1. **Name of Property**
   Historic name: Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District
   Other names/site number: Indiana State Prison, Indiana State Prison South, Indiana Reformatory, Colgate & Company, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company, and Colgate-Palmolive Company Jeffersonville Plant
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. **Location**
   Street & number: 1410 S. Clark Boulevard
   City or town: Clarksville
   State: Indiana
   County: Clark
   Vicinity: ______________

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 ___X__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
   I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ____________
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A ___B ___C ___D

   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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Signature of commenting official:</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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 __________________________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [X]  
Public – Local [ ]
Public – State [ ]
Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [ ]
District [X]
Site [ ]
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Structure

Object

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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</thead>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Structures</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- GOVERNMENT: correctional facility
- INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility
- INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: energy facility
- COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse
- DOMESTIC: institutional housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- COMMERCE/TRADE: office
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
  foundation: STONE: Limestone, BRICK, CONCRETE
  walls:       BRICK, STONE, TERRA COTTA, GLASS
  roof:       SYNTHETICS, OTHER
  other:      METAL: Steel

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District is located in Clarksville, Indiana, immediately adjacent to the western limits of the City of Jeffersonville and across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky. The district was developed as the second home of the Indiana State Prison, in operation from 1847 until its conversion into the Indiana Reformatory in 1897. The Reformatory occupied the site until 1924, when the buildings were remodeled into a regional factory for Colgate & Company, later known as the Colgate-Palmolive Company. Colgate-Palmolive occupied the site from 1924 until 2008. The district includes a complex of 20 resources: 17 buildings, two structures, and one object built during the State Prison, Reformatory, and Colgate-Palmolive periods. The period of significance for Architecture has been identified as 1849-1960. Of the total 20 resources, only two are non-contributing. The building numbers assigned by Colgate-Palmolive are used to help identify buildings within the district.
Narrative Description

Site Description

The district is located within the eastern limits of Clarksville, Indiana, adjacent to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and across the Ohio River from Louisville Kentucky. The district is bounded on the east by Missouri Avenue, U.S. Route 31, and the Interstate-65 corridor. It is bounded on the south and southwest by S. Clark Boulevard, on the northwest by the Louisville & Indiana Railroad corridor, and on the north by remnants of later Colgate-Palmolive industrial facilities extending up to Montgomery Avenue. To the southeast is the former Ohio Falls Car Works complex. To the south, Woerner Avenue terminates at S. Clark Boulevard at the façade of Resource 1 (Building No. 1), nearly on axis with the main entrance. The remnants of a nineteenth century residential neighborhood stretch along the west side of Woerner Avenue. The area southwest of the district contains an open field, a few stands of trees, and late twentieth century industrial sites. Northwest of the district, on the other side of the Louisville & Indiana Railroad embankment, is a historic residential neighborhood that developed from 1875 to 1925.

Clark Boulevard, the main road, parallels the district on the southern boundary. A railroad line connecting Jeffersonville to Clarksville and New Albany ran along the south side of the street. The remnants of an early public road ran diagonally through the eastern end of the district. By the 1870s, it was known as Clarksville Avenue or Clark Avenue. The prison’s cemetery fronted this road, although its exact location is unclear. Clark Avenue was closed to public traffic by 1931 and became a private drive within the Colgate-Palmolive complex. The drive was integrated into a surrounding employee parking lot. The employee parking lot at the eastern end of the district was the site of a former neighborhood that developed during the 1870s and 1880s and was removed in the early twentieth century. The area contained open lawn and trees as of 1940 and has been a paved parking lot since the 1950s. Houses fronting the west side of Missouri Avenue were demolished when the street was rerouted in the late twentieth century and part of this land was added to the parking lot.

Physical Description

Throughout its history, the district has comprised a complex of interconnected buildings within a parcel of land that has remained closed to the public. The public face of the institution was presented by its perimeter buildings and structures, and these resources feature the most carefully articulated exteriors. The core of the district is a complex of buildings that surround a central courtyard, which approximates the area that was enclosed by the Indiana State Prison South’s walls. Several buildings within this complex were demolished in the mid-1990s. The western end of the complex features a succession of larger factory buildings that were built by Colgate-Palmolive during the mid-twentieth century. Three buildings at the eastern end of the district were built outside the prison walls.

Dating from 1849 to 1960, the 20 resources within the historic district are institutional and commercial in function that relate to the prison, reformatory, and manufacturing periods associated with the site. The resources range from a portion of the former prison wall, to the former warden’s dwelling, to massive manufacturing warehouses. All buildings are masonry in construction ranging from one-story to five-plus stories in height. The buildings exhibit styles from Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque to the Art Moderne style. The perimeter of the district was examined during the nomination process. Buildings not included in the historic district lacked physical, architectural, and/or historical continuity with the district.
The two non-contributing resources have been modified and have later additions with non-compatible architectural character. These resources date to the Reformatory and Colgate periods, and are Resource 7/Building Nos. 11 and 38/38-A, and Resource 17/Guard House. Significant resources in the district were built during all three stages of the historic district’s period of significance, and include Building Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 14, 30, 39, 40, and 44, the Colgate Clock, and the remaining prison walls.

Resources 1, 2, 3, 8, and 15/Building Nos. 1, 2, 4, 14, and 44 were built during the Indiana State Prison period. Resource 1 is the original Guard House and Administration Building; Resource 2 is Cell House A; Resource 3 is Cell House C; Resource 8 is the Power House; Resource 15 is the Warden’s House; and Resource 18, is the remaining Prison Wall. All resources are built of load-bearing masonry walls, and all have received some degree of alteration. Both the Warden’s House and Cell Houses A & C were transformed during the Colgate period. Building No. 3, the original Indiana State Prison Cell House was demolished c.1993-96. Colgate demolished most of the prison walls between the 1920s and 1955, leaving only the remaining east wall and a small segment of the northeast wall. Resource 8, the Power House, was expanded during Colgate’s period of occupation.

Resource 4/Building No. 5 and Resource 11/Building Nos. 30 and 31 remain from the Indiana Reformatory period. Resource 4 (1902-03) housed a bathroom, laundry, clothing repair shop, and drying room, and later was transformed into Colgate’s employee gymnasium and locker rooms. The Stables of Resource 11 were built sometime between 1904 and 1911, and retain original wood windows, rare to the district. Resources 6, 12, 13, and 20/Building Nos. 8, 39, 40, and Colgate Clock remain from the Colgate period. The three buildings were built as warehouses for distribution and production and retain high levels of integrity. The 1906 Colgate Clock, which was transferred from the company’s New Jersey complex and installed on top of Building No. 1 in 1934, remains a beloved community landmark.

**Statement of Integrity**

The Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District retains a high level of integrity as a rich collection of mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century institutional buildings that reflect the State Prison, Reformatory, and Colgate-Palmolive periods. A total of 20 resources are within the district, 18 contributing and two non-contributing to the district. Of the 20 resources, 17 are buildings, with all but two contributing to the district. In addition, the Prison Wall and the Reservoir are contributing structures, and the Colgate Clock is a contributing object. The Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District retains historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Resource Inventory**

The following inventory lists the 20 resources within the Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District. Each entry provides the building name, date of construction, historic building use, and its contributing status to the district. On the accompanying maps, large point numbers preceded by # indicate resource number, while smaller point numbers preceded by “CP” are numbers assigned by Colgate-Palmolive during their tenure. All buildings except for Resource 1/Building No. 1 are vacant. Whether a building is considered contributing or non-contributing was determined based on whether it was constructed during the historic district’s architectural period of significance of 1849-1960 and whether it retains integrity as it supports the historic district’s significance under Criterion A for Commerce and Industry and Criterion C for Architecture. Resources are keyed to
the Site Diagram/Photo Key by their Resource Number as well as the Colgate-Palmolive (CP) assigned building numbers. The Guard House was not originally numbered.

**Resource 1**: (C) Building No. 1, 1842-47; 1893-94; 1918; 1920s; 1983, Prison Administration Building; Colgate Administrative Offices and Colgate Clock Tower; Staff Offices (Richardsonian Romanesque) and Building No. 1-A, 1924-29; c. 1942; c. 1964; 1980s, Colgate Offices (see photos 0001-0003 and 0005).

Building No. 1 served as the Guard House and Administration Building of the Indiana State Prison. The core of the building was built ca.1842-47, as a three-story brick structure. The building was damaged by fire in 1870, and during its 1893-94 reconstruction, a fourth floor and a substantial brick and stone porch were added. Both additions were capped by crenelated parapets, which lent the building an imposing appearance reminiscent of a castle or fortress. The interior of the building was also remodeled at this time and work included the addition of a new iron staircase and a skylight of plate glass and iron, sixteen by fifty feet, over the guard house.²

The Administration Building suffered extensive damage in the 1918 fire, and much of the interior was gutted. The building was not fully rebuilt until Colgate & Company began work on the site in the early 1920s. The upper level of the tower and the parapet crenellations were removed and replaced by a flat parapet with limestone coping. A flat roof was built along with new steel supports for the Colgate Clock. The building housed the administrative offices of the Colgate plant from 1924 until 2008.

The main section of the building is of red brick with limestone accents. The façade is divided into five bays, with pilasters or buttresses flanking the outer bays and the corners of the building. Window openings on the first through third floors feature pointed double-rowlock brick arches with limestone springers, keystones, and sills. These openings were originally fitted with one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. Many windows were replaced after the 1918 fire but matched the original design. All windows have been replaced by modern bronze-tinted glazing in bronze anodized aluminum frames dating to ca.1983. The central bay at the first floor contains a wider arched opening housing the main entrance, which contains a recessed vestibule with infill and bronze anodized aluminum storefront doors dating to c.1983. This building, the only one in use during the nomination process, serves as staff offices.

**Building No. 1-A, 1924-29; c. 1942; c. 1964; 1980s, Colgate Offices**

This addition to Building No. 1 was built during 1924-29 as a one-story brick structure extending across the façade of Building No. 4. A second floor was added sometime between 1942 and 1959 and a third floor was added between 1964 and 1975. The façade includes projecting buttresses corresponding to those found on Building No. 1. The three-story brick façade is divided into six bays by projecting brick pilasters with limestone trim. Each bay contains a window opening at each floor except the western bay, which has only a third-floor window. The first and second floor windows are 1980s replacements with bronze anodized aluminum fixed sash and bronze tinted glazing. The third floor retains its ca.1970 aluminum sash. The façade is capped by terra cotta coping. A copper gutter trims the west end of the flat roof. The building sits on a crawlspace and has a wood floor structure. The building housed office space for Colgate-Palmolive. The interior has been remodeled several times and contains no visible historic features, with all exposed finishes and materials dating to the 1980s or later.

**Resource 2**: (C) Building No. 2, 1882; 1918; 1919; 1983, Prison Cell House A; Colgate Offices and Auditorium (Richardsonian Romanesque) (see photos 0002 and 0019).
Building No. 2 was built as Cell House A of the Indiana State Prison South, replacing an earlier wing on the same site in 1882. The new building addressed long-standing concerns about the sanitary conditions and overcrowding conditions in the old cell. The building was heavily damaged in the 1918 fire, but money was appropriated for the conversion of the building into two modern dormitories and a kitchen. This project appears to have included replacement of the original hipped roof by the present very low gabled roof. By 1931 the building contained Colgate's men's lunch room, locker room, and recreation room on the first floor and a combination auditorium and gymnasium on the second floor.

Building No. 2 is approximately two stories in height, with a red brick and limestone exterior. Rock-face limestone forms the base of the wall up to the level of the first-floor window sills, above which the walls are red brick with limestone accents. The identical north and south elevations are divided into eleven bays, while the east elevation is divided into three bays. The bays are separated by projecting pilasters or buttresses. Each bay contains a pair of windows at the first-floor level and one large window opening at the second-floor level. The first-floor windows feature segmental brick arches rising from limestone springers. The second-floor windows are capped by segmental brick arches rising from limestone springers and intersecting at a limestone keystone to form an approximation of a Tudor arch. Some window openings along the north and east elevations have been infilled while all other openings contain bronze anodized aluminum windows with bronze tinted glazing installed in 1983. This remodeling included the infill of the upper part of all first-floor windows. Each bay is topped by a corbelled brick dentil course. The building is crowned by a continuous brick arched corbel table forming a projecting cornice. An entrance was added on the south elevation during the 1950s. This entrance features a projecting one-story façade of rusticated red brick with a recessed entry containing storefront glazing installed in 1983. Small, later additions cover portions of the east and north elevations.

As with the earlier cell houses, Cell House A contained a free-standing cellblock set back from the exterior walls. Four hundred cells were arranged in five tiers of 80 cells fronting open galleries. The cellblock was removed during the 1910s when the building was remodeled into a dormitory. The interior was remodeled again after the 1918 fire and has seen several subsequent remodelings. The interior of both floors has been partitioned into modern office space with no historic fabric remaining visible. Most of this work appears to date from a 1983 remodeling. Modern suspended acoustic tile ceilings conceal the roof structure above. Building No. 2 retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, with the primary alteration being the installation of modern replacement windows.

Resource 3: (C) Building No. 4, 1900; 1918; 1924; 1983, Clark & Loomis, Prison Cell House C; Colgate Soap Cutting; Employee Cafeteria and Building 4-B, c.1902; 1983, Ventilation Room; Colgate Corridor Connection (see photos 0004-0008 and 0027).

Building No. 4 was built during 1900-01 as Cell House C of the Indiana Reformatory, replacing an earlier cell house. The new Cell House C was designed by the Louisville firm of Clark & Loomis, architects, and The Louisville Courier-Journal reported that “it will be the best and most modern cellhouse in the United States.” The building survived the 1918 fire but was “considerably damaged,” although inmates continued to occupy the building until their final removal to Pendleton in 1924. Building No. 4 is approximately four stories in height with masonry bearing walls and a hipped roof. The building is approximately 410 feet long and 65 feet wide, with chamfered corners forming an octagonal footprint. The south façade is 27 bays wide, with the outer bays forming the chamfered corners and the center bay forming a slightly projecting pavilion. The building sits on a rock-face limestone foundation. Red brick masonry bearing walls are laid in a common bond with color-matched red mortar and are accented by limestone trim. A limestone belt course extends around the building approximately 2/5 of the
way up the wall. This course features a sloped profile corresponding to the profiles of the layered caps of the pilasters that occur between every two bays. Each bay contains a single window opening that extends up to the cornice level. The openings terminate in steel angle lintels concealed by brickwork. Four bays retain the original sill height and original limestone sills. The other sills were cut down to a lower level sometime after 1931 and are fitted with concrete sills. The window openings originally featured a horizontal limestone mullion in the center of the upper section, creating a division into three roughly equal tiers. A 1931 photograph of the building’s interior indicates that each window opening was fitted with six-light in-swing casement windows, paired and stacked in units of four sashes, with three units spanning the height of the masonry openings. All window openings on the south façade have been infilled with brown brick that has punched openings of various sizes containing ca.1985 aluminum windows and metal louvers.

