

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 Wildwood Park Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number: Roughly bounded by West Jefferson Boulevard, Illinois Road,  
Lindenwood Avenue, Freeman Street, Portage Boulevard, and  
Ardmore Avenue.


not for publication

city or town Fort Wayne

vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46802-46804

## 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 X statewide        local

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-31-13  
Date

Indiana DNR-Div. of Historic Preservation & 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

Wildwood Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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#### 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.)

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Federal |

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | site        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | structure   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | object      |

##### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
190	20	building
2	0	site
1	2	structure
0	1	object
193	23	Total

##### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

THE CIVILIZING OF A MIDWESTERN CITY: THE PARK AND  
BOULEVARD SYSTEM OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

##### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

#### 6. Function or Use

##### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related  
(vehicular)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/park

LANDSCAPE/plaza

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

LANDSCAPE/forest

##### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related  
(vehicular)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/park

LANDSCAPE/plaza

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

LANDSCAPE/forest

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor

Revival

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: French

Eclectic

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER: American Small House

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard,

roof: ASPHALT

other: METAL: Iron

STONE

## 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 Wildwood Park Historic District is located in Fort Wayne, a city of approximately 250,000 people in northeast Indiana. The district is located about 1.5 miles west of downtown Fort Wayne. The Wildwood Park Historic District is located between West Jefferson Boulevard, Illinois Road, Freeman Street, Portage Boulevard, and Ardmore Avenue. Much of the district was designed or proposed by landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff and the Wildwood Builders development company.<sup>1</sup> Shurcliff's designs were followed to great extent and have excellent integrity. The district was platted and organized in several sections beginning in 1914 and completed in 1940. The Wildwood Park plat was designed by Arthur Shurcliff during the period of 1914-1916. Shurcliff's plat for Wildwood Park included lots 1-99, with several of the largest lots (numbered 95-99) planned for further subdivision as needed (see attached plat-Attachment G). Wildwood Park 2nd Addition was added in 1920, north and west of the original plat, and Wildwood Park 2nd Addition Extended was platted in 1938 to the north and east of the original plat (Attachments H and I). These additions were formed from the large lots reserved in Shurcliff's initial design. Wildwood Park Addition Amended was added in 1940, filling the southern and southeastern parts of the district (see Attachment J). Gypsy Knoll was platted separately in 1938, and filled a rectangular space on the western edge of the original Wildwood Park plat (see Attachment K). The district features large, detached single-family homes in a variety of popular styles from the 'teens to the 1960s.

## Narrative Description

The Wildwood Park Historic District is bordered on the north and northwest by retail stores, restaurants, gas stations, and shopping centers. To the west is located a residential area with both single-family homes, and an apartment complex, and

<sup>1</sup> Shurcliff legally changed the spelling of his last name from Shurtleff to Shurcliff in 1930. Shurcliff is used throughout this nomination, except where quoting from other sources.

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includes the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed John Haynes House (listed in the NRHP on July 2, 2004). Ardmore Avenue on the west side border of the district has experienced an extremely large increase in traffic in recent years, and a road-widening project has recently been completed. To the south of the district are located public elementary and middle schools, an apartment complex, and scattered residences located in a former wetland. To the east is located Rockhill Park, part of the Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard System Historic District (listed in the NRHP on December 28, 2010).

The Wildwood Park subdivision is located on the former Hoffman farm; an area of rolling hills associated with the glacial Little River and its banks. (Photo 1) The subdivision slopes toward a former wetland area located along the south edge of the boundary at Portage Boulevard. Portage Boulevard was named for its use as the portage between the Wabash and Maumee River systems. The Wabash and Erie Canal (1834-1880) was constructed along the line now occupied by Portage Boulevard, which is situated on the location of the old canal towpath (see Attachment A).<sup>2</sup> The Wildwood Builders Company organized the Wildwood Park Company in December, 1913, to purchase and develop the Wildwood Park subdivision. The historic relationship of Wildwood Park to the growth and development of Fort Wayne is evident through its placement along the western boulevard proposed by George Kessler in his 1912 plan for Parks and Boulevards; it also adjoined the older Upper Huntington Road and Illinois Road, which were the primary routes to Fort Wayne from the southwest and west (see Attachment C). In addition, the Hoffman's farming operation had not significantly altered the forested areas of the parcel, which consisted of rolling hills; remnants of glaciation and the Little River Valley (part of the Wabash River system).

The primary entrance to the subdivision is located on the east side of the subdivision, where North Washington Road intersects Freeman Street. Additional entrances to the subdivision are located on the north side of the district off of West Jefferson Boulevard at Willowdale Road and on the south side of the district off of Portage Boulevard at Hawthorn Road. The entrance to the subdivision from the west along Ardmore Avenue is at North Washington Road. Other entrances on Ardmore Avenue at South Washington Road and Mulberry Road have been closed to vehicular traffic, as has the western Willowdale Road entrance. A sound-barrier wall has been constructed between Ardmore Avenue, West Jefferson Boulevard and the subdivision. (Photo 2)

Shurcliff's plat of Wildwood Park connected to Illinois Road and the historic Upper Huntington Road. This road was an early American Indian trail and was the portage road used by American Indian, French, British, and United States traders to travel from the Wabash River to the center of trade activity at the confluence of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph Rivers in the area that became downtown Fort Wayne (see Attachment A).

The Wildwood Park Historic District includes a range of high-style homes with a high-degree of architectural detail. These homes are high quality; most of them are unique, architect-designed homes. The Wildwood Park subdivision was the first planned community in northeastern Indiana to include deed restrictions that gave Wildwood Company the exclusive right to approve the architectural worthiness of the proposed residence.<sup>3</sup> After the Wildwood Park Company was dissolved in the 1940s, the Wildwood Park Neighborhood Association took over many of its functions, including the continuation of an Architectural Review committee. Houses of the same high architectural caliber, and approved by the Wildwood Architectural Review committee, continued to be built in Wildwood Park after 1960. They are considered non-contributing at this time only because they have not yet reached the age of historic significance. There are 146 contributing primary residential buildings in the Wildwood Park Historic District and there are 40 contributing garages. There are 10 non-contributing primary residences in the district, of which four are outstanding architectural examples which were built after the period of significance. Six others have been altered and have suffered a loss of integrity. There are also 10 non-contributing garages. Wildwood Park also includes several sites, structures and objects that contribute to its significance in Community Planning (see end of Section 7, description).

The houses in Wildwood Park are single-family detached homes on large lots, with a variety of massing types. Principal architectural styles are Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, American Small House, and Ranch. Unusual examples of French Eclectic, Art Moderne, Wrightian, and American International are found as well.<sup>4</sup> Materials include wood, stucco, and brick, and many of the houses were architect designed. Principal architects and homebuilders included Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby, A.M. Strauss, Guy Mahurin, Pohlmeier and Pohlmeier, John Worthman, and Edwin Gibson.

<sup>2</sup> Wildwood Park is located in Section 9 of Wayne Township, north of the Wabash and Erie Canal right-of-way.

<sup>3</sup> Wildwood Park Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, platting documents.

<sup>4</sup> All architectural descriptions are based on McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990



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The primary features of the district were all in place by 1960. Since 1960 a number of homeowners have added aluminum siding, and more recently some have added vinyl siding. Some homes have installed replacement windows, but all such alterations have filled the original window openings. Owners of several homes built with screened porches have had those porches enclosed as additional interior space. Very few homes have had major additions, and those additions that have been built have been approved by the Architectural Control Committee of the neighborhood association. This committee of residents of Wildwood Park is charged with monitoring and enforcing the deed restrictions and covenants placed in the original and subsequent plats (see Section 8 for a full discussion of deed restrictions and covenants).

**Some representative resources:**

**Buildings:**

3322 North Washington Road: Harry and Mayme Hattersley House; c. 1950

T. Richard Shoaff of Shoaff-Kain Architects, Architect

This one-story, wood-sided Colonial Revival home has square pilaster end posts. The side-gable house has a west side entrance, located in a small alcove between the house and attached garage. Brick chimneys are centered on gable-end walls and there are exposed rafters at the roofline. A screen porch is located on the east wall. There are multi-pane windows on the façade, with a bay window of eight-over-eight windows centered, with six-over-six windows on either side. A quarter-round louvered vent is to the south of the chimney on the wall of the house.

Contributing

(Photo 3)

3340 North Washington Road: Guy S. and Mary J. Means House; c. 1928

This is a two-story Flemish-bond brick Craftsman home. It has a front gable orientation with three bays, and two-story ell on the east. A single-story screened porch is on the west. There is a brick water-table, and brick arches are located over a three-part window in the ell. The hooded entrance is in the left bay of the façade. There are a variety of window sizes and shapes. Two sets of French doors are found in bays to the east of the door. Most windows are eight-over-eight with soldier-course lintels and rowlock sills. French doors have ten lights in each door. There are arched multi-pane casement windows in the gable. The roof has deep eaves, exposed rafters and is covered in terra cotta tile. A screened room is located on the west wall. A two-car brick garage is located at the north end of "Hillside Path." Guy Means was the President and Treasurer of the G.S. Means automobile dealership. Mrs. Means was the Vice-President of the dealership. The dealership sold Cadillac, Pontiac, LaSalle and Oakland brand automobiles.

Contributing with contributing garage

(Photos 4 and 5)

3401 North Washington Road: Daniel B. and Margaret C. Ninde House; c. 1917

Attributed to Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby

This two-story, five-bay, vinyl-sided Colonial Revival home is side-gabled with a centered front doorway under a large pediment with dentil and molding details supported by pilasters. Sidelights are located on each side of recessed doorway. Windows are eight-over-eight, wood sash double hung flanked by shutters. The end gables feature interior chimneys visible at the roof ridge, and are flanked by narrow windows in the gables. A single story wing extends from both east and west walls. On the west, the wing is an enclosed solarium, with a ribbon of multi-pane windows on the north and east walls. The west wing encloses a screened porch, with roof supported by paired square columns. Both wings have flat roofs and balustrades and are original to the home. Daniel B. Ninde was Vice-President and Counsel of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. No profession is indicated for Margaret C. Ninde in Fort Wayne City Directories. Daniel Ninde was the brother of Wildwood Park developer Lee J. Ninde.

Contributing

3408 North Washington Road: Edmund H. and Elinor Miller House; c. 1917

Attributed to Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby

This two-story wood-sided gable front Craftsman home has a wide-overhanging roof with exposed rafters and purlins. A one-story solarium with a flat roof and metal balustrade is located on the east. The offset gabled entrance portico has trios of square pillars or pilasters at each corner. There is half-timbering in the gable of the entrance portico and near the top of the gable of the main structure. First floor windows are grouped multi-pane casements, while the second floor has single and paired eight-over-one double hung units on the main body of the house. Ribbons of three and four double hung sash are on the one-story wing. The front gable two-car garage is wood sided. Edmund Miller was the Treasurer of the

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Wayne Paper Goods Company in 1929, and by 1937 was the President and Treasurer of the Board and Paper Products Company. No profession is indicated for Elinor Miller in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing with contributing garage

(Photo 6)

3424 North Washington Road: Fremont L. and Florence Jones House; c. 1918

Attributed to Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby

This two-story stucco and wood Craftsman home has rafter tails at the roofline. The house has a side gable roof, with a one-story solarium on the east wall. The first floor stucco façade is offset under a wood frame second floor. A narrow frieze separates the floors. The wood-gabled porch and entrance are centered on the facade, with paired square columns on stuccoed piers. An eight-light sidelight is located to the left of the front door. Windows vary in size and number of lights, but are primarily in a multi-pane-over-one configuration. Centered above the porch are paired diamond pane fixed windows. The flat-roofed solarium has a metal balustrade and tripled multi-pane windows. Fremont Jones was the Chairman of the Board of the Troy Laundry Company. No profession is indicated for Florence Jones in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 6)

3518 North Washington Road: William T. and Ruth B. McKay House; c. 1916-1917

Attributed to Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby

This one-and-a-half-story stucco Craftsman home has an original below-grade garage. The side-gable house has one-story wings on each end wall. Entrances are located on both the east and west walls. The primary entrance is on the west wall. The secondary entrance on the east wall is flanked by a brick chimney, and has an open patio. The façade has two sets of tripled windows, and paired windows capped by a five-light fanlight. Tripled windows are also found on the side wings. The east wing extends into an extended front-gable wing over a below-grade two-door garage that is original to the house. William T. McKay was the Treasurer of the GE Bursley Company. No profession is indicated for Ruth B. McKay in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 7)

3526 North Washington Road: Robert B. and Paula H. Watt House; c. 1930

This two-story brick, wood and stucco Tudor Revival home has irregular massing, with multiple gables and a variety of surfaces. The first floor is primarily brick. The second floor is of half-timbered design and is wood and stucco. The cross-gabled portion is jettied out and rests on wood corbels while large scroll brackets support the gable bargeboard. The front entrance is located in a large cross-gable section with wall treatments of brick and undulating wood clapboards. The entrance has an arched recessed doorway. Windows in the brick areas of the façade feature scalloped wood lintels over paired multi-pane casement windows. Single casements are found on the second floor. In the half-timbered areas of the façade, the casements are framed by unadorned wood. Robert B. Watt was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Pioneer Ice Cream Company. No profession is indicated for Paula H. Watt in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 7)

3615 North Washington Road: Harold H. and Hannah R. Doswell House; c. 1930

J.O. Brown, contractor

This two-story brick Colonial Revival/Georgian home has a side gable five-bay façade. The entrance is centered, and a one-story flat-roof solarium with decorative wood balustrade is located on the east end wall. Windows on the main façade are located in each bay and are primarily single, eight-over-eight windows, with flat arches of brick with a limestone keystone and stone sills. The windows have working louvered shutters. A pair of windows on the second floor is centered over the doorway. The doorway is framed by fluted, engaged Corinthian columns, and a pediment with a solid panel fan detail in the tympanum. Harold H. Doswell was the President of Doswell and Kover, dealers in burial vaults. No profession is indicated for Hannah R. Doswell in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 8)

3710 North Washington Road: Ralph W. and May L. Hall House; c. 1936

This two-story wood and brick Colonial Revival home has wall dormers. The side gable home has a first floor of brick laid in weeping mortar, and is separated from the overhanging wood-sided area above at a point just above the first floor

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windows and just under the arched pediment centered on the façade over the front door. The second floor has wall dormers. A high-pitched side-gabled garage is located on the west façade. On the east wall is found a screened room. Ralph W. Hall was a laboratory worker at the General Electric Company. No profession is indicated for May L. Hall in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

3403 South Washington Road: Daniel S. Beers House; c. 1921

This is a two-story vinyl and brick Colonial Revival/Tudor Revival home. The side-gable façade has a painted brick cross-gable, within which is a projecting gabled pavilion with the primary entrance. Side eaves on the masonry section are corbelled. The entry porch has a roof balustrade of wrought-iron, supported by round columns. A semi-circular arched opening with six-light rounded casements is centered above the porch. The projecting gabled pavilion has a narrow, diamond pane window in the gable. A small pent-roof is west of primary entrance, and continues the brickwork of the cross-gables to an external chimney on the façade. A narrow, diamond pane window is located on the second floor, between the cross-gable and the chimney. To the west of the chimney, the second floor overhangs the first, with corbelling detail. To the east of the primary entrance are a through-the-cornice window centered above a window on the first floor. All windows on the façade (except the diamond-pane windows) are six-over-one. There is a two-car side gable garage.

