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 Vehslage, George H., House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 515 North Chestnut Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Seymour ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Jackson code 071 zip code 47274

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

George H. Vehslage House
Name of Property

Jackson County, Indiana
County and State

5. Classification

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

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

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

- [X] 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	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone
walls: Brick
roof: Slate
other:

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 Vehslage House is located on the southwest corner of West 6th and Chestnut Streets on the north side of Seymour, Indiana. This residential area is comprised primarily of late 19th century homes. The Vehslage home is owned by the Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church which is located southwest of this home across a large, asphalt parking lot. Grassy lawn surrounds the home on the north, east and west. On the south side, a small Victorian cottage was demolished to enlarge the church's parking lot. A narrow swath of grass separates the asphalt parking lot from the home along this elevation. The home has been rehabilitated by the church for church offices.

The Vehslage House is a 2½-story masonry Queen Anne with a limestone foundation and brick exterior. The home depicts the Queen Anne style with its corner tower, irregular floorplan, ornate woodwork and multiplicity in the exterior elevations. The home has changed relatively little since its construction and retains all of its significant character-defining features. The home was built with a 2-story carriage house that remains in form, but has lost its exterior materials, architectural details and openings as well as its interior layout.

Narrative Description

EXTERIOR (photos 1-7)
The Vehslage home is situated on a rusticated limestone block foundation. The stone blocks vary somewhat in size, but are more than twice as large as the bricks. Both porches are supported with limestone block piers. Between the piers is a weave-like pattern of wood. Fixed window openings on the basement level provide light for the interior space. These openings are vertically aligned with openings on the floors above.

The bricks, laid in the running bond pattern, are a bright red hue with smooth surfaces. The mortar is tinted black. The mortar joints are thin with a flush profile. Four limestone bands run around the exterior of the home at the height of the window headers and sills on both the 1st and 2nd floor windows. Another limestone band serves as a dripstone course at the basement level.

The irregular roofline includes gables on all four elevations. The corner tower is capped by a hexagonal roof. Gable ornaments remain intact on peaks on the main roofline, three of the four gables, and the tower roof. The deep eaves and fascia on all four elevations are highlighted by modillions. The four gables vary in size, but are identical in layout and ornamentation. Modillions line the verge in each. The gables have fish scale siding and double-hung window openings. The 3-sided bays on the north and south elevations have carved roofline trim with drop pendants. The corbelled chimney extends through the center of the roof.

Except for the basement sashes and select windows noted in the following description, the windows in the Vehslage home are 1/1, wood, double-hung sashes. On the exterior, the window openings are devoid of wood trim. As mentioned above, the headers and sills are formed by the limestone bands. Vertically, the window openings are framed by single, bullnose bricks. Storm windows have been installed on many of the window openings. The doorways are recessed with limestone headers and framed by single bullnose bricks along the vertical edges. The wood doorframes have recessed panels on all three surfaces.

East Elevation (photo 1)
The east elevation, facing North Chestnut Street, is the primary elevation and features a 2-story tower at the northeast corner, a wrap-around porch and ornate gable. The highly-ornamented, wrap-around porch is the dominant feature on both this and the north elevations (photos 1,2&6). Bands of slate shingles accent the shallow- pitch roofline on the porch. The porch follows the home's elevation, with a sweeping smooth curve around the hexagonal tower. The porch is supported by turned porch supports. The railing is a cutout design connected to short spindles resting on a bottom rail. The elaborate porch frieze has multiple layers of trim including spindlework and drop pendants. Lacy fan brackets frame the porch openings between the porch supports. The porch entrance near the southeast corner projects out from the porch itself and is defined by three porch posts on each side. The ornate frieze continues across the opening. The steps have gently curving sides and modern pipe handrails.

The brick elevation seems to undulate with the changing planes of the elevation and corner tower. The gabled projection at the southeast corner is a flat plane with a single, double-hung window centered on the 2nd floor. On the 1st floor, the home's primary entry, a double-door opening, is aligned with the porch entrance (photo 6). The double doors have vertical glass panes in the middle of the door. Above and below the panes are quads of carved circle rosette panels. Left of the entry, is a small, leaded-glass window (photo 8).

The middle section of this elevation is slightly recessed with a large double-hung window on each floor. The hexagonal tower on the northeast corner rises from the basement to the roofline. Window openings are located in alternating sections (photos 1&2).

North Elevation (photo 2)
The north elevation is the 2nd most prominent elevation, facing a well-traveled thoroughfare, West 6th Street. The elevation is dominated by the north half of the wrap-around porch. The limestone bands continue uninterrupted across this elevation. A second porch entrance near the north end of the porch is less elaborate. The entry does not project out from the porch plane and the opening is defined by single porch posts. The limestone steps are simpler than the front steps and have a single modern pipe handrail.

Adjacent to the tower, the flat plane of the elevation has no openings. The porch ends at a 2-story, 3-sided bay projecting out from the elevation. Each floor on each of the 3 sides has a double-hung window, except the 1st floor under the porch, which serves as an entrance. The original door has a large glass pane in the upper half with two vertical recessed panels below (photo 11). Its doorbell remains intact. The doorway has an amber glass transom. This entry has a modern storm door. The bay is capped by the previously described gable.

The west section of this elevation is a flat plane with a pair of narrow window openings off-center on each floor.

South Elevation (photo 4)
The home's south elevation originally faced a neighboring home (demolished for additional church parking). The limestone bands run uninterrupted across this elevation. A modern, wheelchair accessible ramp runs west to east along this elevation to provide access into the home via the front porch. The south end of the wrap-around front porch is visible at the east end of this elevation, but the railing was removed for the ramp.

Visually, the elevation can be divided into three distinct sections. The middle section is a 2-story, 3-sided bay capped by a large gable, like the bay on the north elevation. The bay has double-hung windows in each of the three sides on the 1st and 2nd floors, except for the west side on the 1st floor, which has a doorway onto the back porch.

West of the bay, a rear porch with shed roofline spans the entire width of this section. The porch supports match those on the front porch, but the frieze is less elaborate. The railing is a simple balustrade with handrail and bottom rail. A second entrance from the rear porch is slightly off-center. This door matches the previously described secondary entrances. It retains its transom opening with amber glass. A modern storm door has been installed in this opening. On the 2nd floor, two double-hung windows are evenly spaced along this section and vertically aligned with the window and door on the 1st floor.