The upper façade is trimmed by a corbelled brick cornice that includes radiused brick moldings. Projecting corbelled brick pendants with a triangular profile terminate in molded limestone blocks. The corbelled brick cornice was originally topped by a flat copper frieze and a projecting copper gutter. This has been removed along the south façade, exposing low-grade brick. A brick parapet with terra cotta coping was added along the south façade during the Colgate period, possibly to provide a base for the illuminated signs that were mounted on top of the walls. The copper cornice remains intact on the east, west, and north elevations. Corrugated copper downspouts and inverted pyramid-shaped scupper boxes appear to be original.

The five eastern bays of the south façade have been covered by Building No. 1-A (1924-29). The north elevation matches the design of the south façade but does not include the central pavilion. All north elevation windows have been replaced by translucent fiberglass panels or infilled with brick. The original roofing was metal or slate, which was replaced by corrugated fiberglass sheets during the Colgate period. Copper hip trim now in place may have been salvaged from the original roof.

The building was built as a large, open shell containing a free-standing five-tier cell block structure that did not connect to the exterior walls. Six hundred cells were arranged in five tiers of 120 cells fronting open galleries. The brick exterior walls are exposed on the interior and were originally painted a glossy white. Open steel roof trusses support steel angle purlins topped by tongue-and-groove wood decking. A wide wooden catwalk runs through the center of the trusses for the full length of the building. This catwalk is believed to have been used for maintenance, surveillance, and potentially for riot control during the Indiana Reformatory period. The corners of the building originally featured gun embrasures aligned with each cell tier for use in the event of a riot. The embrasures feature cast iron faces with splayed sides and a vertical, rectangular gun opening. The embrasures open from an internal tower built into the corner of the building and accessed from outside the cell house. Only the southeast tower remains intact and accessible. The doorway features a steel frame that once supported a plate steel door. The tower interior is roughly triangular in plan, with exposed brick walls. Wooden joists spanning between the walls support narrow wooden platforms at each embrasure level. These platforms were originally accessed by a ladder, now removed. A piece of wood mounted along one wall at the first embrasure level features a row of nails, likely to hold ammunition or other supplies. Access to the other towers has been blocked off but the embrasures remain visible within the cell house interior.

Colgate-Palmolive initially used the building as one large open space for soap cutting. A second floor was inserted into the west end of the building by 1931. This floor is supported by two rows of exposed cast-in-place square concrete columns with chamfered edges. The underside of the floor structure and its integral cast concrete beams are exposed. The second floor was later extended across the length of the building.
and a third floor was added, creating three complete levels. This alteration necessitated the lowering of the original window sills to provide daylight to the new first floor, as its ceiling is below the level of the original window sills. The later floors are supported by steel columns and beams. The west end of the first floor contained Colgate’s employee cafeteria; its finishes date to the 1980s, with no historic features. The remainder of the first floor features exposed structure with some small partitioned areas. The second floor was later built out as office space, leaving no historic fabric visible. The third floor remains open with exposed structure and remnants of industrial equipment. Building No. 4 retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, with the primary alteration being the infill of window openings.

Building No. 4-B, c.1902; 1983, Ventilation Room; Colgate Corridor Connection

Building No. 4-B is a one-story connector attaching Buildings No. 4 and 5. It was built c.1902-03 along with Building No. 5. The building originally housed an electric fan connected to the air shaft used to ventilate the adjacent Cell House C (Building No. 4). The building contains a ramp and corridor connecting Building No. 39 to Building No. 5. The building’s south façade is contiguous with that of Building No. 5 and was built at the same time. The façade is divided into two bays with one window opening in each bay. Each opening has a double rowlock segmental arch and a rock-face limestone sill infilled with metal louvers. A parapet is trimmed by rock-face limestone coping with a flat roof.

Resource 4: (C) Building No. 5, c. 1902; early 1920s, Prison Bathroom and Laundry; Colgate Employee Gymnasium and Locker Room (see photos 0004 and 0009).

Building No. 5 was built c.1902-03 inside the walls of the Indiana Reformatory. The first floor originally housed a bath room and laundry with a clothing repair shop and drying room at the second floor. It was built along with Building No. 4-B sometime between the completion of Building No. 4 in 1901 and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of December 1904. Both floors were used for storage by 1911. The building became visible from Clark Boulevard after Colgate demolished the western section of the south prison wall in the early 1920s. The building later contained Colgate’s employee gymnasium and locker rooms. The building is two stories in height with a very low side-gabled roof trimmed by stepped parapets at the east and west elevations. The building features red brick masonry bearing walls with rock-face limestone window sills and coping. The corners of the building feature radiused brick. All windows are topped by double-rowlock segmental arches and screened by grilles of diaper-patterned wire mesh. The first floor has two-lite wood sash casement windows with high sills. Second floor windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash. The south façade is divided into five bays, with two windows at the first floor and one at the second in each bay. The west elevation was originally divided into five bays, with one window at each level in each bay. The northern bay was later altered by the infill of the windows and the installation of smaller steel sash casements in punched openings. The south façade is topped by a metal gutter connected to plain round downspouts while the east and west elevations feature corbelled brick parapets with brick moldings and raised squares. The east elevation is divided into five bays with one window in each bay at the second-floor level. The first floor of the east elevation is covered by Building No. 4-B. The north elevation is covered by Building No. 39 (1951).

Resource 5: (C) Building No. 7, c. 1904-1911; 1937, Reformatory Grinding Room; Colgate Soap Powder Packing

Building No. 7 is a surviving fragment of a building built sometime between December 1904 and April 1911, possibly incorporating the western wall of an earlier building. It housed the grinding room of the Indiana Manufacturing Company’s shop within the Indiana Reformatory. The Colgate-Palmolive Company used the building for soap powder packing. More than half of the building was demolished to make way for Building No. 8 (1937). The one-story factory building has brick masonry bearing walls and a low gabled roof. The building is connected to Building No. 8 on the south and Building No. 11 on the
The east and west walls feature cast-in-place concrete up to the level of the window sills, above which the walls are of multi-wythe brick construction. The east elevation is covered with aluminum siding. The west elevation is concealed within a courtyard between Buildings 7, 8, 11 and 39. The west elevation is divided into five bays, with a large rectangular window opening in each bay (boarded over). The building retains its raised clerestory monitor but the exterior sides of the monitor have been boarded over and covered with roofing material. The interior is one large space with exposed masonry walls, exposed steel trusses, and an exposed wooden roof deck resting on steel purlins.

**Resource 6:** (C) Building No. 8, c. 1937; 1976, Joseph & Joseph, Colgate Octagon Soap Manufacturing (see photos 0027-0030).

Building No. 8 was built in 1937 and was designed by the Louisville firm of Joseph & Joseph, architects and engineers in 1936. The building was designed to house the Octagon Soap manufacturing lines and remained in operation from 1937 until c.1976, when Colgate consolidated manufacturing operations, and the upper floors have been unused since that time. The five-story factory building is a cast-in-place concrete structure. The concrete columns and beams are exposed at the exterior, with infill of red brick or banks of windows. Cast-in-place brackets extending from the columns of the north wall indicate that the building was designed for future expansion. Bays with windows feature a brick knee wall and concrete sill below the window opening. The 1936 architectural drawings show the original steel factory sash that have since been replaced by glass block with smaller view sash, louvers, or other openings set into them. The building is divided into ten bays north-south and five bays east-west. Stair towers are located along the east end of the building. The stair towers project above the flat roof, as does an east-west clerestory spanning the full width of the fifth floor. All garage door openings contain replacement roll-up doors except for one opening at the east elevation of the third floor. This opening may have once connected to the now-demolished Building No. 10. It retains a set of horizontal folding wooden garage doors.

The interior of Building No. 8 features exposed concrete structure, including round columns with tapered “mushroom” caps and the underside of concrete floor slabs. The concrete has been painted on some levels but remains mostly unpainted at the fifth-floor level. Maple floors laid in a herringbone parquet pattern remain to varying extents at the second through fifth floors of the building, with some areas removed after past water damage. The walls are of red brick, currently painted. The stairs themselves are cast-in-place concrete flights with wire mesh set into the treads to form a textured surface. Metal pipe railings and handrails appear to be original. A two-bay-wide clerestory at the fifth-floor level originally housed equipment. This space features round concrete columns with angular cast-in-place brackets that appear to have once supported beams to hold equipment. Most of the soap production equipment has been removed from the building. Building No. 8 retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, the primary alteration being the replacement of the original steel factory sash.

**Resource 7:** (NC) Building No. 11, 1952, Colgate Ajax Cleanser Production and Building No. 38/38-A 1951 and 1964 (see photo 0021).

Building No. 11 was built in 1952 as an addition to the earlier Building No. 7 and once served as a part of the production line for Ajax cleanser, introduced in 1947. The small lean-to structure is open to Building No. 7 on the south. The walls are of red brick, possibly salvaged from earlier buildings on the site. The building’s exterior is largely concealed by the later additions of Buildings No. 38 and 38-A.

**Building Nos. 38 and 38-A, 1951 and 1964**

Buildings No. 38 and 38-A are interconnected wings built in 1951 and 1964. These structures have been altered by remodelings, leaving little historic fabric visible. The 1951 core of the building appears to have been a three-story structure of glazed tile wall construction. The 1951 building is concealed by a four-
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD
Name of Property

Clark County, IN
County and State

story, metal-constructed addition on its east façade. This addition, and three metal silos on the roof of the 1951 building and the roof of the addition date to the 1970s. These additions, plus alterations and lack of integrity to the period of significance, renders this resource a non-contributing building.

Resource 8: (C) Building No. 13, 1949, Colgate Power House; Building No. 14 1885; 1904; 1918; 1949; Building No. 14-B c. 1975; and Building No. 14-E c. 1949; c. 1980 (see photos 0010, 0016, and 0020).

Building No. 13 was built in 1949 to replace the former Indiana Reformatory power house that Colgate had upgraded in the 1920s. The building is approximately six stories in height, with a central monitor rising an additional two stories. The exterior walls are composed of buff-colored glazed tile enclosing a steel structure. The east and west elevations are the building’s primary facades, with the south elevation being largely concealed by the earlier Building No. 14. All masonry openings extend approximately five stories in height. These were originally filled with steel factory sash, with all but two now replaced by aluminum frames holding a mix of single and paired casement sash and translucent fiberglass panels. One opening on the west elevation retains its original steel factory sash. The south elevation includes a clerestory ribbon window with its original steel factory sash above the roof of the adjacent Building No. 14. The interior of the building features exposed steel structure and exposed glazed tile exterior walls. Internal floor decks and walkways provided access to various levels of equipment. Building No. 13 retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, the primary alteration being the replacement of most of its original steel factory sash.

Building No. 14, 1885; 1904; 1918; 1949, Inmate Dining Room and Prison Kitchen; Engine Room; Colgate Engine House in connection with Power House (see photos 0016 and 0020).

The core of building No. 14 was built in 1885 as a part of the Indiana State Prison South. The building, consisting of the main east-west portion of the present structure, contained the inmate dining room at the first-floor level and the Falls City Broom Company’s broom factory at the second floor. One-story extensions to the north and west housed another dining room, as well as the prison kitchen and bake house. A wing extending south was added by May 1891. By 1898 the first floor had been converted into a dynamo and engine room, with a dining room and sleeping rooms on the second floor, with additional uses implemented by 1904. The second floor was removed from the eastern half of the building between 1904 and 1911, creating a larger open dynamo and engine room. In 1917, the boiler, heating, and electric plant facilities underwent a $25,000 upgrade. The building’s western extensions were demolished after the 1918 fire. The building served as the engine house in connection with the adjacent boiler house (Building No. 13) during the Colgate Palmolive period. A very tall, tapered circular brick smoke stack was built within the walls of the western end of the building in the 1920s and bore the letters “OCTAGON SOAP” on its south face. The smoke stack was demolished down to just above roof level sometime between 1987 and 2000 and the stub was covered with a modern membrane roof. The building was expanded in 1949 by the addition of Buildings No. 13 and 14-A.

Building No. 14 has a brick masonry bearing wall exterior. The walls of are two stories in height, reflecting the building’s original interior configuration. A brick cornice with corbelled brick moldings and dentils trims the south, west, and east elevations. The primary south elevation is largely covered by a metal shed structure and a large storage tank. The building’s openings have been modified creating a variety of window and door openings. The western section of the façade retains three segmental arches marking the location of former openings at the second-floor level. The eastern section of the façade has four rectangular nine-lite steel factory casements at the second-floor level. The south elevation of the south wing has three rectangular window openings with modern replacement sash at the second-floor level. All openings on the east elevation have been infilled but the historic fenestration pattern...
remains visible. Seven infilled window openings with double rowlock brick segmental arches and limestone sills occur at regular intervals at the original second floor level. The building’s north and west elevations are concealed by Buildings No. 13, 14, and 14-E. Building No. 14 retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, having undergone many alterations during that period, the primary alteration being the infill of many windows and demolition of the smokestack.

**Building No. 14-B, c. 1975 (see photo 0020).**

Building No. 14-B is a metal-sided equipment building built c.1975.

**Building No. 14-E, c. 1949; c. 1980, part of Colgate Power House**

Building No. 14-E was built c.1949 as part of Building No. 13. Pairs of tall window openings are located on the south and west facades, they are covered with fiberglass panels. The exterior walls are composed of buff-colored glazed tile with limestone coping. Building No. 14-E retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, its primary alteration being the replacement of the original steel factory sash.

**Resource 9:** (C) Building No. 18, 1923/24, Colgate Glycerine Department Building (see photos 0010 and 0019).

Building No. 18 was built in 1923-24 to house a glycerine refinery that produced all the glycerine needed for Colgate’s many household products. It was initially known as the Glycerine Department Building and was the only new building built during the conversion of the Indiana Reformatory into the Colgate-Palmolive factory. The building is built against the east prison wall and the upper part of its east elevation sits on top of the wall. The building is approximately three stories in height, with a low gabled roof and central clerestory monitor running north-south. The east and west elevations are each divided into four bays by projecting pilasters. The first-floor level of the west elevation originally featured large doorways, which have been infilled by brick or wood with metal siding. The south bay has a pair of window units while the other bays have a bank of three window units. All openings are capped by steel lintels. The upper façade features a corbelled brick frieze and cornice. The parapet is trimmed with a simple terra cotta coping. The clerestory features steel sash windows of similar design to those found on the upper level, with two sash per window unit. Two windows were cut through the prison wall and contain divided-lite steel factory sash. The north and south elevations of the building have been covered with modern corrugated metal siding. The upper half of the masonry walls at the north and south elevations were removed sometime between 1975 and 2005, with a modern steel structure installed to hold the metal-sided wall to the lower masonry and the steel roof trusses. The building’s interior is a single open space filled with equipment and piping. Although the north and south elevations have been altered, the primary east and west elevations retain integrity to the period of significance.