Contributing with contributing garage

3415 South Washington Road: Bales-McMillen House; c. 1937

This two-story wood, stucco, and stone Colonial Revival home has a four-bay side-gable façade with a stucco cross-gable. A wood-sided second floor jetty overhangs the stone first floor with decorative pendants. The primary entrance is to the west of the cross-gable, with entablature and square pilaster surround. Multi-pane windows are centered in the bays and have shutters. In the cross-gable, there are two second-floor multi-pane windows. On the first floor paired multi-pane windows have a decorative arched blind fanlight surmounting them. A half-round divided-light window is located in the gable. Dale McMillen, Jr. was the President and Chairman of the Board of the Central Soya Company, succeeding his father Dale McMillen, Sr. who founded the company. Mrs. McMillen lived in the house from 1952 until 2010.

Contributing

3448 South Washington Road: Mrs. Daniel B. Ninde House, c. 1941

T. Richard Shoaff, architect

This two-story wood-frame Colonial Revival home is clad with aluminum. The five-bay side-gable façade has a centered entrance. The entrance is in a recessed doorway under a pediment, with sidelights and transom. Multi-pane windows have louvered wood shutters and tall entablature lintels. The garage wing is on east side of the house, with original, architect-designed lattices for roses on the first floor façade, and two fixed windows above. A new garage has recently been built at the rear of the lot.

Contributing with non-contributing garage

(Photo 10)

3541 South Washington Road: Lawrence L. and Marjorie Levy House; c. 1949

Edwin A. Gibson, A.M. Strauss and Associates, Architect

This one-story wood and stone Wrightian/Modern style house has a steep angle mono-pitch roof combined with an ell, creating an integral garden living space in the center of the residence. The primary entrance is centered on the façade and is recessed, with decorative wood-screens. An attached garage is at the east end of the façade. The west end of the façade incorporates a chimney that extends across half of the west elevation, and connects to an atrium-style wall of windows that continue to the south façade. Lawrence Levy was the President of Levy Real Estate and Marjorie was Vice-President of the Ball Drug Service Company.

Contributing

(Photos 11 and 12)

3604 South Washington Road: Alden Irmischer House; c. 1956

Martindale and Dahlgren, architects

This large one-and-a-half-story stone and wood Colonial Revival home has flagstone walls on first floor and a wood shingle roof with four dormers. The roofline extends over a concrete porch. The entrance is located to the west of center on the façade. To the east of the entrance are two large semi-circular oriel bay windows with five multi-pane windows located in each bay. A single-story side-gable wing is located to the west of the doorway, with a squared bay under a small gable, centered on the wall. This bay also has five multi-pane windows. A garage is attached on the east side of the

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structure, with walls of flagstone, and wood clapboard in the gable. A secondary entrance is located on the east wall, between the garage and house, with a shed roof supported by a square column. Alden Irmscher was a General Contractor in the Irmscher Company.

Contributing

(Photo 13)

3630 South Washington Road: Richard Westley Residence, c. 1960

This one-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival home has a wood shake roof. The entrance with sidelights is centered on the three bay side-gable façade. Three gabled dormers with pairs of multi-pane casement windows are placed on the second floor. On the first floor, a pair of multi-pane windows is located to the west of the doorway, separated from the door by a large area of solid wall. To the east of the doorway are two multi-pane windows placed evenly in the bay. An attached one-and-a-half-story side-gable garage with gabled-dormer, wood shake roof, and cupola is set back from the west elevation.

Contributing

3605 South Washington Road: Earl and Ruth Brenn House; c. 1954

This is a split-level wood and stone American International Style home. A secondary two-story block is to west of the façade, with a flat roof that extends over the roof of the primary block. Both blocks have wide wood siding with wide, substantial corner applications of narrow, long sections of stone. The primary entrance is located to the left of center on the façade, with a flat roof porch and open panels of wood. The windows are of a variety of sizes, all single-pane. Earl Brenn was the Vice-President of Huntington Laboratories. No profession is indicated for Ruth Brenn in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 14)

1407 Hawthorn Road: Haberly-McMillen House; c. 1938

This is a two-story brick and stone French Eclectic style house. The house has irregular massing with a steep hipped roof and dressed stone. There is a tower with a conical roof, in the ell of two primary facades, facing Willowdale (north) and Hawthorn (west). The principal doorway is located in the tower. The North façade has casement windows of a variety of sizes, all with stone sills and wood lintels. All casements and French doors have wood shutters with decorative fleur-de-lis cut-outs and partial louvers. An oriel window is located on the first floor, to the west of the entry tower, and has a slate hood and a corbelled brick base. A second floor window above the oriel has a through-the-cornice gabled window. A pair of circular roof dormers is located on the north façade. A small cupola is located along the roof ridge. There are French doors with sidelights on the façade to the east of the entry tower, with a balcony with wrought iron balustrade. A through-the-cornice window with an exaggerated arched lintel is located above the French doors. The west façade has two bays, with through-the-cornice windows on the second floor and exaggerated segmental arched hoods. The west façade first floor has two pairs of casement windows over large decorative panels, mimicking French doors on the north façade. A hipped dormer is centered in the roof of the west façade. There is also a massive brick chimney with a trio of tall clay chimney pots.

Contributing

(Photo 1)

1505 Hawthorn Road: Sherman C. and Gladys Kattell House; c. 1931

Guy Mahurin, Architect

This is a two-story patterned brick and stucco Tudor Revival Style home. The primary entrance is located in a large brick projecting gable with stucco and half-timber decoration near the roofline. The doorway has an arched surround of rusticated stone quoining projecting into the surrounding brickwork. A centered pair of casements is located in the gable, with a scalloped wood lintel and balcony with wrought iron balustrade. A massive patterned brickwork chimney with chimney pots is prominent on the façade, to the north of the entry gable. Windows are steel casements with a variety of sizes and lights. Sherman C. Kattell was Secretary and Actuary for the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. No profession is indicated for Gladys Kattell in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

1702 Hawthorn Road: Lee J. and Helena Ninde House; c. 1925

This two-story wood Colonial Revival home has a side-gable roof. The primary entrance is centered on the façade, with an entry porch and fluted round columns, and square, fluted pilasters. A fanlight is located above the door. The flat porch roof has a wood balustrade with square corner pedestals and wood caps. There are paired multi-pane windows on either

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side of doorway, with wood louvered shutters. The second floor has two centered multi-paned windows with a cloth awning. On either side are located multi-pane windows with wood louvered shutters. A one-story sunroom is on the north elevation and has a flat roof and wood balustrade. There is a two-story secondary side-gable block on the south elevation, with a trio of one-over-one windows on each floor, with cloth awnings. The detached two-car wood-sided garage has a cross-gable roof. Lee J. Ninde was the President of the Wildwood Companies. Helena Ninde was his second wife. Contributing with contributing garage (Photo 15)

1815 Hawthorn Road: G. Doyal and Lillian M. White House; c. 1954  
John Worthman, builder  
O. E. Bly, architect

Original blueprints are labeled H-58981 and H-01133. A newspaper clipping notes that the plan was offered by C.W. Babcock Organization, Detroit.<sup>5</sup>

This Split-Level wood-frame and stone home has traditional features and is aluminum sided. The main block is a single story with a two-story garage/residential ell built into the hillside. The primary entrance is located in the one-story portion of the façade. There are two large picture windows with stone sills located to the left of the doorway. A massive, rusticated stone chimney is centered between the picture windows. A long aluminum awning is located over the doorway and picture window. A second awning is over the second picture window. The garage door is centered in the ell with stonework on either side. The second floor of the ell has two two-over-two horizontally-divided double-hung windows located at the corners, with vertical siding between. A shallow shed roof shelters the garage door. G. Doyal White was an agent for the General Electric Company. No profession is indicated for Lillian M. White in Fort Wayne City Directories. Contributing

1830 Hawthorn Road: Paul J. and Ruth Sauerteig House; c. 1955  
Noble Brainard, Architect. Blueprints marked "Brainard Plan #0154.  
Design approved by Wildwood Park Design Committee, April 6, 1954<sup>6</sup>

This Split-Level home features a below-grade garage. It is sided with aluminum. The roof is side-gable with a prominent cross-gable. The primary entrance is located in the ell, with a flat-roof porch, supported by square posts. The windows are two-over-two horizontally divided double-hung windows. A pair of windows with shutters is located to the right of doorway, under the porch. A single window is located to the right of the porch on the façade. A brick chimney is prominent at the ridge line of the side gable. The cross gable section has a garage door centered below-grade level, with a single two-over-two window to its right. Above the garage door are located two pairs of two-over-two windows with shutters. Contributing

3429 Willowdale Road: Myrtle W. Beall House; c. 1941  
This two-story Colonial Revival home is aluminum sided. The side-gabled house has a centered doorway with decorative pilasters and sidelights with a wide frieze board above. On either side of the doorway are multi-pane windows with decorative shutters. The second floor has three through-the-cornice multi-pane windows. Contributing  
(Photo 16)

3525 Willowdale Road: Harold J. and Charlotte Novitsky House; c. 1942  
A.M. Strauss, Architect

This is a two-story, wood and stone streamlined Colonial Revival home. The side-gable house has a recessed primary entrance under a pent roof which extends and merges into the garage roof on the east side of the façade. This pent roof and garage design is similar to another house designed by Strauss in Fort Wayne during the same decade, and is believed to be original. The doorway has a varnished multi-pane door and multi-pane sidelights. A round window is located to the east of the doorway on the first floor. To the west of the doorway, under a wood lintel is located a multi-pane picture window which wraps the corner, and extends with the lintel onto the west elevation. Second story multi-pane windows are paired with shutters. One pair is located under a small gable on the second floor above the picture window. The second pair is centered above the doorway. Garage doors have a raised molding around small single-light windows arranged in a pair flanked by sets of three on either side. Above the garage door is located a multi-pane window in a

<sup>5</sup> Fort Wayne *News Sentinel*, Saturday, March 10, 1951.

<sup>6</sup> In possession of owner.



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gabled dormer.<sup>7</sup> Harold Novitsky was President of American Coal and Supply Company. No profession is indicated for Charlotte Novitsky in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

3535 Willowdale Road: Momper House; c. 1965

This two-story wood and stone Contemporary Style home has a side-gable roof with wood shingles. There is an overhanging jetty and a one-story cross-gable. The secondary one-and-a-half-story side-gable wing extends to the east of primary façade, with a low dormer extending the length of the roof. The primary entrance is located at the ell, with side-lights. A set of five multi-pane windows are located to the east of the doorway. To the east, a single window is located in the cross-gable. First floor wall cladding is stone. Second floor cladding is wood clapboard.

Non-contributing (due to age)

3546 Willowdale Road: Ralph L. and Kathryn L. Burry House, c. 1941

This two-story wood-sided Colonial Revival home has a side gable façade and a shed roof solarium on the east wall. The primary entrance is recessed, and is centered on the façade. A pair of multi-pane windows is located on the second floor above the entrance. Multi-pane windows are located on both sides of the entrance and second floor window pair, and are flanked by decorative shutters. The shed-roof solarium has three multi-pane casements. Ralph L. Burry was Vice-President and Treasurer of the Wayne Paper Box and Printing Corporation. No profession is indicated for Kathryn L. Burry in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

3606 Mulberry Road: Walter W. Neuman House; c. 1939

A.M. Strauss, Architect.<sup>8</sup>

This two-story brick Regency variation of Colonial Revival style has a hipped-roof with a hipped-roof projecting pavilion detail on the north third of the façade. There are brick quoins at the corners of the façade and the projecting pavilion. The doorway is centered on the façade and is slightly recessed, with a solid panel detail on each side, and a transom above. On either side of the doorway are located multi-pane windows with decorative panels below and long shutters that extend along both window and panel. The second floor multi-pane windows are centered above first floor windows. A divided octagonal window is located above the doorway. A brick, hipped roof solarium is located on the north elevation. It has a multi-pane picture window and square brick piers with the effect of quoins at the corners. The brick garage has a low, flat roof.

Contributing with contributing garage

(Photo 19)

3623 Mulberry Road: Robert F., Sr. and Mary Koerber House; c. 1940

John Worthman, designer and builder.

This two-story wood and concrete-block split-level International home has a hipped roof with a secondary hipped roof. The first floor is concrete block, with wood siding on the second. The primary entrance is located to the left of center of the façade. The door has a circular window, and is flanked by a single sidelight on its left. Windows vary in size, but are primarily two-over-two, horizontally divided. A small window is located to the left of the entrance. A larger window is located to its right. To the right of this window, the façade extends as a single-story, with a flat roof balcony above, and a set of three windows which wrap and continue around the corner to the south elevation. A massive chimney is located in this extension, standing independently to a height above the second-story. First floor windows have stone sills. A wide band of wood siding with beveled corners separates first and second floors. Second story windows are paired, and located near the corners, with a large expanse of flat, wood siding. The first story extension creates a flat deck area, dominated by the free-standing chimney extending from below. The secondary hipped-roof block contains the garage and has two 25-light glass block openings on the ground floor. A band of horizontal siding with beveled corners separates the

<sup>7</sup> During the period 1935-1952, A.M. Strauss designed several important houses in Fort Wayne, which have been well documented in his self-published c.1939 *Recent Selections by A.M. Strauss*, and by the Strauss Collection, Drawing and Documents Archive, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN. Unfortunately, Ball State does not have original elevation drawings for this house in its archives, and drawings are limited to interior trim details. A chronological comparison of several houses designed by Strauss in Fort Wayne during the period show a growing use of several features found on the Novitsky House, including similarities in the entrances, the pent-roof extending from main body of house to garage, and the use of wrap-around windows. Using this comparison, it is believed that the Novitsky house has good integrity, showing only the minimal alterations of a newer garage door, and the application of decorative shutters.

<sup>8</sup> Strauss Collection, Drawing and Documents Archive, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN.

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floors. The second floor has a single window at its west side, and a pair of windows at its east side, with a broad expanse of flat wood siding between. The integrated garage has its opening on the east. It has been enclosed to create additional living space. A detached garage was recently built to use the same drive. Robert F. Koerber, Sr. was the Chairman of the Board of the Robert Koerber Company, a jeweler. No profession is indicated for Mary Koerber in Fort Wayne City Directories. Their son Robert F. Koerber, Jr. lived at 3471 South Washington Road, also in Wildwood Park.

Contributing with Non-contributing garage

(Photo 20)

3704 Mulberry Road: Joseph and Elizabeth Pettit House; c. 1941/1960

This split-level wood and stone Colonial Revival home with Tudor Revival massing has aluminum-cladding on most walls, with sections of fieldstone cladding around the primary entrance, and below the overhanging second floor in the cross gable to the south of the entrance. The three-bay side-gable façade has a side-gable sunroom on the north elevation and c. 1960 side-gable family room addition on the south elevation. The family room addition was built in conjunction with the construction of an underground bomb shelter, still extant. The family room addition has a prominent gabled bay with tripled window, that extends through-the-cornice. The primary entrance is centered on the façade, beneath a narrow pent-roof detail. A gabled-dormer is centered above the primary entrance with two multi-pane windows. A tall, three-part window is located to the north of the entrance. The cross-gable section with jetty is located to the south of the entrance and has paired multi-pane windows. The jettied wall has a pendant detail, and two multi-pane windows.

Contributing

1515 Hickory Street: Ralph W. and May L. Hall House; c. 1940

Robert L. Burns, architect

This two-story wood Colonial Revival home has a hipped roof with a secondary hipped roof over an attached garage. There is a frieze board with dentil molding and corner pilasters on the façade. The entrance is centered, with a recessed doorway, and with fluted pilasters supporting a broad entablature with dentil molding, and a shell cut-out. Narrow, diamond pane windows flank the pilasters. Multi-pane windows with decorative shutters are located in the bays on each side of the doorway. On the second floor, a window is located in each bay, and all have shutters. Ralph W. Hall was an engineer at Inca Manufacturing. No profession is indicated for May L. Hall in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

3320 Portage Boulevard: George B. and Virginia H. Gaines House, c. 1951

This two-story side gable Garrison Colonial Revival home has an attached side gable garage. The first floor is clad in brick, and the second floor is clad in aluminum. The primary entrance is located near the center of the first floor on the façade, with the garage to the west and a large multi-pane picture window to the east. On the second floor are two casement windows. All windows on the façade are flanked by decorative shutters. George Gaines was a clerk at the Post Office. No profession is indicated for Virginia H. Gaines in Fort Wayne City Directories.