East of the bay, the elevation is a flat plane, relatively unadorned except for the continuous limestone bands. There are two small stained glass windows, stair-stepped on the façade, suggesting the interior stairwell location (photo 8).

West Elevation (photo 3)
As the rear of the home, the west elevation is the least ornate. The elevation is a single flat plane divided horizontally by the limestone bands. Two double-hung windows are vertically aligned on the 1st and 2nd floors. The west end of the rear porch is visible on the west elevation along with the steps to this porch. The existing steps are limestone with modern pipe handrails on each side. The end of the porch's shed roof has simple horizontal siding. The frieze on the south elevation of the porch continues along this end. An electric meter is attached to the home on the west side.

At the basement level, an infilled window opening and an exterior basement entrance are aligned with the windows on the upper floors. The wood-frame entry to the basement is at ground level and attached to the façade. The angled door to access the basement has been covered with beige/buff aluminum since it is not used.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Vehslage House is high-style Queen Anne with an irregular floorplan and ornate interior. The layout includes a formal entry hall, parlor, dining room, and sitting room. In typical Victorian fashion, private areas like the kitchen and bedrooms are secluded from visitors' view. More than 100 years since its construction, the home retains a high percentage of its original architectural details and layout. Ceilings throughout most of the home remain at 12 feet. While some changes were made to the layout when the home was converted to apartments, most changes have been reversed and are almost unnoticeable.

The walls throughout the vast majority of the house remain plaster. The most recent floor covering was carpeting except in the kitchen and bathrooms. Few wood floors downstairs are visible and upstairs they are simple tongue-and-groove with no patterns. Baseboards, window and door trim, mantlepieces and doors are a made from a variety of woods including cherry, oak and maple. Cherry is common in the public rooms, like the parlor, with maple and oak upstairs and in less public rooms.

Hardware remains intact including doorknobs, hinges, transom hardware and window latches and lifts, as well as register covers. Lighting throughout the home was updated with modern fixtures including several ceiling fans. Current fixtures include replacements in historically appropriate styles. Modern wiring, outlets and switches are sometimes visible as chases running along the surfaces of the wall, floor or ceiling.

Basement

The basement is accessed on the interior through a staircase located off the kitchen in the rear of the home. The basement currently has a poured concrete floor with limestone exterior walls and painted brick interior walls. At various locations, the bricks are interlocked into the limestone walls. At the rear on this level is a set of concrete steps with an angled wood door to the exterior. The floor joists are visible in the low ceiling along with the ductwork that runs throughout the basement.

Attic

The attic is accessed via an enclosed staircase on the 2nd floor. The simple, narrow steps have stained finish. The steps have no handrail. The railing around the stair opening in the attic has carved balusters. The attic has an unfinished wood floor and exposed roof structure. The chimney is visible through the middle and various doors have been stored here.

Entry Hall (photos 8&9)

The home's front entrance opens into a small foyer with a single door into the formal entry hall. This original door has a large glass pane in the center with two square recessed panels along the bottom and three recessed panels across the top. The original hardware is intact. The doorway from the foyer into the entry hall has a transom with amber glass. Both doorways are framed by fluted trim with carved corner blocks. These blocks are carved with a foliage design. The exterior doorway features an elaborate carved header above the fluted trim.

The entry is dominated by an elaborate staircase along the south wall. Three steps at a 45 degree angle to the walls lead to a large landing in the room's southeast corner. A second landing with a quarter turn in the stairs is located more than halfway up to the 2nd floor. The staircase has a turned spindle railing with square newel posts. Each newel post has vertical grooves in the shaft, with foliage design carved near the top and a 4-sided newel cap. Each side of the newel cap is in the shape of a pentagon and carved with a foliage-design. The wood treads remain intact, visible and in good condition. Two stained glass windows and one leaded glass window referenced on the exterior are visible along the staircase. Each window opening has fluted trim and carved corner blocks matching the door trim. The stairway wall has wood wainscoting consisting of horizontal recessed panels.

New tongue-and-groove cherry floors have recently been installed. A wall subdividing the entry hall for the apartments has been removed, leaving a shadow line along the floor. The floors have had different treatments on either side. The larger area by the front door and staircase was painted a light color that has largely worn off. It was later carpeted. Flooring on the other side of the wall was painted a dark red.

There are three interior doorways opening off the entry hall. The doorway on the north wall is a pocket door and leads into the home's parlor (photo 10). The door has three horizontal recessed panels in the center with a row of square recessed panels across the top and bottom. The doorway on the west wall leads to the dining room and is shorter than the doorway to the parlor (photo 9). The pocket door matches the design of the parlor door, but without the top row of recessed panels. The third doorway accesses a closet beneath the stairs, but the door itself has been removed (photo 9). All three doorways have fluted trim with carved corner blocks.

Parlor (photo 10)
The parlor opens off the north side of the entry hall via a tall pocket door. The room includes the small tower nook in the northeast corner and a fireplace in the southwest corner. One window in the tower nook features a stained glass upper pane (photo 19). The design is a mix of geometric and nature forms. Window and door trim match trim found in the entry hall. Baseboard trim, approximately 8.5 inches tall, consists of a deep, simple baseboard topped by torus-shaped base molding. In addition to the entry hall doorway, this room has a wide entryway to the sitting room (photo 10). It appears there were pocket doors in this opening, but they are no longer here. The original wood floor is beneath a finished plywood floor. Carpeting has now been re-installed in this room.

The Vehslage home has five fireplaces all served by a single chimney running through the middle of the home and hidden behind the walls. Because of the chimney mass, each of the five fireplaces is situated on a wall at a 45 degree angle. The fireplace in this room is located in the southwest corner. It has a wood mantelpiece with turned pilasters and carved trim and a simple mantle shelf across the top (photo 10). Mauve ceramic tile frames the fireplace opening. Each tile has a raised design with foliage intertwined and tied with a ribbon. The hearth, level with the floor, has small, rectangular tiles in the similar mauve shade.

Sitting Room (photo 11)
The sitting room opens off the west wall of the parlor through a wide entryway. The north end of the room is a 3-sided bay. A door in one section of the bay opens onto the north side of the wrap-around porch (photo 11). The opening has a transom with amber glass pane. The original doorbell remains intact and operable on this door. Door, window and base trim match the parlor.

