

# Chapter 4



## Lafayette's National Register Districts

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## Section 1: Upper Main Street Historic District

*Retail stores, specialty shops and professional offices line the street of the Upper Main Historic District.*

Today's Main Street Historic District developed as Lafayette's business district expanded east beyond the Courthouse Square. Sixth Street, which is the district's western boundary, was Lafayette's eastern edge when the city was originally platted. By the early 1840s, the boundary had been extended to include all of the district. Beyond the former Lake Erie and Wabash Railroad which formed with district's eastern boundary, Main Street takes on a more residential character.

Many of the district's buildings, including several fine examples of Italianate commercial architecture, were constructed in the 1870s and 1880s. Also included are early twentieth-century buildings in the Neoclassical and Art Deco styles. Together the buildings form a continuous and cohesive streetscape leading into Lafayette's downtown commercial area.

The Enterprise Hotel, located at 1015 Main Street, has served as a hotel or restaurant under various names such as the Alt Heidelberg, American Lafayette and Derby Hotel since 1899. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



*Upper Main Street National Historic District architectural styles*



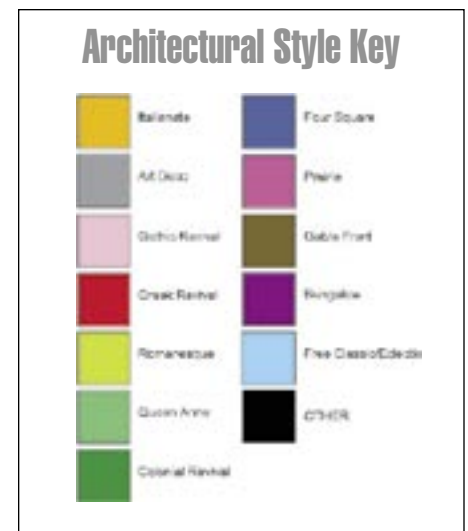
*The Weigle Townhouse was built in the Neoclassical style.*

The Italianate Horney and Wright Building, built around 1870, housed the company's typewriter ribbon and carbon paper supply business in the early 1900s. It later had a colorful history as the Oak Tavern Speakeasy and Gambling House during the prohibition years. Other Italianate commercial buildings include the Vollmer-Conrad Building, the Bower Building and the Beck Building, all constructed during the 1870s.

The Painters and Decorators Building, built in 1923 in the Renaissance Revival style, exhibits fine craftsmanship in its terra cotta facade. The D.L. Ross Building and the Weigle Townhouse were constructed in the Neoclassical style.

The area provided entertainment for the community at the Lafayette and Mars Theaters. The Mars Theater, designed in 1920 by prominent local architect Walter Scholer, Sr., is the oldest theater in Lafayette. It was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Today, it serves the community as the Long Center for the Performing Arts. The Lafayette Theater, a noteworthy example of the Art Deco style, was completed in 1938 and finished a complete restoration in 2006.

Today the area remains a vibrant commercial district in Lafayette's downtown.





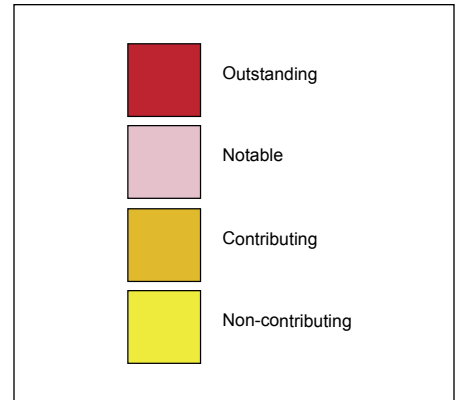
## Upper Main Street Historic District

### Plaques Awarded

*Upper Main Street National Historic District plaques awarded*



### Classifications



*Upper Main Street National Historic District classifications*



## Section 2: Centennial Historic District

*The Loeb House on Cincinnati Street has served the community and its visitors as a bed and breakfast inn.*

The Centennial Historic District lies just north of Lafayette's commercial district. The area was partially included within Lafayette's original plat and contains examples of most of the architectural styles found in the town. As Lafayette's oldest neighborhood, it contains many significant religious and educational institutions, as well as homes associated with early prominent citizens.

The area was first developed during the 1830s as Lafayette's boundaries expanded north and east from the Wabash River. The Reverend Samuel Johnson House, built in 1844, is Lafayette's oldest remaining structure. The Hopwood-Beasley House was constructed one year later.

In 1843 a period of growth began as the Wabash and Erie Canal was opened along the district's western edge. The resulting commercial growth along its path included mills, warehouses and wharves.

