie library was constructed in 1915 with funds obtained from Andrew Carnegie. Like many Carnegie libraries throughout the state, the Union County Public Library featured a Craftsman-style design that was established by Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram.[2] While the specific design was left up to a local architect, common themes included a one-story building on a raised basement, a main entry accessed by a set of steps from the sidewalk, and first floor cathedral ceilings. The Union County Public Library has a brick veneer with decorative concrete insets, a hipped-roof with Spanish tile, a dominant central entrance with original wooden double doors and a large entry hood with ornate decorative brackets. The windows are replacement one-over-one pane with transoms and flank the original entrance in ribbons of four windows. An addition was constructed to the east side of the building in 2003, designed to match the original in all aspects.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17001), c. 1900, 203 East Union Street, Gable-front

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17002), c. 1890, 205 East Union Street, T-plan

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17003), c. 1890, 207 East Union Street, Gabled ell

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17004), c. 1890, 209 East Union Street, Italianate

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17005), c. 1900, 213 East Union Street, Gable-front

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17006), c. 1870, 215 East Union Street, I-house (See Photo 0002 for a view of 215-301 East Union Street)

This two-story, side-gable c.1870 I-house is clad in vinyl siding. The three-bay façade has a slightly projecting center gable in the roofline; this center bay contains a second-story window and entrance door. First-story windows have arched fanlights (likely a modern decorative element) and the front door has sidelights and a transom. All of the windows have been replaced. The one-story front porch has replacement spindle-work and

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, dates of construction for the following buildings within the district were gathered from the *Union County Interim Report* (Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 2010).
[2] National Park Service, "Carnegie Libraries: The Future Made Bright," http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/50carnegie/50carnegie.htm (accessed January 14, 2011).

balustrade. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the walls are clad with vinyl siding. This property is non-contributing due to alterations.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17007), c. 1870, 217 East Union Street, Center Gable Cottage
(See Photo 0002 for a view of 215-301 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17008), c. 1880, 219 East Union Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0002 for a view of 215-301 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17009), c. 1900, 301 East Union Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0002 for a view of 215-301 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17010), c. 1860, 305 East Union Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0007)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17011), 1888, 307 East Union Street, Queen Anne

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17012), 1909, 309 East Union Street, Free Classic/Gabled Ell
(See Photo 0005 for a view of 309-313 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17013), c. 1910, 311 East Union Street, Free Classic
(See Photo 0005 for a view of 309-313 East Union Street)

This two-and-one-half-story, Free Classic-style house was constructed c.1910. The house rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation, has walls of brick veneer, and a replacement standing-seam metal roof. The house has a central hipped-roof core with one front-facing gable and one side-facing cross gable. A brick chimney with concrete sill accents exists on the east elevation. The house features original one-over-one, double-hung windows with prominent concrete sills and lintels and a wraparound porch supported by wooden Doric columns.

C John S. Nixon House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17014), 1879, 313 East Union Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0005)

The John S. Nixon House, 313 East Union Street, is an Italianate-style home constructed in 1879.[3] It is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-front house with a four-story tower on the southeast corner of the building. A one-story porch supported by a mixture of round and square columns flanks the tower to the west and north. The windows appear to be original, two-over-two pane, wooden sashes. Windows in the tower are mostly arched with some small round windows. The house is covered with clapboard siding. Several one-story additions have been built onto the house, stretching to the north and a garage stretches to the rear and west. There are two interior chimneys and one arched dormer window.

The John S. Nixon house has been greatly modified since its inclusion in the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) in 1963. The house originally had a mixture of horizontal and vertical board siding, decorative window crowns with keystones above the arched windows, functional shutters, decorative panels and brackets on the tower cornice, and a third-story arched window in the gable peak. The one-story porch in the corner of the tower and south façade had a decorative balustrade on the wooden deck as well as the deck above. The supports were square with substantial capitals. These modifications appear to date mostly to c.1975, when the property's use changed from a residence to a medical facility (the Union County Medical Center, Inc.).[4] Alterations to the property included the removal, covering, or replacement of most original decorative trim including shingle siding and clapboard, brackets on the tower cornice, all window shutters, arched gable window, window hoods on all of the tower windows, the one-story porch, the balustrade above the porch, the finial on the gable ridge, the convex roof midway up the tower, and window lintels. Modern screen doors were also installed.[5] Possibly around this time, the main entrance to the house changed from the east side of the house (Fosdick Street) to the south (East Union Street).

[3] *Union County Interim Report*, 67.
[4] Thomas M. Slade, ed., *Historic American Buildings Survey in Indiana* (Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1983), 123.
[5] Wilbur D. Peat, *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962), 116, 123-124.

In 1859, the property was owned by John Haden and consisted of a twenty acre lot.[6] Likely at this time, no buildings existed on the lot or surrounding parcels. Haden sold the property to Amelia Johnson in 1859 for $1,212.30, and she remained the owner until selling the property to John S. Nixon in 1870 for $5,000.[7] Nixon only owned the property for three years, selling it to John S. Galbaugh (shown in the 1884 atlas as owning the property). The parcel remained a twenty-acre lot at least until the early 1900s and changed hands many times before it became the Union County Medical Center in the 1970s. Today it is a private residence.

Extensive research did not uncover any information about John S. Nixon, nor explain the discrepancy in regards to building date. Deed research shows that John S. Galbaugh owned the property in 1879, the year all available resources state that the house was constructed. In addition, the actual HABS form for the house could not be located at the Library of Congress or at local repositories.[8]

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17015), 1903, 317 East Union Street, Dutch Colonial Revival
(See Photo 0006)

The house at 317 East Union Street is a one-and-one-half-story Dutch Colonial-style dwelling with original wood doors, windows, and siding built in 1903.[9] The roof consists of crossing gambrels covered with diamond-shaped composite shingles. The gables all contain one-over-one pane windows. The front-facing gable has a ribbon of three windows with a decorative circular window in the gable peak. In each gable, fishscale shingles bracket the windows with diamond-shaped shingles located above the windows in the gable peak. A one-story porch spans the façade, supported by round columns on rusticated concrete block bases.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17016), c. 1910, 319 East Union Street, Craftsman Bungalow
(See Photo 0006 for a view of 317-401 East Union Street)

Constructed c.1910, the house at 319 East Union Street is a side-gable, dormer-front Craftsman Bungalow that is one-and-one-half stories in height and clad in stucco. The asphalt shingle roof is marked with decorative eave brackets and a central brick chimney. The façade (south elevation) contains the original front door, a large bay window with four-over-one original windows, and a one-story porch supported by flaring rectangular pillars. The dormer is gable-front and illuminated with a pair of arched, six-over-one pane windows surrounded by decorative half-timbering. A small balustrade frames the dormer. Both west and east elevations contain projecting side-gable rooms.

