

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 Oaklandon Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number <u>6300 & 6400 Block of Oaklandon Road, 6400 Block Maple Street, 11716 Oshawa Street</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
city or town <u>Lawrence</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity
state <u>Indiana</u> code <u>IN</u> county <u>Marion</u> code <u>097</u> zip code <u>46236</u>		

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 considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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 _____

Oaklandon Historic District
 Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
 County and State

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	
38	18	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
38	18	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

COMMERCE/professional

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/office building

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENT/bungalow/craftsmen

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/classical revival

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/late gothic revival

OTHER/gabled ell

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD/weatherboard, shingles; BRICK;

METAL/aluminum; SYNTHETICS/vinyl

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

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 Oaklandon Historic District is located in the northeast corner of Lawrence Township in northeastern Marion County, and encompasses a portion of the mid-19th century settlement known as Oaklandon. Located approximately 14 miles northeast of downtown Indianapolis, the Oaklandon area is currently a part of the city of Lawrence, which annexed it along with other unincorporated parts of the township in 1976. When Oaklandon was established in 1849 along the route of the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad, it was surrounded by farms and vacant land; now it is enveloped by the urban sprawl of Indianapolis and Lawrence. Late-20th century housing developments, many of them planned using winding streets or cul de sacs, can be seen to the south, west, and north of the community. Just north of the district is the railroad right-of-way established in the late 1840s, and currently used by CSX Transportation. To the south is Pendleton Pike, once a toll road which passed directly through Oaklandon, running north along present-day Oaklandon Road, and then west along what is now Broadway Street. Pendleton Pike was re-routed in the early 20th century so that it passed along the southern edge of the community, and is now a busy six-lane thoroughfare lined with strip malls and other commercial activities. The district's building stock is composed of small and medium-sized residences and outbuildings dating from the late 19th and early -20th centuries, along with two church buildings from the same era.

Narrative Description

Although Oaklandon was established in 1849, pre-Civil War residences in the general area are very few, and none are to be found in the historic district. Most of Oaklandon's historic commercial buildings are likewise no longer extant, having fallen victim to fire or demolition. Instead, the historic district consists primarily of relatively modest late 19th and early 20th century houses, along with two large church buildings. The majority are situated along Oaklandon Road, the main north/south thoroughfare in the community. Of the rest, all but one are located on Maple Street (previously named Akron Street) just west of and running parallel to Oaklandon Road. The last is located on Oshawa Street, just west of Maple Street.

Oaklandon never incorporated, and therefore had no official town limits, but appears never to have developed south of present-day Pendleton Pike. Until its demolition in the early 1940s, the community's two-story brick school stood at the northwest corner of Oaklandon Road and Pendleton Pike and would have alerted travelers of the small town just to the north. Today a modern retail development occupies the school's site, but that development's sign includes a panel bearing the words "Oaklandon Community established 1849." (Photo #1) Upon passing that sign and heading into the historic district, one immediately notices that the area differs from the surrounding commercial and residential area. The feeling of a small town is engendered by the relative narrowness of the streets and the older housing stock. That atmosphere is further reinforced by the small lots and modest setbacks that characterize the housing stock on Oaklandon Road, the older part of the district. This section of Oaklandon Road (from Pendleton Pike north to Broadway) is also the only street in the area with streetlights, curbs and sidewalks. The latter were initially installed for the benefit of the community's children, who once walked down Oaklandon Road to the afore-mentioned school.

The two most-prominent buildings in the district were both built as churches. Located at the north end of the district, on the west side of Oaklandon Road, the two structures are separated only by the aptly-named Church Street. The older of the two buildings is the former Oaklandon Christian Church (6440 Oaklandon Road), constructed in 1908 (Photo # 28 and 29). This frame Gothic Revival-style building has a cross-gable roof with a three-story bell tower on the northeast corner. The east (main), north, and south facades each features a large central stained-glass window flanked by smaller lancet windows. A sympathetically-designed addition was constructed at the rear (west end) of the church in 1948. Although the building has been covered with vinyl siding, the original window surrounds were retained, as was the cornice detailing on the third level of the bell tower. The original church bell is still in place, as are most of the most of the stained glass windows. In 1966, the congregation of the Oaklandon Christian Church left this building for a larger structure erected on

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

a seven-acre site less than one-half mile further north, and for a while the older building was used by a Lutheran congregation. In June of 1998 the old church was purchased by a developer who adapted it for office use. All of the church furnishings were removed, the theater-style sloping floor was made level, and the interior space broken up into eleven office suites. However, the developer preserved the original tin ceiling in one of the new offices, and also carefully located the necessary new hallways around the perimeter of the structure, so as to keep the stained glass windows intact. The building currently houses four tenants.

Directly north of the old Christian Church is the Oaklandon Universalist Church, located at 6450 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 30). The Universalist congregation is among the oldest in the township, having organized in 1850. In 1875 they constructed a Gothic Revival style church on this site, but it was destroyed in a fire in February of 1921. A new church of a different design was erected on the same site, but four years later this building also suffered a major fire. Historic photographs show that, while the roof collapsed and the interior was gutted, the exterior walls remained standing, although blackened by the fire. The walls were evidently cleaned by an abrasive process (probably sandblasting), which removed the discoloration, although changing the surface texture of the buff-colored bricks. The walls were then used to reconstruct the church according to the 1921 plan. This exterior of structure is relatively modest, with a steep gabled roof and rectangular window openings filled with stained glass. Brick buttresses appear at the corners of the north, west and east facades; the north and south facades each have an additional buttress to the east of the window openings. All of the buttresses are topped with corbelled brick work rather than more traditional stone buttress caps. On the west façade, a pedimented portico provides shelter for the main entry. Shingle siding is used in the tympanum of the portico, as well as in the upper gable areas of the main structure. Stone tablets flanking the entry read "Universalist Church" and "Erected 1875 Rebuilt 1921"—these may have been salvaged after the 1925 fire and used in the construction of the current building. The interior is relatively plain and features a theater-style sloping floor on the main floor. A stage with a simple unadorned proscenium is located at the west end of the building. Just behind the proscenium is a heavy oak firewall, which retracts into the attic area when the stage is in use, but which can be lowered quickly in case of emergency. The basement has been divided into smaller meeting spaces. Over a fireplace in the basement's largest room is a stone tablet salvaged from the remains of the 1875 building and reading "Universalist Church 1875 God is Love."

The finest home in the district is surely the residence at 6408 Oaklandon Road, formerly the home of Dr. Charles J. Kneer (Photo # 22). Dr. Kneer was in his early twenties when he came to Oaklandon in 1901 to assist Dr. J. K. Heltman, and took over the practice when Dr. Heltman died two years later. Dr. Kneer built this Colonial Revival residence in 1923. One of the few brick homes in the community, it is also the most imposing, with brick pilasters at each corner and an entablature with modillions. The main façade is three bays wide and symmetrical in design, with the center bay containing the main entry. The flanking bays contain large six-over-six windows, with soldier-course brick lintels and stone sills. The main entry is sheltered by a pedimented porch supported by Doric columns. To the rear of the north side of the house is a brick two-car garage built to match the house, complete with a heavy cornice and cornice returns. At some point, the alley in the rear of the house was vacated and the building lot immediately behind the house was purchased, providing a back yard which extends all the way to Maple Street. This house was rated "Outstanding" in the 1985 *Sites and Structures Inventory*.