Contributing

(Photo 24)

1725 Ardmore Avenue: "Gypsy Knoll" House, c. 1890/c. 1938

In addition to the sections of the Wildwood Park Subdivision, the district also includes the Gypsy Knoll subdivision, which was developed from the country estate of this house, known as Gypsy Knoll, on Ardmore Avenue. There is minimal visual difference between the subdivisions.

This two-story wood frame Gabled Ell/Colonial Revival home has its primary entrance centered on the façade, topped by an oversized swan's neck broken pediment and sidelights. The two-story porch roof has a decorative wood balustrade on the flat roof, and is supported by a trio of two-story square columns at the southwest corner, pilaster and column at northwest corner, and a pilaster at the southeast corner. A large multi-pane window and iron balcony are located above the doorway. There is a bay window with multi-pane windows on the first floor in the cross-gable section. Above this a single multi-pane window is centered, and there is a round window centered above, near the roof in the gable. The south wing is jettied with decorative pendants.

Contributing

(Photo 21)

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**Sites:**

**Wildwood Park Subdivision Plat**

The Wildwood Park Subdivision plat in its entirety represents one contributing site in the district. Significant features include the curvilinear system of roads; the system of irregular lot sizes and setbacks; the large Wildwood Park at the fork of South and North Washington Road, the triangle island park space at the Saginaw/Hawthorn/North Washington intersection, the green park space along Willowdale Creek, and Hillside Path, all of which contribute to the setting that exemplifies the ability of Arthur Shurcliff to utilize landscape features with great subtlety and economy to unique effect. There are also many private landscape and recreational features of the site not counted individually, such as gardens, walks, and other amenities which contribute to the overall site.<sup>9</sup> The plat includes irregularly sized and shaped lots along the winding roads of the Wildwood Park subdivisions. The house lots have numerous mature trees. Street trees have been planted along the park strips. Sidewalks are found only in the Wildwood Park original plat, and not in subsequent additions. Minimal grading during development has resulted in an undulating topography, with dips and rises throughout.

The Wildwood Park Company platted the Wildwood Park additions with deed restrictions and covenants, including setback and utility easements, as well as several novel items never before seen in Fort Wayne. A concern for the existing flora and fauna and unique topography of the site, as well as adaptations to automobiles are reflected in several of the provisions of the platting documents, which included guidelines for garages and fences, and specific details for the height of hedges. It also included this regulation: "No tree exceeding 4 inches in diameter at the ground shall be cut down upon any part of said premises, including trees upon any lots therein, whether owned by the Company or by purchasers thereof, unless the previous consent of the Company shall have been obtained therefore in writing."<sup>10</sup>

Perhaps the most explicit example of the Wildwood Park Company's intent to preserve natural areas within the development is seen in Shurcliff's design of the Hillside Path and rectangular public common space north of lots 88 and 89 in the original plat (The Hillside Path is located between lots 87 and 88 of the original plat, and is visible on attachment G. Hillside Path is just north of the park area marked on the map). This deeply wooded area, accessible by walkway only, was surrounded by residential lots. It has since been included with the parcel for 3330 North Washington Road, but remains a woodland space. Hillside Path is a pedestrian path from North Washington downhill towards Willowdale Road, and the Willowdale Creek. Part of the original plat of 1916, this pedestrian lane was discontinued as the lots along Willowdale were designed, and although it has not been formally vacated, it exists on paper, and as the driveway of the house at 3340 North Washington Road. (photo 5) The sales office of the Wildwood Park Company was located at the end of the path, and potential residents walked the tree-lined pedestrian lane to meet company representatives to discuss purchase and construction. A small remnant of concrete located at its terminus is thought to be the foundation of the office building, no longer extant.<sup>11</sup>

Willowdale Creek is a very small natural stream that is part of the St. Mary's River watershed. It enters Wildwood Park from the northwest by a culvert located under the west end of Willowdale Road, and meanders generally east through the subdivision. A non-contributing pedestrian bridge was installed near the Hawthorn and Willowdale intersection during the past 30 years. (photo 18) Near 3429 Willowdale the creek flows through a culvert under Willowdale Road, and emerges at the north end of the lots of 3210 to 3340 North Washington Road. It then flows through a culvert under Freeman Street, and emerges in Rockhill Park. It flows through Rockhill Park toward its confluence with Junk Creek. Shurcliff's design preserved the Willowdale Creek and its banks by the creation of an unusually wide right of way (97-100 feet in width at its widest) of esplanade style, that allowed for a lane of traffic on both sides of the creek, with large common green space from roadway to riverbank, and additional green space in the right of way between roadway and house lots. This elongated open green space is an important feature in the site (photo 17). Willowdale Road was formerly a through-street, returning to Jefferson Boulevard on the west.

Bisecting the Wildwood Park plat, North Washington travels west, rising toward the top of a glacial ridge where it divides into North Washington and South Washington roads. At this juncture is a wide open park area with an evergreen hedge of yew. Always intended as a park for the subdivision, this is one of the largest green space resources in the subdivision. This park--echoed by a much smaller triangle at the intersection of Hawthorn, North Washington and Saginaw Roads—is

<sup>9</sup> Please refer to the resource database.

<sup>10</sup> Plat of Wildwood Park.

<sup>11</sup> According to Grant Shipley, Wildwood Park Community Association president. Other residents believe the concrete to be the remnant of an outdoor shuffle-board court.

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a unique feature of Shurcliff's plan. This large, open green space, combined with a careful contouring of the roads around this hill ridge has suppressed the impact of the roads relative to the houses, creating an impression of a park setting for the homes. By dividing North Washington and South Washington with a "Y", leaving a wide, open, landscaped area in between, Shurcliff created a landscape feature that dominates, as it lies directly ahead of the vista seen when entering the subdivision from the east on North Washington Road.

The smaller triangle at North Washington, Saginaw and Hawthorn similarly occupies the view at the west end of the subdivision. This small park feature is dominated by a mature conifer planted by Wildwood Park Company to be the focal element of the landscape for those entering the subdivision from the west. (Photo 23) Other intersections include triangular spaces of lawn, extending from the private house lots, often with no visible separation, or by the public sidewalk. They are found on the northeast corner of North Washington and Hawthorn; on both sides of Hawthorn and Willowdale; and at the northeast corner of South Washington and Hawthorn. Additionally, elongated green space triangles are located at the subdivision's primary entrance at Washington and Freeman Street. South Washington Road ends as a cul de sac at Ardmore; it was closed to vehicular traffic during the 1980s. Mulberry Street begins at Willowdale Road and curves south and west uphill to its intersection with Ardmore, which has been closed in recent years.

Shurcliff did not specifically denote the location of public sidewalks in his plat of Wildwood Park, although he provided sufficient right-of-way space for their installation. Although sidewalks were installed in many areas of the original plat, all areas were not supplied. Additional sections of Wildwood Park also provided sufficient space for sidewalks in the right of way, but concrete sidewalks have been installed sporadically.

The woodland trees present at the development of Wildwood Park are still present. Species include White and Red Oaks, Shagbark Hickory, Sugar Maple, Poplar and other hardwoods. Efforts by Wildwood Builders to maintain a continuity of landscaping were continued through the 1920s, but discontinued at a later date. During the 1920s Wildwood Builders purchased 25,000 shrubs of various varieties to be used by the neighbors.<sup>12</sup> The mature, hardwood trees throughout the district are part of the remnant forest, and are a significant feature of the site.

The Freeman Street entrance to Wildwood Park was platted as the main entrance, and a simple, c.1960s wooden entrance marker is placed on the south roadside. (Photo 2) Additional markers of the same vintage are located at the North Washington-Ardmore intersection, and the Willowdale-Jefferson Boulevard intersection.

#### Rockhill Park Island:

During planning for Wildwood Park, Shurcliff also developed plans for a parkway leading to Wildwood Park from the city. Shurcliff designed a roadway from the entrance of Wildwood Park, east to Swinney Park for the Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners. This road met Illinois Road, and continued west along the north edge of the Wildwood Park subdivision. In 1937-1938 the US 24 highway was routed along the north edge of the district. This repositioned the roadway just south of its original route along Illinois Road, creating an island of park space between the northern edge of the district and the new route of the roadway. This island is included in the Wildwood Park Historic District. This island, and two others created during the rerouting of US 24 in Rockhill Park, are owned and maintained by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation as parts of Rockhill Park.<sup>13</sup> The US 24/ West Jefferson Parkway, and Rockhill Park (except for the island included in the Wildwood Park Historic District) are included in the Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard System Historic District National Register nomination.

#### Structures:

##### Street Lamp System

The Wildwood Park subdivision area is lighted by a system of public street lamps on all interior roads. Exterior roads are lighted by standard primary roadway traffic lights not included as part of the residential street lamp system. There are a total of 35 historic residential street lamps remaining in the subdivision. Seventeen of these match a 1917 advertisement illustration showing a close up of the original street lamp design, consisting of a mission-style faceted lamp globe with multiple (perhaps 6-8) panes of glass between cap and base, on a fluted post that flares near the ground. Although the lamp globes were subsequently changed to a common shape used throughout the city of Fort Wayne, 17 of the original

<sup>12</sup> Wildwood Park Newsletter, 1928. This was the first newsletter of the subdivision, and was written by Lee Ninde.

<sup>13</sup> Fort Wayne City Directory listings, 1935-1938.

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flared posts still exist in the original plat area (see photos 8 and 10). As additional areas were platted and improved, a variety of bases were used during the period of historic significance. Today, the 35 historic bases of various designs, with a standard lamp globe are found throughout the residential area, and are counted as one contributing structure/system in the historic district. The larger street lights on Freeman, Portage, Ardmore, and West Jefferson are modern, and are not included in the contributing structure/system.

There are 2 non-contributing structures, including the Willow Creek pedestrian bridge, constructed c. 1970, and the sections of sound-barrier wall. The sound-barrier wall was constructed between 2005 and 2010, along the Wildwood Park Subdivision boundaries on West Jefferson from its intersection with Willowdale Road, west to Ardmore. The wall then extends south on the east side of Ardmore Avenue to its end at Mulberry Road. The West end of Willowdale and Mulberry were closed to traffic at their intersection with Ardmore with the installation of this wall. The wall is counted as a non-contributing structure in the district.

**Objects:**

The remnant entry marker located in the yard at 3701 North Washington Road is a non-contributing object.

**Narrative Description Summary:**

The Wildwood Park district area includes 215 resources. There are 2 contributing sites--the Wildwood Park Plat, and the Rockhill Park Island located on the northern edge of the of the Wildwood Park plat. The plat, as fully described in "sites" above, is counted because it adds to the significance of the district in Community Planning. There is one contributing structure, the system of Street Lamps. There are two non-contributing structures, including the pedestrian bridge over Willowdale Creek, and the sound barrier walls. There is one non-contributing object, the entry marker located in the lawn at 3701 North Washington Road. There are 189 contributing buildings in the district, and 20 non-contributing buildings.

Threats to the integrity of the Wildwood Park Historic District are transportation-related. Wildwood Park is located near a heavily developed commercial and retail district. West Jefferson Boulevard has recently been widened within Rockhill Park, and further changes are being considered. Ardmore Avenue along the district's western edge underwent a significant road-widening in c. 2011, increasing from 2 lanes of traffic to 5 lanes, including additional turn lanes. Several homes along Ardmore Avenue have been demolished to allow for the increased public right-of-way. In addition, a sound-barrier wall was constructed c.2005, and added to in c. 2011, along the Wildwood Park Subdivision boundaries on West Jefferson from Willowdale Road, and west to Ardmore. The west end of Willowdale and Mulberry were closed to traffic at their intersection with Ardmore with the installation of this c. 2005 wall. The additional, c. 2011 wall extends south on the east side of Ardmore Avenue along the western boundary of the Historic District, and extends south of Wildwood Park to Taylor Avenue. North Washington Road at Ardmore Avenue was closed as a through street in c. 2011, only allowing north-bound access from Wildwood Park to an expanded Ardmore Avenue. Both walls are counted as a single non-contributing structure in the district.



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## 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.)

- ☒ 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.
- ☒ 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

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1914-1960

### Significant Dates

1916

1938

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Crosby, Grace E.; Gibson, Edwin A.; Kessler, George; Mahurin, Guy; Ninde Joel Roberts; Ninde, Lee J.; Pohlmeier & Pohlmeier; Shurcliff, Arthur A.; Strauss, A.M.; Worthman, John

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins at the time Arthur A. Shurcliff designed the Wildwood Park Subdivision, and includes the development of the subdivision. It includes the later development of portions of Wildwood Park reserved by Shurcliff in the

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original plat for future development. The period of significance continues to 1960, at which time almost all the homes had been built 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 Wildwood Park Historic District is eligible for the National Register as an intact example of an early automobile suburb, with interrelated and associated residential subdivision and parkway. Using the criteria for the National Register, as described in the National Register Bulletin *Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places*, the Wildwood Park Historic District is eligible under Criteria (A) and (C). Under Criterion (A), it is significant as an outstanding example of a residential suburban development that introduced important trends and design principles locally and state-wide, and was particularly influential as a prototype for subsequent design in Northeastern Indiana, as it introduced naturalistic, curvilinear design and an architectural control committee. It also reflects the work of "community builder" Lee J. Ninde, a nationally and regionally significant master proponent of city planning, and the developer of several significant residential suburbs in northeastern Indiana. The Wildwood Park Historic District is significant under Criterion (C) as an outstanding example of a suburban development that reflects principles of design important in the history of community planning and landscape architecture, and is a significant example state-wide of the work of Arthur A. Shurcliff, a nationally significant master landscape architect, and city planner. The Wildwood Park Historic District is also significant under Criterion (C) as an outstanding example state-wide of a subdivision which, through the significant expertise of Arthur Shurcliff, embodies high artistic values through its overall plan and the design of entrance ways, streets, homes, view-sheds, and community spaces. It is also locally significant under (C) as an example of a suburban subdivision. The Wildwood Park Historic District also possesses state-wide significance under Criterion C as an outstanding collection of residential architecture and is an important example of the distinctive period of construction, and the work of one or more notable architects.

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

**Significance of Wildwood Park Historic District under Criterion (A),**

Wildwood Park is an outstanding example of a residential suburban development that introduced important trends and design principles regionally and locally, and was particularly influential as a prototype for subsequent design in Northeastern Indiana, as it introduced curvilinear design, deed restrictions, and an architectural control committee.

Wildwood Builders hired landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff during the spring of 1914 to design Wildwood Park, which was laid out with curvilinear streets instead of the straight-line grid most familiar to the community.<sup>14</sup> Soon after organizing the Wildwood Park Company, an article appeared in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, written by the Wildwood Editorial Staff. It described the new development:

Seeing the natural beauties of this farm, the Wildwood Builders decided that here would be Fort Wayne's most desirable suburb. They acquired the property and immediately went about planning the improvements to be made upon it. Wildwood Park is to be laid out in what is called the "informal" style. That is, there are to be no set lines to be followed in planning the drives, rather are they to follow the

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<sup>14</sup> *Wildwood Magazine*, "Arthur A. Shurtleff." Vol. II, no. 1, Autumn, 1914. pp 5-8. This provides excellent vitae of Shurcliff's work up to 1914, and a description of Wildwood Park. See also: Griswold, Bert J. *Builders of Greater Fort Wayne*, pg. 737. Griswold writes: "That Mr. Ninde believes in the beautiful as well as practical in the creation of residence subdivisions is shown in the platting of Wildwood Park, Brook View and Lafayette Place, all planned by the eminent Boston landscape architect, Arthur Shurtleff..."