The room has four interior doorways including the previously discussed parlor doorway. On the south wall, a pocket door to the dining room matches the pocket door between the parlor and entry hall. The west wall has two doorways. A narrow, paneled door with amber glass transom accesses the back staircase (photo 10). This door is similar to the pocket doors, but without the top recessed panels. A second doorway on this wall accesses what was a downstairs bedroom, now used for storage. Currently, this opening has no door.

The windows have interior shutters on the lower sashes (photo 11). Like the parlor, finished plywood flooring is now covered with carpeting. A fireplace in the southeast corner is similar to the parlor. This mantelpiece has turned pilasters with egg and dart and convex moldings across top. The simple, rectangular ceramic tiles are a grey/buff color scheme. An arched outline is visible in the paint scheme above the fireplace. The current owner remembers a mirror here that was removed during the change in ownership. A hearth is not visible. To the left of the fireplace in the baseboard at floor level is a cast iron plate/switch with "The Peck-Williamson Co. Furnaces Cincinnati". This company was not founded until 1900, so the Vehslages updated or made changes to their heating system in the early 1900s. Mrs. Vehslage enjoyed sitting in this room watching the traffic along 6th Street.

Back Staircase
The back stair is a narrow, enclosed staircase accessible from the sitting room and kitchen. It runs west to a landing near the 2nd floor level. The stair then splits with short flights of steps both north and south. The steps are painted. A modern handrail is attached to one wall. The ceiling at the upper landing has been dropped, partially concealing the window.

Storage Room
A small room on the west side of the sitting room will be utilized for storage by the church. Shadow lines from an original doorway with transom are visible on the west wall. The baseboards, door and window trim match those previously described, but have painted finish. Like those previously described, the floor is finished plywood beneath new carpeting. The family remembers this room used as a bedroom.

Dining Room (photo 20)
The dining room is located directly south of the sitting room through the pocket-door opening. The south end of the room is a 3-sided bay. An exterior door to the rear porch is located in one section and matches the door in a similar location in the sitting room. The transom has a yellow glass pane, likely a replacement.

Interior doorways in this room lead to the entry hall, sitting room and kitchen. The kitchen opening on the west wall has an operable transom with yellow glass pane (photo 13), likely replaced. There is no door in the opening. The ceiling has remnants of glue where modern tiles were attached to the plaster.

Window and door trim and baseboards match those previously described. The flooring is finished plywood covered with carpeting. The fireplace opening is framed with square ceramic tile with a brown/grey/beige marble design. The same tile was utilized in the hearth at floor level. The wood mantelpiece has narrow pilasters, brackets and a sunburst design carved just below the mantle.

Kitchen (photos 12 & 13)
Through the door on the west wall of the dining room is a large kitchen. The kitchen has been updated at various times. Remnants of multiple layers of wallpaper, imitation tile and vertical wood paneling remain visible.

The original layout of this space is unknown, but evidence suggests there have been changes. The bathroom doorway is shorter with modern trim (photo 12). Wall materials are found in isolated locations as if different cabinetry layouts were utilized over the years. Descendants of the Vehslage family recall a pass-through between the kitchen and dining room that is currently not visible in either room.

The east wall of the kitchen contains an original built-in cabinet and a closet with modern shelving (photo 13). A door that was stored in the home has now been installed for the closet. The doorway retains its transom, but with a plastic, amber-colored panel. Additionally, the hinge indentations and latch plate remain visible in the doorframe. Both the cabinet and doorway are framed by the same trim used for the window and door openings elsewhere in the home. The cabinet on the right side consists of two large doors in the upper 2/3 of the cabinet. Each door has five square recessed panels vertically aligned. These recessed panels match the design of the panels found on the pocket doors in the entry hall. The lower third of the cabinet are rows of drawers.

A door on the kitchen's north wall accesses the back staircase (photo 13). It is simply styled with horizontal recessed panels. The transom remains operable with an amber glass pane. A large modern base cabinet with tile countertop protrudes into the room. The window and door trim match trim found throughout the 1st floor and is a mix of stained and painted finishes. Ceramic tile was recently installed in this room, replacing modern linoleum.

Downstairs Bath
A bathroom is located on the west side of the downstairs bedroom. This room was once accessible from the bedroom, but the door was enclosed and the trim removed. The room is long and narrow with a sink and toilet. Finishes on the walls are a mix of wallpaper and imitation paneling. The floor is linoleum. While the location of the doorway from the kitchen seems logical, the doorway is either new or altered. The interior basement access is located in the bathroom, near the kitchen doorway. This room was used as a pantry by the Vehslage family.

2ND FLOOR
The home's staircases open onto the 2nd floor hallway running east/west through the middle of the plan (photo 14). Four bedrooms and a bath open off the central hall and back stair. Hardwood floors are exposed in the hallway. Doors are a simpler style than those on the 1st floor. Throughout the 2nd floor, the window and door trim, windows, doors and baseboards have painted finishes.

A large landing is located on the 2nd floor above the entry hall (photo 14). The newel post and railing match those described on the 1st floor. A window opening in the east wall provides natural light in this area. An original closet is located in the northeast corner. The closet door has an original transom. Trim on the window and closet door and baseboard trim match the trim on the 1st floor. Mrs. Vehslage's granddaughters remember their grandmother sewing on this landing.

The hallway extends through the middle of the 2nd floor layout with a slight jog near the rear of the home. Currently, the hallway has two distinct doorways to subdivide the lengthy corridor. One is positioned just past the bedrooms 2 and 3 and one just past the bathroom. The first doorway is missing the door, but the operable transom with amber glass remains intact. The 2nd doorway has much simpler trim and no transom nor evidence of one. These distinct differences suggest the 2nd doorway was added later. Although now removed for traffic flow, an original door was located here.

Bedroom 1 (photo 15)
The home's front bedroom features the tower nook in the northeast corner and a fireplace in the southwest. The transom for the doorway from the hall has been removed entirely, leaving only shadow lines where the opening was infilled (photo 16). The corner blocks and fluted trim were repositioned over the door opening. The door is a simple 4-panel door. A

second, matching doorway on the west wall opens to bedroom 3. The wood floors are visible. The ceilings remain at their original height.