The homes at 6340, 6388, and 6414 Oaklandon Road (Photos # 7, 18 and 23) all date from the late 19th-century. Each is a 1 ½ -story frame structure with an intersecting gable roof and side porches which shelter the main entry. Although some kind of replacement siding has been installed on all three, and only 6388 retains such original features as roof brackets and decorative porch posts, the general form of each makes their vintage obvious.

One particularly unusual home is found at 6385 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 17). Unlike the other houses on Oaklandon Road, which are set back from the property line less than twenty feet, this small residence of rusticated concrete block is located at the extreme rear of the building lot. Differences in the type of concrete block and in the roofline suggest that the north part of the structure was added at a later date. Although it appears to have been built as some kind of commercial building or ancillary structure, a Sanborn map of the area shows that it has been used as a dwelling for at least seventy years.

Most of the remaining homes in the Oaklandon Historic District could be classified as bungalows, a new housing style which quickly gained popularity in the United States in the early twentieth century. Considered warm, cozy, and affordable, the typical bungalow, according to one proponent, was "a long, low, one or two-story building, with a conspicuous roof (and) over-hanging eaves...It fits snugly on the ground, it is generally well-scaled with the surrounding shrubbery and trees, and its lines and the distribution of its openings are for the most part agreeable to the eye."¹ Larger versions of the style include three houses on Oaklandon Road, numbers 6371, 6381, and 6415 (Photos # 14, 16 and 24).

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

All three of these are two-story homes built in the early 20th century, with rectilinear plans and expansive gable roofs whose ridges run parallel to the street. On each of these houses, the most prominent architectural feature is the front porch which extends across the entire front of the house, surmounted by a large dormer. One of these, 6415, is of predominantly brick construction, and features knee brackets along the eaves and sidelights flanking the front door. The other two homes, 6371 and 6381, are both of frame construction. The former has suffered some modifications, with its original porch posts replaced and its exterior covered in vinyl siding. The latter, on the other hand, has been better-preserved, retaining its wooden porch columns along with almost all of its original siding. Clapboarding was used on the ground-floor level of this home, while the gabled areas that define the upper-floor exterior walls are covered with shingle siding. On both levels, the walls are "battered"—that is, they flare out. On the upper level, this provides an interesting shadow line that accentuates the change from the clapboarding to the shingle siding. On the lower level, the use of this technique was intended "to anchor the house visually to the ground...(and) suggest a feeling that the house is growing out of its site."²

Another fairly large example of the bungalow style can be found at 6359 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 10). This 1-1/2-story structure features a gable roof and a broad front porch. It too has a centrally-located dormer, except in this case it is a shed dormer with a relatively low profile. Aluminum siding unfortunately obscures the structural elements of the original porch. Members of the family which built this house circa 1910 were traditionally morticians; local residents still remember that this house was used a funeral home for many years. Among the more modest homes in the district are the one-story houses at 6380 and 6421 Oaklandon Road (Photos # 15 and 26). Both of these are simple low-slung gable-roofed structures with modest porches and main entries located at the gable end. Originally quite small, both have been expanded with rear additions. In the case of 6421, the addition was done quite sympathetically and continues the original roofline. In the case of 6380, the two-story addition is somewhat out of scale, but the plan of the original house is easily distinguishable. A better-preserved home of approximately the same vintage can be found at 6402 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 21). This 1-1/2 story gable-end structure retains its original brick front porch and wood siding. Shed dormers on either side provide additional space to the upper floor. Knee brackets visually support the gable overhangs on both the front porch and the main body of the house; matching brackets adorn the shed dormers. This house appears to be unaltered, except for the modern replacement windows.

As the popularity of bungalows increased, a number of firms offered house plans, or even house kits, to the public. Certain house forms became more or less standard; thus it is not surprising that counterparts to many of the homes in the Oaklandon Historic District can be found in the catalogues of house plans offered in the early twentieth century. For example, 6415 Oaklandon (Photo # 24, and described above) is almost identical to Plan #284 in the 1923 publication, Books of 1000 Homes, and 6436 Maple (Photo # 36) is similar to Plan #170 in the same publication, although some of the detailing is different. 6371 and 6381 Oaklandon (Photos # 14 and 16 and described above) both are similar to design # 7045B in Radford's Artistic Bungalows, published in 1908. 6359 Oaklandon (Photo # 10 and described above) resembles a house design offered by Sears, Roebuck and Company under the name "the Hazleton," and 6421 Oaklandon (Photo # 26 and described above) is similar to that firm's "the Argyle." While none of these is an exact match, the similarities suggest that the small early-20th century homes in Oaklandon were most likely built from stock plans, and thus are representative of relatively inexpensive housing of the day.³

Oaklandon's rural setting meant that, until well into the twentieth century, residents relied on individual private wells for their water supply. Hand-operated water pumps can still be found in the yards of residences at 6350 and 6401 Oaklandon Road (Photo #20), and at 6404 and 6428 Maple Street.

Almost every residence in the district originally included at least one outbuilding. In many cases, these have been replaced with modern garages. However, some of the early structures remain, and bear witness to the changes in transportation through the late 19th and 20th centuries. When the community was founded, horses remained the main mode of transportation, and a small barn still exists at the rear of the property at 6415 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 24). Although this building has been modernized with artificial siding and an overhead door, lightning arrestors and the remnants of a weathervane can still be seen along the roof ridge. As the public adopted the automobile in the early decades of the twentieth century, new houses were more likely to feature small garages, such as the one found at 6370 Oaklandon Road. While adequate for small cars such as the Model T, these often had to be modified to accommodate the longer vehicles which were developed by the 1930s. The most common method was to create a small shed-like addition to the garage, just large enough to house the front end of the vehicle. Examples of small garages altered in this manner can be found at 6350 Oaklandon Road, and at 6440 and 6436 Maple (Photos # 8, 41, 42 and 39). By 1930 the concept of attaching the garage to the house had gained acceptance; an example of this can be seen at 6428 Maple Street (Photo # 36).

Oaklandon Historic District
 Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
 County and State

Non-contributing elements within the district fall into one of two categories; non-historic structures (built less than fifty years ago), and structures more than fifty years old whose historic integrity has been lost due to major remodelings. Examples of the former include the ranch-style home at 6431 Maple (Photo # 37), the two-story house with vertical siding at 6405 Maple (Photo # 33), and a number of modern garages found scattered throughout the district. The most striking example of the latter is the two-story home at 6360 Oaklandon Road (Photo # 11). This circa-1873 structure with Italianate detailing was included in a 1985 *Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* of Lawrence Township. Since that time it has been completely remodeled in the Tudor Revival style, with stucco and half-timbering. Only the Italianate brackets along the roofline hint of this home's former appearance. A similar situation can be found at 6420 Oaklandon (Photo # 25). This simple 1-1/2-story home from the late 19th century has been completely resided in rough-sawn cedar. The original double-hung windows have all been removed, the rough openings enlarged, and new casement windows (some with round-arch tops) have been installed. A large bay window was installed on the main façade, and the interior has been remodeled for use as a beauty shop. All of the non-contributing structures in the district are indicated on the attached sketch map.