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natural curves of the hills. Where a tree lies in the path of road or walk, the path is to be curved around instead of removing the tree. The houses will be restricted as to style and location. Only the finest type will be erected, but they will be of all sizes, from the largest mansions to the humbler cottages. There will be restrictions to quality but not as to size. Naturally, these restrictions will affect the character of the residents, but Wildwood Park will not be restricted to persons of wealth, rather, refinement and taste will be the requirements. Wildwood Park will be a congenial neighborhood.<sup>15</sup>

Other articles, published soon after, provide more descriptions from the Wildwood Editorial Staff:

In the suburban section, with winding roadways and broad lots, with plenty of breathing space around a house, the neighbors' children are less objectionable....Wildwood Park is one of such suburbs. The lots are wide, with plenty of room for playground, or for flower garden, or for both. There are little parks in the corners of the road where boys and girls can romp, and beyond the open field lures the youngsters, too....Public playgrounds would be superfluous in Wildwood Park, for each householder shall have surrounding his home enough fresh green earth for his youngsters to play on, and will find room to go in for horticulture in a small way. Wildwood Park is open to the fields and groves. It is the country dressed up in her best, and brought to town.<sup>16</sup>

On May 11, 1916 the plat of Wildwood Park Addition was recorded and included Lots 1-99. Lots 58, 96, 97, 98, and 99 were to be subdivided later. In 1920, the plat of Wildwood Park Second Addition was made. It included the subdivided lots 96, 97 and 98 of the first plat. This Second Addition consisted of lots along Mulberry and Willowdale Roads. Lots 58 and 99 later became the 1940 Wildwood Park Addition Amended.

In addition to the naturalistic, curvilinear plat of the Wildwood Park subdivision, the distinctive character was also formed by the use of legal restrictions regarding the architecture, placement, and materials of the residential structures. The Wildwood Park subdivision was the first planned community in northeastern Indiana to include deed restrictions that gave the Wildwood Park Company the exclusive right to approve the architectural worthiness of the proposed residences, controlled lot grading, placement of structures, and overall harmony with other homes in the suburb.<sup>17</sup>

During the period 1914-1916 other suburban plats were developed in Fort Wayne by competing companies. Hilgeman & Schaaf—the other large development company in the city—platted Harrison Hill in 1915. *Wildwood Magazine* included photos of the construction of the boulevard centerpiece of this boulevard and radial-style development in the Christmas, 1915 issue, as well as some before and after photos of the recently completed, grid-style Arcadia Court addition by the same company.<sup>18</sup>

As Arthur Shurcliff completed his plan for Wildwood Park in the naturalistic curvilinear style, he also designed another plat—the more formal, rectilinear Lafayette Place Subdivision for Wildwood Builders. The Lafayette Place plat was created during the same time period and was announced to the public in the Spring, 1915 issue of the *Wildwood Magazine*:

The distinctive feature of the plat will be what is known as an Esplanade. This is an unusual feature in Fort Wayne platting, but as this tract is oblong, extending one-half mile north and south, and a quarter of a mile wide, the shape of the ground lends itself perfectly to a street two hundred and ten feet wide, placed directly in the middle of the Addition, extending one-third of a mile nearly to the end. This is the Esplanade. Branching off from each corner of this new thoroughfare is a diagonal street leading out to each of the four corners of the piece.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "Canberra—the Wonder City." February 8, 1914.

<sup>16</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. "The English House No. 3." March 22, 1914.

<sup>17</sup> Wildwood Park Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, platting documents.

<sup>18</sup> "Recent Examples of Sub-division Development at Fort Wayne, Ind., by the Firm of Hilgeman & Schaaf." *Wildwood Magazine*, Christmas, 1915. Pages 20-21.

<sup>19</sup> "Lafayette Place: A New Undertaking in Fort Wayne Suburban Development." *Wildwood Magazine*, Spring, 1915. Page 5.

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While the Wildwood Park subdivision was being designed and platted by Wildwood Builders (Attachment B, Allen County Road Map c. 1915) the company requested that Arthur Shurcliff design a parkway that would connect Wildwood Park to the west side of Fort Wayne's downtown area, at Swinney Park.<sup>20</sup> His proposal extended Jefferson as a parkway to the west, through a proposed enlarged Swinney Park west of the existing park, and west through the then newly constructed railroad overpass on Illinois Road, to the northeastern edge of his design for Wildwood Park. (Attachment D). Today, this parkway is called West Jefferson Boulevard, and is included in the Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard System Historic District National Register nomination.

Following the formal recording of the plat for Wildwood Park in 1916, Shurcliff began design work on another naturalistic, curvilinear-style subdivision for the Wildwood Builders. Brookview Addition is north of downtown Fort Wayne on the Spy Run, a creek which enters downtown through a hilly and wooded area near State Boulevard (also part of George Kessler's park and boulevard plan). Lots in Brookview Addition began to be sold in 1917. Brookview has been nominated to the National Register as part of the Brookview-Irvington Park Historic District.

During the same time period that Brookview was announced, the competitors Hilgeman & Schaaf announced the platting and sale of the Southwood Park Subdivision near Foster Park, by their own designers. Southwood Park was also designed in the naturalistic, curvilinear style through wooded, hilly sections of the former Richardville (also known as Pinšwa) Indian Reservation. Southwood Park included over 750 homes, in several separate platted sections, of both curvilinear and boulevard style design. Hilgeman & Schaaf developed their own deed restrictions to control the architecture and quality of the residences, and other structures for Southwood Park. The Southwood Park suburban development is part of the Southwood Park Historic District (listed December 22, 2009).

During the 1920s Wildwood Park developed slowly. Some of the hills were given names such as "Sunset Ridge" and "Hilcrest". A newsletter was inaugurated in 1928, published by Lee J. Ninde, who wrote, "WHY A NEWSLETTER? News that is of local interest to WILDWOOD PARK and the Country Club District seldom appears in our city news columns...But we, on the west side of Fort Wayne, are decidedly interested in news about our friends and neighbors: even grass cutting and ash piles have a large significance when they come close to our home life."<sup>21</sup>

In 1934, US Highway 24 was routed on Upper Huntington Road, Illinois Road and West Jefferson Boulevard east of Main Street (see Attachment E). By 1938, the US 24 Highway had been further refined into its modern route along West Jefferson Boulevard, extending south from Main Street, and curving through Rockhill Park, and the northern edge of the Wildwood subdivision, before connecting to the Upper Huntington Road (see Attachment F).<sup>22</sup> This 1938 alignment created a small island of land between Illinois Road and the highway. The parcel was donated to the Fort Wayne Park department and now functions as part of Rockhill Park.

During the Great Depression, Wildwood Park Company went out of business, and the unsold lands of the original Wildwood Park plat (including the large lots that had yet to be subdivided) were to be sold at a Sheriff sale (see Attachment M). The children of Daniel Ninde purchased them and platted Wildwood Park 2nd Addition Extended in 1938 (see Attachment I). Lots 90-96 were lengthened to the newly constructed Jefferson Boulevard. Only two houses were built along Jefferson Boulevard on these lots. Wildwood Park Addition Amended was added in 1940 (see Attachment J). A separate developer platted the Wildwood Park Third Addition in 1940, adjoining the rest of the Wildwood Park subdivision, along South Washington Road, extending it west to Ardmore Avenue (see Attachment L).

The Wildwood Builders were trend-setters in Indiana during their entire existence. The company had been incorporated in 1910 and consisted of brothers Lee and Daniel Ninde; Lee's self-trained architect wife, Joel Roberts Ninde; atelier-trained architect Grace E. Crosby; Fred Shoaff; Samuel Foster; Abe Ackerman; Charles Wilding and Frank Safford and a large number of stockholders. Joel and Grace acted as the design team for the company, and close to three hundred homes of their design were built in Fort Wayne. In 1914 the two women also created a separate partnership as a design and decorating company.<sup>23</sup> They were among the earliest women in Indiana to work as architects and developers.

<sup>20</sup> West End National Register District, listed November 15, 1984.

<sup>21</sup> Wildwood Park News-Letter, Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 29, 1928.

<sup>22</sup> Fort Wayne City Directory listings, 1935-1938.

<sup>23</sup> Obituary for Joel Roberts Ninde, *Fort Wayne News Sentinel*, March 8, 1916. See also the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, March 8, 1916.

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The company was well aware of the rarity of having two women oversee all designs for the company. In 1914, a newspaper article appeared in the *Indianapolis Star*, entitled, "Mrs. Joel Roberts Ninde of Ft. Wayne Broadened Her Womanly Sphere By Becoming an Architect and the Creator of Fair 'Honeymoon Row.'" <sup>24</sup> The byline "a staff correspondent" and similarity to other contemporary articles in Fort Wayne newspapers suggests that the *Indianapolis Star* article was generated by Wildwood Builders as a promotional piece.

By 1915, Wildwood had become eight separate companies, including the *Wildwood Magazine*, Wildwood Engineering and Construction Company, Wildwood Park Company, North Wildwood Company, and the La Fayette Place Company.

The *Wildwood Magazine*, published by the company between 1913 and 1917, became a nationally known publication on the subjects of architecture, city planning, and interior design. Articles were provided by John Nolen, Flavel Shurtleff, Arthur Shurcliff, Richard Watrous, John Lathrop, and other pioneers of community planning and landscape architecture. The magazine also featured many floor plans and façade renderings of houses designed by Joel R. Ninde and Grace E. Crosby. The magazine noted the work of other architects locally and nationally, and featured another contemporary firm of women architects in their Christmas 1916 issue, when they published, "Women's Part in Municipal Housekeeping: The Work of Schenck & Mead, Architects, New York City." <sup>25</sup>

Tragically, Joel Roberts Ninde died of a stroke at the height of her career in 1916, at the age of forty-two. Following her death, Wildwood Builders continued to promote and develop their subdivisions, often using the Ninde and Crosby plans. Lee Ninde married Helena Emmett, who had worked in the Wildwood Builders office. Lee and Helena Ninde built their new home on the largest lot in Wildwood Park, on Hawthorn Road sometime before 1925. When the home was sold in 1930, it was described in a local newspaper article as "one of the most beautiful residences in Fort Wayne." <sup>26</sup>

The Great Depression had a devastating impact on the local real estate market, and by 1933 the county building department recorded only a handful of new construction permits. Wildwood Builders went bankrupt. Its lumberyard was sold to the Fort Wayne Parks Department; it was combined with other industrial parcels to create Packard Park, near the South Wayne and Oakdale National Register Historic Districts in central Fort Wayne. Several years later, Daniel Ninde's children purchased the unsold portions of Wildwood Park and organized Wildwood Park, Inc.

World War II also brought a slow-down to the local housing market. In 1946, returning GIs and their brides found a housing shortage. Tract-house developments were quickly created, and the neighborhoods of Hillcrest, Northcrest, Greater McMillen Park, Mount Vernon Park, and others were planned. In pre-war neighborhoods, undeveloped lots were quickly purchased, and modern homes built alongside the existing homes. In Wildwood Park homes were designed in the emerging Usonian style, as well as in plain Colonial Revival and Ranch styles. Construction of high-style quality homes continued in Wildwood Park throughout its period of significance to 1960, and thereafter, due in large part to the continued review by the neighborhood's architectural review committee.

In summary, the Wildwood Builders Company introduced the trend of curvilinear design, the combination of curvilinear plat design and architectural deed restrictions to Fort Wayne and northeastern Indiana with their Wildwood Park subdivision. The developers also planned improvements to the existing Rockhill Park and the creation of a landscaped parkway connecting the Wildwood Park subdivision to the existing city limits of Fort Wayne as part of the creation of Wildwood Park. As such, the Wildwood Park Historic District is regionally and locally significant under Criterion A.

### Significance of Lee J. Ninde and the Wildwood Historic District under Criterion (A)

<sup>24</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, "Mrs. Joel Roberts Ninde of Ft. Wayne Broadened Her Womanly Sphere By Becoming an Architect and the Creator of Fair 'Honeymoon Row'." November 7, 1914.

<sup>25</sup> Mungen, Don. "Women's Part in Municipal Housekeeping: The Work of Schenck & Mead, Architects, New York City." *Wildwood Magazine*, Christmas 1916, pp 25-30 and 41.

<sup>26</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, December 14, 1930.



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The Wildwood Park Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion (A) for its connections to the community builder Lee J. Ninde. A native of Fort Wayne, Ninde was an early advocate of city planning on the national, regional and local level<sup>27</sup> He participated in the broad movement of city planning at the national level as an organizer and founding Fellow of the American Institute of City Planning, and as a member of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges and other national professional organizations, concurrently with his collaboration with Arthur A. Shurcliff in the development of the Wildwood Park subdivision.

City planning historian Jon Peterson describes community builders as a client group favored by planners. He writes:

This remarkable and 'very friendly,' alliance reflected significant trends among both realtors and planners before World War I and marks the point of historical convergence between elite suburban design in the United States and the new planning field. The planner-realtor alliance can best be seen through Lee J. Ninde, its key instigator. A Fort Wayne, Indiana, realtor, Ninde attended his first NCCP [National Conference on City Planning] in Toronto, Canada, in 1914... Ninde represented a new current then gathering strength in the marketing of real estate in the United States.<sup>28</sup>

Lee Ninde and his wife, Joel Roberts Ninde began their profession as community builders and developers in a novel fashion. Local tradition and early Wildwood Builders promotional materials noted that Lee Ninde, the attorney, brought his new bride to Fort Wayne, where she found his family home to be cold and old-fashioned. Joel developed her own design for a home, and the couple built it on the family's estate. The home caught the attention of the public, and was soon sold, and another house designed. Joel's designs soon became most sought after, and in 1910 the couple decided to go into the home building business, with Lee's brother Dan, and several other friends. This proved successful very quickly, and Lee Ninde soon left his law office behind, to become a builder, promoter, realtor, magazine editor and developer. The firm's earliest efforts included scattered homes throughout the South Wayne Historic District (National Register listed September 4, 1992), and the Shawnee Place addition—a Fort Wayne Local Historic District.

In 1913, Lee and Joel Roberts Ninde visited the Roland Park subdivision near Baltimore (National Register listed December 23, 1974), and were inspired by this new model for suburban design. Lee Ninde contacted Frederick Law Olmsted after their return to Fort Wayne, and the two began a professional correspondence.<sup>29</sup>

In 1914, two months after his trip to the Toronto National Conference on City Planning, Lee Ninde presented a paper on city planning at the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges [NAREE] annual convention, in Pittsburgh, PA. He called for the group to establish a standing committee on city planning, and urged greater participation by local exchanges to spur city planning activities. He noted:

In fifty years the population of cities has increased from 3 per cent of the nation's entire population to 40 per cent. As a consequence, the streets that once served very well are now too narrow, parks and playgrounds inadequate; the health as well as the business of the community is suffering... This committee believes that this association should take an active part in this movement for city betterment; that we have here an opportunity of doing a great work together, making stronger our bond of friendship, as we march shoulder to shoulder toward a great end. ...As a practical means of getting to work we suggest the following:

1. Make an executive body of this city planning committee with power to carry on its work during the year...
2. Through the city planning committee to affiliate with other organizations engaged in this work, such as the National Housing association, City Planning conference, and the American Civic association.
3. Encourage the appointment of committees on city planning in the local exchanges...
4. Declare

<sup>27</sup> Lee Ninde was born Levi James Ninde in Fort Wayne in 1874. His parents, Lindley and Beulah Ninde were active in the Underground Railroad and Women's Rights movements in Indiana from the 1840s-1890s. Lee Ninde may have been named after his great uncle, the famous abolitionist, Levi Coffin. For more information, see Quinn, Angela M. *The Underground Railroad and Antislavery Movement in Fort Wayne and Allen County*. Fort Wayne: ARCH. 2000.

