NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Conn, Charles Gerard, Mansion

other names/site number Strong-Conn Mansion 039-186-30020

2. Location

street & number 723 Strong Avenue N/A☐ not for publication

city or town Elkhart N/A ☐vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Elkhart code 039 zip code 46514

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ 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 ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☑ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-state
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☑ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
Neo Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: limestone
roof SYNTHETICS: rubber
other WOOD
CERAMIC TILE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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, 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 of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

INVENTION
INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1884-1915

Significant Dates

1884
1912

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Conn, Charles Gerard

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

A.H. Ellwood & Son
Welter, L.H.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if 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 #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☑ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
_____

Charles Gerard Conn Mansion
Name of Property

Elkhart County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.3 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	584350	4615120
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dana Groves, Alicia Zartman, Elicia Dadlow

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date July, 2005

street & number 402 W. Washington Street telephone 219-232-4534

city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Timothy S. and Margaret M. Shelly

street & number 723 Strong Avenue telephone 574-293-6545

city or town Elkhart state IN zip code 46514

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description Summary

The C.G. Conn Mansion is a stately home located at 723 Strong Avenue. The house is located in an architecturally significant neighborhood, which includes a mixture of architectural styles and types from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The house is situated on a large lot and is surrounded by mature trees. The original owner Samuel Strong had the house built in the popular Italianate style in 1884 (copy of historic photograph enclosed). The house is most well known for its association with C.G. Conn who purchased the house in 1890. Conn commissioned architect A.H. Ellwood to redesign the house, transforming the Italianate style home into a Neoclassical gem by adding a wrap-around, two-story porch with large, fluted wood columns and wood hand-turned balustrade. On August 22, 1950 an article written in the Elkhart Truth titled, "Our Yesterdays, 38 Years Ago" quoted an Elkhart Truth article from 1912 that said, "Contractor Lawrence Welter will commence work next week on a $10,000 porch to be built on the north, east and west sides of the C.G. Conn residence at 723 Strong Ave. The porch is to be two-story, colonial style, with 16, 26-foot pillars." The final product ended up with 17 pillars.

The house is a two-story painted brick structure that is narrow to the front, tall and deep. A full-height porch extends across the front façade and continues about 3/4 of the way around the east and west façades, giving the house an almost square footprint (Photo 1). The two-story porch extends out from the original house approximately 10 feet, offering additional outdoor living space. Columns are spaced symmetrically across all three sides of the porch. All 17 columns appear original with approximately 10 composite capitals having been replaced over time due to extensive weathering and moisture damage to the originals. The new Corinthian capitals are also composite and match the originals decently with large volutes and the acanthus leaf details (Photo 2). They were purchased stock from either Schwerd's, in Pennsylvania or Chadsworth, in North Carolina. The entablature above the columns is composed of narrow, vertical boards. Dentil detailing is located between the first and second stories of the porch. Larger dentils are located where the vertical boards that form the entablature meet the cornice. The entablature forms a round arch in the center of the north and east facades and contains a decorative semi-circular fanlight (Photo 3). The balustrades with hand-turned spindles are located on the first and second stories and extend the full length of the porch. The balustrade along the first floor bows out between the columns, whereas it runs straight behind the second floor columns. The porch floor is gray and white terrazzo tile (photo 4) and the porch ceiling is narrow bead board. Tall and narrow windows typical of the Italianate style have one-over-one double-hung sashes. The windows have rectilinear hood moldings with cutout geometric shapes capping the top and extending 12" down each side (Photo 5). The sills are limestone. The interior of the house features 12-foot ceilings, decorative woodwork, wide baseboard molding, hardwood floors, paneled wainscoting, pocket doors, a curved staircase, fireplace, and some of the original light fixtures.

North (Front) Facade

The front façade of the house has a two-story projecting square bay with four windows, two on each level. The windows are one-over-one double-hung sashes with decorative rectilinear lintels and limestone sills. The two-story porch is supported by six symmetrically spaced composite order columns, which are interrupted by the projecting bay causing the center two columns to be slightly farther apart. A semi-circular fanlight is located in the center of the curved entablature (Photo 6). The spacing of the center columns, the projecting bay and the fanlight all focus attention to the center of the façade. There is no entrance on this facade.

Narrative Description continued...