List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Properties

Street	Address	Structure	Status C/NC	Outbuilding(s)	Status C/NC
Oaklandon Road					
East Side	6351	House	C	Garage	NC
	6359	House	C		
	6367	House	C	Garage	NC
	6371	House	C	Garage	NC
	6381	House/Business	C		
	6385	House	C	Shed	NC
	6401	House	C	Garage	NC
	6415	House	C	Garage	C
	6421	House	C		
	6427	House/Business	C	Garage	C
Oaklandon Road					
West Side	6340	House	C	Garage	C
	6350	House	C	Garage and Shed	C and NC
	6360	House/Business	NC	Garage	NC
	6370	House	C		
	6380	House	C		
	6388	House	C	Garage	C
	6402	House	C	Garage	NC
	6408	House	C	Garage and Shed	C and NC
	6414	House	C	Garage	NC
	6420	House/Business	C	Garage	C
	6440	Church/Office	C		
	6450	Church	C		
Maple Street					
East Side	6405	House	NC		
	6415	House	NC		
	6431	House	NC	Garage	NC
	6439	House	C	Garage (2)	C and NC
Maple Street					
West Side	6404	House	C	Garage	NC
	6420	House	C	Garage	C
	6428	House	C	Garage	NC

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

	6436	House	C	Garage	C
	6440	House	C		
Oshawa Street					
North Side	11716	House	C		

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion 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.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Transportation

Period of Significance

1908--1941

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

Although Oaklandon was established in 1849, no buildings from that era appear to have survived. The district instead consists primarily of residential structures and two historic churches. While some of the residences appear to be from the last two decades of the 19th century, the earliest verifiable construction date is that of the former Oaklandon Christian Church, built in 1908; consequently, that year has been selected as the beginning date for the Period of Significance. The year 1941 has been selected as the ending date for the Period of Significance because it marked both the demise of the interurban service and the loss of the community's independent school system. The former signaled the end of any

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

reliance on rail transportation for community residents and businesses; the latter marked the beginning of the gradual loss of the community's independent infrastructure, with the community's natural gas utility, telephone system, and post office all being absorbed by larger entities over the next two decades.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Oaklandon Historic District is significant under Criterion A as the most intact remnant of a small unincorporated community which has managed to retain its identity for over 150 years, despite its being enveloped and annexed by a larger city. Established to take advantage of a location along an early railroad line, Oaklandon never became a major trade center, but survived as a country town whose businesses served community residents and area farmers throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The district includes representative housing from the 1890s to the 1930s, as well as two historic churches. Thus, as a collection of small-town architecture, the district meets Criterion C. Transportation improvements and the growth of nearby Indianapolis and Lawrence caused the community to lose its importance as even a center of local commerce by the second half of the 20th century, and it is now surrounded by new housing additions and strip malls. However, the Oaklandon Historic District still retains the atmosphere of a small late 19th/early 20th century community in the midst of urban sprawl.

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

In the early 19th century, improvements in transportation were obviously necessary in the United States to facilitate the movement of settlers, to allow the shipment of goods, and to improve communication. Like other Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic States, Indiana initially sought to solve its transportation woes by constructing an elaborate system of canals to augment its navigable waterways. By the 1830s, however, railroad technology had improved and quickly became the favored mode of transportation. Although Indiana was slow to give up on canals, the completion of the state's first railroad (linking Madison and Indianapolis) in 1847 spurred an explosion in railroad construction in the following years. It soon became evident that being located on a railroad line could be crucial to a town's prosperity. In the coming years various communities were founded as speculative ventures along the route of a railroad. One of these was the community of Oaklandon, in Lawrence Township, Marion County.⁴

Prior to 1849, Lawrence Township was still relatively unpopulated; the only settlement in the township was Germantown, a community of fewer than thirty residents centered around a grist mill on Fall Creek. The main transportation route was a rudimentary road which ultimately would become Pendleton Pike, but which at this time was unimproved. The boom in railroad construction would soon bring changes to the township. In July of 1848, stockholders of the newly-established Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad met to elect a board of directors, which then took on the task of building what would be only the second railroad to serve Indianapolis. The new line would run from Indianapolis east to the Ohio state line, where connections could be made to Dayton and points east. According to *The Locomotive*, an Indianapolis weekly newspaper which often featured reports on railroad construction, "The road is divided into three sections for purposes of construction: the first from Indianapolis to Pendleton, the second from Pendleton to Muncie, and the third from Muncie to the Ohio Line. The Board resolved to locate the whole line without delay, and to put the first section under contract."⁵

The Board evidently took its responsibility seriously; compared to the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad, which took nine years to complete, work on the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine proceeded at a relatively rapid pace. By March of 1850, *The Locomotive* reported that the line's directors expected "to commence laying the iron on their road by the 1st of May next," indicating that the route had been established and preparation of the rail bed essentially completed for at least the first section of the railroad.⁶ By July, twelve miles of track was finished and being used by the construction crew to haul supplies to the railhead; three months later (October 8, 1850) the Governor and other dignitaries participated in a celebration marking the opening of the line from Indianapolis to Pendleton (Madison County). The entire route was open from Indianapolis to the Ohio state line by January of 1853.⁷

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

As soon as the railroad's route had been established, two new communities were established along its path in Lawrence Township. The town of Lawrence (originally called Lanesville) was established in February of 1849, and the community of Oakland (later renamed Oaklandon) was laid out on June 18 of that same year by John Emery. Emery reportedly named his town after the oak trees in the area, many of which were sacrificed to make way for the new railroad.⁸

According to a later newspaper account, Emery expected that, as a railroad freight stop, his community would grow into "a pretentious town that would accommodate hundreds of homes, stores, churches, schools, factories, mills, and even exporters and importers."⁹ Such expectations might seem naïve, with Indianapolis just fourteen miles away. However, officials of the various new railroad companies had already indicated that they were considering construction of a "general Passenger depot" (i.e., a "union station") in Indianapolis, rather than each line maintaining an individual train station for the traveling public. At least some people expected this ultimately would work to the advantage of outlying towns. A letter to the editor of *The Locomotive* prophesied that "freight as well as passenger cars will pass from one road to another" at the general depot, which would thus function as nothing more than a switching yard. "We shall see cars loaded with produce and merchandise running to and from throughout our streets without a single particle of benefit to a single inhabitant of the city." Instead of Indianapolis becoming a great trading center, "every depot on the several roads within ten or twenty or thirty miles, will become centres of trade for the surrounding neighborhoods," this writer maintained.¹⁰ Apparently convinced that his new community would become one of those "centres of trade," Emery laid out his new town with lots situated on either side of the railroad.