<sup>28</sup> Peterson, Jon. *The Birth of City Planning in the United States, 1840-1917*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. p. 277-278.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. p 278

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ourselves in favor of city planning commissions and such other bodies, either state or local, that will best help in sane city planning.<sup>30</sup>

A newspaper report on Ninde's speech noted: "When Lee J. Ninde finished his paper on city planning before the national convention the program was stopped for a time to take up discussion of naming a permanent committee to make the move national and to form what he called a syndicate for city planning publicity."<sup>31</sup>

Ninde's understanding of city planning and landscape architecture increased rapidly during this time period as can be seen in changes between issues of the *Wildwood Magazine*, which Ninde had published beginning in early 1913. The second issue of the magazine (and the earliest known to exist) includes an editorial about home beautification and gardens, and articles about house building hints; resources for house builders in the public library; carpets and furniture; and housekeeping necessities. The third issue of the magazine (Autumn 1914) reflects the Ninde's exposure to the broader issues of community planning. It leads off with a feature article about landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff; follows with articles about using city planning methods in developing the small, Beechwood Circle residential area of Fort Wayne (developed by a competitor of Wildwood Builders); and features a complete report of the Pittsburgh NAREE Convention. In addition, the editorial page begins with:

The *Wildwood Magazine* begins its second year with a new policy, that of devoting its endeavors to those matters that pertain especially to Fort Wayne. This will not exclude, of course, a discussion of the great civic awakening which characterizes our day, but it will direct it more particularly to the needs, the conditions, and the progress of this rapidly growing city. Essentially, it will be an organ of home betterment through its insistent call for the improvement of the physical conditions of the home and the home environs. It aspires to be a sort of literary John the Baptist for better built and more artistic houses, spacious lawns adorned with trees, shrubs, and flowers, and for streets which are something more than mere thoroughfares... The whole country is awakening to a realization of this great truth and hence, it has come to pass that city authorities, real estate associations, club leaders, and landscape architects are sincerely co-operating today as never before for the artistic development of our cities, and our cities' homes. It is to promote the genius of this truly beneficial co-operative spirit and to inculcate the best thought along these lines that the *Wildwood Magazine* exists...<sup>32</sup>

During this same year, Ninde hired Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to come to Fort Wayne and design Wildwood Park for Wildwood Builders. Ninde and Shurcliff collaborated on the plan for Wildwood Park from the summer of 1914 to the spring of 1916 when the plat was finally recorded. The two also worked on the subsequent Lafayette Place and Brook View subdivisions as well. At Ninde's impetus, Shurcliff also developed a preliminary proposal to create a highway connecting Swinney Park, to the Wildwood Park subdivision to its west, and also a roadway from the western end of Wildwood Park to the country club.

In December 1914, Lee Ninde was elected to the national board of the American Civic Association during its annual convention in Washington D.C.<sup>33</sup> He was subsequently named chairman of the City Planning committee of that organization. In 1915 Lee Ninde was also elected as vice-president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards (NAREB). He also was placed on the executive committee of the National Conference on City Planning (NCCP). Peterson writes:

Ninde... then attended the December meetings of the American Civic Association, where he encountered a 'hot bed of city planning men,' namely Ford, Nolen, and Olmsted, and became involved in a grand multi-association effort to promote city planning. The latter initiative came to naught, but the planner-realtor alliance materialized at the next NCCP gathering in Detroit in 1915. At that meeting the NCCP placed Ninde on its Executive Committee. This put him in the cockpit of the American planning movement, only one year after he had knocked on the door.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>30</sup> "Fort Wayne's on the Map in Big Black Type". *Fort Wayne Sentinel*, Friday, July 10, 1914.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. See also Peterson, pp. 277-278.

<sup>32</sup> *Wildwood Magazine*, "Editorials." Autumn Number, 1914. Fort Wayne: Wildwood Builders Company. page 12.

<sup>33</sup> Watrous, Richard. "The Convention of the American Civic Association." In *Wildwood Magazine*, Spring 1916. pp. 31, 38.

<sup>34</sup> Peterson, pp. 280-281.

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The minutes from the Detroit meeting note:

On Tuesday Evening, June 8, 1915, thirty one men... met at the Hotel Statler, Detroit, to consider the possibilities of cooperating in extending interest in and knowledge with regard to city planning... Mr. Lee Ninde, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Chairman of the City Planning Committee of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges and the father of cooperation among such national organizations as had to do with city planning matters, told the delegates what suggested the idea to him. He said that at the last convention of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges they had had a session on City Planning which had aroused a great interest among real estate men in the subject, and had resulted in a general demand for further information. It was then that he realized that there was almost no machinery in existence for distributing the information which real estate men would want... In his capacity as Chairman of the City Planning Committee of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges, he went to some of the members of the National City Planning Conference, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Civic Association to see how they could help him. It was suggested that the four bodies cooperate in a common program for the collection, sifting and dissemination of worth while [sic] information on city planning among their members... It was [soon] recognized that it would be necessary to go to members of such bodies as: National Housing Association; American Institute of Consulting Engineers, American Society of Landscape Architects; [and others]... Following Mr. Ninde's statement... a general discussion ensued.<sup>35</sup>

A committee was created to further investigate an effort to organize City Planning information and interest.

By December, 1916, these efforts culminated in a draft of the Constitution of the American Institute of City Planning, which noted that upon its ratification, a group of individuals would become fellows of the organization, including Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Charles Mulford Robinson, George E. Kessler, John Nolen, Flavel Shurtleff and Lee J. Ninde.<sup>36</sup> The full constitution was ratified at the first convention of the new organization in Kansas City in 1917. Arthur Shurcliff became a member in 1917, though not an organizing fellow of the organization.

In 1916, Lee Ninde was elected president of the Indiana Real Estate Association and began a statewide education campaign on the subject of city planning. He organized a Fort Wayne showing of the City Planning Exhibition, created by the American City Bureau, joining 20 other cities where it had already toured. Ninde's goal, according to Peterson, was to "support a campaign by Indiana realtors, who were attempting, unsuccessfully, to push a city planning enabling act through the state legislature."<sup>37</sup>

After the exhibition in Fort Wayne, Ninde organized a tour of Indiana for state legislators and national proponents of city planning in October, 1916. A *Wildwood Magazine* article lists the participants:

In this effort the Indiana men were assisted by some of the most distinguished speakers and workers along lines of civic improvement in the country, viz: Thomas Ingersoll, of Minneapolis, Secretary of the National Association of Real Estate Boards; Flavel Shurtleff, of Boston, Secretary of the City Planning Conference [NCCP]; John E. Lathrop, of New York, Director of the American City Bureau; and Richard B. Watrous, of Washington, Secretary of the American Civic Association."<sup>38</sup> Regional and local participants included: "Albert Schaaf of Fort Wayne... George E. Hooker of the Chicago City Club... Scott Brewer, Secretary of the State [real estate] association...."<sup>39</sup>

This tour traveled by three automobiles, driven by Albert Schaaf, Scott Brewer of Indianapolis, and Ben Pfister of Terre Haute. The route went west from Fort Wayne via the Lincoln Highway to Elkhart and South Bend, Michigan City, Gary and Calumet. They then ventured through a heavy fog to Valparaiso, Kokomo, and Lafayette. From Lafayette, the group

<sup>35</sup> Library of Congress. The Records of the Olmsted Associates, Cont. B263. Shelf #20,112.4. Reel # 221. Feet 87.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Peterson, page 277.

<sup>38</sup> Dryer, Charles, "City Planning Tour of the Indiana Real Estate Men," *Wildwood Magazine*, Christmas 1916. page 7.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

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visited Crawfordsville, and Terre Haute, where Flavel Shurtleff had to leave the group. The tour then continued south to Evansville, Princeton, French Lick, West Baden, and New Albany. The tour traveled into Louisville, Kentucky for a day of touring the parks and commercial areas. The tour then traveled to Indianapolis, and Muncie, Anderson, and Marion, before returning to Fort Wayne.<sup>40</sup>

Following the tour, Richard B. Watrous, Secretary of the American Civic Association, said,

Viewed from a national standpoint, the tour of Indiana Real Estate men is most important. The direct message of what is comprehended by planning for the building of the cities to meet the demands of the future years has been carried directly to the men on whom rests, perhaps to a greater degree than on any other class, the responsibility for directing the wise, orderly, efficient and very practical development of the physical side of community growth. The real estate men, as revealed by the enthusiastic manner in which the Indiana representatives of the profession have co-operated to make the tour a success, are ready and anxious to accept their full responsibility. Propaganda of an extensive character is necessary.<sup>41</sup>

The *Wildwood Magazine* article had a similar conclusion, "Indiana cannot be too grateful to President Ninde and his corps of native and foreign workers in behalf of one of the most far reaching movements of modern times for economic and social betterment."<sup>42</sup>

After the sudden death of his wife Joel in 1916, Lee Ninde's role in national planning bodies diminished. Wildwood Builders became less of an architecture and building firm, and more of a real estate development firm. He remained active in both local planning efforts and the management of the various Wildwood concerns. During the decade of the 1920s Ninde continued to promote the Wildwood Builders Company subdivisions and advocated for continued improvements in the roadway and park-land leading to the Wildwood Park subdivision, and throughout the community. In 1920 he invited Fort Wayne Park Board president David Foster to attend a neighborhood picnic, and give a keynote speech about the need to connect the subdivision to Rockhill Park.

While Indiana passed enabling legislation for City Planning Commissions by 1920, Fort Wayne created its first Plan Commission in 1925, and Ninde was appointed its first president. The first major activity of the Plan Commission was to enlarge the George Kessler-designed Park and Boulevard Plan to include newly annexed areas, and to further plan for the increasing role of automobiles in the life and commerce of the city. The commission hired the Chicago firm of Bennett, Parsons and Frost in 1927. By 1928, when the plan was completed, the West Jefferson Boulevard had been extended from Swinney Park to the Illinois Road/Main Street intersection, and was marked as a "Major Road." During the 1930s, Ninde assisted with the routing and improvements of US Highway 24, through an as-yet un-built section of Wildwood Park, creating the Rockhill Park island included in this nomination.

During the late 1940s Lee Ninde continued to participate in community planning and improvements. He was a member of the Fort Wayne community focused "Citizens Advisory Committee," whose stated purpose was: "A centralized focal point for delegates to exchange ideas on Neighborhood and Community Problems."<sup>43</sup> The Citizen's Advisory Committee advocated for such projects as the extension of East Berry Street along the Maumee River bank, and a Pollution Control engineering study of Spy Run Creek.<sup>44</sup>

Ninde was serving as a vice-president of the Fort Wayne Civic Association when he wrote about Wildwood Park and his work with his wife "Jo" (Joel Roberts Ninde) in a 1946 letter to fellow Harvard class of 1895 classmate, Judge Robert Walcott:

Have received recently a letter from Arthur Shurcliff reminding of the fact that you were the one who suggested that we employ him for planning Wildwood Park...The activities in Fort Wayne in city planning

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., pages 7-11.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, pages 11, 47.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., page 47.

<sup>43</sup> Allen County Public Library Community Album Photo Collection. JPG image, 00004911. [www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us), visited December 11, 2007.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. JPEG Images 00004911; 00004912; 00004906.

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have become so imperative during the past three years that I have given up entirely my real estate business and am devoting all my time to our local projects. I thought it might be interesting to you and Arthur to observe the current of that movement.

It doesn't seem like such a long time ago since my visit to Boston in 1914 in search of a subdivision planner. Although Wildwood Park has now passed out of my hands and is still only partly developed, those days when Jo and I were enlarging our ideas in regard to residential building, subdivisions and city planning, do not seem so remote. The six years that Jo and I spent building in the neighborhood of 250 homes were happy indeed. Curiously enough, she was more interested in architecture and I was more interested in subdivisions, which seemed to work very well together...I was drawn into the city planning field...That interest has continued through all these years until it has become the most absorbing of my life. My introduction to Arthur Shurcliff had much to do with the establishment of that course.<sup>45</sup>

In 1926, local historian Bert Griswold wrote of Lee Ninde:

The people of the United States, and especially those of the state of Indiana, owe a great debt of gratitude to Lee J. Ninde, for it was this 'practical dreamer' of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who stepped in at the right moment and gave to the new art of city planning the type of encouragement which attracted to it the substantial attention which has enabled it to take root in hundreds of American municipalities. Fort Wayne is proud to be able to say this of an earnest, unselfish, energetic citizen—a realtor who truly accepts the Golden Rule as the foundation of his relationships with his fellowmen.<sup>46</sup>

Lee Ninde was a nationally and regionally significant proponent of city planning, serving on the national boards and in an executive capacity on the National Association of Real Estate Boards [and also the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges]; American Civic Association; National Conference on City Planning; and was one of the leading organizers of the first professional association of city planners—the American Institute of City Planning. During the same period Ninde used these new-found connections and understanding of the interrelated nature of planning and development in his collaboration with Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff on the plan for the Wildwood Park Subdivision. Wildwood Park, in its physical manifestation and organizing documents exemplified the new synthesis of landscape design, subdivision development, and legal organization advocated by these national endeavors. The Wildwood Park Historic District has statewide significance under Criterion A for these reasons.

#### **Significance of Arthur A. Shurcliff and Wildwood Park under Criterion (C)**

The Wildwood Park Historic District is significant under Criterion (C) as an outstanding example of a suburban development that reflects principles of design important in the history of community planning and landscape architecture, and is a nationally significant example of the work of Arthur A. Shurcliff, a nationally significant master landscape architect, and city planner.

Arthur Asahel (Shurtleff) Shurcliff was born in Boston in 1870. He attended local schools and was admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he planned to follow in his father's footsteps as a mechanical engineer. His interests soon changed, and he enrolled at Harvard—his attendance overlapping with that of Lee Ninde. In 1899, Arthur Shurcliff and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. founded the country's first four-year landscape architecture program at Harvard University. He resigned his teaching position after establishing his own practice. Shurcliff was named a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1905.

When Shurcliff established his own practice, he focused on town planning, highway studies for the Boston Metropolitan Improvement Commission, and also designed industrial communities, most notably in Bemis, Tennessee (Bemis Historic District listed December 16, 1991) and portions of Hopedale, Massachusetts (Hopedale Village Historic District listed June 12, 2002). Bemis was platted in 1900 by Albert Bemis as a model industrial town and cotton-bag manufacturing factory.

<sup>45</sup> Ninde, Lee J. to Judge Robert Walcott, Cambridge, Massachusetts, dated November 20, 1946. Harvard University Archives. Ninde and Walcott were classmates of the Harvard Class of 1895. Shurcliff was with the class of 1896. Walcott was a life-long advocate of parks and conservation, and served for many years as the president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

<sup>46</sup> Bert J. Griswold, *Builders of Greater Fort Wayne*, page 737.



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Albert Bemis enlisted the assistance of fellow MIT graduates in designing the layout and buildings, including Arthur Shurcliff and Andrew Hepburn (Hepburn and Shurcliff later collaborated in Bridgeport, Connecticut and at Colonial Williamsburg). Hopedale Village was built in several sections. Shurcliff designed the Lake Point area in 1904, which consisted of duplex houses built for workers, arranged around the Hopedale Pond. While earlier development in Hopedale had turned its back to the pond, Shurcliff positioned the road between houses and pond, so that residences would face the scenic water feature, while clotheslines and household ephemera would be hidden from the public view of those enjoying the pond. Other industrial towns designed by Shurcliff included Kendall Mills, South Carolina; Bemiston, Alabama (also for the Bemis Company); Adirondack Power and Light Company, Amsterdam, New York; and General Asbestos & Electric Company, Charleston, South Carolina.