The coming of the town's first railroad in 1853 quickly put an end to the Wabash and Erie Canal. During the next three decades as Lafayette experienced tremendous physical and economic growth, the Centennial District took on much of its present appearance.

The industrial development along the area's western edge, which accompanied the railroad, necessitated the construction of worker housing. Small, frame structures and brick row-houses provided





*Italianate style home at 416 North 7th Street.*

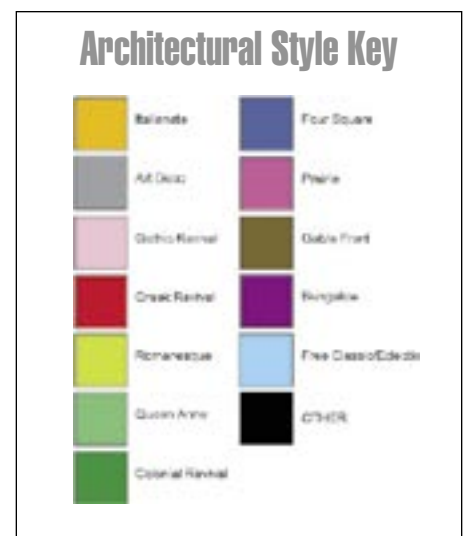
*Centennial's active Neighborhood Association is using historic preservation as a tool for neighborhood revitalization.*

affordable housing, and more affluent residents had homes in the popular styles of the period. Ferry Street is lined with Italianate townhouses and single-family homes such as the Handley House.

The district contains the highest concentration of significant religious and educational architecture. St. John's Episcopal Church, designed by English architect William Tinsley between 1851-1858, is the district's oldest surviving church.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was the site of Lafayette's first black school, a private school opened in 1867. The building is now used as a Baptist church. The Albert A. Wells Memorial Public Library, designed by noted local architect Walter Scholer, Sr., is one of the foremost examples of the Neoclassical style in Tippecanoe County.

The neighborhood's historical and architectural significance was recognized when the Centennial Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 16, 1983.





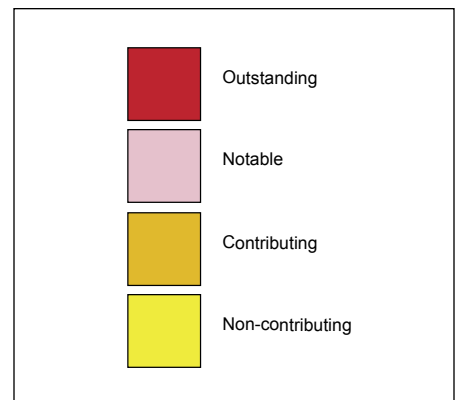
# Centennial Historic District

## Plaques Awarded

*Centennial National Historic District plaques awarded*



## Classifications



*Centennial National Historic District classifications*





*Old Jefferson National Historic District architectural styles*

### Section 3: Old Jefferson Historic District



*The former German Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of 9th and Brown was built in 1885.*

The Jefferson Historic District, named for the former Jefferson High School located at the edge of the district, was included within Lafayette’s early city limits and contains a large collection of railroad-era architecture.

The John Metzger House, built in 1869 in the Italianate style, is representative of the district’s more elaborate houses. Other similar homes built between 1870 and 1885 include two houses on North Street and a duplex, also located on North Street.







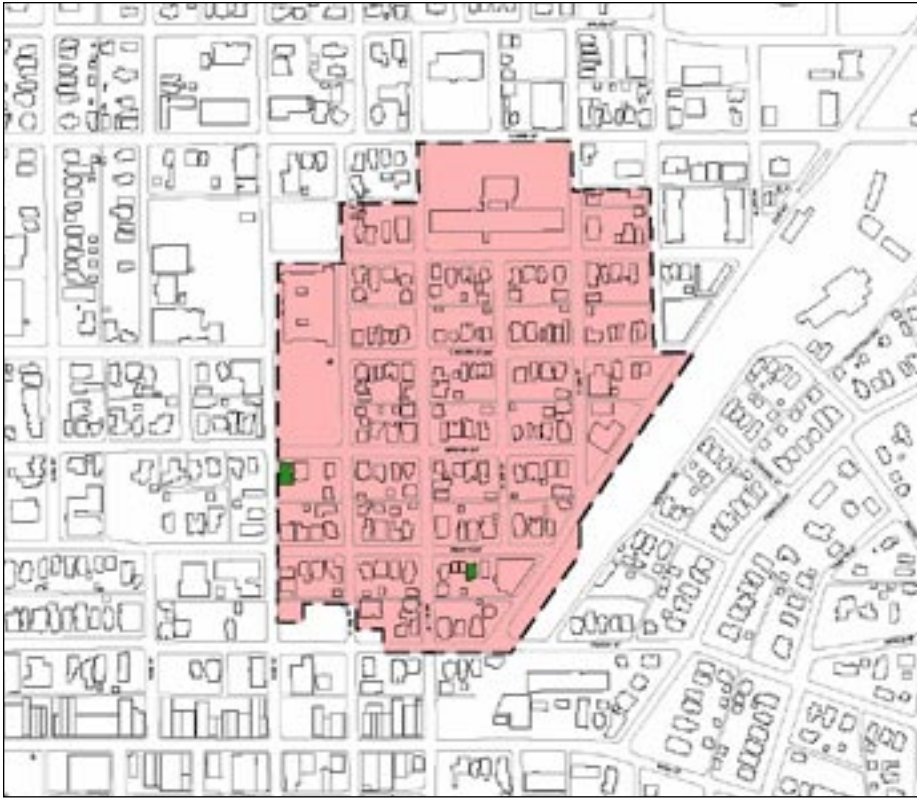
*This home on Brown Street was recently renovated.*