Charting the growth of Emery's community is difficult; since the town never was incorporated, there are no official records. However, initial development appears to have been slow. The town is not listed in the Indiana State Gazetteer for 1859; it makes its first appearance in the following year's issue, where it is described simply as "a station on the Bellefontaine Railroad 14 miles northeast of Indianapolis."¹¹ The situation apparently improved over the next several years, for by 1868 the Gazetteer indicated that the community had a population of 200, with twenty-two businesses, three churches, "excellent schools," and a Masonic lodge.¹² That same year a private company composed of local landowners and businessman widened and graveled the main road through town, maintaining it as part of a toll road ultimately known as Pendleton Pike.¹³ In 1870, the post office previously located in Germantown was moved to Oakland; this move resulted in the town adopting the name Oaklandon, to avoid confusion with an existing Indiana post office named Oakland in Spencer County. Chapters of other men's fraternal organizations, including the Odd Fellows, Grangers, and Red Men, were established during this period as well. By 1884, the railroad company had constructed a passenger depot, and the community boasted its own telephone system and a Western Union office. Four years later, after natural gas had been discovered in the area, the Oakland Natural Gas and Oil Company was established to provide gas service to residents.¹⁴ Interurban service came to the town in 1898, providing passenger service southwest to Indianapolis and northeast to Anderson, Muncie, and Fort Wayne several times a day.¹⁵ The interurban also provided the first electrical power for the community, although special appliances were required since the interurban used a 25-Hertz (cycles per second) system, rather than the 60-Hertz current normally supplied for residential use.¹⁶

For the most part, Oaklandon's churches also seemed to do well in the late 19th century. The town's oldest congregation, organized in 1850, was the Oaklandon Universalist Church. Its members initially erected a frame church building; in 1853 this structure was also rented by the township for use as one of its first schools.¹⁷ In 1875 this structure was replaced by a larger brick church built in the Gothic Revival style. A history of Marion County published in 1884 stated that "this denomination has the finest and best church building, the largest membership, and is in the most flourishing condition in every particular, of any in the township."¹⁸ The community's second-largest church, the Oaklandon Christian Church, also prospered in the late 19th century, with approximately one-quarter of the community's residents considered active members. The third church in the community, the Oaklandon Methodist Episcopal Church, could only claim approximately twenty-five members at this time, but comparing the total membership of these three churches to the estimated population of the community shows that over 80% of the residents were church members.¹⁹

Despite these social and community advancements, commercial activity in the town seems to have lagged behind, and Oaklandon never became a great center of trade and manufacturing. The prediction that a central depot would hamper Indianapolis's growth did not bear out; over the next fifty years, Indianapolis flourished while Oaklandon's growth seemed to come to a standstill. The first listing of Oaklandon's business enterprises appears in the 1868 Indiana Business Directory. Twenty-two businesses are listed, but all appear to be the type that would provide goods and services to other residents in the community. By 1880, the State Gazetteer's listing for the community included a saw mill and a grain dealer—enterprises that most likely used the railroad to transport their product to customers outside of Oaklandon. Eventually two grain elevators were constructed; Sanborn maps show that at least one of these had its own railroad

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

siding. However, by about 1914, the saw mill and one of the grain elevators had ceased operations, and the total number of businesses in Oaklandon still had not exceeded twenty-eight, including those who offered only local services, such as barbers, doctors, and undertakers.²⁰

The population of Oaklandon likewise failed to increase significantly. Between 1869 and 1917, the total number of residents of Oaklandon (as given in various Gazetteers) never rose above 300, while Indianapolis's population grew by over six times. In 1884, historian B.R. Sulgrove wrote that in Oaklandon, "the streets have never been improved, and many of the houses are in a dilapidated condition, and the village presents the appearance of age and decay." On the other hand, Sulgrove wrote, nearby Lawrence was "a lively little place, and the prettiest in the township" full of "enterprising business men" whose various firms "...did a thriving business....had an extensive trade....does a business not surpassed by any firm in that line in the county."²¹ While Sulgrove might have been exaggerating, it is true that by approximately this time, the population of the town of Lawrence had exceeded that of Oaklandon.

Oaklandon's small business district, located primarily along Oaklandon Road north of Church Street, also suffered the effects of a number of significant fires. At least one major fire is believed to have occurred in the late 19th century. A 1904 fire destroyed the Odd Fellows Hall and a general store, and a livery stable in the center of town burned down in 1918. In February of 1921, a fire in the Red Men's Hall building (which also housed a general store, hardware, and post office) destroyed both that building and the adjoining Universalist Church. Both buildings were rebuilt, only to be heavily damaged or destroyed, along with a restaurant and a confectionery store, in another major fire in 1925. Oaklandon's residents did not give up; the Universalist Church was again rebuilt, and the community organized a volunteer fire department, raising private funds to buy a Model T truck and equip it as a fire-fighting vehicle.²² Unfortunately, this effort could not make up for the lack of water which inevitably hindered fire-fighting efforts. Oaklandon had no city water system until well into the twentieth century; residents instead depended on individual private wells. As late as 1965, the loss of one of the town's oldest commercial buildings was blamed on the lack of water, with firefighters having to repeatedly send their tanker trucks several miles away to refill.²³

In 1890, the operators of Pendleton Pike had found it to be unprofitable as a toll road, and had sold it to the county, which incorporated it into its free road system. At the time, Pendleton Pike followed the route of the current Oaklandon Road through the center of the community before heading northwest along what is now Broadway Street. In the 1920s, the county re-routed Pendleton Pike along the south edge of the community, thus by-passing its modest central business district. The concept of Oaklandon becoming a major business and industrial center began to fade. A 1923 newspaper article called the community "a village of dreams unrealized," saying that, instead of becoming a pretentious town that would accommodate hundreds of homes, stores, churches, schools, factories, mills, and even exporters and importers, "it was instead "a thriving country town and proud of it." Four years later another newspaper reporter described it as "a thriving little community... (that) catered to the farm trade," but also pointed out that "many of its residents work in Indianapolis, preferring to travel back and forth each day rather than move to the city."²⁴

In the following decades, any lingering hope that Oaklandon might become a major commercial center died. By 1932, freight and passenger service had declined to the point that service was discontinued and the depot demolished. The second of the community's grain elevators went out of business in about 1940. On January 18th, 1941, interurban service was discontinued; that same year, school consolidation resulted in Oaklandon's high school students having to leave their community each day for instruction.²⁵ By this time Pendleton Pike had become a major thoroughfare, but since it no longer passed through the heart of the community, the increasingly-heavy traffic by-passed Oaklandon, leaving the community to retain its small-town atmosphere. A feature story in the July 2, 1941 Indianapolis News states that "triple lanes of concrete carry mile-a-minute traffic past the outskirts of Oaklandon, but this frantic pace is not reflected in the tempo of the town. Instead there is the friendly unhurried atmosphere of a village that has refused to be dominated by the big city a few miles to the southeast, a village that retains its individuality in the face of change."²⁶