**Resource 10:** (C) Building No. 27, 1926, Colgate Glycerine Reclaiming Building (see photos 0011 and 0019).

Building No. 27 was built in 1926 as the Glycerine Reclaiming Building. It is a one-story building with brick masonry exterior bearing walls rising from a cast concrete foundation. The building was built against the east prison wall with a low gabled roof. Pilasters divide the exterior walls into bays. The west elevation is divided into four bays. The two center bays once contained a pair of 12/12 double-hung wood sash window. These were among the only historic wood sash windows remaining in the district and have been covered with plywood and plastic-coated tarping (it is unknown if the windows remain). The north and south bays contain a window and a door, respectively. The north elevation is divided into four bays. The two eastern bays have been covered by other additions. The western center bay has a roll-up garage door, and the reconfigured western end bay has a steel sash window and a metal pedestrian door. The interior is one large room with three rows of timber columns running north-south. These columns support timber beams that carry roof joists that are supplemented by bow-shaped steel tension rod and
bracket assemblies that appear to be original. The underside of the exposed roof deck reveals three former skylight openings. Building No. 27 retains integrity to the period of significance.

**Resource 11:** (C) Building No. 30, c. 1909, Indiana Reformatory Stable and Building No. 31, 1916, Indiana Reformatory Garage (see photo 0017).

Building No. 30 was built c. 1909 as the stable of the Indiana Reformatory, replacing an 1890 frame stable. Building No. 30 was set into the corner between Clark Avenue (now closed) and a perpendicular alley, with the stable’s courtyard open to the alley. The building has a hipped roof, originally clad in composition shingles and now clad in rolled roofing. Historic photographs show hipped dormers, now removed, centered on the south roofs of the east and west wings and the west roof of the north wing. The building features window openings with segmental, double-rowlock brick arches and limestone sills; the windows are boarded over. Remaining wood windows visible from the interior have fixed 12-lite sashes. The courtyard was enclosed between 1940 and 1955. A hayloft is supported by steel and wood beams which in turn support wood joists and flooring. The steel beams bear the “ILLINOIS” stamp of the Illinois Steel Co. Despite the loss of dormers and courtyard addition, Building No. 30 retains integrity to the period of significance.

Building No. 31, 1916, Indiana Reformatory Garage (see photos 0017 and 0018).

Building No. 31 was built in 1916 as the automobile garage of the Indiana Reformatory. The one-story building’s simple exterior reflects its utilitarian function. The exterior walls are of red brick with cast-concrete lintels. The façade features eight single-car garage doors. The original garage doors were replaced during the mid-twentieth century with wood paneled doors, and these have since been replaced with fixed, ribbed-metal paneling. Terra cotta coping trims the top of the parapet and a low shed roof sloping to the rear. A wood-frame shed addition spans between Buildings No. 30 and 31. Despite the loss of its original garage doors, Building No. 31 retains integrity to the period of significance.

**Resource 12:** (C) Building No. 39, 1950/51, Albert Kahn Associates, Warehouse (see photos 0025 and 0026).

Designed by Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit, Building No. 39 was built between 1950 and 1951 by the Struck Construction Company of Louisville, Kentucky. Originally designed as a warehouse, the building connects Buildings 8 and 40. The rear part of the building covers the site of the c.1897-98 Indiana Reformatory hospital. Building No. 39 is a two-story building with a flat roof. The building’s exterior was designed to correspond with the earlier Building No. 40, with walls composed of buff glazed tile with limestone sills and coping and bands of glass block ribbon windows. The building’s south façade is largely concealed behind the earlier Buildings No. 4 and 5. Glass block ribbon windows at the first and second floor levels are the primary exterior feature. A ribbon window along the west elevation contains steel sash casements. The first-floor features exposed concrete structure, including the roof and floor slabs and round columns with tapered “mushroom” caps. A bank of roll-up garage doors along the north elevation accommodated outgoing shipments by truck. The second floor features large, open factory floor space with exposed steel columns and roof structure. A one-story open porch or breezeway originally spanned the façade of the building, providing a connection to the building. This breezeway was enclosed to form a hallway during the construction of Building No. 45 (1960).

**Resource 13:** (C) Building No. 40 (C) 1941/42; 1947/48, Albert Kahn Associates, Toilet Articles Building; Laboratory; Packaging and Distribution (Art Moderne style) (see photos 0022-0026).

Building No. 40 was designed by Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit and built during 1941-42 by the Turner Construction Company of New York. This building was Kahn’s initial project at the Jeffersonville
Plant and holds Kahn’s base job number for the site: 1895. Also known as the Toilet Articles Building, it was the only Colgate era building designed to present an entrance front to Clark Boulevard. The building originally housed production lines for Colgate, Cashmere Bouquet, and Palmolive brand toothpaste, talcum, and face powder. The building’s exterior reflects the Art Moderne style of the late-1930s and early-1940s with its curved corners and ribbon windows as well as the stripped classical style of the same period in its massive entrance pavilion and simplified portico. An expansion of the building was designed in 1946 by Albert Kahn Associates (job 1895-L) and built 1947-48.

The exterior walls are composed of buff glazed tile with limestone sills and coping. The central section of the building is a tall one-story factory floor flanked by multi-story wings at the east and west. The central section extends forward to form an entry pavilion facing Clark Boulevard. This pavilion features a hexastyle portico in antis framed by large expanses of solid wall. The upper façade originally bore the name “COLGATE PALMOLIVE PEET CO” in thin metal letters. The portico columns are square limestone shafts with fluted faces, having no capitals or bases. The intercolumnar voids are filled with glass block. A single one-over-one double-hung bronze anodized aluminum replacement window is centered in each glass block expanse at the second-floor level. Historic photographs show the glass block and the smaller punched openings. Limestone steps lead up to a double door opening filled with bronze anodized replacement doors, framed by a limestone surround and a semicircular canopy. The flanking multi-story wings are set back behind the entry pavilion. Each features a radius outer corner and bands of ribbon windows with limestone sills at each floor. Historic photos suggest that these ribbon windows were originally fitted with steel factory sash forming ribbons of square casements. All are currently filled with glass block. The east wing is four stories in height while the west wing is two stories in height.

The entry pavilion houses a central entrance hall. This rectangular-shaped room features a two-tone terrazzo floor in black and cream. A curved staircase of black terrazzo rises from the west wall, curving up past a glass block window. The staircase retains its bronze handrails. Construction documents and photographs in the archives of Albert Kahn Associates show that the lobby and staircase walls were originally clad in book-matched Flexwood®-brand wood veneer mounted over plaster walls. The walls are currently painted, and it is unclear whether the wood veneer remains. The lobby originally featured a ceiling with a raised central tray framed by a plaster cove and containing four strips of flush-mounted linear light fixtures. The original ceiling is concealed by suspended acoustical ceiling tile. The open factory floor at the central part of the south half of the building features a tall roof extending above the side wings. The sloped sides of this roof were originally long skylights illuminating the factory floor but have since been covered over. Spaces within the side wings originally featured exposed glazed tile walls and glass block ribbon windows. These have been painted or covered with furring and drywall in many areas. The second floor of the west wing contained Colgate’s research and development laboratory, its finishes and casework date to c. 1990. The north half of the building contained packaging and distribution services. Its first-floor features exposed concrete structure, including the roof and floor slabs and round columns with tapered “mushroom” caps. A bank of roll-up garage doors along the north elevation accommodated outgoing truck shipments. The second floor features large, open factory floor space with exposed steel columns and roof structure. Building No. 40 retains a good degree of integrity to the period of significance, its primary alteration being the replacement of the original steel sash with glass block.

Resource 14: (C) Building No. 40-A, 1960, Albert Kahn Associates (see photo 0022).

Designed in 1959 by Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit, Building No. 40-A was built in 1960 adjacent to the west side of Building No. 40. Stylistically different from Building No. 40, this building was Kahn’s job 1895-V. The building’s plan includes stepped-back corners to accommodate the curve of Clark Boulevard. It is a tall one-story building with a flat roof. The building’s south façade is a windowless wall.
of buff glazed tile rising from an exposed concrete foundation. The glazed tile is like that of Building No. 40 but is more yellowish in color, matching Building No. 45. The west elevation has two levels of small, rectangular openings, some contain metal louvers and others have four-lite steel sash casements. The building’s interior is one large open space with exposed steel structure, exposed tile exterior walls, and an exposed concrete floor slab.

**Resource 15:** (C) Building No. 44, 1849; 1911; 1924; 1931; 1955, Prison Warden’s House; Colgate Employee ‘Residence’/Club/Store (see photos 0010 and 0012-0015).

Building No. 44 was originally part of the double house built to house the keeper and warden of the State Prison and represents the earliest surviving fabric of the prison complex. The double house and outbuildings were built and occupied by the Warden and lessee in 1849. A historic photograph of the western half of the façade indicates the Greek Revival-style trends of the 1840s, having double-hung windows with rectangular stone sills and lintels and a wooden frieze and cornice. The western house had a side-hall plan, with the façade divided into three bays, with windows in the western and center bays and a recessed entry in the eastern bay. The eastern house had a double-pile plan with similar exterior elements. The double house was part of a domestic complex in the triangular area east of the prison wall between State Street (now Clark Boulevard) and the diagonal Clarksville Avenue (later Clark Avenue, now closed); this street formerly ran southeast-northeast from the southeast district boundary to the Guard House vicinity.

The house underwent several changes, including an addition in 1861. Sanborn Maps for 1886 and 1891 show a domestic complex around the house that included a cistern, a frame servants’ dwelling, a circular ice house, an octagonal pavilion, a frame stable, and various sheds and small frame outbuildings. The property underwent significant changes in 1895. The eastern house was extensively remodeled with the addition of a projecting bay to the façade and a round turret to the east elevation. The outbuildings were removed and a stone wall along the State Street (Clark Boulevard) sidewalk, visible in many historic photographs, was built at this time. The property continued to evolve during the Indiana Reformatory period. By 1911, the double house had been combined into one large Superintendent’s Residence.

In May 1924, the first operating contingent of Colgate employees arrived and occupied the house, then known as the Residence. By 1931, the house was used as an employee club with a bowling alley in the east rear wing. The front section of the house was demolished in the early 1950s along with the stone wall. A remodeling in 1954-55 connected the two wings and provided a Modern façade for the employee recreation center, which now contained a lobby and restrooms. The building later housed the employee credit union and a company store where employees could purchase Colgate-Palmolive products at cost.

The 1955 façade is divided into three bays. The one-story façade is clad in red Roman brick laid in a common bond pattern and is capped by limestone coping. The outer bays have no openings. The center bay features a central entrance flanked by groupings of six wood fixed-sash windows at either side. A shed-roofed canopy projects over this bay. The western end of the canopy is framed by a projecting wing-wall. This wall is composed of the same Roman brick as the façade, but the brick is laid in a stacked bond pattern. The surviving mid-nineteenth century wings at the rear are one-story, with brick walls laid in common bond and painted. The gable-front roofs are trimmed by simple wood friezes. The west wing retains the roof of its incised porch. The east wing has square window openings with high sills, now filled with replacement sash. Part of the east elevation of the east wing is covered with modern wood siding. The east wing retains a pressed-metal ceiling featuring a pattern of square recessed coffers and a coved cornice, likely installed in the early years of the Colgate-Palmolive period. The intact 1955 façade and the
surviving fabric of the 1840s rear wings provide this building with enough integrity to connect with its historic significance and to contribute to the significance of the district.

**Resource 16:** (C) Building No. 45, 1960, Office Building (International Style) (see photo 0025).
Designed by Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit in 1959, Building No. 45 is a one-story, flat-roofed office building built in 1960. The project is recorded as Kahn job 1895-W. The exterior walls are composed of buff glazed tile. Aluminum storefront framing with a clear anodized finish fills all openings, with windows either single or in pairs. Each window unit features top and base panels of a yellowish-brown porcelain enamel with a small in-swing awning sash below a large fixed sash. A west elevation canopy projects a flat roof supported by two square steel columns. The exterior of the building has experienced few changes since Albert Kahn Associates’ post-construction photographs were taken in 1960.

**Resource 17:** (NC) 24. Guard House, c. 1955, Colgate Guard House (see photo 0011).
The Guard House is a one-story structure built against the remaining segment of the northeast prison wall. The core structure has brown brick walls on a concrete foundation rising to limestone window sills. Above sill level the building features a continuous ribbon of aluminum replacement windows. The building has been altered several times, compromising its integrity: a c. 1975 addition is clad in red brick; a modern standing seam metal shed roof; and a ca. 1990 metal canopy. The building’s compromised integrity renders it non-contributing within the district.

**Resource 18:** (C) Prison Wall (Structure) 1891-1894; 1920s; 1955 (see photos 0010-0012 and 0019).
The Indiana State Prison grounds were enclosed by a combination of brick walls and wooden fences. The primary prison site was enclosed on five sides, the fifth being a diagonal formed by the south line of Clarksville or Clark Avenue. A brick wall twenty-five feet high and three feet thick completely enclosed the main site by March 1886 but the adjacent State Prison Shops stood outside the wall and were enclosed by a board fence twenty feet high. The directors of the prison reported in 1890 that the fence needed to be replaced and Warden Patten suggested that the new wall would require approximately 2,500,000 brick. Construction of a new wall to replace the board fence and the older brick wall was begun in October 1891 and completed by October 1894. This new wall was 2,704 feet long with three guard towers and was designed by Patten himself. The wall featured a pilastered exterior accented by arches. It was thirty-six feet high and six foot ten inches thick at the foundation. The façade of Building No. 1 was rebuilt at this time “in order to harmonize the appearance of the wall.” Portions of the wall were demolished by Colgate during the 1920s, the largest segments being along Clark Boulevard in front of Buildings 2 and 4. Most of the remaining wall was intact as of 1940, but by 1955, all that remained was the east wall and a small segment of the northeast wall, the extent of the wall that remains today.