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17017), c. 1900, 321 East Union Street, Cross-gable
(See Photo 0006 for a view of 317-401 East Union Street)

This property is non-contributing due to alterations.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17018), c. 1900, 323 East Union Street, Queen Anne Cottage
(See Photo 0006 for a view of 317-401 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17019), c. 1905, 401 East Union Street, Free Classic
(See Photo 0006 for a view of 317-401 East Union Street)

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17020), c. 1955, 403 East Union Street, Ranch

This property is non-contributing due to age.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17021), c. 1920, 405 East Union Street, Bungalow

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17022), c. 1890, 202 East Union Street, T-plan

This property is non-contributing due to alterations.

[6] Union County Deed Book [UCDB] Q, 491.
[7] UCDB V, 256.
[8] Repositories checked include the Indiana State Library, Indiana State Archives, Indiana Landmarks, Ball State University Drawings and Documents Archives, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and the Indiana Historical Society.
[9] *Union County Interim Report*, 67.

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17023), c. 1940, 204 East Union Street, Colonial Revival
(See Photo 0003 for a view of 204-210 East Union Street)

This property is non-contributing due to age.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17024), c. 1895, 206 East Union Street, Folk Victorian/T-plan
(See Photo 0003 for a view of 204-210 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17025), c. 1900, 208 East Union Street, Queen Anne
(See Photo 0003 for a view of 204-210 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17026), pre-1890, 210 East Union Street, Center Passage
(See Photo 0003 for a view of 204-210 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17027), c.1890, 212 East Union Street, Gabled Ell

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17028), c. 1890, 302 East Union Street, Gable-front

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17029), c. 1870, 304 East Union Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0017 for a view of 304-308 East Union Street)

Constructed c.1870, the two-story, T-plan, Italianate-style house at 304 East Union is marked by clapboard siding, a large projecting two-story bay window, and decorative eave brackets. There is a one-story porch on the west elevation and a one-story screened-in porch on the east elevation. The roof is clad with asphalt singles. All of the tall, narrow windows are one-over-one with decorative window hoods. The substantial two-story bay window is embellished with a small mansard roof, large decorative eave brackets, and decorative scroll-work in the gable.

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17030), c. 1950, 306 East Union Street, Cape Cod
(See Photo 0017 for a view of 304-308 East Union Street)

This property is non-contributing due to age.

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17031), c. 1950,[10] 308 East Union Street, Mid-Century Eclectic
(See Photo 0017 for a view of 304-308 East Union Street)

Built c.1950, the house at 308 East Union Street is a two-story Mid-Century Eclectic-style house.[11] It has a rough-cut, stone veneer, hipped roof, and recessed entry. A projecting pyramidal-roof bay exists on the east side of the façade. The recessed entry stretches from foundation to eave and contains a second story, two-pane casement window. The entry is sheltered by a small hipped-roof porch supported by decorative wrought iron pillars. The windows are the original sixteen-pane with two, three-pane casement sashes. The front door is a modern vinyl replacement topped with a fanlight. An exterior chimney marks the west elevation and a one-story addition has been constructed to the rear.

On this site in 1866, the first public school was constructed in Liberty. This building was a two-room schoolhouse and was soon replaced with a brick eight-room building in 1875, which housed both the grade school and high school.[12] Space soon became limited again and in 1908, a second brick school was built on the same lot, but facing East Seminary Street. The second school housed the high school while the elementary grades remained in the original brick building. However, construction of the new school was shoddy and the building was razed in 1923. A new school was built at the east end of East Union Street, on the same property as the present high school. The 1875 eight-room school was condemned in 1947 and students moved to a new elementary school in

[10] While the *Interim Report* listed this property as c. 1930, research showed that the Liberty Elementary School located on this parcel was not razed until the late 1940s, placing date of construction for the current house c. 1950.
[11] Sanborn Map Company, *Liberty, Indiana*, IUPUI University Library via ProQuest, Digital Sanborn Maps, 1887-1932.
[12] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County, Indiana 1821-1988* (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 1989), 148.

the 1950 school year.[13] After the school was demolished, the parcel was split in two and a new house constructed on each lot. This property is non-contributing due to age.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17032), c. 1880, 310 East Union Street, Lazy-T

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17033), c. 1890, 312 East Union Street, Gable Front
(See Photo 0018 for a view of 312-320 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17034), c. 1910, 314 East Union Street, Craftsman Bungalow
(See Photo 0018 for a view of 312-320 East Union Street)

This one-and-one-half-story, dormer-front Bungalow built c.1910 rises from a rusticated concrete block foundation with walls clad with a stucco veneer. A porte cochere marks the west elevation. Windows are original four-over-one, double-hung sashes. The façade boasts a full-width, one-story porch under the principle roof. The shed dormer contains three sets of paired, one-over-one pane, double-hung windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and emphasized with exposed rafter tails and decorative triangular brackets.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17035), c .1850, 318 East Union Street, Double-pile
(See Photo 0018 for a view of 312-320 East Union Street)

The two-story double-pile house constructed c.1850 features four bays on the façade (window-door-door-window), clapboard siding, and a prominent stucco-covered chimney in the center of the house. The tall, side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The second-story windows are original two-over-two pane, double-hung sashes, while the first-story windows are replacements of one-over-one panes with the upper sash containing some stained glass. The two front doors and one side door (east elevation) have three-pane transoms and replacement aluminum screen doors. The one-story hipped-roof front porch is supported by decorative turned posts.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17036), c. 1905, 320 East Union Street, Free Classic
(See Photo 0018 for a view of 312-320 East Union Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17037), c. 1900, 322 East Union Street, Queen Anne

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17038), c. 1900, 324 East Union Street, Gabled Ell

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17039), c. 1890, 326 East Union Street, Cross-gable

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17040), c. 1915, 101 East Seminary Street, Craftsman Bungalow
(See Photo 0012)

The two-and-one-half-story, dormer-front Craftsman Bungalow at 101 East Seminary Street was constructed c.1915. The façade features a one-story enclosed porch with six casement windows flanking each side of a double-door entry. The building is clad with a brick veneer except in the gables, where half-timbering and stucco has been used. The shed dormer contains a ribbon of five one-over-one pane double-hung sash windows and is clad with wood shingles. The roof is covered with American Spanish red tile. The majority of the windows have concrete sills, and a small bay window is present on the east elevation. There is an exterior brick chimney on the west elevation.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17041), c. 1895, 103 East Seminary Street, Queen Anne
(See Photo 0012 for a view of the north side of East Seminary Street)

