United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: __TPA Park____________________________
   Other names/site number: __Gem City TPA Park, Gem City Park____________
   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: _1 Adrian Marks Drive____________________________________
   City or town: __Frankfort__ State: __IN____ County: __Clinton___
   Not For Publication: _______ Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this__x__ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property__x_ meets___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
   recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   level(s) of significance:
   ___national        ___statewide         x__ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___x_A      ___B      x__C      ___D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: ____________________________ Date
   Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property __ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
   Signature of commenting official: ____________________________ Date
   Title: ____________________________ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) ___________________

Signature of the Keeper __________________ Date of Action _________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(=Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(=Check only one box.)

Building(s)  
District  X
Site  
Structure  
Object  

Sections 1-6 page 2
### Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**RECREATION AND CULTURE:** outdoor recreation

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**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**RECREATION AND CULTURE:** outdoor recreation

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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:** Craftsman

**OTHER:** Park Rustic
TPA Park
Name of Property

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: STONE: fieldstone, WOOD: siding
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: BRICK, STONE: fieldstone, WOOD

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

TPA Park, named for the Travelers Protective Association, who donated the land for the purpose, lies at the northeast edge of Frankfort, eighty-five acres of rolling terrain filled with mature trees and numerous recreational structures built over more than eighty years. Among these are a two-story brick-and-frame bandstand, a Craftsman/Jacobethan bathhouse built in 1928 and a similarly styled comfort station, and several stone structures, many built or enhanced by New Deal agencies. The area’s abundant fieldstone and riverstone have been used in those and several of the subsequent structures and for rehabilitation projects on older ones. The site as a whole maintains a high degree of historic integrity; non-contributing structures tend to be unobtrusive or clustered together in one corner. To the west lies the city’s golf course (a fraction of which actually belongs to the park but is not included in the district); North Park Drive divides the two entities. To the immediate north is a skating rink and beyond it, the Humane Society headquarters, part of the golf course, and a playing field that is not part of the park, all on land that was once part of the county farm. Beyond is rural farmland. The county home, still in use, lies northeast of the park on the opposite side of Burlington Avenue, which is the park’s east boundary. Along Burlington is a row of houses built within a few decades of the park’s establishment, and to the south and southwest is a more modest residential district that was developed shortly after the park was opened.

Narrative Description

Overall Site (C)

One may enter TPA Park from several different points, but its main entrance is near the southwest corner at the eastern terminus of East Kyger Street. Kyger Street is the south boundary of the golf course, begun as a country club in 1926, that lies adjacent to the park. Heading north
from Kyger up North Park Drive (photo 1), the earliest drive into the park (and its western boundary; the golf course is to the west), one comes to a stone fountain (NC) on the east side of the drive. The fountain is centered in front of a curved low rock wall flanked by two sets of stone stairways (C, part of the picnic shelter) in two tiers that lead to a picnic shelter (C, photo 2) at the top of the hill. Between the stairways on the hillside is a large rectangular asphalt slab, framed in concrete, in which are set raised concrete letters spelling out GEM CITY/TPA/PARK. (The letters are considered part of the overall park site.) The large shelter was constructed when the park was created in 1911, but additional stonework was added in the 1930s. Just to the south of the shelter is the former fountain basin (C), an octagonal concrete basin surrounded by a low stone wall. A concrete sidewalk extends from the picnic shelter northward, paralleling the ridge on which the shelter rests. Northwest of the shelter is the firebell monument (C), comprised of the old town firebell hanging beneath a stone arch (photos 2,3), erected in 1938. A playground area lies to the north, which is where the playground has always been since the park’s opening. The original sandbox is still in place, but most of the equipment is much more recent, with a few old-fashioned exceptions. Continuing northwest along the park walk on the top of hill, one comes to a restored caboose (NC, see photo 1) that sits atop the bluff and is highly visible from the park drive. Due north of the caboose on the opposite side of the walk is a two-story brick-and-frame octagonal bandstand (C, photo 4), built ca. 1913.