The remaining segment of the 1891-94 walls is of red brick with limestone trim. Twenty-five bays of the east wall remain along with three of the northeast walls. The bays are delineated by projecting pilasters or buttresses supporting segmental brick arches with limestone keystones. The wall features a corbelled brick cornice, including three corbelled courses of radiused brick forming a projecting molding. The interior face of the wall is a smooth brick surface with four courses of corbelled brick forming a cornice. The corners are accented by projecting pilasters and continuous limestone belt courses extend across each bay. The two bays at the northeast corner originally rose up to form a guard tower; this is the only remaining segment of one of four corner guard towers. Window and door openings have been punched through the wall along the side of Buildings 18 and 27. The Prison Wall retains adequate integrity to be a contributing structure.
Resource 19: (C) Reservoir (Structure) built between 1904 and 1911; modified between 1931—1964 (See photo 0016).

The first reservoir on this site was built sometime between 1904 and 1911 to provide a source of water for fighting fires within the Indiana Reformatory walls. As originally built it was 21 feet deep with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The reservoir appears to have been covered during the 1940s and 1950s and is not visible on aerial photographs from 1940 or 1955. Sometime between 1931 and 1964 the reservoir was modified or rebuilt to hold 600,000 gallons, with a 730,000-gallon settling basin at its south end. The reservoir remains in use as a part of the existing fire suppression system. The reservoir is a long, rectangular concrete structure set into the ground. Oriented north-south, it was located between Building No. 3 and Buildings 17 and 25, which were demolished 1993-96. Ca. 1920s cast concrete beams span east-west, dividing the reservoir into 17 bays. Smaller perpendicular beams divide each bay into two equal halves. These beams appear to have once supported a cover for the reservoir. A metal-sided shed houses pump equipment that is believed to date from the Indiana Reformatory period. The reservoir’s visible surface features are in poor condition. The concrete beams have suffered from heavy spalling, with exposed rebar on their lower faces. Several beams have collapsed while others are partially collapsed. The reservoir has adequate integrity to be a contributing structure.

Resource 20: (C) Colgate Clock (Object) 1924 (see photos 0001, 0004, and 0005).

The Colgate Clock was installed on the upper level of the Administration Building’s tower (Building No. 1) by the Colgate Company, which housed their administrative offices in the building from 1924 to 2008. A flat roof was built along with new steel supports for the 40-foot diameter clock, which was originally built for Colgate in 1906. The Art Deco-style, octagonal shaped (for Octagon Soap), mill-aluminum clock with metal hands continues to serve as a local landmark. The Colgate Clock retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance and is the most recognizable resource within the district.
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.)

- [x] 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.)

- [ ] 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
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Social History
Health/Medicine
Politics/Government
Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance
1882-1924 (Social History)
1899-1911 (Health/Medicine and Politics/Government)
1924-1960 (Industry)
1849-1960 (Architecture)

 Significant Dates
1847, 1893-94, 1899-1901, 1907, 1918, 1924, 1942

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Elder, John
Clarke & Loomis
Loomis, Arthur
Clark, C. J.
Joseph & Joseph
Kahn, Albert

Period of Significance (justification)
A period of significance has been identified for each area of significance:
The period of significance for Social History has been identified as 1882-1924, part of the full period of the site’s operation as a prison. Although refaced and expanded in the 1890s, Resource 1/Building No. 1 contains the core of the original Administration Building completed by the time of the prison’s opening in 1847. This represents the district’s earliest surviving resource, followed by the remaining rear wings of Resource 15/Building No. 44, dating to 1849. However, Building #2, built in 1882, is the oldest prison building with reasonable integrity, and therefore begins the period of significance. The Indiana Reformatory vacated the property in 1924 and it assumed operation as the factory of Colgate & Company that year, marking a clear end to the period of significance.

The period of significance for the areas of Health/Medicine and Politics/Government has been identified as 1899-1911. Harry C. Sharp began his sterilization experiments on inmates in 1899, developing the eugenic sterilization program over the next few years. Sharp actively campaigned for a statewide eugenics law until its passage in 1907 and continued the campaign for similar laws across the country during the following years. Sharp remained the physician of the Indiana Reformatory until 1908, performing more than 450 inmate sterilizations during the nine years that he oversaw the program. Sharp resigned his position in 1908 to serve on the Reformatory’s board of directors. He remained a director through 1911 and, in this capacity, continued to publicize the Reformatory’s sterilization program and to campaign for eugenics laws in other states following the Reformatory’s model. Governor Marshall’s 1909 moratorium on sterilizations curbed Sharp’s program but sterilizations continued at lower rates until his departure from the board in 1911. The period 1899-1911 encompasses Sharp’s nationally significant eugenics work as well as Superintendent W. H. Whittaker’s work drafting the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law that would serve as a model for subsequent sterilization laws.

The period of significance for Industry has been identified as 1924-1960. Colgate officially opened the facility in 1924 and significant construction within the district was completed by the end of 1960. The installation of the Colgate Clock and the construction of Building No. 18 (1923-24) marked Colgate & Company’s additions to the district at the time of the Jeffersonville Plant’s opening in 1924. Alterations to existing buildings dating from the State Prison and Reformatory periods completed the initial phase of construction. Substantial construction in the district concluded in 1960 with the completion of Resource 14/Building 40-A and Resource 16/Building 45. Although Colgate-Palmolive remained a prominent American brand after 1960 and would continue to manufacture its products in the district until 2008, the historic fabric of the district suggests a cutoff date of 1960.

The period of significance for Architecture has been identified as 1849-1960. The earliest visible resource within the district reflecting the design and construction techniques of its period is the rear part of Resource 15/Building No. 44 (1849). The latest contributing resources were completed in 1960, after which no substantial construction occurred within the district. This period encompasses all construction during the Indiana State Prison, Indiana Reformatory, and Colgate periods.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Name of Property                   County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its contribution to social history during part of its period as a state prison and reformatory (1882-1924), for its significance in the areas of health, medicine, and government as a part of the national eugenics movement (1899-1911), and for its contribution to commercial and industrial history during its ownership by the Colgate-Palmolive Company (1924-2008). The district is also eligible under Criterion C for the distinctive architecture and integrity of its resources. The district has statewide significance in the areas of Social History, Commerce, and Industry. The district achieved national significance in the areas of Health/Medicine and Politics/Government during the period 1899-1911, when it served as a national center for the display, dissemination, and promotion of eugenic programs and policy.

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

The district’s areas of significance are addressed individually below:

Social History 1882-1924
The district achieved significance in the area of Social History during its period as the Indiana State Prison and Indiana Reformatory, as approaches to the treatment of convicts evolved with changing attitudes toward punishment and reform.

The opening of the new Indiana State Prison on this site in 1847 and early attempts to reform its operation took place during a period of reform that saw the creation of state institutions to address the unmet needs of Hoosier citizens. The late-1840s saw the opening of new institutions like the state asylums for the deaf and dumb (1846), the blind (1847), and the insane (1848). These institutions attempted to meet the needs of Hoosiers with disabilities, providing some level of treatment and training with the goal of allowing their inmates to become healthy, productive citizens. While these institutions may have reflected the best intentions of reformers, the reality of mid-nineteenth century treatment for the blind, the deaf, and the mentally ill often fell far short of their expectations.

The State Prison likewise struggled to achieve its mandated function and structure. Reports of the widespread abuse of prisoners by the prison lessee pushed the state legislature of 1846 to place the inmates under the control of a warden and a board of trustees who reported to the governor. Provisions were made to provide the inmates with a “moral instructor,” a physician, and a library, but the pleas and proposals of these officials fell on deaf ears. The prison’s operation remained focused on the contracting out of inmate labor, a practice that grew increasingly unpopular both for its competition with civilian labor and for its visible parallels to slavery in the American South. Inmates were whipped with the cat-o’-nine-tails for failing to complete assigned tasks and assignments were often reported to be physically impossible for one inmate to fulfill in the allotted time. Malnutrition and poor sanitation led to widespread health issues that would remain constant for decades. The lack of adequate educational opportunities would be cited again and again in the annual reports of prison officials.
These conditions reflected the corruption and cruelty of many of the State Prison’s managers and the ambivalence of leaders toward the fulfillment of the goals they had set for the institution, particularly when those goals required expenditure of public monies. The 1851 state constitution explicitly stated that “the penal code shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice,” but it would be more than 45 years before the State Prison’s goals and management aligned with this mandate. Overcrowding and an increasing population in central and northern Indiana led to the establishment of a second state prison at Michigan City in 1859. When the new Indiana State Prison North opened in 1861, the Jeffersonville site became the Indiana State Prison South.

The early-1860s saw a drop in prison population due to the Civil War and the opening of the State Prison North, but the population returned to pre-war levels by 1866 and continued to grow. The facility was plagued by overcrowding, inadequate funding, and corrupt management. The publication of former inmate James Harrie Youngman’s memoir State Prison Life in 1871 stoked public outrage at the conditions within the prison. The opening of the Indiana Reformatory for Women and Girls in 1873 finally removed female inmates from the dangers and abuses they had suffered at the State Prison South. Allegations of corruption and official investigations further compromised the image of the institution during the 1870s. The practice of contracting out inmate labor also remained unpopular.

By the 1880s concerns arose about recidivism and the negative effects of mixing younger adult offenders convicted of minor crimes with hardened criminals thought to be beyond reform. The creation of the Board of State Charities in 1889 provided central supervision for all state institutions and helped to address the corruption and mismanagement that had plagued the State Prison for decades. The 1890s saw many changes at the prison as modern, scientific approaches to corrections were introduced and prison facilities were improved. These changes reflected the beginning of the Progressive Era in Indiana.

The 50-year period spanning from the Indiana State Prison’s opening in 1847 to its conversion to a reformatory in 1897 encompassed the arc of nineteenth century prison reform in Indiana, with the system evolving from its initial focus on vindictive justice and the exploitation of cheap labor to a modern system focused on the reform of inmates and their reintroduction to society as productive citizens. The prison’s history reflects the challenges faced by state institutions during the last half of the nineteenth century, particularly the failure of legislators to adequately fund programs mandated by state law.

The conversion of the property into the Indiana Reformatory in 1897 reflected a turning point in the treatment of convicts in Indiana. Following the model of New York’s Elmira Reformatory, the Indiana Reformatory focused its efforts on rehabilitating convicts between the ages of 16 and 30, preparing them for productive life as law-abiding citizens rather than punishing them. This reflected the influence of the national prison reform movement and marked the first time that the facility had operated under the premise set forth in the 1851 state constitution.

While the Indiana Reformatory struggled to meet its goals during its first two years, by 1900 the institution had evolved from a nineteenth century prison focused on punishment to a modern reformatory complete with an ever-growing number of trade schools and programs intended to reform the inmates while providing them with the skills to seek a productive, honest livelihood upon release. In 1850 most of the State Prison’s inmates were farmers and were expected to return to manual labor in a rural environment. By 1900, the Indiana Reformatory was focused on the preparation of its inmates for skilled work in an increasingly urban, industrial Indiana. The Reformatory’s programs continued to expand through the remainder of this period, reflecting an increasing range of skill sets suited to the economy of early twentieth century Indiana.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD
Name of Property

Clark County, IN County and State

Health/Medicine and Politics/Government 1899-1911
The district achieved national significance in the areas of Health/Medicine and Politics/Government during its period as the Indiana Reformatory, when prison leaders implemented the first eugenic sterilization program in the U.S., promoted the first statewide eugenics law, and campaigned for similar sterilization laws across the country.

Harry C. Sharp played a significant role in the development of this coalition by his ceaseless promotion of the eugenic cause during his tenure as physician of the Indiana Reformatory and later as a member of the board of trustees. The Indiana Reformatory served as the working model of an institution with a eugenic sterilization program operating on modern scientific principles. Superintendents Whittaker and Peyton served as enthusiastic supporters of the program both within the Reformatory itself and in its expansion as a state-wide law. A 1909 speech at the Annual Congress of the American Prison Association indicates the reception Sharp met with during his eugenics crusade: “we have received no antagonism from the medical profession, or from the sociologist, and are encouraged by the ministry itself,” with the only protest coming from “the great and mighty legal profession”. Sharp’s ongoing advocacy brought national attention to compulsory eugenic sterilization and contributed to the practice’s endorsement by influential groups and publications like the Journal of the American Medical Association.

While the eugenics movement seems, from a 21st century perspective, to have consisted primarily of cruel victimization of the marginalized and the disabled, it was understood in its time as a modern, progressive, and humane means of addressing contemporary social problems. Eugenics promoters like Sharp seem to have genuinely believed that their approaches were humane, scientific, and progressive. The goal of eugenicists like Sharp was to eliminate mental illness, physical disability, and criminality to provide a better life for future generations. Today these beliefs can be naïve and unscientific, and the concept of eugenics is associated with some of the worst abuses of the twentieth century: scientific racism, forced sterilization, and the horrors of Nazi Germany. In the context of the Progressive Era, however, the eugenics movement was untainted by the consequences of its application and seemed to offer the promise of a better future. Within this context the Indiana Reformatory’s eugenic sterilization program and the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law stood at the forefront of the national eugenics movement. The Reformatory served as a working model of the Indiana Plan and its physician and superintendent served as visible and energetic expert advocates for eugenic policies, influencing and impacting the eugenics movement nationwide.

The district provides the most direct connection to the persons, places, and events associated with the Indiana Reformatory’s role in the national eugenics movement. The first eugenic sterilization program was developed at the Reformatory by Dr. H. C. Sharp, W. H. Whittaker was Superintendent of the Reformatory at the time that he drafted and promoted the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law, and the convicts who were sterilized were inmates of the Reformatory. While the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law was ultimately passed and signed into law at the Indiana State House in Indianapolis, the basis and text were developed at the Indiana Reformatory by Reformatory officials. Refer to Developmental History/Additional Historic Context information for discussion of the national influence of Indiana’s eugenics program.

While the site experienced dramatic alterations after the 1918 fire and subsequent conversion into a factory, significant portions of the Reformatory’s fabric remain to provide a connection to this period of significance. The district retains some structures directly associated with the Reformatory’s role in the eugenics movement, while others have been lost. Sharp’s surgeries, research, and promotional work were likely centered in the hospital building, demolished during the early part of the Colgate period. The work...
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Name of Property: Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD
County and State: Clark County, IN

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of Superintendent Whittaker in drafting and promoting the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law and the work by his successor, David C. Peyton, in promoting eugenic policies is most closely associated with the Reformatory’s Administration Building (Resource 1/Building No. 1), which housed the office of the Superintendent. Buildings 2 and 4 housed many of the inmates who were sterilized, with the latter building built during the years that Sharp developed his sterilization program.