Following these projects, Shurcliff designed two suburban subdivisions for Wildwood Builders; Wildwood Park in the curvilinear style in 1914, and Lafayette Place with an Esplanade, modified grid and formal pattern in 1915. Unlike his plans for industrial and mill towns, Shurcliff was able to fully utilize these Fort Wayne sites' features and aesthetic qualities, without being tied to a factory-site sensibility. In 1917, Shurcliff returned to Fort Wayne, and designed Brook View, described below.

Shurcliff participated in the development of the profession of city planning. In 1915 he contributed an article to *City Planning*, a volume edited by John Nolen and published by the National Municipal League, which emphasized "the essential elements of a city plan."<sup>47</sup> In 1917 he was one of the 52 charter members of the first professional planning organization, called the American Institute of City Planning (now the American Planning Association.).

Shurcliff was hired by the Fort Wayne Parks Department to complete a master plan for Swinney Park in 1916, following his initial proposal for a parkway connecting Wildwood Park and Swinney Park, and he later developed a master plan for Franke Park in 1924. During 1916, Shurcliff proposed an extension of Wildwood Park's North Washington Road a mile west to the Fort Wayne Country Club. The proposed parkway meandered on a southwest track, crossing Ardmore, Taylor and Covington Roads before reaching the country club's entrance. Maps of the period appear to indicate that the road was completed between 1927 and 1929.<sup>48</sup>

In 1917, Shurcliff returned again to Fort Wayne, and designed Brook View in Fort Wayne for Wildwood Builders. Brook View was designed around the Spy Run, a creek which fed into the St. Mary's River, and the associated upland and riverine topography. The plan included a winding parkway along both sides of the creek, and drives that conformed to the natural contours of the land. Although Shurcliff worked with topography similar to Wildwood Park, the two subdivisions are distinct. A newspaper article noted:

The Wildwood companies have been the recipients of many expressions of appreciation that the place is to be made into one of the most handsome and modern of residence districts. The art of the landscape architect is here displayed...Arthur A. Shurtleff of Boston, the famous landscape architect [unreadable text on microfilm] the laying out of Brook View and the problems of drainage and sewage were solved by William A. Barnes of the firm of Metcalfe & Eddy, the sanitary engineers. Thus the Wildwood people have spared neither expense and energy in securing the ... experts in the creating of the best of communities for Fort Wayne.<sup>49</sup>

Shurcliff worked for the United States Housing Corporation, a federal program, during World War I, and laid out the "Crane Lot" in Bridgeport, Connecticut. A recent biographer writes: "His landscape design for a World War I housing project in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is cited repeatedly in planning histories as a model [for subsequent subdivision planning]"<sup>50</sup> Shurcliff again worked with Andrew Hepburn on the Bridgeport project, which he (Shurcliff) later described:

<sup>47</sup> Scott, Mel. *American City Planning Since 1890*. page145-146.

<sup>48</sup> Wagner's 1927 map of Fort Wayne; Reidel's 1928 Map of Fort Wayne; 1929 Street Map of Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, Frank Randall, published by the Fort Wayne Blueprint Supply Company.

<sup>49</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. "Many will Visit Brook View Today." Sunday, May 20, 1917 Real Estate Section.

<sup>50</sup> Cushing, Elizabeth Hope. "Shurcliff, Arthur Asahel (Shurtleff)". In Birnbaum, Charles A. and Robin Karson, ed. *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000. p. 353-355.

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...at the corner of Iranistan Avenue and South Avenue, now called the Seaside Village, brick houses with semi-curving streets, blocks carefully designed for composition, rear yards and planting also planned in detail... At the close of this war this was stated by the United States Housing Corporation to be the best Government subdivision of the war period.<sup>51</sup>

During the 1920s Shurcliff was heavily involved as a consultant to planning commissions, citizens groups, and private developers, primarily in Massachusetts. He continued to visit Fort Wayne sporadically. Shortly after the creation of the Fort Wayne Plan Commission (under the direction of Lee Ninde, first president of the commission) Shurcliff provided a bid to create a new planning document for the city by updating Kessler's earlier park and boulevard plan. Another firm—Bennett, Parsons and Frost—received the contract for the project, although Shurcliff writes in his autobiography that he completed work for the Fort Wayne Plan Commission, under Lee J. Ninde for 2-3 years, with no date. It is not clear what additional work Shurcliff did for the Plan Commission, but he continued to visit Fort Wayne occasionally during the next thirty years<sup>52</sup>

Arthur Shurcliff completed planning work for the city of Newton, Massachusetts for several years, and during the 1920s worked with Newton developer Arnold Hartmann on sections of the Oak Hill Village residential subdivision. Hartmann had purchased several tracts along the Charles River beginning in 1918, and ultimately acquired more than was needed for his development of the Charles River Country Club. He hired Arthur Shurcliff in November, 1924 to develop a comprehensive design lay-out for Cedar Grove, the first of the sections to be developed. Shurcliff also worked on the Bald Pate Hill section in 1931, and may have assisted with other sections as well. Although his career spanned over 50 years, the only known residential suburban developments designed by Shurcliff are the three Fort Wayne subdivisions planned for Wildwood Builders, during the period 1914-1917; and his work with Arnold Hartmann on the Oak Hill Village development from 1924-1931.

From 1928-1932 Shurcliff served as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 1930 Shurcliff was joined by his son, Sidney Shurcliff in the firm, which became known after 1933 as Shurcliff, Merrill, and Footit Landscape Architects. For several decades Arthur Shurcliff was a consultant to the Boston Parks Department and chief landscape architect to the Metropolitan District Commission. He designed the Paul Revere Mall in Boston's North End, the Charles River Basin project in the 1930s, the restorations of Sturbridge Village and Plymouth Rock, and assisted the architectural firm Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn in the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia—perhaps the most prominent project of his career.

The Wildwood Park Historic District was substantially designed by the master landscape architect and city planner Arthur A. Shurcliff, and is an outstanding example of his mastery of naturalistic, curvilinear subdivision design, which informed his later designs in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and for Oak Hill Village in Newton, Massachusetts. Wildwood Park has statewide significance under Criterion C, being one of the earliest planned auto suburbs in Indiana.

### **Significance of the Landscape Architecture of Wildwood Park under Criterion (C)**

The Wildwood Park Historic District is also significant under Criterion (C) for its outstanding landscape architecture, as a regionally outstanding example of a subdivision which, through the significant expertise of Arthur Shurcliff, embodies high artistic values through its overall plan and the design of entrance ways, streets, homes, view-sheds, and community spaces. It is also locally significant as an example of a suburban subdivision in which the developer and landscape architect also devised a plan for connecting the subdivision to other community amenities.

Arthur A. Shurcliff created a unique design for the Wildwood Park subdivision, which fully utilized the wooded, rolling hills, ravines, and creek, and where the homes are situated into the landscape. The placement of roads, irregular lot sizes and orientation and pedestrian circulation patterns have retained a high degree of integrity and are significant as important components of the plan. Wildwood Park provided the first example of curvilinear landscape design used for an

<sup>51</sup> Shurcliff page 49.

<sup>52</sup> Shurcliff, page 47. Under the category of Town Planning, he writes: "Fort Wayne, Ind. General plan covering two or three years' work. Lee J. Ninde and members of the Planning Board." Other mentions of Indiana occur in the alphabetically organized Client Index, including: "Fort Wayne, Indiana—Board of Park Commissioners," "Indianapolis Home Show," and "Wildwood Builders (Lee J. Ninde)—Fort Wayne, Indiana."

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automobile-oriented subdivision in northeastern Indiana, thus providing the model by which subsequent developments were designed.

*Wildwood Magazine* described Shurcliff's plan as it was first announced during the autumn of 1914:

It is on the hills and in these valleys that the Wildwood Builders has surprised Fort Wayne by laying out an addition. All former unwritten regulations of planning Fort Wayne additions have been discarded, and the suburb is to be different... Among the features that have made Wildwood Park different may be tabulated as follows:

- The preservation of trees.
- The winding roads following natural slopes.
- The absence of cuts and fills and the avoidance of grading...  
...Cuts, fills, and grading have no place in Wildwood Park. The average city lot holders in Fort Wayne will not consent to build until his lot is brought up or down to the level of the street. It is long exposure to prairie land that has given so many Fort Wayne citizens the idea that the lot not exactly on the street level is a failure. In Wildwood Park this is forgotten, and sunken gardens will be many.<sup>53</sup>

The plan emphasized the existing natural landscape, with the placement of most of the roads following the topography, and placed in low places, so that the building sites would be above, and with curving roads that were intended to "discourage speeding and add materially to the artistic appearance of the tract."<sup>54</sup>

Shurcliff's distinctive approach to the Willowdale Creek created a country-like landscape while allowing for automobile traffic. By dividing the opposing lanes of Willowdale Road, and placing them on opposite sides of the creek, with the natural banks and an undulating park strip between the lanes and the creek, Shurcliff created an attractive landscape with the creek as the central focus. (Wildwood Builders had followed conventional practice and had completely covered a creek—Shawnee Run—and diverted it into a storm sewer in their 1912 development of Shawnee Place in Fort Wayne.) Shurcliff approached the Spy Run in a similar manner when he laid out Brook View in 1917. Shurcliff worked diligently to preserve and highlight the natural scenery in his design. Mature trees were retained and roads routed around them. Roads were contoured in such a way as to suppress their dominance in the viewshed, while highlighting the homes and natural features.

Shurcliff and Lee Ninde also collaborated in 1916 on plans to connect the new Wildwood Park subdivision to the City of Fort Wayne to the east and also to the country club to the west with parkways. The plans won the support of the park board, but were not completed until the 1920s. In 1938, Shurcliff's plans were utilized when US 24 was routed through the district.

During the development of Wildwood Park during the 1910s and 1920s, several other local developers planned subdivisions in rural tracts outside of city limits. None of these included a landscape architect-designed plan for connecting the development with existing city limits or to other desired suburban amenities such as the country club. Hilgeman & Schaaf, Wildwood's largest competitor by 1917, developed the suburban Beverly Heights subdivision during the period. This development was located far north of the city near the Irene Byron Sanatorium, on the Lima Road. No known Hilgeman & Schaaf transportation plan for Beverly Heights exists, and the Beverly Heights subdivision never became a successful development.

The integrity of Shurcliff's plans is excellent throughout the district. Changes that have occurred to the lots in the subdivision followed the plan set up by Shurcliff in his original plat. The addition of the curving, parkway-like Jefferson Boulevard extension through the north section of the subdivision was not part of Shurcliff's plan, but has been accomplished in a way that does not detract from the overall integrity of Shurcliff's plan or the district.

The subdivision and parkway plans reflect design principles important in the history of community planning and landscape architecture, and are regionally significant under Criterion C.

<sup>53</sup> *Wildwood Magazine*, "Arthur A. Shurtleff." Vol. II, no. 1, Autumn, 1914. pp 5-8.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

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### Significance of the Architecture of Wildwood Park under Criterion (C)

Wildwood Park is locally significant under Criterion (C) for its outstanding collection of architecture built throughout the period of significance, from 1914. The period of significance extends to 1960. Many of the residences are among the finest local examples of their style, and are the works of locally and regionally significant master architects. The houses in Wildwood Park are single-family detached homes on large lots, with a variety of massing types. Principal architectural styles are Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, American Small House, and Ranch. Unusual examples of French Eclectic, Art Moderne, Wrightian, and American International are found as well. Materials include wood, stucco, and brick. Principal architects and home builders included Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby, A.M. Strauss, Guy Mahurin, Pohlmeier and Pohlmeier, John Worthman, and Edwin Gibson. The Wildwood Park subdivision layout and design included within the deed restrictions an Architectural Control Committee, to approve all designs, site plans, additions, materials, and overall aesthetics. This was a significant development in northeastern Indiana, and it retains its function as an integral part of the development, as it continues to exist as an official body of the Wildwood Park Community Association. The earliest homes in Wildwood Park were built primarily for organizers, and stockholders in Wildwood Park Company and Wildwood Builders. By 1925, houses had been built for Lee and Daniel Ninde, Edmund Miller, Fremont Jones, George Loesch, and a handful of others. These early homes were designed by the most prominent architects working in Fort Wayne during the time.

**Joel Roberts Ninde (1874-1916) and Grace Crosby (c.1872-1962)** Joel Roberts Ninde and Grace E. Crosby were the architecture department of the Wildwood Builders Company and almost three hundred homes designed by them were built prior to 1916. Ninde and Crosby were among the earliest women to work as architects in Indiana, beginning their careers at a time when few women in the United States had entered the field. Joel's and Grace's association with house designs in Wildwood Park augments the statewide significance of the district.

The apprentice or atelier system for training architects was still common during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and many architects in the United States entered the profession by training in the firm of established architects, and not through a college program. Grace E. Crosby, a native of Fort Wayne and an 1891 graduate of Fort Wayne High School, received her training as an architect by apprenticing with several firms in Fort Wayne. As early as 1894 she was listed in city directories as a "tracer" of architectural plans, and by 1900 she was associated with the architectural firm of Alfred Grindle, serving as a "draughtswoman." Alfred Grindle had himself been trained through the apprentice system, learning his profession as a draftsman in the offices of Wing and Mahurin. Grace Crosby worked for Grindle's firm until 1910.<sup>55</sup>

Joel (pronounced Jo-ELL, and called "Jo" by her husband) Roberts Ninde, a native of Alabama, moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1900 after her marriage to city native Lee J. Ninde. Shortly after her arrival she designed a home for herself and her husband in the Craftsman style. Joel did not have formal training in architecture through apprenticeship or schooling, but carefully studied the popular styles of the day as she developed her own unique perspective. Her first design was widely admired, and the home was purchased, prompting her to design another house for herself and her husband. By 1909 she had designed several homes, and the Nindes formally organized the Wildwood Builders Company to design and build houses and residential developments. Grace E. Crosby joined the company, and worked in partnership with Joel Roberts Ninde as the architecture department for the firm. A third local woman, Louise Josephine Pellens, joined the team briefly in 1911-1912, following her graduation from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a degree in architecture.<sup>56</sup> Several of the house designs of Ninde and Crosby were published in the nationally distributed *Wildwood Magazine*. Wildwood Builders published a book of house plans by Ninde and Crosby, *Wildwood Homes: Being a Collection of Houses and Details with Suggestions for the Home Builder*, in 1912.

By 1914 the success of Wildwood Builders was due, in large part, to the designs by the pair. A newspaper article in August, 1914 noted that Ninde and Crosby were opening their own firm, which would include architecture and interior

<sup>55</sup> *Grace E. Crosby House, 413 West DeWald Street*, City of Fort Wayne Historic Preservation Commission Staff Review, July 23, 2007.

<sup>56</sup> Pellens left Fort Wayne to work for the firm of Walter Burley Griffin in 1912, before becoming a Mechanical Drawing teacher for many years, according to alumni records of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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design, in addition to their continuing work at Wildwood Builders.<sup>57</sup> The *Indianapolis Star* reported on the success of Joel Roberts Ninde's designs later that year.<sup>58</sup>

During this period Marion Mahony Griffin and Isabel Roberts worked in the offices of Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago. During their time with Wright they worked on many projects in Chicago and several in northwestern Indiana, and may have assisted with the designs for the Gerald Mahony House in Elkhart, 1907 (for Griffin's brother), and the DeRhodes House, 1906, in South Bend for Roberts' friend Laura DeRhodes.<sup>59</sup> Though women were involved in real estate development and house design in a number of Hoosier communities before the Second World War, the prominence of women in the Wildwood enterprise at such an early date is remarkable.