Like those on the 1st floor, the fireplace in this room features ceramic tiles. The fireplace opening is framed with large square tiles in teal tones with a large floral design. The hearth has smaller tiles with a foliage design on the border tiles. The mantelpiece, with a painted finish, features turned spindles and carved foliage.

Shadow lines on the north and west walls and lines on the wood floor indicate the location of some type of built-in in this room (photo 15). The unfinished plaster suggests this built-in was original to the home and only recently removed. Baseboards are missing from this room and the shadow lines are much shorter than the baseboards found elsewhere in the house (photo 15). Carpeting has recently been installed here.

Bedroom 2 (photo 16)
This bedroom's layout includes the 3-sided bay on the home's north elevation. Doorways lead to the adjacent bedroom on the east side (described above), to the hallway and to the bedroom on the west side. The hall doorway retains its operable transom with amber glass pane (photo 16). The west doorway retains the transom opening, but the operable transom has been removed and the opening infilled. Doors that had been stored in the home have been re-installed in these openings.

The mantelpiece for the fireplace in the room's southwest corner matches the one in the sitting room on the 1st floor (photo 16). The ceramic tile around the opening and on the hearth is brown/white marbled design with large square tiles around the opening and smaller rectangular tiles in the hearth. All trims match those on the 1st floor. The wood floors have recently been covered by carpeting. The ceilings remain at their original heights.

Bedroom 3
Bedroom 3 also has an irregular plan from the home's 3-sided bay on the south elevation. This bedroom has just one doorway and no fireplace. The doorway retains its operable transom and paneled door. The original glass pane was missing and has been replaced with textured amber glass to match the 1st floor. This bedroom has a closet in the northwest corner. The 4-panel closet door includes an operable transom with textured amber glass pane.

The door, window and baseboard trim match the 1st floor in style with painted finishes. The ceilings remain at their original heights. The original wood floor was found underneath carpeting that was recently removed. Since the wood floor was unfinished, this room was likely carpeted for an extended period of time. New carpeting has now been installed.

Servant's Quarters
As previously described, rooms in the rear of this floor (current upstairs bath, bedroom 4 and back hall) were originally separated from the front hall and bedrooms and directly accessible via the back staircase. The attic access was also located in this part of the hallway. Even though these rooms were separate, as if used for servant's quarters, the remaining trims, doors and windows match those previously described.

Bedroom 4 (photo 17)
Bedroom 4, across the hall from the existing bathroom was likely utilized as servants' quarters by the Vehslage family. This room is accessible from the landing at the top of the back stairs or via a doorway from Bedroom 2 (photo 17). Unsympathetic alterations were started in this room, but left incomplete. The ceiling has been dropped to the top of the transom openings with a textured drywall ceiling. The walls have been furred out with drywall (photo 17). In doing so, the window trim was removed as well as the door trim for the door on the east wall. Baseboards were re-installed over the furred-out walls. Carpeting has recently been installed over the wood floor.

Previous owners attempted to subdivide the room in the northwest corner, but the current owners will remove the incomplete framing to restore the room's plan. A closet on the south wall retains its original door and transom opening. The transom itself has been removed leaving an unfilled opening.

Upstairs Bathroom (photo 18)
The room on the south side of the back hallway is currently utilized as a bathroom. However, its location is beyond the original doorway dividing the 2nd floor, suggesting this room was part of the servants' quarters and not used by the Vehslage family originally. The fixture layout and use of the space in this room seems to be a poorly planned alteration. In addition, the plumbing lines run exposed along the surface of the walls.

The entry from the hallway into the bathroom matches the previously discussed doorways on the 2nd floor. The bathroom has a modern dividing wall separating the tub and toilet area from the sink (photo 18). A closet is located in the southeast corner. The closet door and the baseboard along the closet walls match others in the house, but the doorway has simple flat trim boards and does not have a transom.

The bathroom walls have ceramic tile on the lower half. The original ceiling height remains intact. The fixtures are all modern. The panes in the lower window sashes have been replaced with textured privacy glass. The floor is covered with linoleum.

Carriage House (photo 7)
The original carriage house constructed with the Vehslage House has been significantly altered. The exterior elevations were re-bricked with a dark modern brick. The roofline is broken by several gable-roof dormers.

Windows are small double-hung sashes, typical of modern housing. A gable-roofed entry was created on the east elevation. The end gables and entry gable have imitation half-timbering. A brick retaining wall runs along portions of the east and south elevations.

On the interior, the carriage house has been converted to a single apartment with two levels of living space including a kitchen and two bathrooms. The church is using this building for youth activities.

The carriage house remains within the historical boundaries of the property, but due to the significant alterations, is non-contributing.

George H. Vehslage House
Name of Property

Jackson County, Indiana
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1894

Significant Dates

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the George H. Vehslage House is 1894, the date of construction of the house.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Vehslage House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture, for its depiction of the Queen Anne style. The home was built in 1894 by George H. and Marie K. Vehslage. The home retains many character-defining features of the Queen Anne style, and as a masonry Queen Anne, is a less common example of the style. The home is located in an area identified in the *Jackson County Interim Report* as the Walnut Street Historic District. This residential neighborhood has wide, tree-lined streets with homes representing the late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles.

The George H. Vehslage House depicts the Queen Anne style of architecture and retains a high percentage of its original fabric, layout and detailing. This home is even more significant because of the rarity of the masonry sub-type. It was in the Vehslage family for more than fifty years and granddaughters of Mr. Vehslage have fond memories of time spent here. The home's intact condition and the rarity of the masonry examples make this home eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Vehslage Home is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. With masonry walls and patterned brickwork, it is also a less common example of the style, accounting for only about 5% of Queen Anne homes in the U.S. While Queen Anne was a popular style, this is perhaps the only masonry example in Jackson County. The *Jackson County Interim Report* rates this home as "outstanding", the highest rating for historic properties. This report includes a number of other Queen Anne homes throughout the county, with a large concentration in Seymour. However, it does not reference any other masonry examples.

Features of the Queen Anne style include asymmetrical elevations, irregular massing, a square or round tower, sharply-pitched roofline and wrap-around front porch. The exterior elevations avoided flat wall surfaces through patterned shingles, varying wall materials and/or bays, overhangs and wall projections. The Vehslage Home incorporates all of these features. A one-story front porch wraps around the east and north elevations. A round, 2-story tower at the northeast corner runs the full height of the home and the wraparound porch mirrors the curve of the tower. As a masonry example, the multiplicity in the exterior elevations is achieved through a rusticated limestone foundation, smooth brick faces, limestone bands, fishscale siding in the roofline gables and single bullnose bricks along the vertical edges of the window openings. The 3-sided bays and gabled projection on the east elevation add to the multiplicity on the exterior elevations.