Industry 1924-1960

The district achieved significance in the areas of Commerce and Industry during the Colgate-Palmolive period, when it served as a regional manufacturing center for a wide range of hygiene and cleaning products associated with the rise of American consumer culture in the interwar and post-World War II periods. Colgate & Company was established in 1806 in New York City and its brands were household names by the time that the company purchased the Indiana Reformatory in 1923. The opening of Colgate’s Jeffersonville Plant in the district in 1924 reflected the company’s growth and its strategies for improving the delivery of its many products to the national market. Colgate selected the site due to its proximity to Louisville, a city with easy access to the national rail network. The idea of purchasing the existing Reformatory complex and adaptively reusing the prison buildings reflected a creative and progressive approach to the development of a new manufacturing facility.

The Jeffersonville Plant included signage bearing the names of Colgate’s signature brands at a scale large enough to be clearly visible from the other side of the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky. These consisted of the octagonal Colgate Clock (originally installed at its Jersey City Plant in 1906 to advertise Octagon Soap), a smokestack bearing the brand name “OCTAGON SOAP”, and rooftop lighted signs bearing the name “COLGATE & CO.” as well as “SOAPS,” “PERFUMES,” and “OCTAGON PRODUCTS.” Although the rooftop signage and smokestack have been removed, the Colgate Clock remains an iconic part of the skyline of Louisville, Jeffersonville, and Clarksville.

The evolution of the company and its products, from the merger forming Colgate-Palmolive-Peet in 1928 to the debut of iconic postwar brands like Ajax scouring cleanser in 1947, reflected the growth and expansion of consumer culture in the United States during the interwar and post-World War II period. Rising demand for the company’s cleaning and personal hygiene products ensured continued growth throughout the Great Depression. The post-World War II economic boom created a period of unprecedented wealth and consumerism running from the late-1940s through the 1960s. American companies like Colgate-Palmolive faced little international competition from Europe, where industries and infrastructure had to be rebuilt following wartime destruction. The good wages and quality benefits enjoyed by Colgate-Palmolive’s union employees during this period reflected national trends of high union membership during the postwar period. High rates of union membership gave organized labor the power to negotiate for wages and benefits, boosting the quality of life for employees and contributing to the rise of affluence in communities like Clarksville. These trends reinforced the power of workers’ households to take part fully in the consumer culture of the postwar period.

Architecture 1849-1960

The district is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its distinctive architecture and high integrity. The district’s buildings reflect a range of structures and styles from vernacular buildings of the 1840s through mid-20th-century industrial structures built in 1960. These resources retain integrity to the period of significance, contributing to the district’s strong sense of place and unique architectural character.
The original prison building was designed by Indianapolis architect John Elder (1785-1851), a prominent designer of public buildings around the state during the 1840s and built between 1842 and 1847. Although part of this structure remains within Building No. 1, it is concealed by a new façade and additions dating to the period 1893-1900. Resource 15/Building No. 44 (1849) may also have been designed by Elder or Edwin J. Peck, an Indianapolis-based construction superintendent responsible for public construction projects around Indiana during the 1830s and 1840s. Demolition of the front wing of this building has left only the rear wings, bearing vernacular Greek Revival-style details characteristic of the late-1840s.

Documentation suggests that the original 1840s prison buildings were of vernacular design with simple Greek Revival-style influences. The reconstruction of Resource 2/Building No. 2 during 1880-82 set the precedent for prison buildings of a distinctly different architectural character. While the original prison buildings were simple and utilitarian, the new cell house featured careful articulation and a polychrome brick and limestone exterior with arched windows, a corbelled brick cornice, and elaborate chimneys. The design combined Italianate, Romanesque, and polychrome Gothic Revival-style design elements to create an expression comparable to that of contemporary churches, schools, and other civic structures. The building’s location within the prison walls ensured that only the upper part of the façade and roof were visible to outsiders, with many of the architectural features visible only to inmates and prison staff.

Significant construction work between 1891 and 1901 transformed the exterior appearance of the prison while providing more adequate accommodations for inmates. The prison wall and façade of Building No. 1 were rebuilt between 1891 and 1894. This project transformed the formerly plain exterior with polychrome Gothic Revival and Romanesque design elements. A subsequent project during 1899-1900 bookended Building No. 1 with a Romanesque tower and an addition with Neoclassical design elements. These projects gave the complex a castle-like appearance while reinforcing its place as a civic landmark of Jeffersonville and Clarksville. Cell House C (Resource 3/Building No. 4) was replaced with a new building built during 1899-1901. The Louisville architectural firm of Clarke & Loomis is believed to have been responsible for much of this transformation. A significant feature of Clark & Loomis’ design for Building No. 4 was the provision of gun embrasures aligned with each cell tier for use in the event of a riot. All embrasure faces remain in place and the southeast tower remains accessible.

The early buildings built within the complex by Colgate & Company were vernacular factory buildings (Resources 9 and 10/Buildings 18 and 27). The construction of the Art Moderne style Resource 13/Building No. 40 (1941-42) reflected Colgate’s continuing prosperity through the Great Depression years and represented the company’s most significant architectural statement visible to the public. This building and subsequent Colgate era structures were designed by Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit, the preeminent industrial architecture firm in America during the first half of the twentieth century. Founded in 1895 by Prussian-born architect Albert Kahn (1869-1942), Albert Kahn Associates was responsible for numerous Detroit landmarks as well as revolutionary factory designs. Kahn was a leader in the development of modern factory design, working with automobile manufacturers Packard and Ford as the automotive industry refined the assembly line system. Kahn’s factory designs combined cutting-edge steel-reinforced concrete structure and large banks of steel factory sash to provide efficient factory buildings accommodating production lines. Kahn also believed that the exterior appearance of a factory was critical both for its impact on the morale and productivity of workers and for the company’s image in the community. To this end, he believed that “the best results are generally the simplest, the most direct solutions of a problem in which a virtue has been made of the structural and functional requirements.”
The Kahn firm received many commissions for factory designs across the United States between 1935 and 1945, including new facilities at Colgate-Palmolive-Peet’s Jeffersonville Plant. The Colgate-Palmolive projects were identified as Kahn project No. 1895, with letters added for each subsequent job within the project site (1895, 1895-A, 1895-B, etc.). Resources within the district fall between jobs 1895 and 1895-W. The Kahn firm continued to provide architectural services for remodeling and additions to facilities on site through 1989. After the completion of Resource 16/Building No. 45 (job 1895-W) in 1960, Kahn was not commissioned to design another building at the Jeffersonville Plant until 1969 (job 1895-X).

Kahn’s design for Building No. 40 recalls an earlier project, the Lady Esther cosmetics plant in Clearing, Illinois (1936). The Lady Esther plant featured a wide one-story building with radius eared corners and continuous steel sash ribbon windows. A projecting two-story pavilion housed an entry lobby, with the entrance set within a tall bank of glass block recessed into the facade. Building No. 40 uses the same form, with the addition of fluted columns reflecting the neoclassical style of the 1930s. The production floor of both buildings featured a two-story central bay illuminated by clerestory windows forming a glazed mansard roof. Kahn’s design was intended to increase productivity and efficiency while improving the employee experience through design features such as a grand entry lobby for use by all staff.

The Kahn-designed buildings within the complex helped Colgate-Palmolive-Peet expand production during the 1940s while redefining its public image along Clark Boulevard. Changes in architectural expression during this period reflect the influence of architectural Modernism on industrial design. Postwar structures like the new façade of Resource 15/Building 44 (1955) and Resource 16/Building 45 (1960) feature simplified exteriors, bold massing, and contrast of solids and voids.

Many buildings within the district were altered during the period of significance, including changes to the State Prison and Reformatory buildings during the conversion into Colgate & Company’s Jeffersonville Plant in 1923-24. Such buildings, such as the former Guard House, were altered by Colgate to the point where their association is to the industrial period of the property. Later alterations to the buildings consist primarily of the infill or replacement of windows, replacement of roofing materials, and the addition of internal partitions and finishes. Resources that have been severely altered to the point that their historic character from either the Reformatory or Colgate periods is no longer visible or evident have been classified as non-contributing. Most of the resources within the district retain enough integrity to contribute to the architectural significance of the district.

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Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Name of Property

Clark County, IN

County and State

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

Summary
Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District is in Clarksville, Indiana, immediately adjacent to the western limits of the City of Jeffersonville and across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky. The district was developed as the second home of the Indiana State Prison, in operation from 1847 until its conversion into the Indiana Reformatory in 1897. The Reformatory occupied the site until 1924, when the buildings were remodeled into a regional factory for the Colgate-Palmolive Company. The district includes a complex of 17 buildings, two structures, and one object built during the State Prison, Reformatory, and Colgate-Palmolive periods.

Background (1821-1842)
In 1821 the Indiana State Legislature authorized the construction of a state prison at or near Jeffersonville, Indiana. Although far from the new capital city of Indianapolis, laid out at the center of the state in 1821, this location along the Ohio River was intended to provide easy access from Indiana’s southern counties, then the state’s most populous region. The site selected was near Jeffersonville’s Commercial Square, near the present day crossing of Interstate 65 over W. Riverside Drive.

The State Prison was created to allow prison sentences to take the place of whipping as punishment for crimes while also helping to reduce the burden placed on county jails and local sheriffs tasked with imprisoning convicts. The legislation created a board of managers who appointed officers of the prison and an agent to whom the facility would be leased. The agent would be authorized to hire out the labor of the convicts and the Jeffersonville Ohio Canal Company was considered as a potential first contractor. An appropriation was made for construction of a prison building, followed by an 1823 appropriation for a brick or stone wall to enclose one acre of the prison grounds.

Both male and female prisoners were sentenced to hard labor at the State Prison and female inmates were not provided with separate quarters until 1828. By 1840 the prison housed 128 inmates, one of whom was female. All convicts worked from sunrise to sunset to accomplish assigned tasks, receiving compensation if they were able to perform additional duties beyond these tasks. Some inmates worked within the prison walls as wagon makers, coopers, blacksmiths, carpenters, painters, and tailors while others worked outside the prison chopping wood, driving teams of horses, making bricks, and performing general labor. Prisoners were whipped with a cowhide as punishment for disobedience or unsatisfactory conduct. The official “Visitor to the State Prison” for 1840 noted that shooting was “far preferable” to whipping as a means of punishment for the convicts and reported that two prisoners had been shot for insubordination during the calendar year.

As the prison population grew, the lessee was forced to assign ever greater numbers of prisoners to work outside the walls, making the population increasingly difficult to manage and discipline.

Dorthea Dix (1802-1887), a social reformer and activist on behalf of the indigent mentally ill, visited the old prison in 1846. Dix was investigating the condition of mentally ill paupers across the country and found conditions in the Indiana State Prison to be “worse beyond all comparison than any cells I ever saw allotted to human creatures.”

State officials had also come to this conclusion and a new prison was under construction at the time of Dix’s visit.

The Indiana State Prison served as the only state prison for more than 30 years and would remain at the forefront of prison reform in the state through the second decade of the twentieth century. Throughout this period, prison reform in Indiana focused on two primary concerns: improvement of conditions for inmates
and preparation of the inmates for life outside of prison. Reformers “did not always have the most progressive or tolerant of ideas,” and concepts considered progressive in their own time often seem shocking by contemporary standards.\(^{32}\)

**Indiana State Prison (1847-1897)**

Development of the district site began in the early-1840s. In 1842 the General Assembly passed legislation authorizing the purchase of land for a new State Prison, the use of convict labor for construction, and the appropriation of funds for construction. Land was purchased a few blocks west of Jeffersonville’s city limits, within the plat of Clarksville but far outside the developed segments of the town. For this reason, the prison’s location was always listed as Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Chartered in 1783, Clarksville was the first American settlement in the Northwest Territory and is Indiana’s oldest incorporated town. The land was part of 150,000 acres ceded by the State of Virginia to George Rogers Clark and his officers in honor of their service in the American Revolution. Clark’s cousin William Clark surveyed the land and laid out the town of Clarksville on 1,000 acres.\(^{33}\) Clarksville experienced slow growth and was eclipsed by the nearby towns of Louisville, Kentucky, and Jeffersonville, Indiana, by the 1820s.\(^{34}\)

Indianapolis architect John Elder (1785-1851) was hired to design the new prison.\(^ {35}\) Elder had become one of the state’s most prominent architects and builders of the 1830s and 1840s. Among his works were the State Bank of Indiana and Indianapolis Branch of the State Bank (both completed in 1840), and the Clinton (1836-39), Bartholomew (1839), Rush (1846-48), Fayette (1847-1849), and Johnson (1849-50) County Courthouses. Elder also prepared the preliminary designs for two new state institutions at Indianapolis, the Indiana Institute for Educating the Deaf and Dumb (1848-50) and the Indiana Institute for the Education of the Blind (1848-51). Elder was “never a good financial manager,” and fell into debt with creditors. He left Indianapolis in the spring of 1850, became sick, and died in California in 1851.\(^ {36}\)

S. H. Patterson, contractor for prison labor, built most of the cell house at the new prison using inmate labor. On December 21, 1846, the General Assembly appointed John Elder, Lucian Barbour, and Edwin J. Peck as commissioners to assess the progress of the construction project.\(^ {38}\) The commission was instructed to assess the work needed to complete the prison buildings and to estimate the cost of completing any unfinished work. The task also included an estimate “for the construction of a keeper’s and warden’s house” (later known as Building No. 44).\(^ {39}\) Elder and Peck brought extensive experience in the construction of public buildings. Edwin J. Peck (1806-1876) came to Indiana in 1833 to serve as superintendent of masonry work on the Indiana State House (1833-36), designed by the prominent New York architectural firm of Town & Davis. Peck is said to have been instrumental in changing the early custom of merchants paying contractors in goods rather than cash.\(^ {40}\) Lucian Barbour (1811-1880) was an Indianapolis lawyer and had been appointed U.S. District Attorney for the State of Indiana in 1844. Barbour later served as U.S. Representative from Indiana in the 34th Congress (1855-57).\(^ {41} \)

The new State Prison was completed in 1847 and the prison’s 132 inmates were moved in on October 25.\(^ {42}\) The old prison was sold in 1850 and later demolished.\(^ {45}\) The new State Prison consisted of an office and guard house (later called Building No. 1), a cell house (later Cell House B / Building No. 3) that could accommodate 200 inmates, and a high brick wall enclosing the grounds. The connected buildings were of brick on random ashlar stone foundations. A cupola rising from the roof provided a lookout point for guards and was reported to be the most visible part of the complex when approaching from Jeffersonville.\(^ {44}\) The prison’s bell was mounted in an iron frame near the south end of the roof.\(^ {45}\)
The design of the original cell house established a standard form for subsequent cell houses built at the prison over the next twenty years. The building measured 144 feet long by 60 feet wide. The stone foundation was three feet thick and extended up roughly 15 feet above the first floor. A stone band across the top of the foundation formed the sill for the first level of windows. The upper walls were of brick, 20 inches thick. Two levels of windows were provided with iron bars at the exterior side. The walls were capped with heavy stone coping, lending an appearance that early visitors described as “castle-like.” The shell of the building formed an independent enclosure over a free-standing internal structure. A heavy masonry structure 110 feet long and 28 feet wide rose from the center of the room. The cells formed two back-to-back rows on three tiers fronting open galleries supported by scrolled iron brackets. The galleries were accessed by a staircase at the south end of the cell block near the guard hall and were enclosed by very light iron pipe railings. Each cell measured four feet wide, seven feet deep, and seven feet high to the top of the vaulted ceiling. A heavy iron door provided security and blocked most of the light from the windows. Each cell was provided with a straw mattress, a small wooden bucket of drinking water, and a “night bucket” (chamber pot). The bed could be turned up against the wall and fastened with a hook, leaving a space of about three by seven feet for the inmate to move around. The area between the exterior walls and the inner cellblock structure was known as the “hall.” It measured 13 feet wide and had a floor paved with brick set in a deep bed of cement. Eight large coal stoves provided some heating in the cavernous space.