Ninde and Crosby may have been among the earliest women architects in partnership in the country. The firm of Mary Gannon and Alice Hands organized a partnership in New York City 1894, and has been documented to be the country's first partnership of women architects. A New York City firm was highlighted (incorrectly) as the first woman-owned architectural firm on the eastern seaboard when in March 1914 the *New York Times* reported that "Enthusiasm for the rights of women had led two young feminists to establish the first firm of its kind in existence."<sup>60</sup> Anna Pendleton Schenck and Marcia Mead established Schenck & Mead in New York City. Schenck died unexpectedly in 1915, and the firm closed.

In Indiana, the partnership of Grace Crosby and Joel Roberts Ninde also ended abruptly when Joel Roberts Ninde died from a stroke in 1916 at age 42. Grace Crosby continued to work as the architect for Wildwood Builders, and then briefly had her own firm in 1917. During the next decade she continued to work as a designer in Fort Wayne, including brief stints as a draftsman for the S.F. Bowser Company designing gasoline pumps and filling stations, and as an architect for Griffith and Goodrich. Her final employer was Leroy Bradley, and the firm Bradley and Babcock, where she worked as an architect until her retirement in 1930, as she neared her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Crosby lived until 1962, and her obituary noted that she had worked over 35 years in the architectural field.<sup>61</sup> Indiana began to license architects following enactment of legislation in 1929, just as Grace Crosby was retiring from her 35-year career. It would be a decade before Juliet Peddle became the first woman in Indiana to be licensed as an architect in 1939.<sup>62</sup>

In Wildwood Park, Ninde and Crosby are believed to have designed the Daniel Ninde House (3401 North Washington Road), Fremont Jones House (3424 North Washington Road), and Miller House (3408 North Washington Road). They may also have designed the Neil McKay House (3518 North Washington Road). All were being planned or were being constructed at the time of Joel's sudden death, and all bear the distinctive styling that she and Grace Crosby used in many of their designs.<sup>63</sup> The Fremont Jones house (photo 8) may have been designed as early as 1914, as it bears some resemblance to a proposed home for Wildwood Park described in the *Journal Gazette*, as readers were asked to imagine the following:

Now, on this wooded hillside and extending along the broken surface of the ground squats a little house with broad chimneys and a red roof. A winding gravel path leads from the roadway to a hooded front door with a massive brass knocker and two narrow flanking windows. The windows, with their tiny panes and their dark wooden sills, are grouped in threes or fours or half-dozens. The upper portion of the house may extend a little beyond the lower floor, and the eaves are cut off short<sup>64</sup>

<sup>57</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "Ft. Wayne Women Form New Architect Firm." August 30, 1914.

<sup>58</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, "Mrs. Joel Roberts Ninde of Ft. Wayne Broadened Her Womanly Sphere By Becoming an Architect and the Creator of Fair 'Honeymoon Row'." November 7, 1914.

<sup>59</sup> Allaback, Sarah. *The First American Women Architects*. University of Illinois Press, 2008. 204-205.

<sup>60</sup> *New York Times*, "Girl Architects Organize a Firm." March 8, 1914. Allaback, *ibid*, page 219.

<sup>61</sup> *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "Grace E. Crosby." May 18, 1962.

<sup>62</sup> Sheila Snider, FAIA, email correspondence received May 5, 2009, regarding architecture licensing in Indiana and Juliet Peddle. Snider was the 2001 recipient of the Juliet Peddle Award, given by the Indiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture.

<sup>63</sup> Ninde and Crosby houses can be found in other Fort Wayne Historic Districts, including the Old West End Historic District (listed November 15, 1984), Williams Woodland Park Historic District (listed 1991), South Wayne Historic District (1992), Oakdale Historic District (2000), Illsley Place-West Rudisill Historic District (2006), and Forest Park Boulevard Historic District (March 2007).

<sup>64</sup> Wildwood Editorial Staff, "English House #3," in *Journal Gazette*, Sunday Morning, March 22, 1914.

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Other early architects included:

**Pohlmeyer and Pohlmeyer**--Sons of a local contractor, Fred W. and Martin W. "Mox" Pohlmeyer both became architects. Fred received his education by working in the offices of architects in both Chicago and Fort Wayne. Mox graduated from Carnegie Tech, and worked with several eastern architects. Besides the George Loesch house at 3720 North Washington Road in Wildwood Park, the firm designed schools, office buildings, and other structures.<sup>65</sup> The company also designed several homes in the Southwood Park Historic District in Fort Wayne, including 4125 Indiana Avenue; 3929 Indiana Avenue; 4723 Tacoma Avenue; and 4733 Hartman Road.<sup>66</sup>

**Guy Mahurin**--Guy Mahurin was born in Fort Wayne, and was the nephew of Fort Wayne architect Marshall Mahurin. Guy served in the U.S. Bureau of Architecture in the Philippine Islands, and even designed the Philippine buildings for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. From 1907 to 1918 he worked in partnership with Marshall Mahurin. During, and for a period after World War I, Guy was Assistant Chief of the Requisitioning Division of the U.S. Housing Corporation in Washington D.C. He returned to Fort Wayne and opened his own practice. He designed the Tudor Revival Kattell House at 1505 Hawthorn Road.<sup>67</sup>

Very few homes were built in Fort Wayne between 1932 and 1935, during the depths of the Great Depression. As recovery began, new houses were built in Wildwood Park, with architects including:

**Alvin M. Strauss**--This prominent Indiana architect, originally from Kendallville, established his own practice in Fort Wayne in 1918. He was one of Indiana's leading architects of the twentieth century, working in many popular styles. Many of his works are major commercial or public works, such as the Lincoln Bank Tower and Embassy Theater in Fort Wayne, and several campus buildings at Indiana University in Blomington, Indiana. In Wildwood Park, A.M. Strauss designed the Walter Neuman House at 3606 Mulberry Road, the Harold Novitsky House at 3525 Willowdale Road, and one of the partners of his firm designed the Lawrence Levy House in the Usonian style.<sup>68</sup>

**John R. Worthman**--(1900-1964) John Worthman had a long career as a homebuilder and developer in Fort Wayne, beginning with several homes designed and built by Worthman in Wildwood Park. In 1936 he designed and built 3710 North Washington Road. He continued to design and build homes and develop subdivisions after other firms went out of business during the Great Depression, including Indian Village, which he purchased when City and Suburban Development Co. went bankrupt. In 1954, he built 1815 Hawthorn Road, customizing a house plan first offered by the C.W. Babcock Organization of Detroit. He also built the house at 3623 Mulberry. He later developed the post World War II Fort Wayne subdivisions of Woodhurst, and Winterthur during the 1950s and 1960s.<sup>69</sup> Worthman-built homes are well-regarded in Fort Wayne and contemporary real-estate advertisements continue to mention Worthman as the builder.

**T. Richard Shoaff**--T. Richard Shoaff was a native of Fort Wayne, and was the son of Wildwood Builders organizer Fred B. Shoaff. He was a partner in Shoaff-Kain Architects, and designed the home at 3322 North Washington Road for Mayme and Harry Hattersley built in 1950. Shoaff also designed the Contemporary/Park Rustic Conklin pavilion at Shoaff

<sup>65</sup> Compiled from a variety of sources, including homeowner information and the *Fort Wayne Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Interim Report*, page 23.

<sup>66</sup> Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. "Fred Pohlmeyer." April 13, 1953. *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. "Mox Pohlmeyer. October 6, 1981.

<sup>67</sup> *Fort Wayne Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Interim Report*, pages 22-23, *Journal Gazette*, May 24, 1931 and *News Sentinel* May 30, 1931. *Guy Mahurin, Architect*. 1930.

<sup>68</sup> *Fort Wayne Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Interim Report*, pages 22-23. *Selections From the Recent Work of A.M. Strauss, Architect*, 1939; Strauss Collection, Drawing and Documents Archive, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

<sup>69</sup> Compiled from primary sources, including city directory listings, newspaper articles, blueprints, and other documents provided by homeowners. Worthman homes in the Southwood Park Historic District include 4717 Tacoma, 4811 Tacoma, 930 Prange, 4801 Arlington Avenue, 914 Sherwood Terrace, 4131 Tacoma Avenue, 4835 Old Mill Road, 4415 Indiana Avenue, 4617 Indiana Avenue, and 4802 Arlington Avenue.



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Park in Fort Wayne.<sup>70</sup> For that project he worked with the Shurcliff firm, who designed this new city park in the early 1950s, just prior to Arthur Shurcliff's death.

**Robert L. Burns**--Robert L. Burns was employed as a draftsman and a tool designer for International Harvester and General Electric in Fort Wayne, before becoming an Architectural Examiner for the Homebuilders Plan Service, Federal Housing Authority in 1940. He continued in this capacity for several years. From 1943-1958 his employer was listed as Homebuilders Plan and Building Services. In 1940 he designed the Ralph W. Hall House at 1515 Hickory.<sup>71</sup>

**Edwin A. Gibson**— He was Indiana's first African American architect registered by examination. Gibson was a principal in the firm of A.M. Strauss Associates during the 1940s-1950s. He served as Indiana State Architect during the 1960s, and had a successful firm in Indianapolis, known as Ed Gibson and Associates. Gibson designed the Usonian-style Levy House at 3541 South Washington Road, while employed as a partner in the firm of A.M. Strauss.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Compiled from primary sources, including city directory listings, newspaper articles, blueprints, and other documents provided by homeowners. Additionally, John H. Shoaff, nephew of the architect [who is also an architect] provided some biographical information.

<sup>71</sup> Compiled from primary sources, including city directory listings, newspaper articles, blueprints, and other documents provided by homeowners.

<sup>72</sup> <http://www2.arch.uiuc.edu/africanamericanalumniresearch/Alum%20-%20Edwin%20A%20Gibson%20-%20Resume.htm>, viewed February 18, 2008. Also compiled from primary sources, including city directory listings, newspaper articles, blueprints, and other documents provided by homeowners.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

The Wildwood Builders Company organized the Wildwood Park Company in December, 1913, to purchase and develop the Wildwood Park subdivision.

On May 11, 1916 the plat of Wildwood Park Addition was recorded and included Lots 1-99. Lots 58, 96, 97, 98, and 99 were to be subdivided later. In 1920, the plat of Wildwood Park Second Addition was made. It included the subdivided lots 96, 97 and 98 of the first plat.

In addition to the naturalistic, curvilinear plat of the Wildwood Park subdivision, the distinctive character was also formed by the use of legal restrictions regarding the architecture, placement, and materials of the residential structures. The Wildwood Park subdivision was the first planned community in northeastern Indiana to include deed restrictions that gave the Wildwood Park Company the exclusive right to approve the architectural worthiness of the proposed residences. The deed restrictions stated, in part:

17. No building shall be commenced, erected or maintained, nor shall any addition to, or change or alteration thereon be made, upon said lots, until the plans and specifications showing the exterior architecture of the building, the grading of the lot upon which such building is to be erected; the location of the building upon said lot; and the approximate cost of such structure shall have been submitted to, and approved in writing by the company. The company shall have the right to refuse to approve any such plans or specifications, or location or grading plans, which are not suitable or desirable, in its opinion, for aesthetics, the suitability of the proposed building or structure, and of the material of which it is to be built, and the site upon it is proposed to erect the same, the harmony thereof with the surroundings and the effect of the building or other structure, as planned, on the outlook from the adjacent or neighboring...

19. The Company shall have the right to make reasonable rules and regulations for the maintenance, use and control of all parks, parkways, playgrounds or other tracts or structures used for park or community purposes; to plant and protect trees and shrubbery upon such tracts, or portions of said premises...

37. To appoint a board of arbitrators to consist of an architect, and an engineer, the President of the Company [Lee Ninde], and one resident owner in said Addition, to pass upon [all] plans...<sup>73</sup>

During the period 1914-1916 other suburban plats were developed in Fort Wayne by competing companies. Hilgeman & Schaaf—the other large development company in the city—platted Harrison Hill in 1915. *Wildwood Magazine* included photos of the construction of the boulevard centerpiece of this boulevard and radial-style development in the Christmas, 1915 issue, as well as some before and after photos of the recently completed, grid-style Arcadia Court addition by the same company.<sup>74</sup>

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

<sup>73</sup> Wildwood Park Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, platting documents.

<sup>74</sup> "Recent Examples of Sub-division Development at Fort Wayne, Ind., by the Firm of Hilgeman & Schaaf." *Wildwood Magazine*, Christmas, 1915. Pages 20-21.

Wildwood Park Historic District  
Name of Property

Allen County, Indiana  
County and State

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Wildwood Park Historic District

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**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: ARCH, Inc.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 160

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Wildwood Park Historic District

Allen County, Indiana

Name of Property

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1	16	652040	4548631	3	16	652843	4548292
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	652932	4548657	4	16	652079	4547633
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary of the Wildwood Park Historic District begins at the intersection of the east right of way of Ardmore Avenue, and the south right of way of West Jefferson Boulevard. The boundary of the district extends in a northeastern direction along the south right of way of West Jefferson Boulevard to its intersection with the east right of way of Willowdale Road. From this point, the boundary extends north to a point where the south right of way of Illinois Road and the north right of way of Jefferson Boulevard intersect. The boundary then proceeds east along the south right of way of Illinois Road to a point in line with the west right of way of Lindenwood Avenue. The boundary then proceeds southwest, crossing West Jefferson Boulevard, and continuing south along the west right of way of Freeman Street, to the north right of way at the intersection of Freeman and Portage Boulevard. The boundary then proceeds southwest along the north right of way of Portage Boulevard, crossing Hawthorn Road and continuing along the west property line 1838 Hawthorn Road. The boundary then proceeds northwest along the property line and then west along the south property lines of 1830 and 1824 Hawthorn Road, and 3615 and 3633 South Washington Road to the west right of way of vacated Hickory Street. The boundary then proceeds north 20 feet to the north side of vacated George Street. The boundary then proceeds west along the north side of vacated George Street to Ardmore Avenue. The boundary then proceeds north along the east edge of the Ardmore Avenue right of way, to its point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The specified boundaries in this nomination include the entire plats of Wildwood Park, Wildwood Park 2nd Addition, Wildwood Park Second Addition Extended, Wildwood Park Addition Amended, Wildwood Park 3rd Addition and Gypsy Knoll Subdivision. This area encompasses the entire subdivision designed as Wildwood Park as it was developed by Wildwood Builders, and designed by Arthur Shurcliff, as well as the Gypsy Knoll Estate, which existed as a suburban residence prior to and adjacent to the platting of Wildwood Park in 1914-1916, and was surrounded by the Wildwood Park plat.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Angie Quinn and Michael Galbraith, for the Wildwood Park Community Association  
organization ARCH Inc. date 2/21/2013  
street & number 818 Lafayette Street telephone 260-426-5117  
city or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46802  
e-mail mgalbraith@archfw.org

**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.



Wildwood Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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- **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: Wildwood Park Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Fort Wayne  
County: Allen County State: IN  
Photographer: Michael Galbraith

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing at Willowdale Road and Hawthorn Roads, looking south at the rolling topography.

1 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Illinois Road, looking south past the triangle of park and Jefferson Boulevard to the entrance and sound barrier wall at Willowdale Road.

2 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in front of 3310 North Washington Road, looking west to 3322 North Washington Road.

3 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in front of 3340 North Washington Road, looking north.

4 of 27

Date Photographed: June 10, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in backyard of 3340 North Washington Road, looking south to the garage and remnant of the Hillside Path.