The Queen Anne style arose as balloon framing improved building construction, allowing for more complex footprints, overhangs and extensions resulting in more elaborate designs with multiple doorways and window openings. At the same time, mass production of house components like doors, windows, and decorative detailing provided building materials easily and less expensively. The irregular floorplan of the Vehslage House showcases the benefits of balloon framing. The plan includes angled walls, multiple entrances and numerous interior doorways and window openings. Ornate woodwork was heavily utilized on the interior and exterior. The woodwork is particularly evident on the two porches, interior staircase and window and door openings.

Seymour's location on both east/west and north/south railways likely made it easy for Vehslage to acquire the necessary building components for his house. For example, sometime after 1900, the Vehslages utilized the Peck-Williamson Furnace Company in Cincinnati.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Vehslage House is located in Seymour, Indiana, the largest city in Jackson County. Jackson County was formally established April 2, 1816. One week later, Brownstown was platted and designated as the county seat. Seymour is located in Jackson Township on the east side of the county. The township, formed in 1821, is primarily flat farmland in the south and marsh or swampy land in the north and east.

Seymour was platted in 1852, the same year the Jefferson Madison and Indianapolis (JMI) Railroad, running north/south, arrived in Jackson County. Capt. Meedy W. Shields platted the town with 100 lots along three east/west streets and two north/south. Despite the swampy terrain, the lots sold well and the area grew. This growth occurred in spite of the fact that the JMI Railroad only stopped in Rockford and New Farmington, not Seymour. Rockford residents often called Seymour "The Mule Crossing", gloating about their status as a railroad stop.

In 1854, the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was proposed east-west from Cincinnati to St. Louis. Shields persuaded this east/west railroad to cross the JMI tracks at Seymour. He donated the right-of-way through his land and utilized his own money to fill in the swampy land for the rail bed. As an added incentive, Shields agreed to name the town Seymour, after the railroad engineer, John Seymour. Still, the JMI railroad did not stop in Seymour. Shields, now a state legislator, was influential in a new law requiring all railroads to stop when crossing another railroad's tracks. Since JMI legally had to stop in Seymour, the Rockford stop was eventually eliminated. Ultimately, this law doomed Rockford and set Seymour on its path to growth and prosperity.

With railroads connecting Seymour with Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Louisville, Seymour experienced significant, rapid growth after 1860. The population grew from 924 in 1860 to 2,372 in 1870. The city was incorporated on June 24, 1864. With a growing population, multiple additions were platted in the 1850s and 1860s.

In 1870, prominent citizens in Seymour petitioned the county commissioners to move the county seat from Brownstown to Seymour. Their request was denied and with the construction of a new courthouse in 1872 and a new jail in 1873, their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful. Even without the county seat, Seymour's growth continued; by 1880 the population stood at 4,252. The city had thriving manufacturing facilities, a school system, bank, and wide range of merchants.

This thriving center of activity continued to attract new residents. In 1900 Seymour's population had increased to nearly 6,500 people, including the Vehslage family. George Henry Vehslage was born Gerhart Heinrich Vehslage in Germany in 1839. He immigrated to the United States with his mother and brothers after his father's death.

According to his obituary, the family lived in New Orleans and then Louisville before George, at age ten, settled with his uncle, John H. Borgstedt in southern Indiana. He began his farming career in Driftwood Township in Jackson County and diversified into raising stock. As he prospered in the two endeavors, he expanded his landholdings in Jackson County and into Green County. The largest tracts were north of Brownstown and around Cortland and Seymour.

He married Marie Kreinhagen in 1888 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The couple settled in Seymour right after their marriage. Marie was born in Cincinnati in 1856, the daughter of a stock dealer in the city. According to oral family history, George H. would drive hogs to Cincinnati to sell. With her father as a stock dealer and George H. raising stock, it seems likely she met George on his trips to Cincinnati.

George H. purchased this lot in Seymour in September, 1893, the year after their son, George Jr., was born. The lot had some improvements, which were likely demolished before this home was constructed in 1894. He moved his family into this home in April, 1895.

In the 1900 census, George Vehslage's household included his wife, Marie, George Jr., a 5-year old child of an unknown relationship and Lizzie and Mary Stockhoff, listed as servants. Mr. Vehslage's granddaughters recall their grandfather taking in two ladies they referred to as Aunt Mary and Aunt Lizzie. The girls' brother Henry Stockoff had lived with their grandfather in the late 1880s until Henry committed suicide around 1889. With separate quarters and a back stairway built into the home, it seems the couple planned to have Lizzie and Mary move with them into this home. From 1901 until his death in 1908, the household included George's father-in-law, Christian L. Kreinhagen.

The 1899 Seymour City Directory describes George as a "capitalist and farmer". He also owned a commercial building at 300 North Chestnut, known even today as the Vehslage Building. With his extensive landholdings, this large, ornate home and a commercial building in downtown Seymour, George Vehslage can easily be described as a wealthy, successful farmer in Jackson County. In fact, only six years after its construction, George owned this home free of a mortgage. The 1900 Census does not list an occupation for George, but he had not sold his farmland. Therefore, it seems likely he was either renting out his farmland or had a tenant farmer(s). Succeeding censuses in 1910 and 1920 list George as having

his "own income" or renting out his farm. The 1915 Seymour City Directory lists George as "retired", probably because he had turned over his farming operations to his son George.

George managed his business affairs from this home until his death in 1925. In his obituary he was described as an "enterprising farmer who...accumulated holdings which distinguishes him as one of the most prosperous farmers in the county." Marie, his widow, remained here after his death. The 1930 census shows her with one servant, Elizabeth Stockoff, age 67. This appears to be the same servant listed as Lizzie in the 1900 census. Wilhelmina Vehslage, a niece who worked as a high school teacher, resided with her in the late 1920s. Seymour City Directories in the 1930s and 1940s primarily record Ms. Vehslage residing here alone, but in 1943, Captain Henry Bailey & his wife Beulah were also residents at this address. Ms. Vehslage died here in 1947 at age 90.