Oaklandon residents continued to manage their own affairs without a formal governmental structure. Residents assessed themselves in 1950 to install streetlights on Oaklandon Road, and fundraising events were held regularly to support the volunteer fire department. However, the expansion of Indianapolis meant that some changes became inevitable. In September of 1950 the Oaklandon Natural Gas and Oil Company was sold to the Indianapolis-based Citizens' Gas and Coke Utility. Directors of Oaklandon's independent telephone company voted to sell the system to Indiana Bell on May 10, 1958. In 1960, the Oaklandon Post Office lost its status and became a branch of the Indianapolis Post Office.²⁷ Residents of Oaklandon had at various times considered whether they should gain official status for their community by incorporating, but never did; one resident explained that "opinions (on incorporating) were pro and con, but elderly people

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

didn't see fit to spend money on town government." Instead, community members preferred to continue managing their affairs informally, with the unofficial assistance and guidance of an organization called the Oaklandon Civic Association.²⁸

By the mid-1950s, as many Americans chose to move out of the city and into the suburbs, developers brought new housing developments to the Oaklandon area. Typical of these was a development north of the community on what had been acreage known as Rainbow Farms. An article describing this new addition made no mention of Oaklandon's business community, but instead stressed the convenience of "a large shopping center (that) is located at Lawrence." New residents were apparently expected to work outside of the Oaklandon area, for the article mentions that "just a short distance from the addition are several leading industries, such as the Naval Ordnance Plant, Western Electric, Textbooks Inc, Omar Bakery and others."²⁹ By 1962, one newspaper article called Oaklandon "a town of split personalities," comparing the old section of the town with the new subdivisions west and north of the community. An Oaklandon storekeeper quoted in this article pointed out that most of the town's residents did not work in Oaklandon, but commuted to jobs in Indianapolis or at nearby Fort Benjamin Harrison. The pastor of the Oaklandon Christian Church suggested that "gradually the old town will be encased by subdivisions and shopping areas. Then we'll be annexed by Lawrence or Indianapolis."³⁰

This proved to be an accurate prediction. In the late 1960s, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation which provided for a new legal status for the city of Indianapolis, essentially extending the city's boundaries to encompass practically all of Marion County. This new arrangement, popularly called Unigov, did make an exception for the four largest communities in the county, allowing them to maintain their independent status. One of these was the city of Lawrence, located east of Oaklandon. Unlike Oaklandon, Lawrence had long since incorporated, and over the years had expanded by annexing a number of unincorporated contiguous areas. On December 29, 1969, just a few days before Unigov took effect, the Lawrence City Council voted to annex a 5,871-acre area of Lawrence Township which included Oaklandon.³¹ Some residents of the area remonstrated against this move, and began a legal battle that would drag on for almost six years. The city of Indianapolis later entered the suit on the side of the remonstrators. However, on April 15, 1976, the Marion County Superior Court ruled in favor of the town of Lawrence. Although some of the remonstrators discussed continuing the battle by pursuing a legal process referred to as "disannexation," ultimately nothing came of the idea.³²

Although the aspirations John Emery had when he established Oaklandon never came to fruition, and other urban development has enveloped the area, the community still has avoided the fate of being completely overwhelmed and forgotten. The tallest structure in the area, a water tower located just adjacent to the railroad tracks, is emblazoned with the words "Oaklandon Community." A sign bearing the community's name and the date of its founding has been placed near the intersection of Oaklandon Road and Pendleton Pike, south of the historic district. Those venturing north on Oaklandon Road, away from the highly-commercialized Pendleton Pike, will immediately notice the village-like atmosphere engendered by the small residential lots and consistent setbacks. The proposed historic district features neat but modest older residences, many of them bungalows, and two large church buildings. And although almost all of the community's historic commercial buildings have been lost, there is still a small business district located just north of the proposed historic district, and the Oaklandon Universalist Church maintains a small but active congregation. Still in use, too, is the railroad right-of-way which was the basis for Oaklandon's founding, and freight trains pass through the community several times each day. Although it is now officially part of the city of Lawrence, the Oaklandon community still has managed to retain its own unique identity for over 150 years.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

James B. Ray, Indiana's fourth governor and an early proponent of railroads, reportedly claimed that, when railroad lines were built, "at intervals of five miles (there) were to be villages, of ten miles, towns, and of twenty miles, respectable cities."³³ Although Ray's estimate was a bit off the mark, by the middle of the 19th century, railroads had certainly become important in the location of population centers. In 1907, Indiana historian George S. Cottman wrote of the railroad's role in, as he put it, "the rearrangement, so to speak, of the centers of population. Under the old order, navigable waters, good mill seats and topographical considerations were important factors in determining settlements, but now the centers that sprang up were strung along the new overland routes of travel."³⁴ B. F. Sulgrove's History of

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

Indianapolis and Marion County, published in 1884, mentions at least thirteen different communities in Marion County located along various railroad lines.³⁵

Over the last century most of these small railroad communities have lost their identities. Much of Marion County has lost its agricultural character, as manufacturing, retailing, and other forms of commerce gained prominence, and farms gave way to suburban housing developments. The creation of better roads, along with the proliferation of the motor vehicle, made those farmers who remained less dependent on the railroads to move their produce. These same developments, along with the interurban system, made it possible for residents of these communities to access the Indianapolis business district, thus taking business away from their own local business districts. The urban sprawl of the mid-20th century further contributed to the loss of identity of these communities, as they were encroached upon by strip malls, shopping centers, and new housing developments. Perhaps the final blow came in 1970, when the majority of these railroad towns lost their autonomy to Unigov (or, in Oaklandon's case, annexation by the neighboring city of Lawrence).

As these railroad communities began to fade, it is not surprising that they lost many of the attributes and resources which had made them distinct. Besides its residential area, a typical 19th century railroad community in central Indiana would have featured a mix of resources, including a post office, a train depot, one or more churches, and a school. The business district would generally include a barber shop, doctor's office, bank, and general store, and would likely feature small shops for such artisans as a blacksmith, harnessmaker, cooper, shoemaker, or wheelwright. Frequently one of the most prominent buildings in town would be a two-story brick structure erected by the local fraternal organization, with retail space on the ground floor and the organization's meeting rooms above. For those coming to town to transact business, there would be a small hotel, or one or more boarding houses, as well as a saloon. While these towns did not usually have heavy industry, there would likely be a grain elevator, and perhaps such small enterprises as a brickworks or sawmill.³⁶

In most of the communities Sulgrove mentioned, however, the majority of these resources had been lost by the late 20th century. Towns such as Castleton have essentially disappeared, replaced by new commercial development; Vertland has been so forgotten that it did not even rate a mention in the 1994 Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Oaklandon did not escape unscathed, as its business district was decimated by fire and demolition, and the school, post office, and Masonic lodge which serve the area are now located in modern structures on the outskirts of the original town. Nonetheless, the area still manages to retain an identity of its own. Its rectilinear street plan and late-19th/early-20th century housing stock clearly differentiate it from the neighboring modern subdivisions and commercial areas. A critical remnant of the town's historic residential area remains intact, anchored by two significant church buildings. Residents of Oaklandon are reminded of the town's genesis every day, as freight trains rumble along the original railroad right-of-way, just north of the historic district.