This house at 103 East Seminary Street is a two-story, heavily modified, c.1895 Queen Anne-style house. The house has a pyramidal roof with a front-facing gable and a side gable containing a two-story, three-sided, projecting bay. Two original doors are present, one in the main block of the house on the south elevation, and one in the south elevation of the projecting bay. The majority of windows have original decorative window surrounds, but the panes have been replaced. The roof is covered with diamond-shaped composition shingles. The house is

[13] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 148.

clad with replacement vinyl siding, and it is likely that a large porch has been removed. Several small one-story additions are present to the rear.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17042), c. 1885, 105 East Seminary Street, Gable Front

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17043), c. 1915, 107 East Seminary Street, Bungalow

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17044), c. 1880, 109 East Seminary Street, I-house
(See Photo 0013 for a view of 109-121 East Seminary Street)

NC House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17045), c. 1900, 111 East Seminary Street, T-plan
(See Photo 0013 for a view of 109-121 East Seminary Street)

The c.1900, T-plan house at 111 East Seminary Street stands two stories tall with a brick foundation and an interior brick chimney. Alterations to the house have been many, including replacement vinyl windows and vinyl siding. In the corner of the "T", a one-story, shed-roofed porch (a likely replacement) has a concrete pad and replacement balustrade. There is a rear one-story, shed-roof addition. This house is rendered non-contributing due to the lack of original materials.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17046), c. 1885, 113 East Seminary Street, I-house
(See Photos 0009 and 0013)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17047), c. 1915, 115 East Seminary Street, Prairie
(See Photos 0009 and 0013)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17048), c. 1890, 121 East Seminary Street, Queen Anne
(See Photos 0009 and 0013)

C John B. Macy House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17049), 1876, 102 East Seminary Street, Italianate
(See Photo 0011)

Constructed in 1876 by John B. Macy, a Civil War veteran, this two-story, brick, Italianate-style house has an L-shaped plan. Noteworthy features include original, tall, narrow windows with decorative window crowns, decorative cornice brackets, and two interior brick chimneys. A one-story, screened-in porch has been added to the façade (north elevation), obscuring the original first story fenestration. A one-story wing extends to the south.

The house appears much the same today as it did in the 1884 *Union County Atlas*, which shows the two-story dwelling constructed of brick with two interior chimneys. The decorative window crowns and cornice brackets are visible. Changes to the original building include the removal of window shutters, the removal of a one-story porch nestled in the corner of the L. This porch had decorative spindle-work, a wooden platform supported by a brick base, and a flat roof. The one-story rear addition is visible in the drawing and is therefore assumed to be original or an early alteration.

John B. Macy was born in North Carolina in 1833 to Quaker parents. The family moved to Union County in 1835, where they owned a farm and a blacksmith shop. Macy attended the local schools and upon graduating, worked at a shingle factory until the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the Union Army on April 19, 1861, in Company I, Fifteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served for three years before being mustered out of service due to an injury incurred during the Battle of Mission Ridge.[14] The 1870 Federal census lists John Macy as living with his mother Sarah and serving as the Union County Recorder.[15] By this time, he had constructed the house located on the southeast corner of East Seminary Street and South Fairground Street, as shown in the 1884 *Union County Atlas*. Macy married Phoebe A. Coffin on December 5, 1871, and they had two children. Macy served in public office as the county recorder and county treasurer, before running the Union County Planing Mill. In 1882, he

[14] *Atlas of Union County, Indiana* (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884), 68.
[15] United States Bureau of the Census, 1870 United States Federal Census, via ancestry.com (accessed October 27, 2011).

received the appointment of Justice of the Peace, but by 1900 was listed as an insurance agent, a job he kept for at least another ten years.[16]

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17050), c. 1870, 104 East Seminary Street, Gothic Revival
(See Photo 0011 for a view of the south side of East Seminary Street)

C Union County Seminary, (IHSSI # 161-357-17051), 1841, 106 East Seminary Street, Greek Revival
(See Photo 0019)

The Union County Seminary is the oldest building in the Liberty Residential Historic District. Presently a residence, the former school is a two-story, gable-front, brick, Greek Revival-style building with a one-story, side-gable wing on the west elevation. There are three bays in the façade: window-window-door. The entrance features a triangular pediment and pilasters, which frame a recessed doorway. The door is surrounded by sidelights and a four-pane transom. The one-story wing has a window-door-window configuration. All of the windows have been replaced with modern vinyl sashes. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Constructed in 1841, the "new" seminary was actually the second such building in Liberty. The seminary was built as part of a statewide effort to provide public education. Schools such as these were a result of a mandate in the 1816 Indiana Constitution that called for each county to construct and maintain a seminary, or a school that provided education beyond the primary grades of the one-room school house.[17] However, the 1852 School Act changed how cities and counties organized education, and seminaries became obsolete as organized high schools became the norm.

In the early 1850s, the school was sold to the local school corporation. The need for the seminary became obsolete due to the construction of a new school located on the Brownsville Pike and later by the construction of the local high school on East Union Street in 1866. The property once again was sold, this time to a Josiah Hurty who used it as a private teaching institution for several years. In 1884, it was described as a "brick building, two stories high, well finished, and furnished with seats and desks sufficient for the accommodation of eighty scholars."[18] The second floor was left uncompleted; the school actually had about forty pupils in attendance.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17052), c. 1870, 110 East Seminary Street, Second Empire
(See Photo 0014 for a view of 112 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17053), c. 1900, 112 East Seminary Street, Free Classic
(See Photo 0014 for a view of 112 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17054), c. 1875, 114 East Seminary Street, Second Empire

Built c.1875, the home at 114 East Seminary Street is a two-and-one-half-story, Second Empire-style house with a projecting one-story, three-bay entryway. All of the first-story windows are one-over-one pane with the upper sash having decorative stained glass. Second-story windows are plain, one-over-one pane wooden sashes. There are four dormers, one in each of the cut-away bays. Each dormer contains a small, arched, stained-glass window under a clipped gable. The house is clad with clapboard siding with a roof of diamond-shaped composition shingles.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17055), c. 1880, 116 East Seminary Street, Lazy-T

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17056), c. 1915, 120 East Seminary Street, American Foursquare
(See Photo 0010 for a view of 122 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street)

The two-story American Foursquare (built c.1915) has a rusticated concrete block raised foundation, vinyl siding, replacement doors and windows, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The façade contains three bays in the first story and four in the second, an asymmetrical pattern that suggests a fenestration change. The hipped-roof of the

[16] *Atlas of Union County,* 69; United States Bureau of the Census, 1900 United States Federal Census, via ancestry.com (accessed October 27, 2011); United States Bureau of the Census, 1910 United States Federal Census, via ancestry.com (accessed October 27, 2011).
[17] Paul Diebold, "Indiana's Public Common and High Schools" (National Register Nomination Form, 1999), 10.
[18] *Atlas of Union County,* 29.

partial-width, one-story porch is supported by brick posts with concrete capstones. Both the porch and the house have wide eave overhangs with vinyl soffits.