George and Marie's only child, George Jr., had seven children by his first wife, Elnora. In an interview in 2008, two of the children (Kate and Margaret) recall this home as Grandmother's brick house and both ladies have fond memories here. During the school year, the girls often walked from their school at 5th and Walnut to Grandmother's house for lunch. Grandmother was an excellent cook and they looked forward to lunch here. The girls slid down the banister on the front stair and raided the pantry after school. They remember carpeted floors throughout the house. They recall waiting in the sitting room while their parents helped "Santa" unpack presents on Christmas Eve. The ladies are happy to see the home being cared for, but were terribly disappointed when the carriage house was so dramatically altered. Grandfather Vehslage kept his carriage and a horse named Nellie in the carriage house. Later, he had an Essex car with a driver.

George Jr. inherited this home and his father's farmland. He followed his father in farming, but sold this home after his mother's death. It passed through several hands as a single-family dwelling. In the 1970s or 1980s, the home was divided into two apartments. The exact configuration is unknown, but the shadow of a wall remains visible on the floor in the entry. Based on this evidence and the two stairs, it seems likely the home was divided into two, 2-story units, although there is currently no evidence of a second kitchen. The current owners have removed the wall in the entry and returned the home into one unit with the various rooms, in their historical layouts, used as offices.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

'76 Star Spangled Days: A Bicentennial Commemorative of Jackson County, IN.

Composite History of Jackson County, IN: 1816-1988. Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Co., 1988.

History of Jackson County, IN. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

Index to Jackson County Death Records, 1882-1910, Jackson County Public Library, Seymour, IN.

Jackson County Interim Report, 1988.

Jackson County Transfer Records: 1891 through 1993. Jackson County Courthouse, Brownstown, IN.

"Mrs. M. Vehslage Expires Here." *Seymour Daily Tribune*, January 13, 1947.

Oral Interview by Janet Kloeker with Kate Hall and Margaret Hamilton, granddaughters of George H. Vehslage, August 23, 2008.

Oral Interview by Carol Ann Schweikert with Kate Hall and Margaret Hamilton, granddaughters of George H. Vehslage, October, 2008.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – Seymour, Indiana: 1907, 1913, and 1924.

Seymour City Directories – varies years from 1899 through 2006.

George H. Vehslage House
Name of Property

Jackson County, Indiana
County and State

United States Census Records – 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930.

Vehslage Family History – Notebook located in the Jackson County Public Library, Seymour, IN.

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:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 071-581-32042

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	596300	4313100	3			
2				4			

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

Part of lot #319 in Block W in the city of Seymour described as follows in the deed dated November 1st, 2006: Begin at the NE corner west with 6th street to the alley; south with the alley 75 feet; then east at right angles, parallel to west 6th Street to Chestnut Street; then at right angles north with Chestnut Street 75 feet to beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the historical boundaries consistent since George H. Vehslage purchased the property in 1893 and constructed this home.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Ann Schweikert
organization _____ date March 3, 2010
street & number 307 North 10th Street telephone 317-776-1239
city or town Noblesville state Indiana zip code 46060
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: George H. Vehslage House

City or Vicinity: Seymour

County: Jackson State: Indiana

Photographer: Carol Ann Schweikert

Date Photographed: October 29, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 20

1 of 20: East (front) elevation; looking southwest.

2 of 20: North elevation; looking southeast.

3 of 20: West elevation; looking northeast.

4 of 20: South elevation; looking north.

5 of 20: Corner of wrap-around porch; looking southwest.

6 of 20: Double front doors; looking west.

7 of 20: Carriage House; looking southwest.

8 of 20: Front staircase from landing; looking east.

9 of 20: Entryway toward closet & pocket door; looking southwest.

10 of 20: Parlor; looking southwest.

11 of 20: Sitting Room; looking north.

12 of 20: Kitchen; looking northwest.

13 of 20: Built-in cabinet in kitchen; looking northeast.

14 of 20: Second floor landing and hallway; looking southwest.

15 of 20: Front bedroom; looking northeast.

16 of 20: Bedroom 3; looking southeast.

17 of 20: Bedroom 4; looking east.

18 of 20: Bathroom; looking west.

19 of 20: Stained glass window in parlor; looking northeast.

20 of 20: Dining room; looking northeast.

Property Owner:

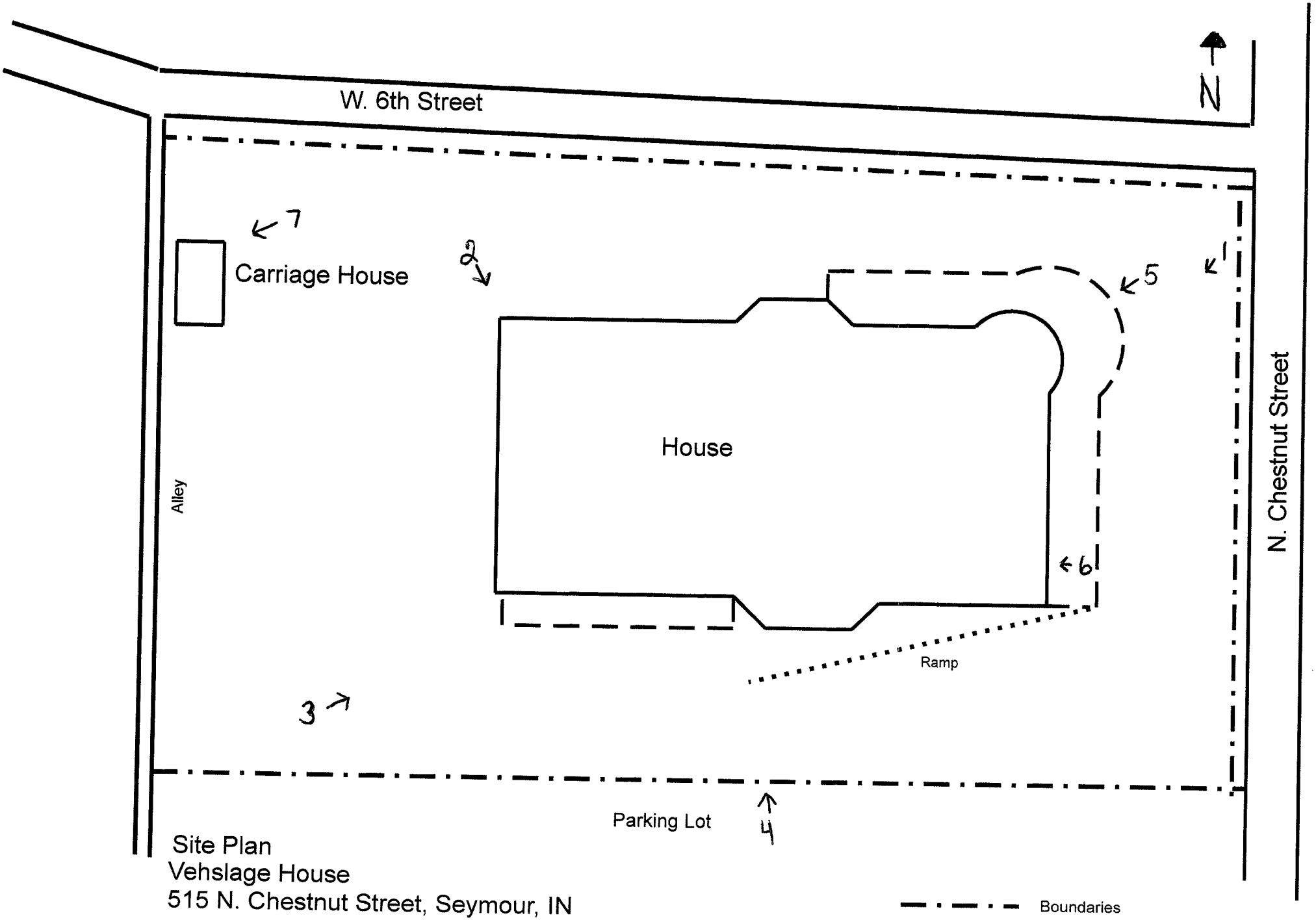
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church