East Facade

The east façade is used as the main entrance to the house off the driveway (Photo 7). Double columns border the steps leading up to the front door, which is a double oak door with beveled glass windows in the southeast corner. One-over-one double-hung sash windows are present. Smooth Corinthian columns flank the door and a leaded glass transom window is located above (Photo 8). The porch covers 3/4 of the east façade, interrupted by a protruding bay with four windows, two on each level. The southeast portion of the second floor of the porch is enclosed with screens (Photo 9). It is likely that the screened sleeping area was added at the time of the porch addition, based on the mortise and tenon joinery and the screens, trim and molding were coped to match the existing. A semi-circular fanlight is located in the center of the curved entablature as seen on the north façade (Photo 10). This section of the porch steps forward several feet, with the columns, entablature and arched pediment following suite.

West Facade

The porch and columns extend 3/4 of the way along the west façade. Limestone steps allow entrance from the west. The entablature is straight and not broken up by a fanlight as on the north and east facades. Symmetrically placed windows are one-over-one double-hung sashes (Photo 11). Pilasters separate some of the windows. A small pointed arch dormer with a round window is located on the southwest end. This element was on the original house built by Strong. Pictures show that the dormers were originally on the front and east facades, but were covered up by the fanlights.

South Facade

The porch is absent on the south façade (Photo 12). The south façade has a chamfered two-story bay with four one-over-one double-hung sash windows on each floor. Also present are four one-over-one double-hung sash windows. A small pointed arch dormer with a round window is also visible on this façade as on the west façade (Photo 13). A one-story shed roof addition has wood siding, double hung windows and one door.

Interior

The front entrance is located off the east side of the house. The floors are oak hardwood. All walls in the foyer have wainscoting with raised square panels. An open walnut staircase is located to the right as you enter. The elaborate newel post is massive and the staircase has hand-turned spindles and ornate scrollwork on the outside (Photo 14). The staircase curves to a landing where two posts resembling the newel post are located. On the first floor behind the staircase is a small alcove with two windows and an L-shaped paneled bench seat. Paneled pocket doors off the foyer lead to the library and parlor, and a single door leads to the dining room. Many doors have transom windows. The antique chandelier is original to the house.

The library is located to the right of the foyer. The room contains painted wide quarter sawn baseboard molding, decorative crown molding with dentil detailing and the window trim is fluted with a block 1/3 up. The window trim has corner ornamentation (Photo 15). The room is carpeted and decorated with period wall coverings. The chandelier is original to the house.

The parlor is located to the left of the foyer (Photo 16). The room has the wide quarter sawn oak baseboard and crown molding with dentil detailing. The window trim is fluted with a block 1/3 up and corner ornamentation.

Narrative Description continued...

A fireplace in the room has a wood surround with slender spindled columns, a tile hearth features decorative ceramic tiles with tiger lily, dog and leaf motifs. A bay window is located on the east wall. The room is decorated with period wall coverings. Pocket doors lead to the dining room. The chandelier is original to the house.

The dining room contains wide quarter sawn baseboard molding and decorative molding with bull's eye ornamentation around windows and doors. Crown molding has dentil detailing. The room is carpeted and decorated with period wall coverings (Photo 17).

The kitchen includes 1940's nondescript cabinetry and simple crown molding.

The family room has oak hardwood floors, wide quarter sawn baseboard, and crown molding. A large bay window is located to the south of the room. A wooden bench or window seat is located in the bay.

The second floor contains five bedrooms and two bathrooms. Built-in cabinets in the hall provide for additional storage space (Photo 18). The master bedroom has egg and dart crown moldings. The windows have a saw tooth detail at the corner blocks. All doors on the second floor have transom windows. Other bedrooms have wide baseboard, decorative window and door molding, and crown molding.

Statement of Significance

The C.G. Conn Mansion at 723 Strong Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria B for its association with Col. Charles Gerard Conn, inventor and manufacturer of revolutionary musical instruments. His home is the only building associated with him in Elkhart that has not been heavily modified, such as the factory at 1101 E. Beardsley. It is also eligible under Criteria C for its style of architecture and high artistic value. C.G. Conn became internationally famous, and independently wealthy, for inventing a variety of improvements to musical instruments, the most significant being soft rubber mouthpieces greatly assisting the musician and his ability to play. His instruments were praised and played by famous friends and associates, such as John Phillip Sousa, Hi Henry, Jules Levy, and Alessandro Liberati, as well as the everyday man. He helped build the City of Elkhart, his factory employing 300 workers by 1880. Conn served as the first Democratic mayor of Elkhart, founded the Elkhart Truth newspaper, serving as its editor, purchased the troubled Washington D.C. Times and served terms in both the Indiana State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Conn's greatest achievement, however, was the improvements he made to various musical instruments and the legacy that he left on Elkhart, dubbed the "Band Instrument Capital of the World."