The prison complex evolved gradually over the following decades. Maintenance issues and fires were frequently cited in annual reports by prison officials. The prison suffered numerous fires from 1849 through 1918, and funds for repair were often unavailable and many buildings sat in semi-ruined states for extended periods of time.

The 1840s and 1850s saw a wave of social reform across the United States including attempts at prison reform. In 1846 management of the Indiana State Prison was shifted from the prison labor lessee to a warden and a board of directors who reported to the governor. The 1851 state constitutional convention included discussion of prison reform and the final document explicitly stated that “the penal code shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice.” In an attempt to separate juvenile offenders from hardened criminals, the 1851 constitution required the General Assembly to provide houses of refuge for juveniles but subsequent legislatures refused to appropriate the funds to build these facilities until 1867. Further attempts at reform followed in the mid-1850s. An infirmary was established, and a prison physician was appointed to make daily visits to attend the inmates’ medical needs. The position of “Moral Instructor” was also created. This official was tasked with superintending “mental and moral improvement” of the convicts, preaching on the Sabbath, visiting sick inmates, and running a prison library. Despite these reforms, the legislature sanctioned the continued use of corporal punishment at the discretion of the warden. This continued the practice of whipping inmates with the cat-o’-nine-tails, a whip composed of nine knotted thongs designed to lacerate the skin while causing intense pain.

Construction within the prison walls continued during the 1850s as the institution struggled to keep up with a rising population. Over the decade between 1849 and 1859 the prison’s inmate population soared from 131 to 556, with a new cell house under construction by 1855. The rapid increase in the number of inmates at the State Prison during its first decade of operation led Warden David W. Miller to call for the construction of a second state prison in a northern county. Construction of the Indiana State Prison North at Michigan City was authorized in 1859 and built between 1860 and 1865.

The Jeffersonville facility was renamed the Indiana State Prison South, and the prisons were also known as the Northern Indiana State Prison and the Southern Indiana State Prison, respectively.

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The health of the prisoners was a constant concern for prison officials and state administrators. Many health issues resulted from malnutrition, with scurvy being prevalent. An 1869 newspaper article noted that “The bill of fare is cornbread every meal, bean soup every dinner, beef three times a week, pork three times a week, potatoes every morning, hominy once a week, occasionally pickles, and, nearly all the spring, vegetables.” The report also noted that meals were eaten in silence and that prisoners were segregated by race, with African Americans seated at separate tables at one end of the room. A bathing house was constructed in 1850, and a hospital building was built during 1850-51 to better address the inmates’ sanitary and medical needs. The prison’s filthy, moldy condition was described repeatedly by visitors and officials. An 1860s description of a cell written by a prisoner is typical of reports from this period: “the floor was damp and slippery, and slimy mildew clung to the cold walls. The smell was like an old dead house or cave. I took hold of the blanket… and found it fairly stiff with dirt and filth. The bed was damp and mildewed…”

Sanitation remained a problem for decades; a cholera outbreak in the summer of 1849 killed 26 inmates. Contagious disease remained a problem with several smallpox epidemics during the 1860s and cases of tuberculosis remaining common through the end of the Indiana Reformatory period. The lack of adequate sanitary facilities and adequate drainage also contributed to the spread of disease. Much of the disease that plagued the State Prison South originated in overcrowding and terrible drainage on the grounds, which eventually caused a “cesspool of filth” outside the cell houses. In 1874, Warden Schuler reported 1,200 cases of different diseases, which included 200 of dysentery and twelve fatalities.

Drainage remained a long-term problem. The prison was built on marshy ground and poor drainage ensured muddy yards and standing water within the walls, creating prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. Dampness pervaded the interior of the buildings, particularly the masonry cell houses. This condition would not be resolved until 1890, when a new 3,600-foot-long sewer was built to drain the prison property directly to the Ohio River.

The prison’s early attempts to reform the convicts through education focused on the provision of reading materials. This effort included the purchase of “two hundred and seventeen volumes of moral and religious books selected by Miss [Dorthea] Dix” in 1850. Each inmate was furnished with a Bible and allowed to borrow one library book every two weeks. In 1855 ten gas jets were added to the cell house hall for night-time illumination, but the lighting was insufficient for reading within the cells. Inmates were typically allowed four candles per month for illumination within their cells. The prison library appears to have been heavily used but was often neglected. Moral Instructor John W. Sullivan’s 1868 report is representative, noting that the library was in “run down, worn out, and almost worthless condition.” Sullivan also suggested the “incalculable” good that would result from providing gas light within the cells to allow prisoners to study by reading their Bibles and books borrowed from the library. In 1890 a room on the second floor of Building No. 1 was fitted for use as a library, including the installation of carpet, furnishings, a ceiling with decorative painting, and walnut bookcases with glass doors to house the 800 to 1,000 books. By 1911 the library had been relocated to the first floor of Building No. 3, directly below the chapel. Educational efforts during the Indiana State Prison period (1847-1897) were limited in scope, focused primarily on religious and moral instruction through reading, Sunday schools, and occasional night-school type programs to provide basic literacy.

Reports from prison officials for 1855 highlight issues and needs that would be cited again and again in annual reports through the 1890s. Reform of convicts through education and moral instruction was advocated by most of the prison’s chaplains and moral instructors throughout the five decades before the prison was converted into a reformatory. Statistics recorded in the prison’s annual reports indicate that as
In 1861, prison officials reported that a new law reducing inmates’ terms for good behavior resulted in “a great change for the better” in the conduct of the prisoners. A Louisville reporter who visited the prison in 1869 noted that “its exterior appearance would be gloomy and uninviting even to persons unacquainted with the fact that it is a penitentiary. It has been in existence for over twenty years and begins to show some signs of age.”

The practice of leasing out inmate labor to private contractors remained controversial throughout the Indiana State Prison period. The contractors paid a per diem rate for each inmate’s labor while discipline and care of the inmate remained the responsibility of the warden and prison officers. Harsh discipline, particularly the frequent whipping of prisoners with the cat-o’-nine-tails, seemed all too familiar in a nation that had abolished slavery and its similar abuses in the previous decade. Clark notes that “as citizens of a northern and largely Republican state, many Hoosiers would have despised any connection to the American South.” Use of the cat-o’-nine-tails was officially abolished in 1880 but whipping of uncooperative inmates continued at a lower rate.

The operation of the Indiana State Prison was hampered by mismanagement and corruption for much of the nineteenth century. Official appointments were not based on experience but rather on political favors and patronage. Colonel Laurence S. Shuler was appointed Warden of the State Prison South on January 1, 1869 and provides a typical illustration of the actual or alleged corruption of prison officials. Shuler found that “the entire Prison is in a state of decay,” highlighting the “very dilapidated condition of the Prison walls,” and hired architect George B. Cooper to superintend repairs and improvements to the buildings. The Warden received an annual allowance “for the purpose of maintaining Sheriffs, visitors, and others who may make his house a stopping place while visiting the prison on business, etc.” Prior to Shuler’s term, the Warden received about $25 per year to cover the cost of entertaining visitors. Shuler initially received $200 per year, but this was increased to $400 per year by the Board in 1873. An investigation was conducted in 1875 regarding alleged mismanagement of the prison and Shuler’s use of prison materials and labor for his own personal profit. Shuler’s work improving the Warden’s House (Building No. 44) and gardens was documented by the investigation. The investigation led to Shuler’s departure in 1875.

The inmate population increased significantly during the 1870s, climbing from 388 in 1874 to 626 by 1878. Overcrowding became an issue once again and the legislature authorized the construction of a new cell house (Building No. 2). In 1889 the Indiana General Assembly created the Board of State Charities (BSC) to provide central supervision of all state institutions. The BSC communicated with institution officials, the governor, and the legislature, as well as inmates. This change in oversight helped to correct the widespread corruption and mismanagement that had plagued the State Prison.

During the 1890s the State Prison system began to see improvements under the oversight of the BSC, and attempts to apply modern, scientific approaches to corrections began to be considered. In 1895 Indiana adopted the Bertillon Method, a systematic means of recording the identity of inmates by taking photographs of each man from several angles, a recording a series of physical measurements, and documenting physical features like eye color and birthmarks. Developed by French criminologist
Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1914), the system was introduced in the United States in 1887 by R. W. McClaughry, Warden of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet.73

Significant construction between 1891 and 1901 transformed the exterior appearance of the prison while providing more adequate accommodations for inmates. The prison wall and façade of Building No. 1 were rebuilt between 1891 and 1894. This project transformed the formerly plain exterior with polychrome Gothic Revival and Romanesque design elements. A subsequent project during 1899-1900 bookended Building No. 1 with a Romanesque tower and an addition with Neoclassical design elements. These projects gave the complex a castle-like appearance while reinforcing its place as a civic landmark of Jeffersonville and Clarksville. Cell House C (Building No. 4) was replaced with a new building built during 1899-1901. The Louisville architectural firm of Clarke & Loomis is believed to have been responsible for much of this transformation.

The firm of Clarke & Loomis was formed in 1891 by C. J. Clarke and Arthur Loomis and continued until Clarke’s death in 1908. The firm had completed at least one other prison project, a 400-prisoner cell house for the Kentucky State Penitentiary at Frankfort, built in 1893.74 Loomis was a native of Jeffersonville and the firm designed several important buildings in the city, including St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1894), the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library (1903-04), the Citizens Bank & Trust Building (1908), and the Masonic Temple (1926-27).75

The prison wall reconstruction included the enclosure of additional property to the west that had previously been contained by a tall wooden fence. This space contained buildings occupied by the contractors who leased inmate labor, including the foundry and shops of the Indiana Manufacturing Company, makers of hollowware and other goods.

**Indiana Reformatory (1897-1924)**

During the 1890s, Indiana prison officials began to examine the program for inmate reform and education like that in use at the Elmira Reformatory in Upstate New York. The Elmira facility, under the superintendence of penologist Zebulon Brockway (1827-1920), was seen as a model of modern prison reform, with educational and trade schools, physical activity programs, inmate classification, and an incentive program, all designed to rehabilitate rather than punish the convicts. Indiana officials began plans for the conversion of one of the state prisons into a modern reformatory based on the Elmira model.

The Indiana State Prison South was converted into the Indiana Reformatory on April 12, 1897.76 As a reformatory, the facility would attempt to rehabilitate convicts between the ages of 16 and 30, with a goal of making them into productive, law-abiding citizens.77 This process was regarded as a revolutionary change in Indiana’s prison system, fulfilling the 1851 state constitution’s assertion that “the penal code shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice.”78 All inmates of the State Prison South over age 30 and all serving life sentences—more than 300 men—were loaded onto a train and relocated to the Indiana State Prison North at Michigan City, now the only Indiana State Prison. At the same time, all inmates under age 30 at the State Prison North were sent by train to Jeffersonville, with the two trains passing each other north of Indianapolis. This conversion involved the renaming of both facilities, with the Indiana State Prison South becoming the Indiana Reformatory and the Indiana State Prison North becoming the Indiana State Prison.

The creation of the Indiana Reformatory occurred at the beginning of the Progressive Era, a period of political reform and social activism that stretched from the 1890s through the 1920s. The Progressive Era saw advancements in the social sciences and a focus on modernization and reform of existing systems.
The Progressive Era overlapped with Indiana’s Golden Age, a period ranging from roughly 1880 to 1920 that saw the flowering of Hoosier literature and art, the rapid construction of the nation’s most comprehensive state-wide electric interurban light rail system, the rise of automotive manufacturing, attempts to improve education and other public services, and efforts to modernize state institutions.

The Indiana Reformatory achieved national significance as a leading institution in Progressive Era approaches to eugenic treatment of social problems. In his study of the American reformatory movement, historian Alexander W. Pisciotta notes that: “America’s most ‘innovative’ treatment strategy came from an unlikely source: the Indiana Reformatory… [which] introduced a number of modifications in prison science and the medical model which placed it at the forefront of the progressive Era reform debate.”

The Reformatory’s administrators laid out a model eugenics program and publicized its design, goals, and impact. These leaders actively campaigned for a state-wide eugenics law inspired by the Reformatory’s program and the Reformatory’s superintendent drafted the 1907 Indiana Eugenics Law, spreading the practice of eugenic sterilization to other state institutions like the state hospitals for the insane. After the passage of the law, Reformatory leaders continued to campaign for the adoption of similar laws in other states. The eugenics program was not part of the original vision for the Reformatory and developed after the core aspects of the new system had been implemented.

The new Reformatory’s administrators faced many obstacles in the conversion of the aging prison into a modern reformatory. Deferred maintenance, lack of sanitary facilities, and overcrowding remained a problem and the old State Prison lacked the types of educational programs needed to achieve the goals of reformation. Its administrators attempted to create new trade schools and educational programs while implementing more scientific assessment and treatment of the inmates. The construction of a new Cell House C (Building No. 4) during 1900-01 helped to relieve overcrowding and provided modern sanitary facilities. The remaining facilities were cleaned, and ventilation was improved. Academic and vocational programs were introduced along with military drills and a system of parole. By 1901 the Reformatory seemed remarkably different from the old State Prison South.

Trade Schools
Educational programs were developed in the first decade of the twentieth century following existing models and saw early success. A “school of letters” was opened to accommodate inmates who were illiterate. The trade schools offered a wide variety of experiences and were designed to provide inmates with practical skills that could lead to successful employment upon release.