Because of the area's proximity to the railroad and adjoining industries, the district was home to many of the town's working-class families. Small duplexes, such as two Italianate cottages on Brown Street, provided inexpensive housing for workers in local businesses.

One of the few non-residential buildings in the district is the former German Methodist Episcopal Church. Built in 1885, this Gothic Revival building contains impressive stained-glass windows. The congregation conducted services in German until the early twentieth century.

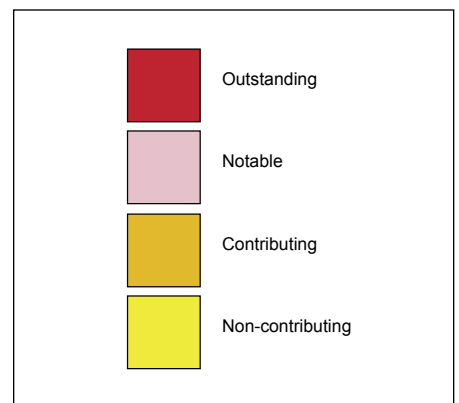
# Old Jefferson Historic District

## Plaques Awarded



*Old Jefferson National Historic District plaques awarded*

## Classifications



*Old Jefferson National Historic District classifications*



*Park Mary National Historic District architectural styles*

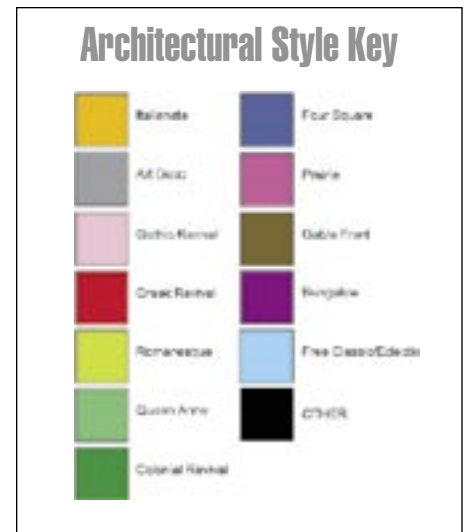
The Park Mary Historic District consists almost entirely of Orth’s Addition platted by Godlove S. Orth and his wife, Mary Ann Orth. The park located within the plat, and subsequently, the district containing the park, was named after Mrs. Orth. The Park Mary district was bordered by Eleventh, Amanda (now Twelfth), Salem and Tippecanoe Streets.

Mr. Orth was a prominent Lafayette attorney who held several state offices, was elected to the United States Congress in 1862, and served as a United States Ambassador. The Orth family home, now gone, was located at the northeast corner of Ninth and Union Streets.

## Section 4: Park Mary Historic District



*The Christian Reformed Church, was built in 1929 in the Gothic Revival style.*





*The John Levering House was built around 1850; it is located on Tippecanoe Street.*

Many of the homes within the district date from the mid-nineteenth century and are of Italianate style. One of the district's noteworthy houses is the Perrin-Seawright House built by John Quincy Adams Perrin in 1868. The house's second owner, Samuel Seawright, added the distinctive New Orleans-inspired iron work. The John Levering House, built around 1850, is located on Tippecanoe Street. John Levering and his brother, William, operated a real estate and insurance business in Lafayette. The Harvey J. Sawyer House, located across from Park Mary, was built in 1848 by Mr. Sawyer, a cabinetmaker.

Two of the district's noteworthy public buildings dating from the early twentieth century are the Christian Reformed Church, built in 1929 in the Gothic Revival style, and the Neoclassical-style Lafayette Armory, built two years earlier and is still in use.