Samuel Strong, for whom the house was built originally, was also a prominent businessman and leader in the community. Strong had the house built in 1874 in the Italianate style. He was involved in the Elkhart Hydraulic Company who built the first dam over the St. Joseph River in 1867-68. The first Elkhart High School was built in 1892 on the land that Strong had donated, which had been the site of his first home. It was later renamed the Samuel Strong Elementary School in 1912. The building remains, but no longer serves as a school.

Statement of Significance continued...

The C.G. Conn Mansion is also National Register applicable under Criteria C, for its architectural style and is rated "Outstanding" in the *Indiana Sites and Structures Inventory* for Elkhart County. The house was purchased in 1890 by Conn who commissioned architect A.H. Ellwood in 1912 to make changes to the house reflecting the more popular style of the time. Neoclassical was a dominant style for domestic buildings throughout the country in the first half of the twentieth century. The style had two waves of popularity: The first from 1900 to 1920 was likely influenced by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago which carried a classical theme. Conn is reported to have attended the World's Fair touting his products, so it is very likely that he was influenced by the classical architecture. The new neoclassical design added large composite order columns and other classical elements such as the decorative fanlights and dentil detailing. On August 22, 1950 an article written in the Elkhart Truth titled, "Our Yesterdays, 38 Years Ago" quoted an Elkhart Truth article from 1912 that said, "Contractor Lawrence Welter will commence work next week on a $10,000 porch to be built on the north, east and west sides of the C.G. Conn residence at 723 Strong Ave. The porch is to be two-story, colonial style, with 16, 26-foot pillars." The final product ended up with 17 pillars. The original Victorian interior is very much intact with high ceilings, hardwood floors, decorative woodwork, fireplaces and a curved staircase. Some of the original light fixtures still remain.

Historical Background and Significance of C.G. Conn

Charles Gerard Conn was born in Phelps, New York, on January 29, 1844. His parents Charles J. Conn and Sarah Benjamin Conn were farmers. In 1851 the family re-located to Elkhart where his father took a job as the head of village schools. Young Conn grew proficient in playing the cornet during this time.

In 1861, the Civil War erupted and Conn signed up with 15th Indiana Voluntary Infantry in Company B, where he played the cornet in the regimental band. Fifteen months later he was discharged, and he re-enlisted with Company G of the First Michigan Sharpshooters from Niles. He started as the Company Bandmaster, but advanced to sergeant, then second lieutenant, and at twenty years old he became the captain of the Company. He was wounded and captured during the assault on Petersburg, Virginia, and he spent the rest of the war in Confederate prison camps. On July 28, 1865, he received an honorable discharge.

At the end of the war, Conn was released, and he returned to Elkhart where he married Katherine Mary Hazelton on October 10, 1869. He worked as a grocer, sold ice, made rubber stamps, and plated and engraved silverware. As a member of the Elkhart Silver Cornet Band, he also gave music lessons.

Conn's success begins with the story that he reportedly got into a fight, leaving him with a lacerated lip. He feared he would never play the cornet again, depriving him not only of pleasure, but also extra income. In 1874, Conn conceived the idea of a "cushion" for his lips, and he began to experiment with creating a rubber mouthpiece that would allow his scarred lip to play the cornet. He invented an elastic-faced or rubber-trimmed mouthpiece. He thought that other cornet players may be interested in the flexible mouthpiece, so he created a lathe out of a sewing machine and began making his product. He developed a process for vulcanizing rubber to metal and added his new rubber mouthpiece to other manufacturer's mouthpieces. He persuaded other members of the Elkhart Silver Cornet Band to use the mouthpiece. He advertised his invention as a relief from

Statement of Significance continued...

tender and inflamed lips. He put all his money into printing 100 fliers, which he sent to musician contacts. The response was overwhelming. The mouthpieces were received so well that Conn had to hire help to produce them. He obtained patents in the United States, England, France, Belgium, and Canada. By 1875, Conn was producing sixty mouthpieces a day. Shortly after, Conn invented and patented an improved cornet valve and began the manufacture of brass instruments. In 1876, at Conn's invitation, Eugene Dupont, a French instrument maker, arrived in Elkhart to become his partner in making and repairing wind instruments. During their three-year partnership, they worked to perfect the cornet, and by 1877, they expanded their business, moving the upstart operation into a larger factory. Within a year of the move, Conn and Dupont had 100 employees. The firm was growing as the demand for the new *Wonder* line of instruments increased. The popularity of his instruments grew, as he was able to get endorsements from many well-known performers and conductors. The factory now not only produced cornets, brass instruments, and drums, but also printed and sold band and orchestra music.