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17057), c. 1920, 122 East Seminary Street, Bungalow
(See Photo 0010 for a view of 122 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17058), c. 1920, 124 East Seminary Street, Bungalow

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17059), c. 1910, 5-7 South Fairground Street, Craftsman
(See Photo 0015)

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17060), c. 1915, 102 College Corner Avenue, Craftsman Bungalow

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-17061), c. 1910, 2 College Corner Avenue, Italianate
(See Photo 0008)

C Union County Sheriff's Residence & Jail, (IHSSI # 161-357-18078),1872, 106 East Union Street, Italianate

C House, (IHSSI # 161-357-18092), c. 1868, 6 East Seminary Street, Double-pile
(See Photo 0016)

C House, c. 1880, 8 East Seminary Street, Gothic Revival
(See Photo 0016)

C House, c. 1880, 105 East Union Street, Folk Victorian
(See Photo 0001 for a view of 103-109 East Union Street)

C House, c. 1880, 107 East Union Street, Folk Victorian
(See Photo 0001 for a view of 103-109 East Union Street)

C House, c. 1880, 109 East Union Street, Hall and parlor
(See Photo 0001 for a view of 103-109 East Union Street)

C House, c. 1900, 201 East Union Street, Italianate

NC Union County Fire Station and Police Station, 1947/1975, 1-3 South Fairground Street
(See Photo 0015)

The original 1947 Liberty Fire Department building is a one-story, concrete block structure with a brick façade (west elevation). The façade contains two modern garage doors with a security light above them and one metal door. A 1975 addition to the north mimics the original, but is slightly larger with larger garage doors. The northern wall of the addition is clad with brick to match the façade. A concrete block hose tower is found on the rear of the 1975 addition. At the same time (1975), the attached Liberty Police Station was constructed to the north side, also clad with brick. It is a small, one-story, hipped-roof structure. The main entries of both buildings face west and are accessible via a concrete ramp and raised sidewalk. The one-over-one pane windows have concrete sills. Since much of this facility was constructed outside of the historic period, it is considered non-contributing.

Liberty Residential Historic District
Name of Property

Union County, Indiana
County and State

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

Period of Significance

1841 to c. 1920

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Liberty Residential Historic District spans from 1841, the year the first building in the district (the Union County Seminary) was constructed to c. 1920, a date which encompasses most of the buildings constructed in the district.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Liberty Residential Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of community development from the mid-nineteenth century to c. 1920 and under Criterion C as an intact example of the range of popular architectural styles dating from the mid-nineteenth century through the first two decades of the twentieth century found within a small county-seat town.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Community Planning and Development Context

The Liberty Residential Historic District is eligible under Criterion A as representative of the town of Liberty's development during the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. As a county seat, the Town of Liberty developed as a center of local government and commerce within the county, spurring an area of residential growth along two main streets, East Union Street and East Seminary Street. Both streets, stretching east from the courthouse square, contain a collection of large homes originally belonging to prominent families, as well as two of the oldest churches in the town and the earliest schools. Many homes sit on large lots with large shade trees lining the streets, although it must be noted that the trees were the result of twentieth century planting.

Liberty was originally platted with sixty-four lots surrounding the courthouse square.[19] At the time of incorporation in 1836, the village was home to fifty-three residents.[20] As the town grew, people built homes on roads/streets that led from the center of the town. Indeed, Liberty had achieved such size that in 1848, the Liberty-College Corner Turnpike was constructed as part of a larger road that connected Fort Wayne to the Oxford Road (originating in Ohio). It was the first state-funded improved road in the county, providing much needed access from rural farms to the county-seat, and on to larger markets. This road eventually became part of the Liberty-Brownsville Turnpike, a busy thoroughfare that served the southeastern part of the state.[21] By 1849, Liberty boasted 110 houses containing 370 residents, as well as numerous civic and religious facilities.[22]

The railroad, which was completed to Liberty in 1860, ran north-south through the heart of town a block west of the courthouse square. The construction of this rail line on the west side of town enabled this area to become a commercial center, with commercial buildings extending from the courthouse square to West Street and east to Fairground Street.[23] It also ensured that the Liberty Residential District became the preferred area for quiet residential dwellings for the town's more prosperous citizens.

The 1884 *Union County Atlas* shows a portion of the Liberty Residential Historic District, extending from the commercial center to Layman Street.[24] At this time, Layman Street was the eastern "Corporation Line." In addition to the twelve residences shown on the map, there are also the public school in the 300 block of East Union Street, the Methodist Church, and the county jail in the district. At that time, lot size was irregular, ranging from 44/100 of an acre up to a twenty-acre lot owned by John S. Galbaugh (which included what is now 313 East Union Street, the John S. Nixon House). Lots along the north side of East Union Street appear larger, which is still noticeable today. However, not all residences or buildings are shown on this map. For example, the 1841 Union County Seminary and the John B. Macy House, both of which were present at that time, are not shown on the map. It is worthwhile to note that the area immediately surrounding the "College Corner & Liberty Turnpike" and East Union Street contained the majority of shown residences and buildings, making this area of town an important one.

[19] *Atlas of Union County,* 22; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 13; *Union County Interim* Report, 63.
[20] *Atlas of Union County,* 29.
[21] *Atlas of Union County,* map, 23; *Union County Interim Report*, 13.
[22] E. Chamberlain, "Union County," in *Indiana Gazetteer or Topographical Dictionary of the State of Indiana* (Indianapolis: E. Chamberlain, 1849), 290.
[23] *Atlas of Union County*, 12; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 16.
[24] *Atlas of Union County,* map, 23.