## Park Mary Historic District

### Plaques Awarded

*Park Mary National Historic District plaques awarded*



## Classifications

	Outstanding
	Notable
	Contributing
	Non-contributing

*Park Mary National Historic District classifications*



*St. Mary National Historic District architectural styles*

The St. Mary's Historic District lies just southeast of the Centennial Historic District. As Lafayette expanded to the north, the St. Mary's area became a popular place to live for the city's wealthier citizens, especially along Columbia Street which was the district's primary thoroughfare.

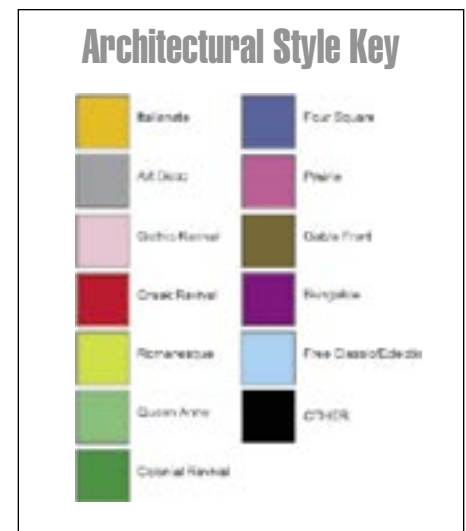
In 1864, St. Mary's Catholic Church relocated from Fifth and Brown Streets to Columbia Street. The church was constructed on the site of the former County Seminary. When the church moved so did many members of the congregation, making St. Mary's Church both a religious and social center for the neighborhood.

Many of the homes date from the 1860s and 1870s and include fine examples of the Italianate, Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles, as well as vernacular house types. Most of the people who built their homes in this area were Lafayette businessmen. The Greek Revival house at 1202 Columbia Street was built in 1862 by James Ball, a local

## Section 5: St. Mary's Historic District



*St. Mary's*





*The Duffy house, 1300 block of Columbia Street*

wholesale grocer, whose name remains stamped into the front steps. Across the street from the Ball house is the James H. Ward House. Mr. Ward was actively involved with his brother, William, in a local carpet and wallpaper business.

The James Murdock House, also located on Columbia Street, was constructed around 1890. Mr. Murdock moved into the house in approximately 1891 after leaving his post as warden of the prison at Michigan City. He was also active in Lafayette as the operator of a grocery and produce business and in bridge and road construction. The home was later sold to Ferdinand Dryfus who, together with his brother Leopold, managed the Dryfus Packing and Provision Company.