The Masonry Department provided instruction in stone cutting, brick-laying, rubble work, concrete work, and plastering. Divisions within these sections provided instruction in building stone cutting, monumental cutting, monument lettering and carving, and other specialties. The department built several buildings on the grounds during the Reformatory period. The Painting Department provided instruction in interior and exterior painting, paper hanging, graining, staining, sign painting, and decorative painting. Inmates from this school provided decorative painting in many of the Reformatory’s public spaces, including the Library, Chapel, and Dining Room. The Carpentry Department addressed maintenance work as well as cabinetmaking, furniture repair, wood carving and turning, and study of the basics of architecture.

The Engineering Department included work in the electric light and power plant, work on electrical machines, and service as firemen with the internal fire station in Building No. 14. The Mechanical Trade School included a machine shop and tool fabrication. The Foundry Department provided instruction in casting, with five classes of expertise. The Tinsmith Department provided instruction in sheet metal work,
The Farm and Garden Department furnished all the vegetables required for consumption by inmates. Twenty acres of land nearby were under cultivation and the department also took care of flower beds and lawns, and the position of an institution florist, filled by an inmate. The Culinary Department provided meals for more than 900 inmates as well as classes in cooking, canning, picking, and baking. The Trade School of Barbering provided instruction in shaving, hair cutting, shampooing, and hairdressing and provided haircuts to each inmate once per month. The Printing Department provided training in composition, printing, book binding and re-binding, and other skills related to full-scale publication, and published an internal paper called The Reflector. The Music Department featured the Indiana Reformatory Concert Band, and training in music and performances at chapel services.

Other departments included Tailoring, which taught clothes-making through the manufacture of inmates’ uniforms, and civilian clothing that was provided to each inmate upon release; Shirt Making that manufactured shirts for state institutions as well as for sale; Laundry, which addressed the washing and ironing needs of the Reformatory; and Shoe Department that provided instruction in leather shoe making.

**Eugenics: Dr. Harry C. Sharp and Compulsory Sterilization**

As a part of its scientific approach to inmate treatment, the Indiana Reformatory began to collect data on certain aspects of inmates’ backgrounds and family histories. Using this data, Reformatory administrators attempted to identify sociological and genetic factors that may have contributed to the inmates’ criminal behavior. Simplistic analysis of this data convinced prison officials that the inmates represented “a criminal class of psychologically inferior parasites who inherited their condition from their parents.”

In this context, behavior deemed morally compromising could be a medical disorder in need of scientific treatment. A medical approach to address moral concerns popularized a variety of treatments intended to discourage sexual behavior, most notably circumcision, the most common surgery recorded in the physician’s reports for the Indiana Reformatory period. These nineteenth century attempts to address moral concerns through surgical modification of the human body foreshadowed the eugenics movements’ attempt to address social problems through sterilization surgeries.

Dr. Harry C. Sharp, the Reformatory’s physician, “was the catalyst for Indiana’s experiment in eugenic prison science” and claimed to have had a revelation more than a year after sterilizing his first patient: “It was then that it occurred to me that this would be a good method of preventing procreation in the defective and physically unfit.” By 1906 Sharp had performed vasectomies on 382 inmates and his sterilization program was enthusiastically endorsed by the Reformatory’s managers. Sharp reported that a “vasectomy can be performed without an anesthetic and the patient may return to his work immediately following.”

Sharp faced many critics who considered his sterilization program to be a form of mutilation. While some nineteenth century advocates for the castration of defectives had argued that such treatment was more humane than execution, Sharp and other early-twentieth-century sterilization advocates argued that vasectomies were far less brutal than castration. Sharp argued that his sterilization program would “prevent people, of mental defect and transmissible physical disease [criminality] from procreating without, in any way, endangering life or incapacitating them in their enjoyment of life, health, and pursuit of happiness other than loss of procreative power.”
1907 Indiana Eugenics Law

Historian Mark A. Largent noted that Sharp’s sterilization program at the Indiana Reformatory “laid the foundation for the first successful compulsory sterilization law in the United States.” In the years between 1900 and 1907, Sharp campaigned on behalf of a state-wide eugenic sterilization law patterned on the Indiana Reformatory’s program. He encouraged the state to “make it mandatory that this operation be performed on all convicted degenerates.” W. H. Whittaker, superintendent of the Indiana Reformatory, was an enthusiastic supporter of the program and became a leader of the eugenics law movement in Indiana. On March 9, 1907, the Indiana State Legislature approved an act “to prevent procreation of confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles and rapists.” The act began with the preamble: “Whereas, heredity plays a most important part in the transmission of crime, idiocy, and imbecility.” The law was signed by Governor James Franklin Hanly, a politician known as “an anti-vice crusader and hard-line prohibitionist.” Following the law’s passage, Sharp praised the Hanly administration for “its efforts at race purity and civic righteousness.”

In September 1907 Sharp reported that he had performed 217 vasectomies “by voluntary request” and six under the authority of the law. By 1908, Sharp had performed vasectomies on 456 inmates, all of whom he reported to have become “brighter of intellect,” and “of a more sunny disposition” than before sterilization. But not all of Sharp’s patients were enthusiastic about the surgery and Sharp resigned his position as physician in 1908 to become a member of the Reformatory’s board of trustees. Sterilizations declined rapidly following his departure, and Sharp resigned from the board in 1911, a move that “effectively ended Indiana’s experiment in eugenics and social Darwinism.”

National Campaigns

During the period between 1900 and his resignation from the board in 1911, Sharp worked to promote the eugenic cause, campaigning for the adoption of eugenic sterilization laws across the United States. He promoted the Indiana Eugenics Law, drafted by Superintendent Whittaker and based on Sharp’s own program at the Indiana Reformatory, as a model state program under the name of the “Indiana Plan.” Attempts to pass compulsory sterilization laws had failed in Michigan and Pennsylvania before Indiana’s law was passed in 1907. The Indiana Eugenics Law was followed by sterilization laws in Washington, California, and Connecticut in 1909. Eight more states passed similar laws by 1913 while four more had passed laws vetoed by their respective governors. Within six years, nearly one-third of all Americans lived in states with compulsory sterilization laws. Sharp’s continuing advocacy played an important role in the spread of eugenic sterilization laws across the United States after 1907.

Many medical doctors of the period believed, as Sharp did, that the number of mentally, physically, and morally defective individuals was increasing at an alarming rate and argued for the eugenic value of compulsory sterilization to prevent society from being overrun by these individuals and their offspring. In 1908 the editors of the Journal of the American Medical Association “came out in favor of compulsory sterilization as a solution to the many complicated problems it believed originated in biological inferiority.”

Speaking at the Annual Congress of the American Prison Association in 1909, Sharp stressed that eugenic sterilization relieved “the great mass of weaklings from striving to care for their issue” while relieving society “of the burden of caring for the great army of public dependents.” Sharp’s contemporary, Chicago doctor William T. Belfield, published a 1909 article stressing the need to “restrict the procreation by these irresponsible parasites on society,” noting the improvement in the “financial, moral and social health of every community” in states like Indiana that had already passed such laws.
movement in general and the Indiana Reformatory’s eugenic sterilization program in particular seemed to offer a modern, scientific approach to social problems.

Repeal and Reinstatement
Indiana Governor Thomas Marshall (in office 1913-1921) and several legislators became increasingly skeptical of the program. In 1909 Appellate Court Judge Frank Roby expressed concern about the sterilization program to Governor Marshall, suggesting that the state reserve sterilization for extreme cases. Marshall issued a moratorium on all sterilizations that year “as legal officials across the country increasingly questioned the constitutionality of the various states’ eugenic laws.”102 In 1921, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the law was unconstitutional, citing denial of due process under the Fourteenth Amendment.

In 1925, a new sterilization law was proposed, creating a state eugenician and reinstating eugenic sterilization, but the law was defeated in the State Legislature. A revised sterilization law limited to “insane, feeble minded, or epileptic” individuals was introduced and passed in 1927 and expanded in 1931. Both the 1925 and 1927 laws were designed to target individuals housed within state institutions rather than the general population.103 Eugenic sterilization began again after the passage of the 1927 law and continued until 1974, when it was repealed by Governor Otis R. Bowen. It is estimated that 2,500 individuals in state custody were sterilized before 1974.

The Department of Research
Following the suspension of eugenic sterilizations in 1909, officials began to develop alternative programs for the treatment of inmates at the Indiana Reformatory. During the summer of 1912, prison officials and the scientific community created a department of research and a psychology laboratory within the Reformatory. These developments were soon followed by the creation of departments dedicated to sociological and medical research.

Dr. Rufus Von KleinSmid, director of the Department of Research, advocated for the treatment of inmates on an individual basis, following a doctor-patient model, stressing that the reformation of one individual “spreads its clarifying power over the mass.”104 Von KleinSmid “agreed that mental defectives (the insane, alcoholics, epileptics, etc.) made up a large portion of the inmate population,” but stressed that “the mentally defective criminal” required a different type of treatment from mentally healthy criminals.105 He sought to place mentally defective inmates in hospitals where they might receive medical treatment, allowing the Reformatory to focus on men who had the potential to be reformed through its programs. Warden Peyton believed that these new departments would advance prison reform by disseminating its findings on the impact of heredity and environment on criminal behavior.

The work of these departments during the 1910s marked a significant shift in the Reformatory’s approach to treating inmates, focusing on the treatment of mental and psychological conditions as a means of reforming inmates’ behavior. This stands in contrast to Sharp’s eugenic program of 1899 to 1909, where surgical modification of inmates’ bodies was a treatment for both individual behavioral issues and large-scale social problems. This new approach supplemented the Reformatory’s educational and training programs, working toward the goal of preparing each inmate for productive citizenship after his release.

Fire and Sale
The Indiana Reformatory suffered extensive damage in a major fire on February 6, 1918.106 The fire started in the cabinet shop of the Trade School Building. The Reformatory’s 1,250 inmates were removed from the cell houses and placed under guard in the new school building. By the time the fire was
extinguished, the Trade School Building, foundry, warehouse, and chapel had been destroyed, the Administration Building (Building No. 1) gutted, and cell houses A and B (Buildings 2 and 3) had suffered heavy damage. The total loss was $500,000. The State lacked funds for repairs and discussion of relocating the institution to an entirely new site were soon put forth. Superintendent Peyton immediately put inmates to work repairing some of the buildings to allow the Reformatory to maintain some level of operations. The Jeffersonville Chamber of Commerce and many citizens protested the proposed relocation of the Reformatory, citing the negative economic impact that its removal would have on the city. In December 1919 the State authorized the expenditure of $105,600 for improvements at the Reformatory. However, it was eventually decided that the Reformatory should relocate to a new site at Pendleton, Indiana, 30 miles northeast of Indianapolis. Architect Herbert W. Foltz designed the complex and the new Indiana Reformatory was opened in 1923 at a total cost of approximately $2 million.

Colgate & Company (1924-2008)
In 1921 New Jersey based Colgate & Company, manufacturers of soaps, toothpaste, and other household cleaning products, investigated the potential of converting the Indiana Reformatory at Jeffersonville into a new regional manufacturing plant for its products. Colgate intended to build a manufacturing plant in the Midwest to reduce shipping costs for its products. The company narrowed its list of cities to Indianapolis and Louisville before learning that the Indiana Reformatory at Jeffersonville was being offered for sale. Company president H. K. Colgate finalized a deal with Governor Warren T. McCray on March 13, 1921, although the State was required to go through a formal process of advertising for bids. No other bids were received and Colgate’s offer of $351,101.01, accompanied by a 30 percent deposit, was accepted on April 20, 1921. Jeffersonville citizens saw the new factory as both a source for several hundred jobs and an institution of more positive character for the city’s image than a state prison.

Colgate & Company was founded in 1806 by William Colgate (1783-1857) as a starch, soap, and candle business in New York City. Born in England, Colgate came to the United States in 1798, settling in New York City in 1804 at the age of 21. By the 1830s, Colgate was selling individual soap bars in uniform weights. In 1847, the manufacturing operations were relocated to Jersey City, New Jersey. Upon William Colgate’s death in 1857, his sons Samuel and Charles C. Colgate reorganized the business as Colgate & Company. The company continued to expand and was believed to be the largest soap and candle manufactory in the United States by the late 1860s. By 1870 the company was advertising its Cashmere Bouquet brand milled toilet soap, featuring “a novel but very delightful perfume.” The company introduced toothpaste in jars in 1873. During the 1890s Colgate introduced Octagon Soap, an all-purpose lye soap for laundry, dishwashing, and cleaning. This proved to be one of the company’s most successful brands. Bars of Octagon Soap were rectangular with chamfered corners forming an elongated octagon and the paper wrappers featured coupons. Colgate & Company introduced toothpaste in a collapsible tube in 1896. By the time of the company’s centennial in 1906 it was producing more than 800 different products. The company was incorporated in 1908 by Samuel Colgate’s five sons.

At the time of the Reformatory’s sale to Colgate, work had not yet begun on the new Reformatory at Pendleton. It was agreed that the Reformatory would remain in partial operation until 1924, with Colgate allowed to take ownership and begin some construction work in 1923. Colgate assumed ownership of the property in April 1923 and began remodeling existing buildings. Building 18 (1923-24) was the only entirely new building constructed at this time. Inmates remained in part of the facility until 1924, separated from Colgate’s contractors by a tall wooden fence. The last of the prisoners were removed from the site in 1924 and production began in June, with the first cases of Octagon Soap wrapped on July 4. Colgate celebrated the Jeffersonville Plant’s official opening on November 17. The event included a
banquet for officials of the Falls Cities (Louisville, Jeffersonville, and Clarksville), fireworks, and the illumination of the Colgate Clock atop Building No. 1.

Colgate & Company’s expansion during the 1920s included the construction of the central manufacturing plant in Jeffersonville as well as international plants in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. In 1928 Colgate merged with the Palmolive-Peet Company to form the Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company. Palmolive-Peet was the result of a 1926 merger of two earlier companies. Palmolive was established in 1864 as the B. J. Johnson Soap Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1898, the company began production of a floating soap made of palm and olive oil under the brand name Palmolive. The product was so successful that the company was renamed the Palmolive Company in 1916. Peet Brothers was established in 1872 in Kansas City, Kansas, as the manufacturer of Crystal White brand soap.

Colgate maintained close ties with the surrounding community. In 1925 the nearby Ohio Falls School was destroyed by fire. Colgate provided the former prison hospital for school use until the school could be rebuilt. The new school, designed by architect O. W. Holmes, was named the Colgate School in recognition of the company's benevolence.