In 1880, Conn was elected the first Democratic mayor of Elkhart. He resigned during his second two-year term to attend to the rebuilding of his factory, which was destroyed by fire in 1883. Conn declared that he would rebuild and three months later the new factory was opened. The company grew rapidly as demand for Conn's instruments increased. By the late 1880's, Conn employed 300 workers. According to the company publication *Trumpet Notes* the Conn factory was, at the time, the largest of its kind in the world. Conn continued to expand his product line. In 1888, he developed the first American-made saxophone, and introduced his own line of clarinets, flutes, and piccolos.

Conn's success led him into various other civic, journalistic and political activities. He first undertook the development of a large hydraulic system for the northeast part of the city. He introduced electric light to Elkhart "almost," as one contemporary writer noted, "before it was introduced into Chicago." In 1888, Conn ran for representative to the Indiana State Legislature in which he served two terms. In 1889, Conn purchased *The Elkhart Review and* renamed the paper *The Elkhart Truth* that still operates under the same name today. Conn became the paper's editor and used it as a platform to express his "Democratic Ideas." In 1892, Conn was elected for a two-year term as representative to the U.S. Congress where he became nationally known as a supporter for organized labor. Conn declined re-nomination to another term in Congress, and in 1894, he purchased the financially unstable *Washington Times.* He paid the debts of the company and got the paper on solid ground and sold it a year later to return to Elkhart, resuming a more active role in his company.

In 1897, Conn purchased additional land and built another factory that would produce stringed instruments. His company began the production of the popular *New Wonder* Violin. He made other strides in the instrument business, adding the *Wonder* talking machine to his inventory in 1897, and making history when the first commercially available bell-up sousaphone was produced by a Conn employee. Patents for the *Wonder* portable reed organ and a new cornet were granted in 1901. After its incorporation in 1904, the C.G. Conn Company was the first industry of its kind to open its doors exclusively to the use of union labor. A new union was established, called the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, Brass Moulders, Brass and Silver Workers International Union of North America. Most of Conn's instruments had been ornately engraved. Conn gained an international reputation for the fine and artistic finish that he gave his instruments. Conn's most ornately

Statement of Significance Continued...
engraved instruments were those designed for the company's booth at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago of 1893. Engraving was done freehand for the first forty years.

A second fire in 1910 totally destroyed Conn's factory. Conn immediately announced plans to rebuild. The new Spanish Mission style factory was in operation four months later. After rebuilding, Conn introduced his *New Invention* line and dropped the *Wonder* trademark.

In 1915, Conn deeded the factory, newspaper, and most of his personal property to an investor group from Wauseon, Ohio, headed by Carl D. Greenleaf. Conn then moved to California, leaving his wife and daughter behind. His wife Kate lived in the house until her death in 1924. Conn divorced Kate and remarried Suzanne Cohn. Their son, Charles Gerard Conn III, was born in 1918 when the elder Conn was 75 years old. Conn died on January 5, 1931, reportedly a poor man. His body was sent home to Elkhart to be buried in Gracelawn Cemetery.

Conn made many contributions on local, state, and national levels. He made a large contribution locally, to the city of Elkhart by investing his money in the community by rebuilding his company twice, and he advanced the development of the City through the employment of several hundred craftsman and artisans that made Elkhart their home. Conn also was responsible for spawning new band instrument companies that were operated by former Conn employees, therefore giving Elkhart the title of "Band Instrument Capitol of the World." His involvement in politics reached all levels, as he served as mayor of the City of Elkhart, representative to the Indiana State Legislature, and representative to the U.S. Congress.

Conn also left a visible reminder in Elkhart with the transformation of the former Samuel Strong House. The house is eligible for inclusion by meeting Criteria C for its outstanding architecture and high artistic value. Originally built in the Italianate style, Conn commissioned for architect A.H. Elwood to transform the house into a Neo-Classical gem. A two-story porch was added, extending across the front façade and wrapping around to the east and west facades extending about 3/4 of the length of those facades. Large composite order columns were symmetrically placed on those three facades. The balustrade with robust, hand-turned balusters also extends the length of the porch. The roofline on the north and east
facades is interrupted by a central curved entablature with a semi-circular fanlight. Other details include tall, narrow windows that remain unchanged from the original house, dentil detailing on the porch addition, and decorative terrazzo tile on the porch floor.