Returning to North Park Drive and continuing along it as it bends northwestward, one passes an ornate Craftsman-style brick comfort station (C, photo 5) built ca. 1927. The sidewalk at the top of the hill also leads to it. Remaining on North Park Drive one follows the westward fork past a picnic shelter known as #1 (NC, see photo 6), constructed in 1982. Continuing around northward past these two drives on the northeast corner is a large fenced enclosure, a walk-in aviary (NC, see photo 7). North of the aviary across a gravel drive is a white pole barn (NC) on a concrete foundation, one of several such buildings used for maintenance and storage in that area. North of this pole barn running west-east is the westward extension of Bob Sanders Drive, which is the park boundary on the north. Parts of this drive are encroached upon and obscured by construction materials, machinery, and other items stored on the former roadbed. East of the white pole barn is a larger blue pole barn (NC, see photo 7) that sits behind the park office, built ca. 1992, which is to the south and slightly east of it. Immediately to the east, almost abutting the office, is a two-story, steeply gabled frame barn (C) built in 1920 (photo 7). Behind the barn is an outdoor storage area that includes a gambrel-roofed fiberglass greenhouse (NC) and the ruins of another. East and a little north of the frame barn is another blue pole barn (NC) with small portable storage sheds and some animal pens south of it. All the buildings in this cluster are used for storage and housing of some of the animals over winter. They are not public spaces, apart from the small animal display area.

Continuing east along Bob Sanders Drive, the park’s north boundary, there is a ball diamond and part of the golf course to the north, neither of which belong to the park. This land had been the farm for the nearby county home. On the south side of Sanders Drive at its junction with the park’s middle north-south road, Bill Waddell Drive, is the original bathhouse (C, photo 8), opened in 1928 and designed by architect Rodney Leonard. The current pool off the east side of the building dates to 1991. Southeast of the pool is the softball diamond (C, photo 9), which historically was a baseball diamond. Between the pool and the softball diamond is shelter #5 (NC, photo 10), built in the 1990s. Returning to Bob Sanders Drive and continuing east past the
pool, one passes a new concrete block restroom (NC) with a metal roof and arrives at Burlington Avenue, the park’s east boundary. At the northeast corner of the park (photo 11) is a stone pillar (C) of the same local river stone used throughout the park. Immediately north up Burlington Avenue on the opposite side of the road is the county home.

Heading south on Burlington along the east edge of the park, one passes the outfield of the softball field and arrives to shelter #3 (photo 12, NC), built ca.1990. It sits, along with two limestone fireplace ovens, in a triangular space surrounded by asphalt drives. A third fireplace oven lies just to the south within an even smaller patch of land. Moving down Burlington Avenue, there is another entrance into the park just south of this oven. Several short drives branch off from this point; following either the northward or northwestern way will take one back into the heart of the park and Bill Waddell Drive. On the east side of Waddell Drive, directly east of the playground area, are two small gabled buildings (photo 13) faced with riverstone and surrounded by a low stone wall with entrance openings marked by stone pillars. The stone building to the north (C), completed before the park opened in 1911, is a saltbox form and features two stone chimneys; early sources refer to it as a pumphouse, which it was and is. The former garage (C) to the south, which matches the older building almost perfectly, was constructed in 1938. On it is a small bronze plaque identifying the structure as having been built by the National Youth Administration, 1937-1938. Across Bill Waddell Drive, just north of the playground and east of the bandstand mentioned earlier, is the concession building (C, photo 14), a rectangular structure with a steeply pitched hip roof.

To the northwest of the concession building is the petting zoo (NC, photo 15), bounded by Bill Waddell Drive on the northeast until it reaches Adrian Marks Drive. An unnamed drive heads south from Adrian Marks Drive forming the west boundary of the petting zoo, which is essentially triangular. Another unnamed drive that is the south boundary of the zoo connects back to Waddell Drive. Continuing south on Bill Waddell Drive one passes another unnamed lane heading east, and on the west side the large picnic shelter previously discussed. Off to the east are two basketball courts, simply asphalt-paved areas with basketball hoops, then yet another lane that leads easterly toward shelter #2 (NC). Farther down Bill Waddell Drive on the east side up the bluff is a historic log cabin (C, photo 16), originally built in 1859 in the northern part of the county, which was dismantled and moved to this site in the early 1930s. East of it is a stone well (C) constructed around the time of the cabin’s placement in the park. Early on there had been a small parking lot east of the cabin but that was removed decades ago. Southwest of the cabin is an enhanced natural feature beloved by generations of daring children called Bicycle Hill (C, photo 17), a narrow concrete path down the slope to Bill Waddell Drive. Continuing down Bill Waddell Drive heading southeast, one encounters another unnamed lane that heads north toward shelter #4 (NC, see photo 16), which is identical to shelter #3 mentioned earlier. North of it is a new concrete block restroom (NC), constructed in 2017.