Sanborn insurance maps illustrate that by 1892, the Liberty Residential District was nearly completely developed: a house had been built on every lot from the 100 block to the 300 block of East Union Street and on all but five lots on East Seminary Street.[25] By 1899, all but two lots had been improved within the same area. The 1899 Sanborn map shows large homes with front porches sited on spacious lots of varying sizes. Irregular lot sizes shown on the 1884 atlas were retained, creating a mixture of large and small parcels. The location of the neighborhood close to the commercial center of the county proved convenient for local prominent businessmen and politicians to reside. This was certainly the case for John B. Macy (who lived at 102 East Seminary Street), a Civil War veteran who served as both Union County Recorder and Treasurer before becoming manager of the Union County Planing Mill.[26]

As Liberty expanded in the first decades of the 1900s, vernacular examples of high-style architecture were continually constructed within the district. This practice continued in the 1930s and even 1950s, which indicates that this residential neighborhood was still a highly sought after place to live, even if the construction was infill (306 and 308 East Union Street) or on the periphery of town (403 East Union Street). Twentieth-century Sanborn maps show that the neighborhood remained much the same with the exception of some new construction after the old Liberty Elementary School was demolished in the late 1940s.[27]

Architecture Context

The Liberty Residential Historic District is eligible under Criterion C with buildings that represent a wide range of architectural styles that were popular from the mid-nineteenth century to c. 1920. These styles reflect popular choices by homeowners and builders and correspond with national and regional trends seen throughout small towns during this time period. High-style architecture is represented by several civic buildings such as the Union County Public Library (Craftsman, 1915/2003), the First Presbyterian Church (Romanesque Revival, 1889), the Liberty Methodist Church (Romanesque Revival, 1886), the Sheriff's Residence/Jail (Italianate,1872), and the Greek Revival Union County Seminary (1841), which has been converted into a residence. However, the majority of contributing resources in the district include relatively modest examples of popular residential styles.

Few buildings in Liberty date to the town's earliest years; the former Union County Seminary is a notable exception. Most buildings in the district (fifty-one) were constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century. These mostly late Victorian buildings represent styles such as the Italianate, Queen Anne, and its classically-inspired variant, Free Classic, Romanesque Revival, Second Empire, and Folk Victorian. Most numerous of these are Italianate, Folk Victorian, and Free Classic.

Italianate-style houses are typically two or three stories and exhibit tall narrow windows with decorative crowns, decorative brackets under a low-pitched roof, and often a cupola or tower.[28] This style was ubiquitous in the United States, especially the Midwest, during the latter half of the nineteenth century and was aided in popularity by the publication of pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840s and 1850s. The style diminished in popularity after the financial panic of 1873 for much of the nation.[29] However, Italianate-style homes continued to be built in rural and small-town Indiana throughout the decade of the 1870s. Noteworthy examples of the Italianate style within the Liberty Residential Historic District include 219 East Union Street, 305 East Union Street, 210 East Union Street, and 313 East Union Street (the John S. Nixon house, which retains its basic Italianate character despite significant alterations). Italianate detailing is best shown on the John B. Macy house at 102 East Seminary Street with its tall, narrow windows with elaborate crowns, bracketed eaves, brick exterior, and low hipped roof.

The Folk Victorian style was born out of the so-called "National" style.[30] Many of these houses were originally constructed during the mid-nineteenth century and then updated or embellished during the "Victorian" period around the turn of the century. Typical basic forms include gable-front, gable-front and wing, hall and parlor, and I-house to which embellishments typical of Queen Anne and Italianate styles have been added. These decorative touches include porches with turned ornamentation, window trim, or cornice brackets. Examples of the Folk Victorian style within the district include

[25] Sanborn Map Company, *Liberty, Indiana*, 1892 and 1899.
[26] *Atlas of Union County,* 68.
[27] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County,* 148.
[28] Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1989), 211.
[29] McAlester and McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 211-214.
[30] Ibid., 89-90, 309-310.

107 East Union Street, 205 East Union Street, and 116 East Seminary Street. The house at 310 East Union Street is a classic example of a two-story Folk Victorian. A gable-front and wing variant with scant detail, it boasts three interior chimneys, a one-story porch with hipped roof, and plain one-over-one pane windows.

Free Classic-style houses are typically classified as a sub-type of Queen Anne-style architecture. McAlester and McAlester estimate the Free Classic-style represents around thirty-five percent of all Queen Anne sub-types, a somewhat substantial amount.[31] This style was popular around the turn of the century, from about 1890 to 1910. Typical stylistic details include substantial columns based on classical forms, Palladian windows, and other Classically-inspired details. While related to the Queen Anne style, Free Classic detailing is much more restrained and far less decorative in nature. Free Classic-style examples within the district include 309 and 311 East Union Street (both very similar), and an outstanding example at 401 East Union Street. The home at 401 East Union Street is a large example of this style with decorative windows in the gables, a large wrap-around porch with round columns, and restrained detailing on the porch cornice-line.

The two churches in the district, the United Methodist Church (1886) and the First Presbyterian Church (1889) were both constructed in the Romanesque Revival style, which was very popular during the late nineteenth century, especially for large public buildings. These two buildings are very similar in design and materials (brick exteriors with limestone detailing, arched stained glass windows, and substantial towers) and both anchor the city blocks on which they sit. The United Methodist Church is classified as a "side steeple" design, while the First Presbyterian Church is listed as "twin tower."[32]

Although buildings representing nineteenth-century architectural trends dominate the district, there are a significant number of twentieth-century buildings constructed in styles that fall under the categories of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American Movements, nineteenth- and twentieth-century revivals. Twentieth-century American Movements include such styles as Craftsman-style Bungalow, American Foursquare, and Prairie. Twentieth-century revival styles include Colonial Revival and Dutch Colonial Revival, although several of these were constructed outside of the period of significance. There are also a few examples of modern architectural styles within the district, including one ranch house and one mid-century eclectic dwelling. These, too, were constructed outside of the period of significance. Among the most significant of twentieth-century buildings in the district, the Craftsman-style Union County Public Library is a one-and-one-half-story structure with a raised basement and brick exterior, punctuated by concrete detailing. The roof is tile. The main entrance is accessible by a set of concrete steps leading up the original wooden doors. This design is indicative of many Carnegie libraries built during this time period throughout the state and country.

As noted above, there are a few American Foursquare and Revival-style houses within the district; however, the vast majority of the twentieth-century residential buildings are Craftsman-style Bungalows. Bungalow-style homes became popular in the first decades of the 1900s. Born out of southern California and the Prairie movement, this style became immensely popular due to its inclusion in pattern books and magazines. These houses were small and affordable, further contributing to their popularity throughout the nation. Bungalows typically have low-pitched roofs, exposed rafter tails, porches (often supported by tapered columns), rusticated concrete block foundations, and windows are typically three- or four-over-one pane sashes. Most examples are one or one-and-one-half-story in height. Several fine examples of the Craftsman Bungalow style within the district include 314 East Union Street, 319 East Union Street, and 101 East Seminary Street. The resource located at 319 East Union Street is an intact example of the Craftsman-style Bungalow. It exhibits many of the common stylistic details such as a side-gable roof with a central front dormer, full-width front porch with tapered pillars, and a stucco exterior.