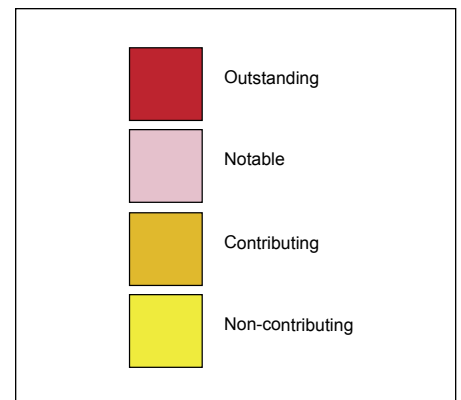
# St. Mary's Historic District

## Plaques Awarded



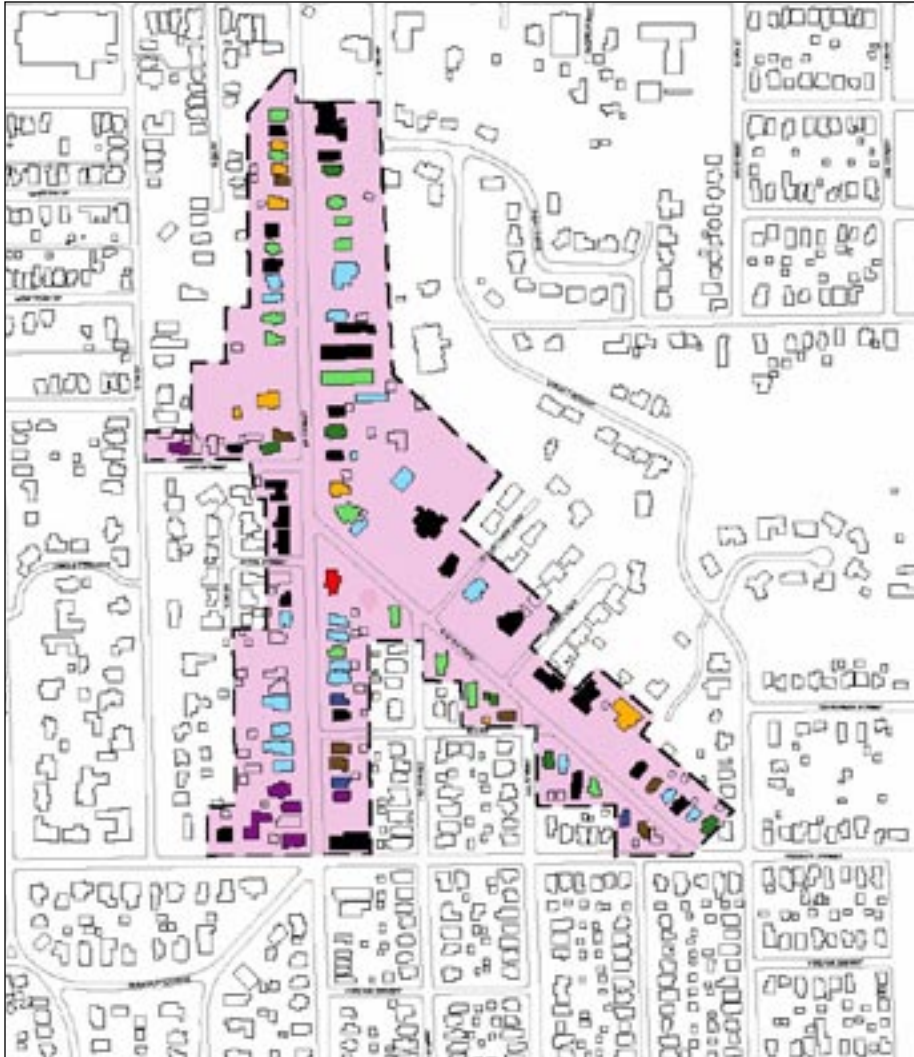
*St. Mary National Historic District plaques awarded*

## Classifications



*St. Mary National Historic District classifications*



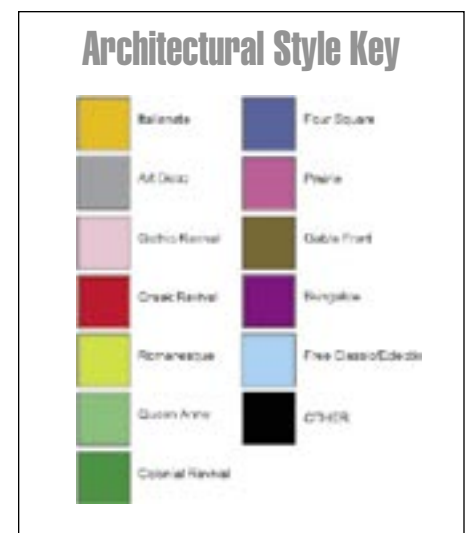


## Section 6: Ninth Street Hill Historic District

### *Ninth Street Hill National Historic District architectural styles*

Another popular place within the city for local businessmen to build their homes was the Ninth Street Hill and State Street area. Ninth Street was originally known as Clark Street, one of Lafayette's few thoroughfares. For a time, Ninth Street Hill was known as "Prospect Hill." In July of 1860 Clark Street and Prospect Hill were renamed Ninth Street although Prospect Hill still appeared on abstracts as late as 1878.

The years 1852 through 1872 represented a prosperous period of railroad expansion, and wealthier businessmen began building homes on the hills surrounding Lafayette to the east. The house of Judge Cyrus Ball, one of Tippecanoe County's first judges, was built on "Prospect Hill" in the Italianate Villa style in 1865-1869. It remains one of Lafayette's most significant residences today.





*Many grand homes were constructed on State Street in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including this Tudor Revival home.*

Also located on the hill are several houses built by the Sample family. Robert Sample built two houses for his daughters upon their marriages: the Anna Sample Johnson and Ashley Johnson House and the Candace Sample Burt and Dr. Edgar V. Burt House, both constructed in the Queen Anne style.

Lafayette's leading citizens also built houses on State Street. William S. Potter, a local attorney and real estate investor, removed several buildings along State Street to enable him to move a building from the St. Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1912 to 920 State Street. Sections of three old Connecticut mansions, including the Hubbard-Slater Mansion and Norwich House, had been used to construct Potter's house. Also located on the grounds of the Potter Mansion is the large brick carriage house.

With recent emphasis on preservation, many of the homes in the district have been returned to their original splendor after a period of decline during the 1950s and 1960s, when many families moved to the suburbs. The area's active neighborhood association has been responsible for much of the renewed interest in this architecturally significant area.