Construction of new buildings began a few years after the plant opened. The Glycerine Reclaiming Building (Building No. 27) was completed in 1926 and Building No. 28, a six-story structure designed specifically for production of Super Suds soap was completed in 1927. In 1928 the company completed Building No. 29 (demolished in the late 1950s), an eight-story tower to produce Spray Soap. Building No. 8 was built in 1937 to keep up with demand for Octagon Soap. The Ohio River flood of January-February 1937 submerged most of Clarksville and Jeffersonville. Colgate employees and their families took shelter in the Jeffersonville Plant as the floodwaters rose. Operations were halted due to rising water and refugees were housed in Buildings 1 and 2 for eight days until the water receded. The ground floor of most buildings within the plant flooded. A bronze plaque adjacent to the main entrance of Building No. 1 marks the height of the peak of the flood on January 27, 1937, at 57.6 feet or an elevation of 460.6 feet. Because of the 1937 flood the Army Corps of Engineers built an extensive system of floodwalls, levees, and pumping stations to protect low-lying cities like Jeffersonville and Clarksville. The flood control system for Clarksville and Jeffersonville was completed in 1949. By 1940, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet employed 800 persons and accounted for almost half of the tax revenues of the town of Clarksville. The company continued to expand during the 1940s, with the construction of Buildings 34 and 40 (1942), 34-E (1947), and 13 and 14-E (1949). In 1941 Colgate announced that opening production lines in Building No. 40 would bring total number of employees at the Jeffersonville Plant to over 1,000.

Most of the major new facilities built at the Jeffersonville Plant after 1941 were designed by Albert Kahn, Inc., of Detroit, the preeminent industrial architecture firm in the United States. The Colgate-Palmolive projects were identified as Kahn project No. 1895, with letters added for each subsequent job within the project site (1895, 1895-A, 1895-B, etc.). Resources within the district fall between jobs 1895 and 1895-W. The Kahn firm provided architectural services for remodeling and additions to facilities through 1989.

The post-World War II economic boom created a period of unprecedented wealth and consumerism running from the late-1940s through the 1960s. American companies faced little international competition from Europe, where industries and infrastructure had to be rebuilt following wartime destruction. High rates of union membership ensured that organized labor could negotiate for higher wages and better benefits for employees of companies like Colgate-Palmolive-Peet. This boosted the quality of life of for employees and contributed to the rise of affluence in communities like Clarksville.
Colgate introduced Ajax scouring cleanser, one of its most successful postwar brands, in 1947. Fab detergent also debuted in the late-1940s. Postwar expansion of the Jeffersonville Plant included construction of the district’s largest building, Building No. 39, in 1951. In 1953 the name Peet was dropped and the company assumed its present name: the Colgate-Palmolive Company. Substantial expansion within the district continued with the construction of Buildings 34-E2 (1954), 40-A (1960), and 45 (1960). No substantial construction work occurred within the district after 1960. Additional warehouses and equipment buildings were built on property north of the district in the 1960s and 1970s. Colgate continued to introduce successful products during this period, including Palmolive dishwashing liquid (1966) and Irish Spring soap (1972 in the U.S.). Colgate-Palmolive was considered a leader in television advertising with its “White Tornado” and “White Knight” commercials during the 1960s. Colgate restructured its manufacturing operations nation-wide between 1993 and 1996. Prior to this time each regional plant had produced every Colgate product for regional distribution. The restructuring consolidated production of certain product lines at specific regional plants. The Jeffersonville Plant would become the production facility for all Colgate oral care products and was said to be the largest dentifrice factory in the world. The plant also became the sole production site for Ajax cleanser and Colgate shaving cream. Production of soaps moved to another plant and the Octagon Soap production lines in Building No. 8 were shut down. Large portions of the plant were vacated during this restructuring. As a result, eight buildings at the core of the site were demolished between 1993 and 1996, including Buildings 3, 12, 17, 25, 28, 34, 34-E, 34-E2. In 1996 approximately 250 to 300 of the plant’s 800 employees were laid off because of the restructuring, with all but 39 accepting retirement packages.

Research and development for the remaining product lines was centered in a laboratory in the second floor of Building No. 40. Colgate TotalTM toothpaste was developed in this laboratory and introduced in 1997, quickly becoming a market leader. During the 1990s and 2000s, most activity within the complex was centered in Buildings 39, 40, and 40-A. In 2005, Colgate-Palmolive announced that it would close the Jeffersonville Plant, relocating operations to a new factory in Tennessee. The plant closed in 2008 and has gone through a succession of owners with several unrealized plans for redevelopment. The recent owner intends to rehabilitate the site for a multi-use development, known as Clark’s Landing.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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


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Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Fifth Annual Report of the Warden of the Indiana State Prison, for the year ending Nov. 30, 1850.
Indianapolis: J. P. Chapman, 1851.


Indiana Constitution of 1851.


“Local Man is Designated as Reformatory Architect.” Indianapolis Star, December 30, 1921, 4.

Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Name of Property                  County and State


“Partial Destruction of the Indiana Penitentiary.” Daily Courier (Louisville, Kentucky), June 17, 1856.


“Prison Building Subject of Call.” Indianapolis Star, February 15, 1918.


“Prison Life.” Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), May 26, 1869.

The Prison South.” Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), February 15, 1887.

“Prison South Scorched.” Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), March 24, 1893.


“Soap Firm Bids for Building.” Indianapolis Star, March 15, 1921, 11.


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: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation, Indianapolis, IN

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ________________

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory:
019-446-60001 (Buildings 1, 1A, 2, 4, Colgate Clock) Outstanding
019-446-60003 (Building No. 44) Non-Contributing
019-446-60004 (Buildings 30 and 31) Contributing
019-446-60005 (Buildings 39, 40 and 40-A) Notable
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84: ____________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: ____________ Longitude: ____________
2. Latitude: ____________ Longitude: ____________
3. Latitude: ____________ Longitude: ____________
4. Latitude: ____________ Longitude: ____________

Or

**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16 Easting: 608724 Northing: 4237242
2. Zone: 16 Easting: 609310 Northing: 4237173
3. Zone: 16 Easting: 609335 Northing: 4236999
4. Zone: 16 Easting: 608874 Northing: 4237022
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the district includes a portion of one tax parcel (10-14-00-101-685.000-012) as indicated by the boundary lines on the attached tax parcel map entitled “Indiana State Prison / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District Boundary” (Clark County GIS, 1” = 150’ scale). The boundary follows the tax parcel lines along its east, south, and west boundary with a northern boundary line through the parcel to exclude all non-contributing resources to the north. Additionally, the boundary of the district is shown on the attached “Site Diagram and Photo Key” maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundaries encompass the historic site occupied by the Indiana State Prison South, Indiana Reformatory, and Colgate-Palmolive’s Jeffersonville Plant. The district is bounded on the east, west, and south by public streets that historically served as the boundaries of the property. The north boundary roughly follows the northern limits of development within the district during its period of significance. The area north of this boundary developed from the mid-1960s through the 1990s and contains buildings and structures built after the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne Stuart Beckett, Architectural Historian, Mark McConnel, AIA, and Benjamin Ross, LEED AP
organization: Summit Studio / Ratio Architects
street & number: 4353 Windy Gap Drive
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24014
e-mail: asbeckett@cox.net and mm@thesummitstudio.com
telephone: 540.354.7827 and 540.915.1233
date: May 08, 2017 revised October 02, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Indiana State Prison South / Indiana Reformatory / Colgate-Palmolive Historic District
City or Vicinity: Clarksville
County: Clark  State: IN
Photographer: Anne Stuart Beckett
Date Photographed: July 19-21, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:
1 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0001
View: View north from Woerner Avenue towards Bldg. No. 1 and the Colgate Clock.

2 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0002
View: View east, northeast down S. Clark Blvd. along Bldg. No1 towards Bldg. No. 2.

3 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0003
View: Interior of lobby and staircase of Bldg. No. 1; view towards rear.

4 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0004
View: View east, northeast down S. Clark Blvd. along Bldg. No. 5 and towards Bldg. No. 4.

5 of 30: I IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0005
View: Rear elevation of Building Nos. 1 and 4; view southwest from courtyard.

6 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0006
View: Rear elevation of Bldg. No.4; view south, southwest from courtyard.

7 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0007
View: Interior view of Bldg. No. 4, first floor; view west. South facade wall is to the left.

8 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0008
View: Interior view of Bldg. No. 4, third floor; view east. Rear elevation wall is to the left.

9 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0009
View: South façade elevation of Bldg. No. 5 from S. Clark Blvd.
10 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0010
View: View west of remaining prison wall and Bldg. No. 18 attached to and behind the wall. Bldg. No. 13 is in distance and Bldg. No. 44 is in foreground.

11 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0011
View: View southeast of the last segment of prison wall (at the northern end), with Guard House (NC) to the left, and Bldg. No. 27 to the right.

12 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0012
View: View north, northwest of the entire length of the remaining prison wall, and the small turn at the southern end. Bldg. No. 44 is to the right. View from near S. Clark Blvd.

13 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0013
View: View northwest of Bldg. No. 44 from in front of S. Clark Blvd.

14 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0014
View: Rear elevation of Bldg. No. 44; view south.

15 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0015
View: Interior view of Bldg. No. 44; east wing, view towards rear (south).

16 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0016
View: View north of Reservoir with Bldg. Nos. 13-14 in background.

17 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0017
View: View east of Bldg. No. 30 (Reformatory Stables). (Bldg. No. 31 is the attached garage—see photo No. 18). View from former employee parking lot—original location of historic neighborhood.

18 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0018
View: View north of Bldg. No. 31 (Reformatory Garage) from former employee parking lot (original location of a historic neighborhood).

19 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0019
View: View southeast of Bldg. No. 18 from courtyard. Prison wall is behind it. Bldg. No. 27 is to the left. Rear elevation and cornice of Bldg. No. 2 is in right background.

20 of 30: I IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0020
View: View east of Bldg. Nos. 13, 14 and 14-B.

21 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0021
View: View west of Bldg. Nos. 38 and 38-A and 11 in background.

22 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0022
View: View north of Bldg. Nos. 40 and 40-A from S. Clark Blvd.

23 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty__IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0023
View: Detail view of Bldg. No. 40; left-side curved corner and ribbon windows.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

24 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0024
View: Interior view of first floor of Bldg. 40; view from southeast towards rear northwest corner.

25 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0025
View: View north of Bldg. No. 40; right-side curved corner and ribbon windows. Bldg. No. 45 in foreground and Bldg. No. 39 in right-side background.

26 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0026
View: Interior view of first floor of Bldg. 39, view from front towards northwest. Note wall of Bldg. No. 40 to the left.

27 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0027
View: View southwest from courtyard towards Building Nos. 4 and 8.

28 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0028
View: East elevation of Bldg. No. 8 from courtyard.

29 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0029
View: Interior view of first floor of Bldg. No. 8; view south.

30 of 30: IN_ClarkCounty_IndianaStatePrisonSouthIndianaReformatoryColgatePalmoliveHD0030
View: Interior view of fifth floor of Bldg. No. 8; view north.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

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 100 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.

2 Reports from 1894 indicate that a fourth floor was added to the building at this time but the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for June 1898 shows the building as a three-story structure.
4 The Engineering and Mining Journal, July 17, 1880, 44; Annual Report of the Directors and Officers of the Indiana State Prison South, for the year ending October 31, 1881 (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford,1882) 6, 49.
5 “$105,600 for Reformatory,” Indianapolis Star, December 24, 1919, 9.
6 Untitled clipping from the Evening News (Jeffersonville, Indiana), June 15, 1901, in the “Prisons” file of the Jeffersonville Township Public Library.
7 “To Inspect Cellhouse: Jeffersonville’s Modern New Dormitory Almost Ready for Occupancy,” Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), September 7, 1900, 6.
14 Annual Report of the Warden of the Indiana State Prison, for the year ending November 30, 1849 (Indianapolis: John D. Defrees,1849)184.
21 Indiana Constitution of 1851, Article 1, Section 18.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD  

Name of Property: Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD  
County and State: Clark County, IN

Bucci 77.
26 Weintraut 5-6.
27 Weintraut 6.
28 Weintraut 6.
29 Weintraut 7.
30 Weintraut 7.
33 Weintraut 3-5.
34 Weintraut 6.
35 Carl E. Kramer and Mary Kagin Kramer, This Place We Call Home: A History of Clark County, Indiana (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2007) 145.
38 Local Laws of the State of Indiana (Indianapolis: J. P. Chapman, 1847) 49.
39 Local Laws of the State of Indiana (Indianapolis: J. P. Chapman, 1847) 431.
42 Weintraut 7.
45 Youngman, 24.
46 Youngman, 57.
47 Youngman, 57-59.
49 Indiana Constitution of 1851, Article I, Section 18.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

50 Bodenhamer 368. The Indiana House of Refuge for Boys, later known as the Indiana Boys’ School, was established in 1867 at Plainfield in Hendricks County and received its first inmate in 1868.

51 Laws of the State of Indiana (Indianapolis: Austin H. Brown, 1855), 196; Weintraut 7-8.

52 Laws of the State of Indiana (Indianapolis: Austin H. Brown, 1855) 194.


54 “Prison Life,” Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), May 26, 1869, 4.

55 Youngman, 60.

56 Clark 8-9.


64 Clark 55.

65 Clark 9.

66 Minority Report of Sub-Committee to Investigate Affairs at the State Prison South, Submitted March 11, 1875 (Indianapolis: Sentinel Company, 1875).


68 Testimony in the Southern Prison Investigation (Indianapolis: Sentinel Company, 1875) 70.

69 Testimony in the Southern Prison Investigation (Indianapolis: Sentinel Company, 1875) 5.


71 Clark 11-12.

72 Clark 20.


76 Weintraut 8-9.


78 Clark 16-17.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana
Reformatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD
Clark County, IN

80 Ibid.
81 Clark 24.
83 Largent 31.
87 Largent 34-35.
88 Largent 30.
89 Ibid.
90 Weintraut 10.
96 Largent 34.
97 Largent 30.
98 Largent 31.
99 Largent 31.
101 Quoted in Largent 32.
102 Clark 25.
104 Quoted in Clark 28.
105 Clark 27.
106 Weintraut 11-12.
107 “Prison Building Subject of Call,” Indianapolis Star, February 15, 1918, 12.
110 “Colgate Buys Reformatory,” Indianapolis Star, April 21, 1921, 5.
111 Weintraut 12.
Indiana State Prison South/Indiana Refomatory/Colgate-Palmolive HD

Name of Property County and State

113 *Appleton’s Journal*, July 23, 1870, i.
114 Weintraut 12-13.
115 Weintraut 13.
116 Weintraut 13.
117 The Colgate School closed in 1975 and is currently used as an office building. It is located at 230 E. Montgomery Avenue, Clarksville, Indiana.
119 Weintraut 13.
120 Weintraut 14.
121 Weintraut 14.
122 Weintraut 15.
123 Weintraut 15.