[31] Ibid., 264.
[32] *Union County Interim Report,* 64-65.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The small town of Liberty, Indiana, is famed for being the home town of Union Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside, Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras," and Mary Alice Smith, the niece of writer James Whitcomb Riley, the "Hoosier Poet," and the inspiration for his poem "*Little Orphant Annie.*"[33] However, Liberty is best known locally as being the seat of government of Union County, one of Indiana's smallest counties, and as a market center for the farm families who lived in the surrounding county.

Just five years after Indiana gained statehood, Union County was formed in 1821 from the "union" of parts of larger Wayne, Fayette, and Franklin counties and named such, according to the *Indiana Gazetteer*, "to harmonize the difficulties that existed in relation to the county seats in Wayne and Fayette."[34] Early Union County had been settled primarily by families from the Carolinas. Others arrived from Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland.[35] While Brownsville initially claimed title to the seat of this small county, citizens soon petitioned to have a more centrally located local government. The town of Liberty was founded in 1822 in Center Township, near the geographical heart of the county and was named the county seat the following year.[36]

Liberty was platted on forty acres acquired by Edgehill Burnside, John Hughes, and Josia Bradway for $400 from Thomas Cook.[37] The town originally consisted of sixty-four lots with a courthouse square, laid out in the "Shelbyville Plan," a design for county seats in which streets intersect at the corners of the square.[38] The first public buildings were a courthouse that stood on the northwest corner of the square and two jails on the south side.[39] One local historian notes that in Liberty's earliest years, a row of wooden buildings (likely commercial buildings) was built across from the courthouse, with about fifty residences located nearby.[40] The village was incorporated in 1836, and at that time was the home to fifty-three "legal" residents.[41]

Religion and education were important to early residents of Liberty. The two earliest congregations in the town were the Methodists and the Presbyterians, both of whom established congregations in Liberty prior to 1840.[42] The Union County Seminary was established in the 1820s and relocated in 1841 to a new building constructed that year that still stands on Seminary Street in Liberty. Local children used this building as a school and it served as such until at least 1851, when the second Indiana constitution was adopted, which allowed for a system of public schools.[43] It has been in use as a private residence for many years.[44]

Liberty grew steadily during the 1840s and 1850s. In 1848, the Liberty-College Corner Turnpike entered the town from the southeast and exited to the northwest; it became part of the Liberty-Brownsville Turnpike.[45] By 1849, 370 residents populated the town and, in addition to the courthouse, other public buildings, and the county seminary, Liberty boasted 110 houses, a market house, two churches, and nearly thirty shops for dry goods, drugs and various other businesses.[46] Growth was such that the county demolished the old courthouse in 1854 and constructed a new one on the same square by 1856.[47] By 1858, the town offered a full range of businesses, community institutions, and amenities that included "one hotel, four general stores, one baker and confectioner, three blacksmith shops, four carpenters, three boot and shoe-makers, two brick-makers, one cabinet-maker, four carriage and wagon–makers, two dealers in clothing, one furniture dealer, one printing office, one steam flouring mill, two harness-makers, two groceries, one hardware establishment, one

[33] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 16-17; *Union County Interim Report,* 12.
[34] *Atlas of Union County, Indiana*, 8; E. Chamberlain, "Union County," 403-404.
[35] *Atlas of Union County*, 6, 8; *Union County Interim Report*, 12-13.
[36] *Atlas of Union County*, 8; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 16.
[37] *Atlas of Union County*, 8; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 13.
[38] *Atlas of Union County,* 22; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 13; *Union County Interim Report*, 63; Suzanne Stanis, "Courthouse Squares Shape Hoosier Townscapes," *Indiana Preservationist* Nov. 5, 2006, 10.
[39] *Atlas of Union County,* 8; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 13-14.
[40] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 16.
[41] *Atlas of Union County,* 29.
[42] Ibid., 29-30.
[43] *Union County Interim Report*, 66.
[44] *Atlas of Union County*, 29.
[45] *Atlas of Union County,* map, 23; *Union County Interim Report*, 13.
[46] E. Chamberlain, "Union County," 290.
[47] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 13.

hat and cap store, two hide and leather dealers, two resident farmers, two attorneys, two Justices of the Peace, six physicians, one steam saw mill, two stove and tin shops, one jeweler, four painters, two tan yards, two tailors, three clergymen, four churches, and one school of 100 pupils."[48] The *Atlas of Union County, Indiana* (1884) reported census figures for the town, noting that 420 residents lived in Liberty in 1850 and 572 people called the town home on the eve of the Civil War.[49]

Despite disruptions caused by the Civil War, the promise for growth in Liberty continued in the 1860s, with the long planned completion of the Indianapolis Division of the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad (soon after renamed the Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Western Railroad, and more recently known as the Baltimore and Ohio line). The railroad, which was completed to Liberty in 1860 and to Indianapolis in 1868, runs north-south through the heart of town a block west of the courthouse square. This line connected Liberty with the cities of Indianapolis and Cincinnati and points beyond in all directions.[50]

With its rail connections in place and the Civil War ended, Liberty thrived in the last three decades of the nineteenth century. Even as the town recovered and rebuilt from a devastating fire that destroyed or damaged many downtown buildings in 1876, the population continued to grow steadily.[51] Seven hundred citizens called Liberty home in 1870 and 1,096 residents were counted in the 1880 Census.[52] New and expanding manufacturing concerns, such as the Rude Brothers Manufacturing Company, which made agricultural implements, may have spurred this growth.[53] The R. L. Polk and Company's *Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory* of 1882-1883 describes Liberty as a "prosperous incorporated town of 1,500 inhabitants" and a "lively place of business" that had many of the community amenities mentioned earlier, plus five churches, two banks, a free public library, and an opera house, in addition to many business and manufacturing concerns.[54] The *Atlas of Union County, Indiana* (1884) verifies this description. The map of Liberty in the *Atlas* shows the courthouse square surrounded by key downtown landmarks, such as the Union County Courthouse, the Opera House at the corner of Union and Market streets, the school at the east end of Union Street, and churches along Market and Seminary streets.[55] The *Atlas* describes the downtown commercial buildings as "brick" and presenting a "creditable appearance."[56] The Sanborn map dated three years later (1887) illustrates much the same thing. Businesses were concentrated in buildings along three blocks of Union Street: between the railroad depot and Main Street on both sides of the street (this block is no longer extant), on the north side of the street directly across from the old courthouse, and in the block directly east of the square on both the north and south sides of the street. A Masonic Lodge occupied the upper floors of several of these buildings on the block facing the north side of the courthouse. A few businesses were located among dwellings on the east side of Market Street. By 1892, a new courthouse had been built at the heart of the square, and the Opera House had been moved to a new location on Main Street. The former Opera House at the corner of Union and Market then served as home to the Odd Fellows Lodge.[57]