## Ninth Street Hill Historic District

### Plaques Awarded

*Ninth Street Hill National Historic District plaques awarded*

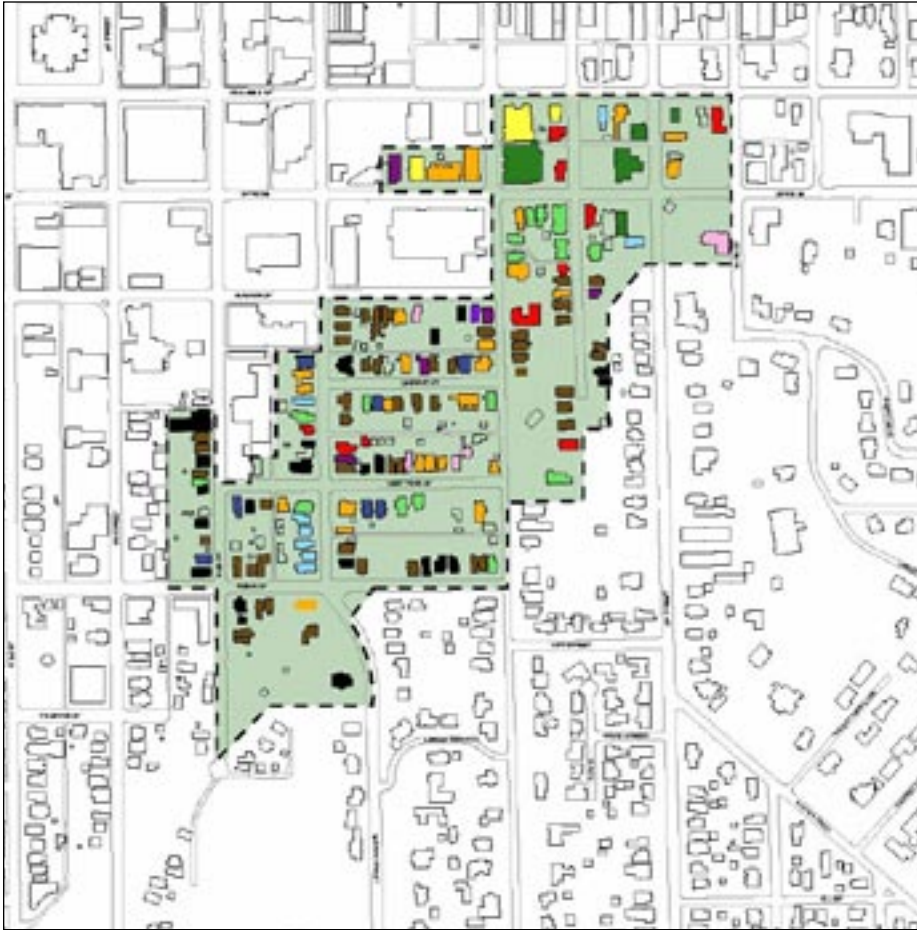


## Classifications

	Outstanding
	Notable
	Contributing
	Non-contributing

*Ninth Street Hill National Historic District classifications*





*Ellsworth National Historic District architectural styles*

The Ellsworth Historic District is located southeast of Lafayette's business district. Most of the district's buildings were constructed during the mid to late nineteenth century although some earlier residences have remained.

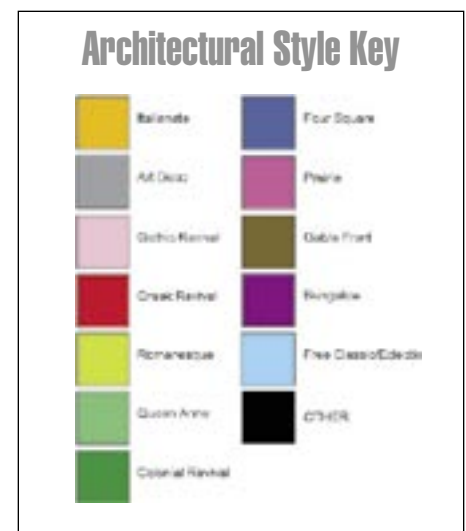
The area was named for Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, son of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Ellsworth. Ellsworth was appointed United States Commissioner of Patents in 1835. Ellsworth owned large amounts of land in Lafayette, including the area within the historic district. He laid out several subdivisions between 1844 and 1846, and soon merchants, bankers and craftsmen settled in the area.