Endnotes

1. Fred T. Hodgson, Hodgson's Practical Bungalows and Cottages for Town and Country (Chicago:Frederick J. Prior, 1906), p. 3. See also Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell, House Styles in America (New York: The Penguin Group, 1996), p. 198.
2. Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home, (New York: Penguin Studio, 1995) p. 40
3. The Book of a Thousand Homes (New York: Home Owners Services Institute, 1923) pp. 102, 201; Radford's Artistic Bungalows, (Chicago: the Radford Architectural Company, 1908) p. 148; Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, Houses by Mail (Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1986) pp. 45, 113.
4. For a succinct explanation of Indiana's early attempts at building transportation systems see Richards S. Simons and Francis Parker, Railroads of Indiana (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997), pp. 4-20.
5. Indianapolis *Locomotive*, July 15, 1848, p. 3.
6. Indianapolis *Locomotive*, March 9, 1850, p. 2.
7. Indianapolis *Locomotive*, July 27, 1850, p. 2; October 12, 1850, p. 2.
8. "Oaklandon, Planned as Great Trading Center, is a Thriving Country Town and Proud of it." Indianapolis *News*, February 10, 1923, p. 10.
9. Ibid.
10. Indianapolis *Locomotive*, February 16, 1850, p. 1.

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

11. Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1860/61. (Indianapolis: G.W. Hawes), p. 352.
12. Indiana Business Directory. (H.C. Chandler: Indianapolis, 1868), p. 375.
13. Glory June Grieff, *Rediscovering Lost Oaklandon*, p. 3.
14. Information on the fraternal organizations of Oaklandon, as well as construction of the railroad depot, can be found in B.R. Sulgrove, History of Indianapolis and Marion County (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Company, 1884), pp 564-565. Information on the founding of the community's gas company can be found in Paul E. Hamilton, "About Oakland," p. 9.
15. *Indianapolis News*, January 2, 1941. See also George K. Bradley, Indiana Railroad: the Magic Interurban (Chicago: Central Electric Railfan's Association, 1991) pp. 202-203.
16. J. H. Apple, *Early Oaklandon and Germantown*, p. 1. See also George K. Bradley, Indiana Railroad, the Magic Interurban, pp. 432-45. Apple correctly remembers the power delivered by the interurban line as being different from the American standard of 60 cycles, but states that it was 32 cycles. Bradley explains that the power used by the interurbans was actually 25 cycles. Confirmation that the interurban line agreed to supply electrical power to homes in Oaklandon can be found in "Oaklandon To Have Lights," *Indianapolis Star*, February 27, 1913, p.11.
17. B. R. Sulgrove, History of Indianapolis and Marion County, p. 569.
18. *Ibid*, 575.
19. Cline & MacHaffie, The People's Guide: a Business, Political, and Religious Directory of Marion County, Indiana. (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing & Publishing House, 1874). p. 435.
20. Hamilton, *About Oaklandon*, p. 9.
21. B. R. Sulgrove, History of Indianapolis and Marion County, p. 564.
22. *Oaklandon Volunteer Fire Department, 1925-1975*, pp.1-3.
23. "Fire destroys 2-Story Building in Oaklandon." *Suburban and Lawrence Journal*, June 20, 1968, p. 1.
24. "Oaklandon, Planned as Great Trade Center, is a Thriving Country Town and Proud of it." *Indianapolis News*, February 10, 1923, p. 10.
25. "Only one traction line out of city." *Indianapolis News*, January 2, 1941, p. 8. See also "Bus Service to Begin," *Indianapolis News*, January 18, 1941, p. 1, and Orien E. Fifer, "There's Always a Tomorrow at Oaklandon." *Indianapolis News*, July 2, 1941, sec. 2, p. 1.
26. Orien E. Fifer, "There's Always a Tomorrow at Oaklandon." *Indianapolis News*, July 2, 1941, sec. 2, p. 1.
27. Paul E. Hamilton, "About Oaklandon," pp.7-10.
28. Basil Romanovich, "Oaklandon Is Run By Civic Group and Has No Police," *Indianapolis News*, January 12, 1963, p.16.
29. "Oaklandon Boasts 'Homefolk's Town.'" *Indianapolis Times*, October 2, 1955, p. 33.
30. Philip Whitesell, "Oaklandon is Caught in the Middle," *Indianapolis Times*, June 10, 1962, p. 5.
31. "Lawrence Annexes 5,871 Acres," *Indianapolis Star*, April 16, 1976, p. 1.
32. "Not All Annexed Residents Happy," *Indianapolis Star*, April 27, 1976, p. 31.
33. George S. Cottman, "Internal Improvements in Indiana, No. IV—Railroads." *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 3 #4, December, 1907, pp. 149.
34. *Ibid*
35. These include the following—(in Decatur Township) West Newton, Valley Mills; (in Franklin Township) Acton; (in Lawrence Township) Oaklandon, Lawrence, Vertland, Castleton; (in Perry Township) Southport, Beech Grove; (in Pike Township) New Augusta, (in Washington Township) Nora; (in Wayne Township) Bridgeport, Clermont. B. R. Sulgrove, History of Indianapolis and Marion County, pp.526, 564-5, 589-90, 605-7, 619, 637, 641647, 661.
36. Records indicate that Oaklandon had at least one of each of the resources listed in this paragraph during the late-19th/early-20th centuries. See listings for Oaklandon in the Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Indianapolis: R. L. Polk) for the following years: 1882/83, 1887/88, 1891/92, 1895/96, 1916/17, 1928/29.

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Publications

The Book of a Thousand Homes. (New York: Home Owners Services Institute, 1923). Reprinted under the title 500 Small Houses of the Twenties (Mineola, New York: Dover Publications Incorporated, 1990), Henry Atterbury Smith, compiler.

Bogle, Victor M. "Railroad Building in Indiana, 1850-1855." *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 58, #3 (September, 1962), pp. 122-232.

Bradley, George K. Indiana Railroad, the Magic Interurban. Chicago: The Central Electric Railfans' Association, 1991.

Cline & McHaffie. The People's Guide-A Business, Political, and Religious Directory of Marion County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing and Publishing House, 1874.

Cottman, George S. "Internal Improvements in Indiana, No. IV—Railroads." *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 3 #4 (December, 1907), pp. 149-181.

Cowen, M. V. B., compiler. Indiana State Gazetteer and Shipper's Guide for 1866/67. Lafayette, Indiana: Rosser, Spring and Cowen, Publishers, 1867.

Duchscherer, Paul and Douglas Keister, The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home. New York: Penguin Studio, 1995.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis: the History, the Industries, the Institutions, and the People of a City of Homes. Chicago: the Lewis Publishing Company, 1910.

Hodgson, Fred T. Hodgson's Practical Bungalows and Cottages for Town and Country. Chicago: Frederick J. Prior, 1906. Holloway,

W. R. Indianapolis, A Historical and Statistical Sketch of the Railroad City. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Journal Print, 1870. Indiana

Business Directory. Indianapolis: H. C. Chandler, 1868.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Indianapolis: G.W. Hawes, for the following years 1850, 1859, 1860/1861.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk, for the following years: 1882/83, 1887/88, 1891/92, 1895/96, 1916/17, 1928/29.

Indiana State Gazetteer, Shipper's Guide, and Business Directory. Indianapolis: G.W. Hawes, 1864.

Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. House Styles in America. New York: The Penguin Group, 1996.

Middleton, William D. The Interurban Era. Milwaukee: Kalmbach Publishing Company, 1961.

Murphy, Ared Maurice. "The Big Four Railroad in Indiana." *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 21 #2-3 (June and September, 1925), pp 109-273.

Oaklandon High School Annual, 1914. Published by the Senior Class of Oaklandon High School, 1914.

Olney, Julian and Dorothy. The American Home Book of Garages. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran, and Company, 1931.

Parker, Francis. Indiana Railroad Depots: A Threatened Heritage. Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University, Department of Urban Planning, 1989.

Pike and Lawrence Townships, Marion County Interim Report, Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1994.

Radford's Artistic Bungalows. Chicago: the Radford Architectural Company, 1908. (Reprinted by Dover Publications Incorporated of Mineola, New York, 1997)

Simons, Richard S. and Francis H. Parker. Railroads of Indiana. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997.

Smith, Connie Staton. Uniquely Lawrence 1849-1999—Discovering our Past and Future. Lawrence, Indiana: City of Lawrence and The Topics Newspaper, 1999.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. Houses by Mail. Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

Sulgrove, Berry Robinson. History of Indianapolis and Marion County. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Company, 1884.

Visher, Stephen S. "The Location of Indiana Cities and Towns." *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 51 #4 (December, 1955), pp. 341-346.

Unpublished typescripts

Apple, J. H. Early Oaklandon and Germantown. November 22, 1978. (Available at the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division)

Oaklandon Historic District

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana

County and State

Greiff, Glory June. *Rediscovering Lost Oaklandon*. 1989 (Author's Collection)

Hamilton, Paul E. *Early Oaklandon*. Composed for the Oaklandon Civic Association and Eastern Lawrence Township Planning Council, 1972. (Available at the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division)

Oaklandon Volunteer Fire Department, 1925-1975. no author or date provided. (Available at the Indiana State Library, Indiana Division)

Newspaper articles

Barker, Myrtie. "City With No Walls." *Indianapolis News*, July 29, 1976, p. 1.

"Bus Service to Begin." *Indianapolis News*, January 18, 1941, sec. 2, p. 1.

"Community of Faith." *Indianapolis Star*, February 10, 2001, sec F, p. 4.

"Disannexation' Petitions Ready." *Indianapolis Star*, June 4, 1976, p. 29.

"Fire Destroys 2-story Building in Oakland." *Suburban & Lawrence Journal* (Lawrence, Indiana), June 20, 1968, p. 1.

Fifer, Orien W. "There's Always a Tomorrow at Oaklandon." *Indianapolis News*, July 2, 1941, sec. 2, p. 1.

"Fire at Oaklandon Burns Church and Postoffice." *Indianapolis Star*, February 19, 1920, p. 8.

Francis, Mary. "Church Business." *Indianapolis Star*, August 4, 1999, sec. C, p. 1.

Guthrie, Wayne. "Germantown Loss Rued." *Indianapolis News*, April 18, 1958, p. 9.

"Houses Grow On Rainbow Farms Tract." *Indianapolis Times*, October 2, 1955, p. 33.

Indianapolis Locomotive, issues of July 15, 1848, p. 3 ; February 9, 1850, p.3; February 16, 1850, p. 1; March 9, 1850, p.2; June 8, 1850, p.2; July 27, 1850, p. 2; September 21, 1850, p.1; October 12, 1850, p. 2.

Lasogna, Gerry. "Volunteers Go To Work So Others Can Play at Park in Oaklandon." *Indianapolis News*, June 11, 1990, sec. D, p. 1.

"Lawrence Annexes 5,871 Acres," *Indianapolis Star*, April 16, 1976. p. 1.

Miley, Scott L. "Congregation Eyes Site in McCordsville." *Indianapolis Star*, January 20, 2002, sec. B, p. 2 .

"Not All Annexed Residents Happy." *Indianapolis Star*, April 27, 1976, p. 31.

"Oaklandon Boasts 'Homefolk's Town.'" *Indianapolis Times*, October 2, 1955, p. 33.

"Oaklandon, Community on Pendleton Pike, Has Many Advantages of City Neighborhood." *Indianapolis News*, August 6, 1927, p. 17.

"Oaklandon, Planned as Great Trade Center, is a Thriving Country Town and Proud of it." *Indianapolis News*, February 10, 1923, p. 10.

"Oaklandon To Have Lights." *Indianapolis Star*, February 27, 1913, p.11.

"Only One Traction Line To Operate Out Of City." *Indianapolis News*, January 1941, p. 8.

"Residents Yearn to Keep Oaklandon Quaint." *Indianapolis News*, August 8, 1988, sec. C, p. 2.

Romanovich, Basil, "Oaklandon Is Run by Civic Group and Has No Police." *Indianapolis News*, January 12, 1963, p. 16.

Whitesell, Philip. "Oaklandon Is Caught in the Middle." *Indianapolis Times*, June 10, 1962, p.

Oaklandon Historic District
 Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
 County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Ca. 10 acres
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	<u>589243</u>	<u>4414572</u>	3	16	<u>588994</u>	<u>4414214</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	<u>589257</u>	<u>4414189</u>	4	16	<u>589052</u>	<u>4414522</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

Beginning at the northeast corner of the property at 6450 Oaklandon Road, proceeding west along the north property line of that property to its west property line, then south along its west property line and continuing across Church Street to the north property line of 6439 Maple Street, then west along that property's north property line and proceeding across Maple Street to the northwest corner of the property at 6440 Maple Street, then south from that point along the rear property lines of the properties on the west side of Maple Street to the northeast corner of the property at 11716 Oshawa, then west along the north property line of that property to the northwest corner of the property, then south along the west property line of that property to the southwest corner of that property, then east along the south property line of that property and the south property line of 6404 Maple Street, and continuing across Maple Street along the south property line of 6405 Maple Street to the southeast corner of that property, then across Oshawa Street and continuing south along the rear property lines of the properties on Oaklandon Road to the southwest corner of the property at 6340 Oaklandon Road, then east along that property's south property line to its southeast corner, then north approximately 40 feet before crossing Oaklandon Road to the southeast corner of the property at 6351 Oaklandon Road, then north along the rear property lines of the properties on the east side of Oaklandon Road to the northeast corner of the property at 6427 Oaklandon Road, then west along that property's north property line and continuing across Oaklandon Road to the east property line of 6440 Oaklandon Road, then north along that property line and continuing across Church Street along the eastern property line of 6450 Oaklandon Road to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This historic district is roughly described as consisting of the properties on both sides of the 6300 and 6400 blocks of Oaklandon Road and on both sides of the 6400 block of Maple Street, along with the house at 11716 Oshawa Street. The southern boundary is defined by modern commercial buildings and a modern housing addition built around a cul-de-sac. The eastern and western boundaries are likewise defined by more recent residential construction, although the eastern boundary does jog out to include 11716 Oshawa Street, believed to have been built at the same time and by the same builder as the adjacent residence at 6404 Maple Street. The northern boundary is defined by vacant lots, modern retail commercial buildings and a modern warehouse facility.