Waddell Drive tees into a short drive (photo 18) that cuts across the far southeast corner of the park, marking where the Kokomo, Frankfort and Western interurban track once ran. The company formed in 1911, the year the park opened, and by the following summer had connected to the street railway in Frankfort. The interurban line was abandoned in 1932. An octagonal wooden gazebo (NC) of recent vintage sits amidst a flower bed in the triangle formed by this drive, Burlington Avenue (east boundary of park), and East Green Street (south boundary). Turning southwest on the drive and proceeding west on Green Street one arrives at Bill Goodwin Drive heading north. The Little League diamond (C) is on the northwest corner of this...
intersection. The two-story **concession stand/storage building** (C) serving the ballpark dates to its beginning ca.1950, along with the brick dugouts. A new concrete block **restroom** (NC) was constructed in 2017 to replace the old one immediately north of the ballpark; it also serves the **tennis courts** (C, photo 19), which were always in this location, although they have been enlarged and improved over the years. Near the northeast corner of this intersection, up the hill, is an **altar** (C, photo 20) constructed in 1957 of sandstone slabs, plantings, and a large cross. Bill Goodwin Drive continues northward to its junction with Kyger Street at the main entrance.

**Stone Fountain** (NC)

In 2017 the fountain was rebuilt to its 1930s appearance on the east side of North Park Drive, using rock from the same creek where material for the original 1930s structure, which had badly deteriorated, was gathered. Unfortunately, this removed any remaining integrity to the fountain, as the present structure is a copy. That structure had replaced the earlier flowing well at the base of the hill and used its water for several years. The current fountain uses city water. It is centered in front of a curved low rock wall flanked by two sets of stone stairways that are part of the resource described below.

**Picnic Shelter** (C)

The picnic shelter (photo 2) stands at the top of the hill reached by two sets of stone stairways. This large open shelter was constructed when the park was created in 1911. Additional stonework around the base was added in the 1930s, as was more stonework to the stairways. It is essentially a large rectangular hipped roof supported by metal uprights with brackets, surrounded by a stone wall with openings on all four sides. The shelter has a raised concrete floor that was added later, possibly when the stone wall was added.

**Fountain Basin** (C)

Just to the south of the park’s original picnic shelter is an octagonal concrete basin surrounded by a low stone wall. This had been the basin for a fountain (later filled in with soil and used as a planter) featuring a sculpture designed by Jon Magnus Jonson and placed there in 1933. The basin was completed within the next two years, likely by WPA workers. In the spring of 2017, the sculpture was relocated to a site in front of the former Frankfort High School (“Old Stoney”) downtown, leaving the basin behind to continue functioning as a planter.

**Firebell Monument** (C)

This is comprised of the old town firebell affixed beneath a stone arch (photos 2,3), reinforced with railroad iron, resting on a round stone planter. It was erected in 1938, likely with the aid of New Deal workers.

**Caboose** (NC)

The restored Nickel Plate caboose NKP 1202, built in 1924 (see photo 1), was placed in the park in 1971 to commemorate the city’s railroad heritage. Refurbished in 2009, it sits on rails atop the bluff and is highly visible from the park drive. It is painted a brilliant red and all openings are artfully boarded.
Bandstand (C)
This two-story octagonal bandstand (photo 4) lies north of the caboose and was built ca. 1913. Constructed of brick, the first story is entirely enclosed with one entrance on the north and two windows, now boarded, on the east and west. Currently it is used for storage. An exterior wooden stair leads to the second-story performance level, which is entirely open and surrounded by a balustrade. Eight posts support the octagonal roof. A rectangular wooden platform was erected several years ago on the east side of the structure to give more performance space.