After the death of Conn's first wife in 1924, the house was purchased in 1926 by William and Mary Elizabeth Hazelton, Mrs. Conn's sister. The couple lived there until 1932. From 1932 until 1938, Elizabeth Hazelton lived at the residence with Burt and Katherine Lyzen. The Lyzens continued to live there from 1940 to 1949. Joseph and Jean Menaugh bought the property in 1949 and lived there through 1952. The home changed hands once more in 1953 to Harry and Katherine Diman who lived there until 1972. From 1973 to 1987, S.H. and Gloria Cousins resided in the Conn Mansion. In 1988 they sold to Douglas Rice, who lived there until 1992, when the current owners Tim and Meg Shelly purchased the property. The Shellys have been working on the home's restoration since they purchased it in 1992.

Architectural Significance

The Conn Mansion is a unique transformation, and really one of a kind in the area. The principal areas of elaboration in Neo-Classical houses are porch-support columns, cornices, doorways, and windows. The Conn Mansion porch features are characteristic of the Neo-Classical style, including a full-height porch with the roof supported by classical columns. Corinthian/Ionic capitals cap the smooth columns. Symmetry is typical the style. The Conn Mansion does deviate from the Neo-Classical style in the sense that the original house, which was not altered, is Italianate.

Another significant Neo-Classical designed home in Elkhart was the Foster Mansion, #9 St. Joseph Manor, designed by E. Hill Turnock and built in 1917, several years after the Conn home renovation. The house had a full-height curved portico with large columns, but was demolished in 2002. Other Neo-Classical homes in the surrounding area include the Beiger Mansion at 317 Lincolnway East in Mishawaka built in 1903. Beiger Mansion has a two-story entry porch with a one-story full-width porch. Another house located at 806 W. Mishawaka Avenue was built in 1908 and features a two-story curved portico. Both of these homes are rated "Outstanding" in the 1995 *Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* for the City of Mishawaka. Another home in South Bend at 201 North Shore Drive was built in 1906 and has a full-height entry porch. The house is rated "Significant" in the *City of South Bend Summary Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.* None of the houses listed are currently listed in the National Register. The C.G. Conn Mansion stands out from the other examples, having a two story full-height porch that wraps around the majority of the house.

The Conn Mansion remains very intact and well maintained inside and out. The house is rated "Outstanding" in the *Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* for Elkhart County, and is featured as one of Indiana's architecturally significant homes in the book, 99 Historic Homes of Indiana.

Bibliography

Banks, Margaret D. Elkhart's Brass Roots, Vermillion, South Dakota: South Dakota University Press, 1994.

Banks, Margaret D. and Jordan, James, "C.G. Conn: The Man (1844 - 1931) And His Company (1874 - 1915), Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society, 1988.

Banks, Margaret D. *Violin Making by the Conn Company of Indiana*, presentation to the Violin Society of America Annual Conference, November 6, 1990.

Butler, George W. Manual of Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, Mennonite Publishing Co, 1889, reprinted. Elkhart, Indiana, Truth Publishing Co., 1989.

City Directories, City of Elkhart.

Erickson, Arden, "C.G. Conn His "Truth Was a Personal Promotion", The Elkhart Truth, October 20, 1989.

Interim Report, Elkhart County, Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory, 1978.

Obituary of Col. Charles G. Conn, The Elkhart Truth, January 6, 1931.

"Our Yesterdays, 38 Years Ago," The Elkhart Truth, August 22, 1950, pg. 10.

Pickerell, Martha, "Charles G. Conn Who Helped Shape Elkhart's Destiny, South Bend Tribune, September 1, 1974.

Shaw, Bill. 99 Historic Homes of Indiana A Look Inside. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2002.

Summary Report, City of Mishawaka, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 1995.

Summary Report, City of South Bend, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 1993.

Whitehead, Ben Gordon, "Colonel Charles Gerard Conn", The Indianapolis News, c 1908.

Verbal Boundary Description
Lots 107 and 108 in the recorded plat of Strong's Second Addition to the City of Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Also, all the unplatted land adjacent on the east to said lot 108, lying between said lot 108 and the west line of the north and south alley in Spring Fountain Place Addition to the city of Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana, about 5 by 14 rods, containing 70 square rods, more or less.

Reserving a strip of ground 1 rod wide on the south and on the west on the lots and above described for public alleys.

Also, lots 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43 in the recorded plat of Spring Fountain Place Addition to the City of Elkhart.

Also, the northerly half of that part of Merrick Avenue, which has been vacated, and adjoining said lots 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43 in said Spring Fountain Place Addition.

Boundary Justification
The boundaries selected comprise the original boundaries of the parcel purchased by Samuel Strong, which was subsequently conveyed to Col. C.G. Conn. The boundaries include the primary residence, the large front and side lawns, and rear wooded slope that is bounded by a natural spring and creek.

Photo 6

Photo 12

Photo 14