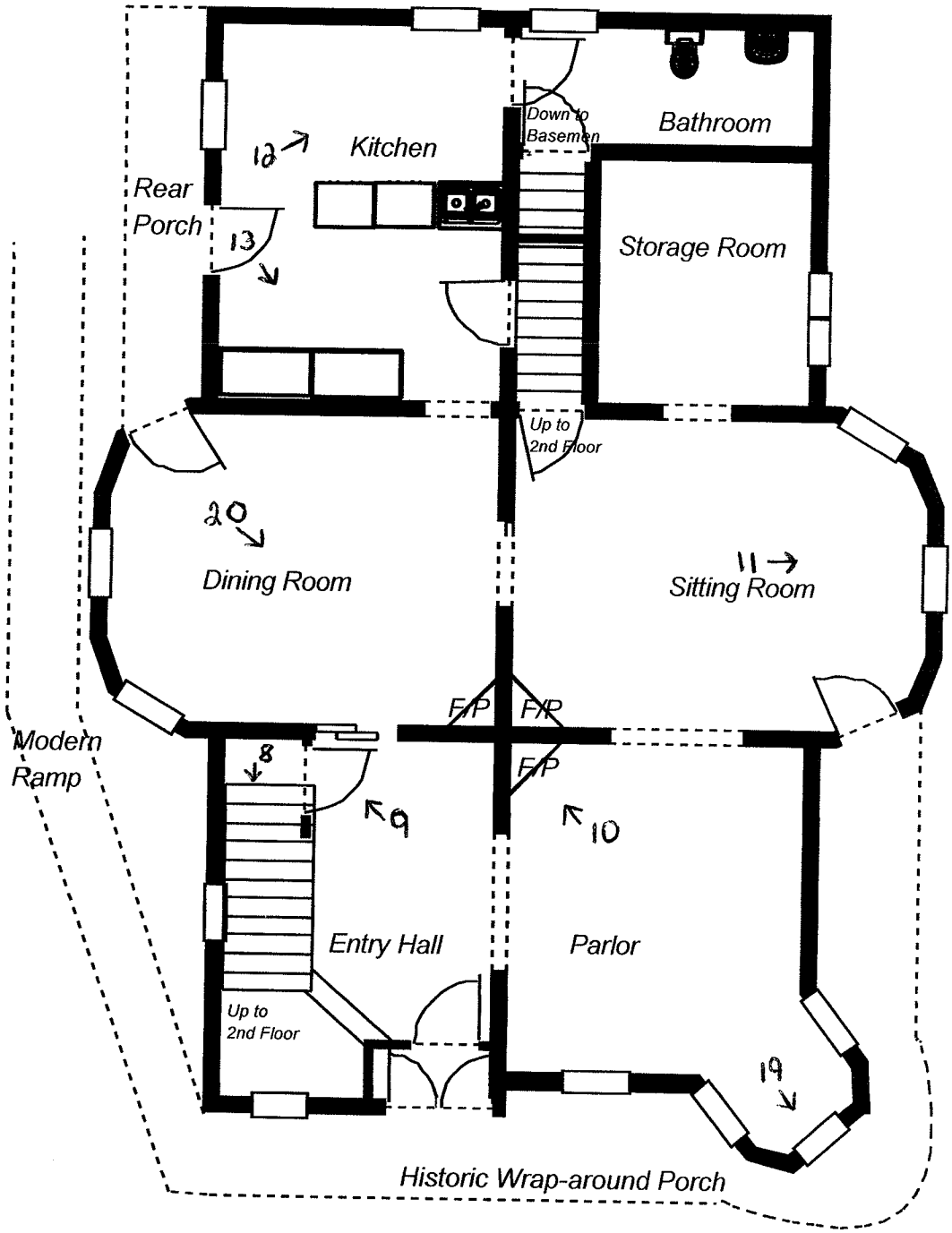
street & number 504 North Walnut Street telephone 812-522-1837

city or town Seymor state Indiana zip code 47274

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.