Most of the earliest structures are located in the district's northern section. The Moses Fowler House, built in 1851-1852, is the county's premier residential example of the Gothic Revival style. Both the Fowler House and the William Potter House, located in the Ninth Street Hill district, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Section 7: Ellsworth Historic District



*Temple Israel, constructed in 1866-1867, is the oldest known structure in Indiana originally built for a Jewish congregation.*







*The Ellsworth Historic District is home to an outstanding example of a row-house with Italianate features named the Howe block, constructed in 1870.*

As in other sections of Lafayette, the ensuing prosperity produced a building boom, and many large elaborate homes were built in the area. James Alexander, who designed the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, built his house in 1880. James Falley had his Italian Villa style house built between 1862-1864. Lewis Falley, Jr. constructed one of Lafayette's few remaining examples of the Second Empire style on South Street. Adjacent to Falley's house is an outstanding example of a row-house with Italianate features named the Howe block, which was constructed in 1870.

Several noteworthy religious buildings remain in the district. Temple Israel, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, is the oldest known structure in Indiana originally built for a Jewish congregation. Formed in 1849, the Ahavas Achim congregation was the second organized in Indiana. The Italianate synagogue was constructed in 1866-1867. The Second Presbyterian Church was built on land donated by Moses Fowler's wife in 1893. The church is the best example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in Tippecanoe County.

The Ellsworth Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 20, 1986.



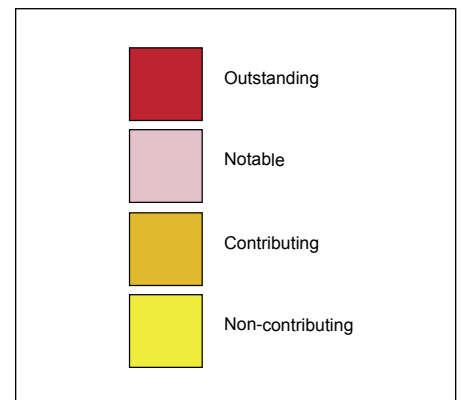
## Ellsworth Historic District

### Plaques Awarded

*Ellsworth National Historic District plaques awarded*



## Classifications



*Ellsworth National Historic District classifications*



## Section 8: Highland Park Historic District

*Winding, tree-lined streets lend a welcoming atmosphere to the Highland Park neighborhood.*

The Highland Park Historic District encompasses the area lying within the plat of Highland Park as well as additional property located north of the platted area. Laid out in the early 1850s, Kossuth Street was for more than 40 years the southern boundary of Lafayette until the platting of Highland Park in 1891. The new addition was formerly a section of the Ross and Reynolds farm pastures where in 1853, the second Indiana State Fair was held drawing over 60,000 people.

The Highland Park Land Company was formed by James M. Reynolds, William Ross and David Linn Ross. Initially the area contained 136 lots. A southern addition, Highland Park II, was platted in 1893, and added 28 more lots. Included in the plat was a lot reserved for a public school which became the site of the Columbian School. Today the Highland School, constructed in 1924, is located on the site.

Highland Park developed as a typical, early twentieth century neighborhood. Bungalows and period revival-style houses were built along the winding tree-lined streets. The residents were diverse, including everything from merchants and businessmen to two Indiana governors.



*The Marshall Haywood house on Cherokee Avenue was built in the Tudor Revival style in 1930.*

J. Frank Hanley, governor from 1904-1908, lived at 739 Owen Street and Roger D. Brannigan, governor from 1965 to 1969, lived at 611 South Seventh Street. The home of Purdue University presidents from 1923 to 1975 was located at 515 South Seventh Street. The district includes a number of significant homes designed by local architects Walter Scholer, Sr. and Charles W. Nichol. Scholer, who designed many of the buildings on the Purdue University campus, designed the Colonial Revival Callahan House. Nichol designed the William Blistain House, the Marshall Haywood House, and a house at 605 South Seventh Street. Most of the remaining architecture is more modest in scale. Craftsman bungalows, such as three houses on Owen Street, and American four-square houses, such as four houses on Pontiac Avenue, are typical of many middle-class houses in the district.

Period revival architecture is also prominently featured. Colonial Revival houses are found throughout the area. The Tudor Revival style is represented by the Marshall Haywood House and, on a more modest scale, by a house on Cherokee Street.

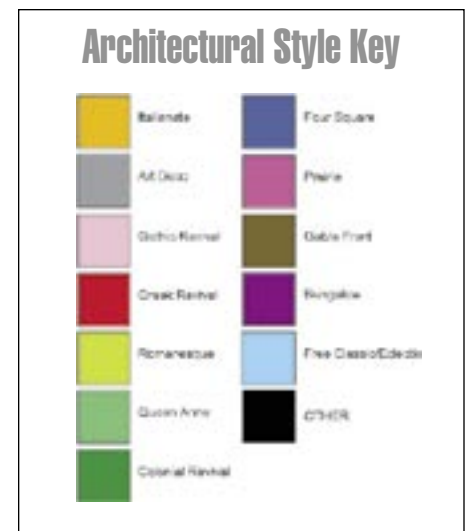




*Highland Park National Historic District architectural styles*

The original plat boasted a triangular park, an island bordered by Miami, Pontiac and Highland Avenues. This area also has a deep ravine which is traversed by means of a “bicycle bridge” built to assist school children in reaching Highland School.