5 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on North Washington Road, looking northwest toward 3408 North Washington Road (on the right of photo). 3410 and 3424 are located to its left.

6 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on North Washington Road, looking northwest at 3518 North Washington Road. 3526 North Washington Road is to its left. The south wall of 1505 Hawthorn Road is visible behind 3518 North Washington.

7 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on North Washington Road, looking east. 3615 North Washington is on the right. The triangle park space between Saginaw Drive, Hawthorn Road, and North Washington Road is on the left, and Saginaw Drive is to the right.

8 of 27

Wildwood Park Historic District  
Name of Property

Allen County, Indiana  
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Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on South Washington Road, looking northeast. 3415 South Washington Road is the third house from the right, near the center of the photo.

9 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on South Washington Road, looking northeast. 3448 South Washington is on the left.

10 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on South Washington Road, looking southeast at 3541 South Washington Road.

11 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013 Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on South Washington Road, looking southeast. 3541 South Washington Road is to the left. 1815 Hawthorn Road is to the right of 3541 South Washington Road.

12 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on South Washington Road, looking southeast at 3604 South Washington Road.

13 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in the yard of 3605 South Washington Road, looking southeast at the house.

14 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Hawthorn Road, looking southwest at 1702 Hawthorn Road.

15 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Willowdale Road, looking south at 3429 Willowdale Road.

16 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in the Willowdale Park area, looking southwest toward 3525 Willowdale (left) and 3535 Willowdale (right).

17 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Willowdale Road, looking northeast to 3546 Willowdale Road.

18 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Mulberry Road looking northwest at 3606 Mulberry Road.

19 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Mulberry Road, looking southeast at 3623 Mulberry Road. 1414 Hickory Street is near the center of the photo.

Wildwood Park Historic District

Allen County, Indiana

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20 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing in the yard of 1725 Ardmore Avenue looking northeast at the house.  
21 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on North Washington Road, looking west at sound walls and re-designed intersection of Ardmore Avenue and North Washington Road.  
22 of 27

Date Photographed: January 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on North Washington Road, looking east at the triangle park area created where the roads intersect.  
23 of 27

Date Photographed: May 15, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Portage Boulevard, looking northwest at 3320 Portage Boulevard.  
24 of 27

Date Photographed: May 15, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Portage Boulevard, looking west at 3404, 3410, and 3424 Portage Boulevard.  
25 of 27

Date Photographed: May 15, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Portage Boulevard, looking northwest at 3410 Portage Boulevard.  
26 of 27

Date Photographed: May 15, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Standing on Portage Boulevard, looking northwest at 3434 Portage Boulevard.  
27 of 27

---

**Property Owner:**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

Wildwood Park Historic District

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Name of Property

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Count	Street Number	Street Address	Resource Type	Contributing?	secondary resource
1-2	1615	Barberry Hill	building	C	c
3	1701	Barberry Hill	building	NC	
4-5	1725	Barberry Hill	building	C	c
6-7	1510	Freeman Street	building	C	c
8	1524	Freeman Street	building	C	
9	1407	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
10	1412	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
11	1502	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
12-13	1505	Hawthorn Road	building	C	c
14-15	1518	Hawthorn Road	building	C	c
16	1611	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
17-18	1616	Hawthorn Road	building	C	nc
19-20	1625	Hawthorn Road	building	NC	c
21-22	1702	Hawthorn Road	building	C	c
23-24	1703	Hawthorn Road	building	C	c
25	1709	Hawthorn Road	building	NC	
26	1712	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
27	1715	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
28	1725	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
29-30	1814	Hawthorn Road	building	C	nc
31	1815	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
32-33	1821	Hawthorn Road	building	C	c
34	1824	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
35	1830	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
36	1833	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
37	1838	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
38	1839	Hawthorn Road	building	C	
39-40	1414	Hickory Street	building	C	c
41	1415	Hickory Street	building	NC	
42	1502	Hickory Street	building	C	
43-44	1505	Hickory Street	building	C	
45	1515	Hickory Street	building	C	c
46	1520	Hickory Street	building	C	
47	3601	Mulberry Road	building	C	
48-49	3606	Mulberry Road	building	C	c
50	3610	Mulberry Road	building	C	
51-52	3620	Mulberry Road	building	C	nc
53-54	3623	Mulberry Road	building	C	nc
55-56	3704	Mulberry Road	building	C	c
57	3710	Mulberry Road	building	C	

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58-59	3717	Mulberry Road	building	C	c
60	3720	Mulberry Road	building	C	
61	3721	Mulberry Road	building	C	
62	3210	North Washington Road	building	C	
63-64	3215	North Washington Road	building	C	c
65	3222	North Washington Road	building	C	
66	3232	North Washington Road	building	C	
67	3233	North Washington Road	building	C	
68-69	3235	North Washington Road	building	C	c
70	3240	North Washington Road	building	C	
71	3302	North Washington Road	building	C	
72	3310	North Washington Road	building	C	
73	3322	North Washington Road	building	C	
74	3330	North Washington Road	building	C	
75-76	3340	North Washington Road	building	C	c
77-78	3401	North Washington Road	building	C	c
79-80	3408	North Washington Road	building	C	c
81	3410	North Washington Road	building	NC	
82	3424	North Washington Road	building	C	
83	3425	North Washington Road	building	C	
84	3432	North Washington Road	building	C	
85	3433	North Washington Road	building	C	
86	3443	North Washington Road	building	C	
87	3502	North Washington Road	building	C	
88	3505	North Washington Road	building	C	
89-90	3515	North Washington Road	building	C	nc
91	3518	North Washington Road	building	C	
92	3525	North Washington Road	building	C	

Wildwood Park Historic District

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93	3526	North Washington Road	building	C	
94-95	3535	North Washington Road	building	C	c
96	3539	North Washington Road	building	C	
97-98	3601	North Washington Road	building	C	c
99-100	3615	North Washington Road	building	C	c
101-102	3650	North Washington Road	building	C	c
103-104	3701	North Washington Road	building	C	c
105	3702	North Washington Road	building	C	
106	3710	North Washington Road	building	C	
107-108	3717	North Washington Road	building	C	c
109-110	3720	North Washington Road	building	C	c
111	3723	North Washington Road	building	C	
112-113	3727	North Washington Road	building	C	c
114	3728	N Washington Road	building	NC	
115	3216	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
116	3234	Portage Boulevard	building	NC	
117	3304	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
118-119	3310	Portage Boulevard	building	C	nc
120	3320	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
121	3330	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
122-123	3404	Portage Boulevard	building	NC	nc
124	3410	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
125-126	3424	Portage Boulevard	building	C	c
127	3430	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
128-129	3434	Portage Boulevard	building	C	c
130	3444	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
131-132	3452	Portage Boulevard	building	NC	c
133-134	3502	Portage Boulevard	building	C	c
135	3510	Portage Boulevard	building	C	
136-137	3520	Portage Boulevard	building	C	c
138-	3530	Portage Boulevard	building	C	c



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139					
140	3301	South Washington Road	building	C	
141	3311	South Washington Road	building	C	
142	3321	South Washington Road	building	C	
143	3325	South Washington Road	building	C	
144-145	3333	South Washington Road	building	C	c
146-147	3403	South Washington Road	building	C	c
148	3404	South Washington Road	building	C	
149	3415	South Washington Road	building	C	
150	3420	South Washington Road	building	C	
151-152	3423	South Washington Road	building	C	c
153-154	3433	South Washington Road	building	C	c
155	3434	South Washington Road	building	C	
156-157	3442	South Washington Road	building	C	c
158	3443	South Washington Road	building	C	
159-160	3448	South Washington Road	building	C	nc
161	3455	South Washington Road	building	C	
162	3466	South Washington Road	building	C	
163	3471	South Washington Road	building	C	
164	3505	South Washington Road	building	C	
165	3515	South Washington Road	building	C	
166	3519	South Washington Road	building	C	
167	3524	South Washington Road	building	C	
168	3525	South Washington Road	building	C	
169	3541	South Washington Road	building	C	
170	3604	South Washington Road	building	C	
171	3605	South Washington Road	building	C	

Wildwood Park Historic District

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172	3615	South Washington Road	building	C	
173	3630	South Washington Road	building	C	
174	3633	South Washington Road	building	C	
175-176	3701	South Washington Road	building	C	nc
177	3710	South Washington Road	building	C	
178	3715	South Washington Road	building	C	
179	3720	South Washington Road	building	C	
180	3725	South Washington Road	building	C	
181	3729	South Washington Road	building	C	
182	3737	South Washington Road	building	C	
183	3744	South Washington Road	building	C	
184	3521	Saginaw Drive	building	C	
185	3536	Saginaw Drive	building	C	
186	3537	Saginaw Drive	building	C	
187	3540	Saginaw Drive	building	C	
188	3323	West Jefferson Boulevard	building	NC	
189-190	3411	West Jefferson Boulevard	building	C	c
191	3401	Willowdale Road	building	C	
192	3410	Willowdale Road	building	C	
193	3415	Willowdale Road	building	C	
194-195	3421	Willowdale Road	building	C	c
196	3429	Willowdale Road	building	C	
197	3434	Willowdale Road	building	C	
198	3515	Willowdale Road	building	C	
199-200	3522	Willowdale Road	building	C	c
201	3525	Willowdale Road	building	C	
202-203	3530	Willowdale Road	building	C	c
204	3535	Willowdale Road	building	NC	
205	3540	Willowdale Road	building	C	
206-207	3546	Willowdale Road	building	C	c
208-209	3550	Willowdale Road	building	C	c
210	3606	Willowdale Road	building	C	

Wildwood Park Historic District

Allen County, Indiana

Name of Property

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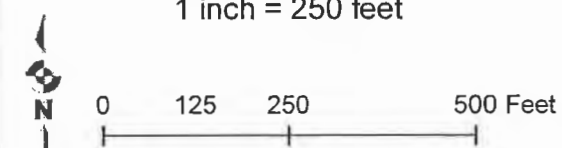
211	3701	North Washington Road	object	NC	
212		Wildwood Park Plat	site	C	
213		Rockhill Park Island	site	C	
214		Willow Creek pedestrian bridge	structure	NC	
215		Street Lamp System	structure	C	
216		Sound Barrier Walls	structure	NC	



# WILDWOOD PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Allen County, Fort Wayne, Indiana

- = Contributing Resource
- = Non-Contributing Resource
- = Entry Marker
- = Historic District Boundary
- = Pedestrian Bridge
- = Sound wall
- 1 inch = 250 feet

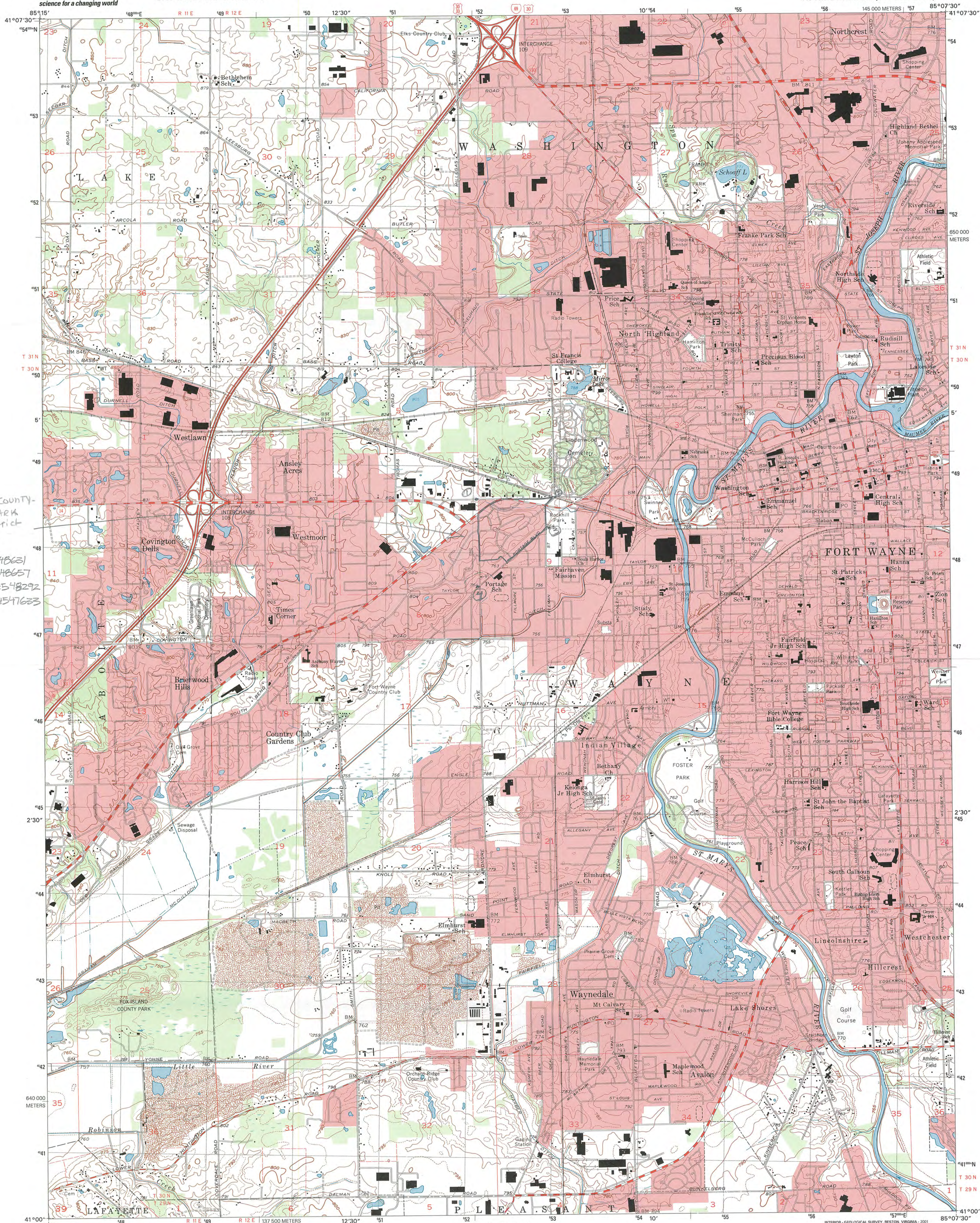


= Photo number and direction

2/25/2013

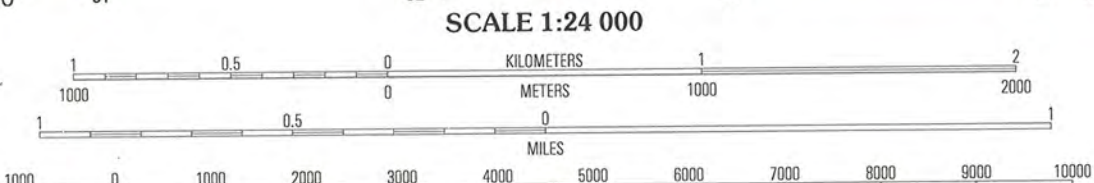


IN ALLEN COUNTY-  
WILDWOOD PARK  
Historic District  
NAD 83  
UTM 18  
① 16 652 040 4548631  
② 16 652 932 4548657  
③ 16 652 843 4548292  
④ 16 652 079 4547633



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1963. Planimetry derived from imagery  
taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and  
survey control current as of 1956.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and  
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16  
2 500-meter ticks: Indiana Coordinate System of 1983 (east zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and  
NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from  
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
Landmark buildings verified 1956.

UTM GRID AND 2000 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

1	2	3	1 Chubbuck
4	5	6	2 Huntstown
7	8	9	3 Cedarville
			4 Arcola
			5 Fort Wayne East
			6 Zanesville
			7 Osawm
			8 Poe

FORT WAYNE WEST, IN  
1998

NIMA 3966 II SW-SERIES V851

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