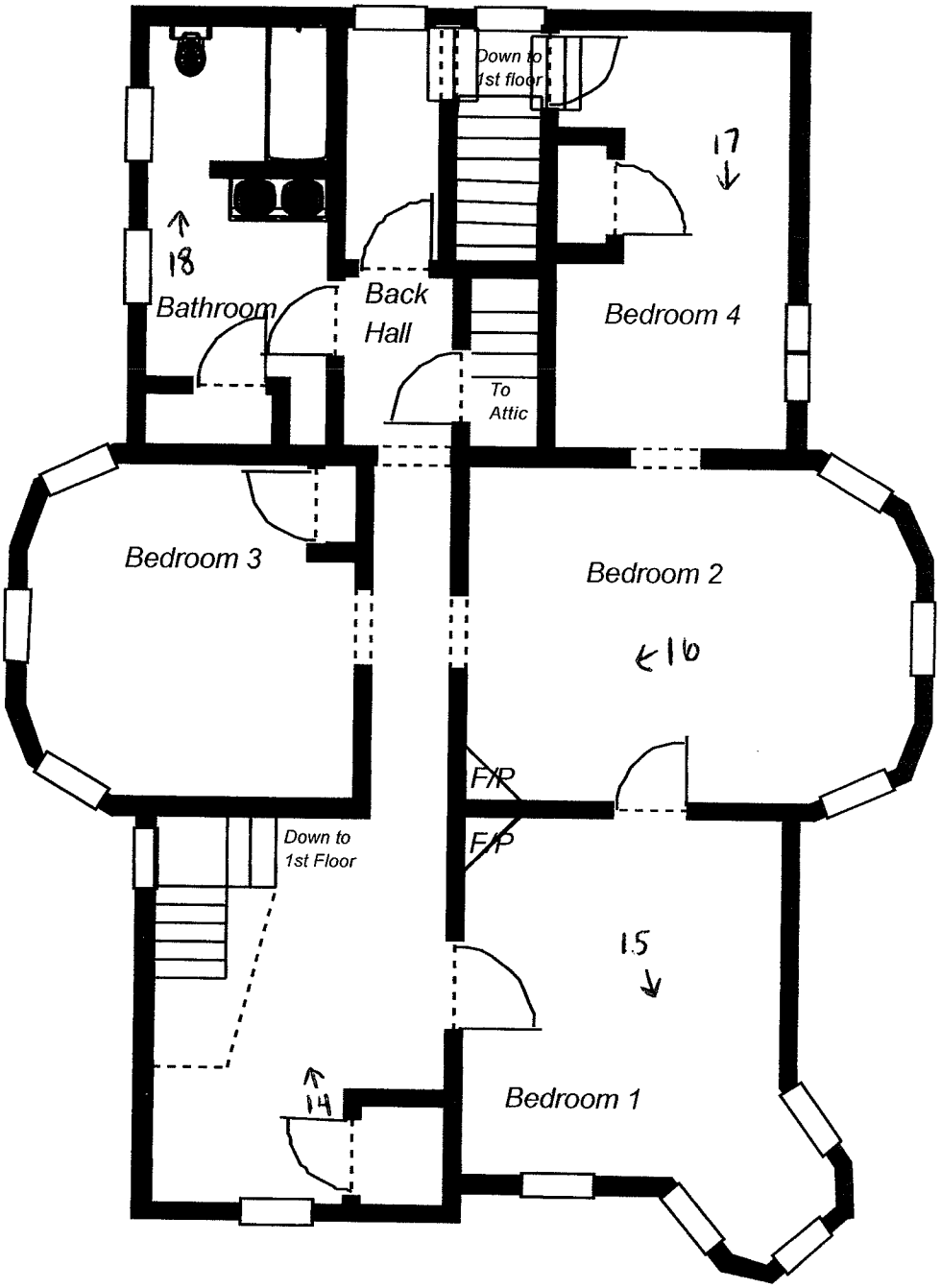


Site Plan
Vehslage House
515 N. Chestnut Street, Seymour, IN



1st Floor
Vehslage House @ 515 N. Chestnut
Seymour, Jackson County, IN

N →



2nd Floor
Vehslage House @ 515 N. Chestnut St.
Seymour, Jackson County, IN

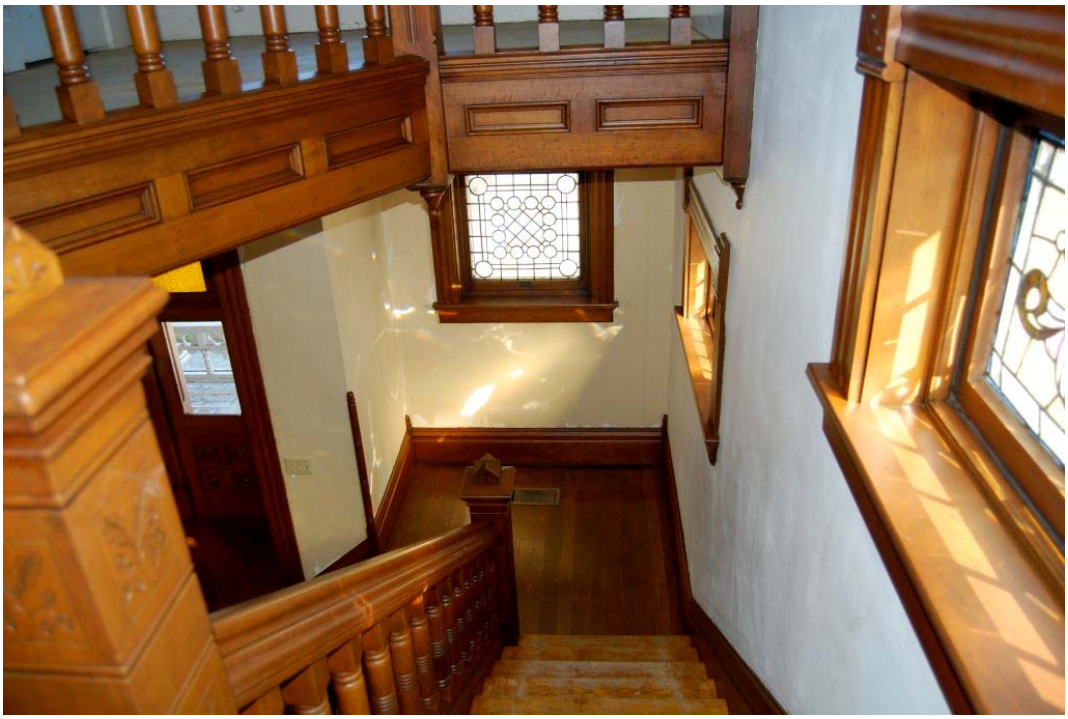
N →

George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #1

George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #2

George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #4

George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #7



George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #10

George H. Vehslage House, Jackson Co., IN #11