Another noteworthy non-residential structure, the St. Joseph’s Orphanage, was designed by Charles W. Nichol in 1914. Brick sidewalks and brick streets also contribute to the character of the neighborhood.









## Highland Park Historic District

### Plaques Awarded

*Highland Park National Historic District plaques awarded*



## Classifications

	Outstanding
	Notable
	Contributing
	Non-contributing

*Highland Park National Historic District classifications*



*The Italianate Horn-Chaney home on Perrin Avenue was built in 1876.*

## Section 9: Perrin Historic District

The Perrin Historic District was developed on a terraced area of the Wabash Valley with curving streets that responded to the topography. The land in the district was first considered for development by Lawrence B. Stockton, who called the property Stockton's Woods. However, it was not developed until 1873 when James J. Perrin offered 63 acres for sale.

Perrin had moved to Indiana from Virginia in 1847. He maintained a farm in Carroll County, Indiana, until 1869 when he moved to Lafayette where he became president of the Indiana National Bank, renamed the Perrin National Bank. Perrin, who along with several others, platted the land as Perrin's Addition in 1873, became the sole developer within three years of the purchase.

The former Lake Erie and Wabash Railroad and the terraced lands of the river valley form the western edge of the district. They provided the boundaries for early development in the bottom lands. The Perrin Addition was one of the first developments to break this tradition by building directly on the terraced area.

Due to the area's topography, the traditional grid system found in other parts of Lafayette was abandoned in favor of a winding, curved street pattern. The homes in the area were built conforming to this pattern with a variety of setbacks and sitings making the area visually unique.

Most of the district's significant architecture was constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One of the area's





*Perrin National Historic District architectural styles*



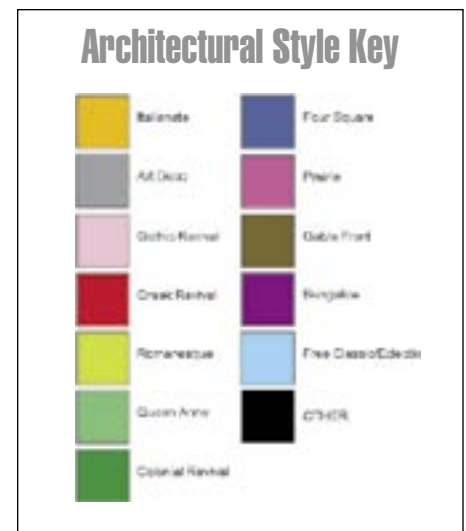
*Many fine examples of the Queen Anne style can be found in the Perrin Historic District.*

focal points is the James Perrin House, purchased from James Blake in 1869. Originally constructed in the Italianate style, the house was later redesigned in the Queen Anne style. Nearby stand two houses Perrin had built for his sons. The John Perrin House was built in 1890 in the Queen Anne style. The William Perrin House has unfortunately suffered major alterations.

Just across from the Perrin House are three of the district's most significant structures, each exemplary of the Queen Anne style. The Weigle House, the Foit-Perrin House, and the William Crouse House were all built between 1888-1893. These houses, combined with the Perrin houses, make this block one of the district's most significant.

Although these large houses tend to dominate the area, the neighborhood was also home to many of Lafayette's middle and working classes. Modest bungalows and small frame cottages are found throughout the district.

The Perrin Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in September of 1979.







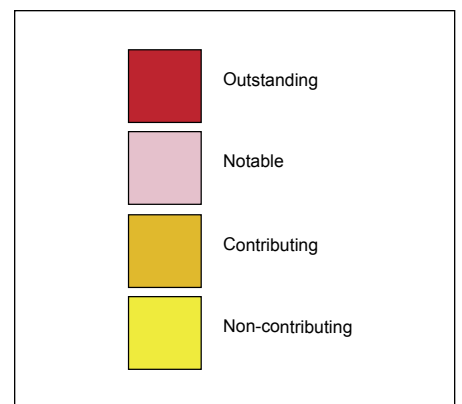
# Perrin Historic District

## Plaques Awarded

*Perrin National Historic District plaques awarded*



## Classifications



*Perrin National Historic District classifications*