Per the 1884 *Atlas* and the 1887 and 1892 Sanborn maps, substantial residential lots are located on streets east of Fairground Street, particularly along Union and Seminary streets.[58] These were populated with many of the town's most prosperous residents with "dwelling houses, principally frame, well built, and many of them would do credit to much larger places."[59] Still, the block of Union Street just east of the commercial district (east of Fairground Street) was mixed in use. The 1892 Sanborn map shows the Presbyterian Church and the county's jail in this block, surrounded by houses. The Methodist Church was located on a prominent corner facing the courthouse at Seminary and Market streets. Other churches were scattered on streets near the town's core. The town's elementary school occupied a large lot in Union

[48] *Atlas of Union County*, 29.
[49] Ibid., 30.
[50] *Atlas of Union County*, 12; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 16.
[51] *Union County Interim Report*, 63.
[52] *Atlas of Union County*, 30.
[53] *Atlas of Union County*, 30; Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 23.
[54] R. L. Polk and Company, *Indiana Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1882-1883, http://www.countyhistory.com/union/start.html (accessed September 5, 2011).
[55] *Atlas of Union County*, 23.
[56] Ibid., 30.
[57] Sanborn Map Company, *Liberty, Indiana*, 1887 to 1932.
[58] *Atlas of Union County*, 23; Sanborn Map Company, *Liberty Indiana*, 1887 and 1892.
[59] *Atlas of Union County*, 29.

Street's residential section—a location it occupied until after World War II.[60] Neighborhoods of smaller houses were located to the west, north, and southeast of the square.[61]

In keeping with the overall prosperity of the town in the late nineteenth century, the Union County Courthouse of the mid-1850s was replaced with the current two-story, stone building in 1890. Designed by the Indianapolis architectural firm of G. W. Bunting and Son in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the building was constructed by the contracting firm of William McKay. The building, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, continues to serve as the courthouse for Union County.[62]

Liberty remained remarkably stable during the first three decades of the twentieth century. While some of the businesses that occupied the buildings changed, the buildings themselves remained in place. The most visible change to the built environment in these decades was growth in the neighborhoods surrounding the heart of the community as new houses were built.[63] The town's population remained relatively steady through the first four decades of the twentieth century, as well as during two world wars and the Great Depression that separated them. In 1900, residents numbered 1,449, a figure that dropped slightly in the following two decades, but rose again to 1,496 by 1940.[64] The *Indiana Review* (1938) describes Liberty as "chiefly important as the county's agricultural center, but the stone quarries, foundry work and manufacture of pistons, paint and farm implements are also important . . . Liberty is a progressive, well-built town, with excellent schools and churches."[65] Two important community buildings were added in the first half of the twentieth century. A Carnegie Library was constructed at the corner of Seminary and Market streets in 1915.[66] The town's current post office was built on Union Street in 1937-1938.[67] Both are still in use.

After World War II, Liberty grew modestly, as soldiers returned home and started families. By 1950, the population of Liberty had grown to 1,730 residents.[68] To keep up with this growth, the town completed a new sewerage system in 1951 and updated its water system in 1962.[69]

Two large-scale public works projects changed the face of Union and adjacent counties in the mid-twentieth century. Brookville Lake was built as part of the federal Flood Control Act of 1938 to help control flooding in the Whitewater River Valley and to reduce flooding of the Ohio River. An earthen dam across the East Fork of the Whitewater River created a 5,260-acre lake.[70] Whitewater Memorial State Park was established in 1949 as Indiana's sixteenth state park to honor the men and women who served our country during World War II.[71] The recreational and cultural resources of the lake and park are managed together as the Brookville Lake—Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex.[72] A sign on the courthouse square touts Union County as the "Gateway to Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park Complex."

Liberty continued its slow, but steady pace of growth in the late twentieth century, with a high of 2,061 citizens in 2000, although this number fell to 1,841 residents in 2009.[73]

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[60] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 148.
[61] *Atlas of Union County*, 23.
[62] Mark Miles, "Union County Courthouse" (National Register of Historical Places Registration Form, 1987); Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 25-26.
[63] Sanborn Map Company, *Liberty, Indiana*, 1899, 1909, 1919, and 1932.
[64] Stats Indiana, Historic Census Data for Liberty, Indiana, Population Figures, 1900-2000, www.stats.indiana.edu (accessed September 7, 2011).
[65] "1938 Union County Retrospect," based on the *Indiana Review* published by the Indiana State Legislature (Indiana County History Preservation Society, 2006), http://www.countyhistory.com (accessed September 5, 2011).
[66] *Union County Interim Report*, 63-64.
[67] The cornerstone for this building is inscribed with the date "1937," although the Union County Historical Society's *History of Union County*, 22, notes that the building was dedicated in 1938.
[68] Stats Indiana, Historic Census Data for Liberty, Indiana, Population Figures, 1900-2000, www.stats.indiana.edu (accessed September 7, 2011).
[69] Union County Historical Society, *History of Union County*, 24-25.
[70] U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Brookville Lake," http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/bvl/ (accessed September 15, 2011).
[71] Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "Whitewater Memorial," http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2962.htm (accessed September 15, 2011).
[72] Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "Brookville Lake," http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2961.htm (accessed September 15, 2011).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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[73] Stats Indiana, Historic Census Data for Liberty, Indiana, Population Figures, 1900-2000 and Union County, Indiana In Depth Profile, www.stats.indiana.edu (accessed September 7, 2011).

_____. 1900 United States Federal Census, via ancestry.com.

_____. 1910 United States Federal Census, via ancestry.com

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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 161-357-17001 to 161-357-17061

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28.85
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	678388	4389429	3	16	677552	4389178
2	16	678390	4386197	4	16	677543	4389406

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The district is situated just southeast of the courthouse square in Liberty, Center Township, Union County, Indiana. The Liberty Residential Historic District includes East Union Street from South Fairground Street to an unnamed alley across from the high school on the north side of the street and Layman Street on the south side. The south side also includes 28 East Union Street, located in the southwest corner of East Union Street and South Fairground Street. On the north side of East Seminary Street, the district stretches from South Market Street to College Corner Avenue. The south side includes everything between State Road 101 to College Corner Avenue. Also included in the district are two properties on College Corner Avenue.