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alan Goebes and Anthony Adderley
organization Access Cultural and Environmental Solutions, LLC date February 11, 2013
street & number 1075 Broad Ripple Avenue, Ste 204 telephone 317 626 0628
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46220
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: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Oaklandon Community Sign**
1 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **North along Oaklandon Road**
2 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **South along Oaklandon Road**
3 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **South along Maple Street**
4 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **East along Church Street**
5 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **North along Maple Street**
6 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6340 Oaklandon Road**
7 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6350 Oaklandon Road**
8 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6351 Oaklandon Road**
9 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6359 Oaklandon Road**
10 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6360 Oaklandon Road**
11 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6367 Oaklandon Road**
12 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6370 Oaklandon Road**
13 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6371 Oaklandon Road**
14 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6380 Oaklandon Road**
15 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6381 Oaklandon Road**
16 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6385 Oaklandon Road**
17 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6388 Oaklandon Road**
18 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6401 Oaklandon Road**
19 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at well pump at 6401 Oaklandon Road**
20 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6402 Oaklandon Road**
21 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6408 Oaklandon Road**
22 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6414 Oaklandon Road**
23 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6415 Oaklandon Road**
24 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6420 Oaklandon Road**
25 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6421 Oaklandon Road**
26 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6427 Oaklandon Road**
27 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6440 Oaklandon Road**
28 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6440 Oaklandon Road**
29 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6450 Oaklandon Road**
30 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking North at 11716 Oshawa Street**
31 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6404 Maple Street**
32 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6405 Maple Street**
33 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6415 Maple Street**
34 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6420 Maple Street**
35 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6428 Maple Street**
36 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6431 Maple Street**
37 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6436 Maple Street**
38 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6436 Maple Street**
39 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking East at 6439 Maple Street**
40 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6440 Maple Street**
41 of 42.

Name of Property: **Oaklandon Historic District**
City or Vicinity: **Indianapolis**
County: **Marion** State: **Indiana**
Photographer: **Anthony Adderley**
Date Photographed: **August 13, 2009**
Description of Photograph(s) and number: **Looking West at 6440 Maple Street**
42 of 42.

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

Property Owner:

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

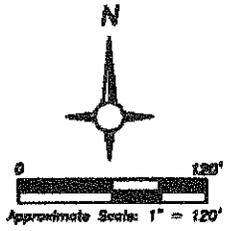
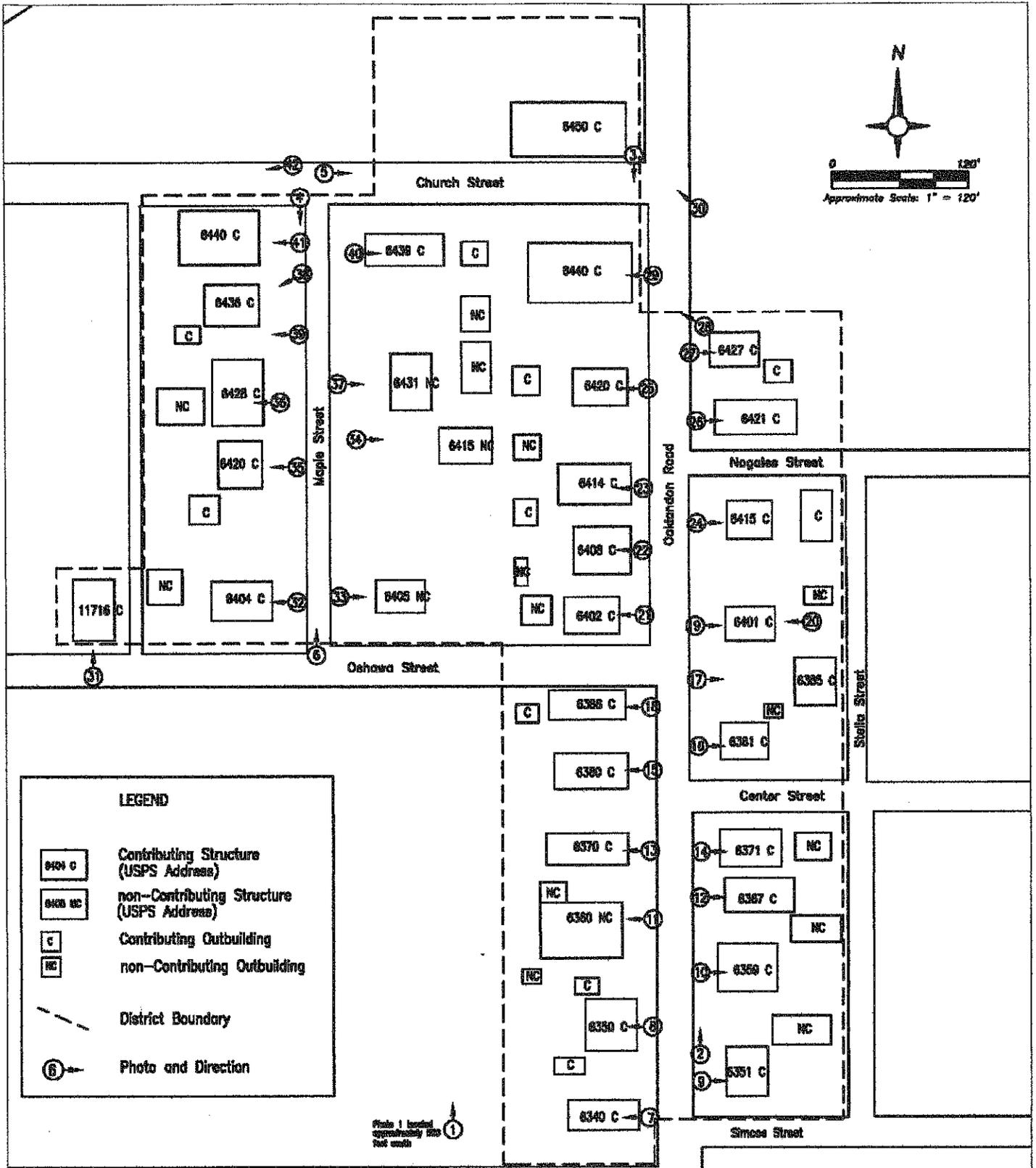
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Oaklandon Historic District
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana
County and State

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.



LEGEND

- 8404 C Contributing Structure (USPS Address)
- 8408 NC non-Contributing Structure (USPS Address)
- C Contributing Outbuilding
- NC non-Contributing Outbuilding
- District Boundary
- 8 → Photo and Direction

Photo 1 located approximately 100 feet south

NOTES:
 Addresses based on United States Postal Service Address

Oaklandon Historic District
 National Register Nomination
 Marion County, Indiana

Map showing Contributing and non-Contributing Structures

ACCESS SOLUTIONS
 CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
 LLC

1075 Broad Ripple Avenue
 Suite 204
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46220
 317 626 0628

Approximate Scale: 1" = 120'	Modified By: ACES 2/1/13	Project Number 6519.01.M	Figure Number 1
---------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0002



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0005



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0008



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0014



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0022



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0029



Oaklandon Historic District, Marion Co., IN #0036