The district boundary is shown on the accompanying map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundary encompasses a portion of Liberty that contains a cohesive unit of mixed high-style and vernacular domestic and public architecture. The two main streets within the district (East Union Street and East Seminary Street) were the primary locations for prominent architecture during the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. The contributing properties within the historic district boundaries retain historic integrity. While there are historic properties outside of the district that also retain integrity, they are more scattered and do not form a cohesive unit.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne M. Moore, M.H.P./Architectural Historian, Kelly Lally Molloy, M.A./Historian

organization Weintraut & Associates, Inc. Date: Dec. 14, 2011; Feb. 1, 2013 revised

street & number P.O. Box 5034 telephone 317-733-9770

city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

e-mail linda@weintrautinc.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Liberty Residential Historic District

City or Vicinity: Liberty

County: Union State: Indiana

Photographer: Anne Moore

Date Photographed: November 18, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0001.TIF)
103-109 East Union Street, camera facing northeast

2 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0002.TIF)
215-301 East Union Street, camera facing northeast

3 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0003.TIF)
204-210 East Union Street, camera facing southeast

4 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0004.TIF)
Intersection of Spring Street and East Union Street, camera facing west

5 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0005.TIF)
Intersection of Fosdick Street and East Union Street, camera facing northwest

6 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0006.TIF)
317-401 East Union Street, camera facing northeast

7 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0007.TIF)
215-305 East Union Street, camera facing northwest

8 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0008.TIF)
Intersection of College Corner Avenue and East Union Street and 2 College Corner Avenue, camera facing south

9 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0009.TIF)
Intersection of College Corner Avenue and East Seminary Street showing north side of East Seminary Street, camera facing northwest

10 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0010.TIF)
122 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street, camera facing southwest

11 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0011.TIF)
Intersection of South Fairground Street and East Seminary Street showing south side of East Seminary Street, camera facing southeast

12 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0012.TIF)
Intersection of South Fairground Street and East Seminary Street showing north side of East Seminary Street, camera facing northeast

13 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0013.TIF)
109-121 East Seminary Street, camera facing northeast

14 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0014.TIF)
112 East Seminary Street-4 West Seminary Street, camera facing southwest

15 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0015.TIF)
1-7 South Fairground Street, camera facing southeast

16 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0016.TIF)
2-112 East Seminary Street, camera facing southeast

17 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0017.TIF)

Liberty Residential Historic District
Name of Property

Union County, Indiana
County and State

304-308 East Union Street, camera facing southwest

18 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0018.TIF)
312-320 East Union Street, camera facing southwest

19 of 19- (IN_UnionCounty_LibertyResidentialHistoricDistrict_0019.TIF)
106 East Seminary Street, camera facing southeast

Property Owner:

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

name Jeff Mathews, Area Plan Commission Union County

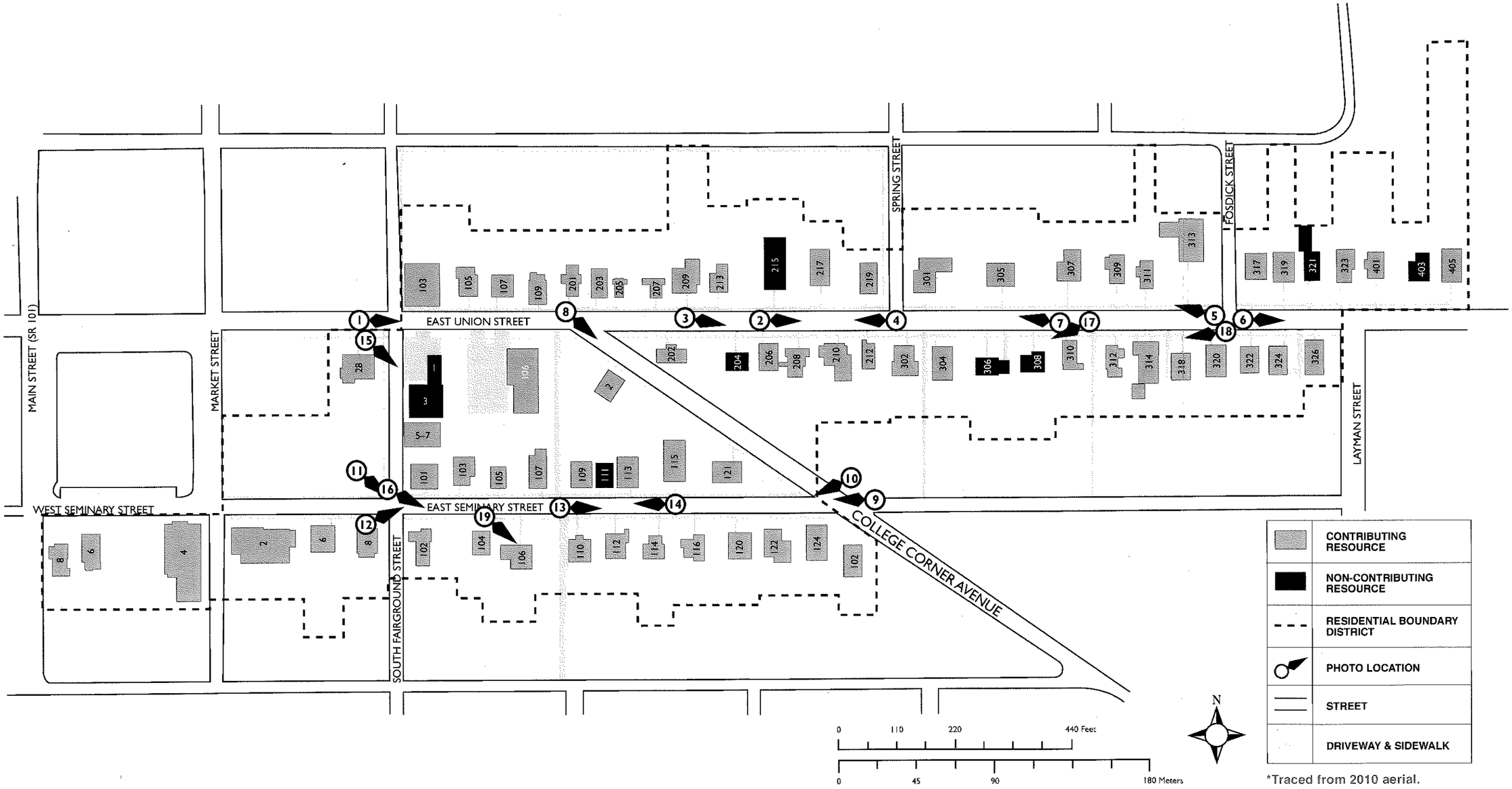
street & number 6 West South Street telephone 765-458-5044

city or town Liberty state Indiana zip code 47353-1366

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

LIBERTY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

TOWN OF LIBERTY, UNION COUNTY, INDIANA



*Traced from 2010 aerial.

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0001

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0004

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0005

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0012

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0014

Liberty Residential H.D., Union Co., IN #0019