Comfort Station (C)
Toward the north end of the park, near the bandstand, this ornate Craftsman-style brick comfort station (photo 5) with asphalt-shingled roof was built ca.1927. It was probably designed by Rodney Leonard, the architect of the bathhouse to the northeast. The structure is actually two separate identical restroom buildings, each with a jerkinhead gabled roof featuring broad eaves supported by ornate brackets, four on each gable end, and fly rafters with a bit of scrollwork at each end. Each building had a main round-arched entrance on the south and north, respectively, sheltered by a steeply gabled canopy supported by a pair of oversized ornate brackets. These entrances, now boarded, are each flanked by two 4-light rectangular windows that are now fixed, but may originally have been awning-type. The two buildings are united with a gabled covered porch, open on both sides, between them. The gabled porch roof is supported on each side by two sets of paired Doric columns. Patrons originally could enter each of the restrooms either from the outside round-arched entrance or through an entrance off the open porch between, which are plain rectangular openings. The latter are the only entrances used today. The interior was entirely remodeled in 2018, with surfaces of gloss-painted concrete, but the exterior is largely unaltered; the decorative lattice affixed to the walls has been in place for many years and is easily removed. The design created gives the illusion of arched windows, the charade further enhanced with the addition of wooden window box planters, but in actuality the gable ends of both buildings are plain with no openings.

Shelters #1 through #5 (NC)
Shelter #1 (see photo 6) was constructed in 1982. It consists of six posts supporting a roof that shelters a concrete slab surrounded by a low stone wall, intended to match earlier park buildings. The stone wall has an opening beneath each gable end. Shelter #2, also constructed in 1982, is identical to shelter #1 and lies southeast of the two historic stone buildings (pumphouse and garage). Just off Burlington along the east edge of the park is shelter #3 (photo 12), essentially a metal gabled roof supported by eight posts over a flat concrete rectangular slab. Shelter #4 (see photo 16) lies east and a little south of the log dwelling and is identical to shelter #3. Both were built around the same time, ca. 1990. Between the pool and the softball diamond is picnic shelter #5 (photo 10), built in the 1990s, simply a flat rectangular concrete slab sheltered with a gabled metal roof supported by sixteen uprights.

Aviary (NC)
At the northwest corner of the park is a large fenced enclosure, a walk-in aviary (see photo 7)
constructed of hardware cloth supported with utility poles. Inside it are a small pond, a tiered fountain, and several small shelters, cages, and feeders for the birds and animals housed within during the warm seasons.

Office (NC), 3 Pole Barns (NC), Greenhouse (NC), Frame Barn (C)
(park administrative buildings)
North of the aviary across a gravel access drive is a white pole barn on a concrete foundation, one of several such buildings used for maintenance and storage in that area. North of this pole barn running west-east is the westward extension of Bob Sanders Drive, which is the park boundary on the north. East of the white pole barn is a larger blue pole barn (see photo 7) that sits behind the park office, which is to the south and slightly east of it. The park office, built ca. 1992, is a simple gabled one-story building faced and sided with large stones to harmonize with many of the older park buildings. Immediately to the east, almost abutting the office, is a two-story, steeply gabled frame barn with a broad overhang and shiplap siding painted bright red, built in 1920 (photo 7). It features double sliding doors on its main south facade and at the second-story level two four-light fixed-sash windows, which are original, as are all its windows. Behind the barn is an outdoor storage area that includes a gambrel-roofed fiberglass greenhouse and the ruins of another. East and a little north of the frame barn is another blue pole barn with small portable storage sheds and some animal pens south of it. All the buildings in this cluster are used for storage and housing of some of the animals over winter and are not public spaces, apart from the small animal display area.

Bathhouse (C)
TPA Park’s original bathhouse (photo 8), opened in 1928 and was designed by architect Rodney Leonard. The original swimming pool behind it to the east was much wider; the current pool, which is C-shaped, dates to 1991. (As the pool is an extension of the bathhouse, it is treated as an addition.) The brick bathhouse features Craftsman and Jacobethan elements, such as broad overhangs, fly rafters with scrollwork, knee braces, brackets, jerkinhead gables, and half-timbering over stucco on the second story level. Nearly all the original windows seem to be in place. At the peak of the roof are two clerestory vents. The main west facade features a central entrance with double doors (not original) flanked by four-over-four doublehung sash windows, in a projecting bay topped with a jerkinhead gable supported by knee braces. A metal light fixture, not the original, but similar to what had been there, is over the main entrance. At each end of the building are identical projecting bays with jerkinhead gables supported by knee braces and each containing four eight-light windows in the second-story level. In each, the second window from the center has been blocked in the lower sash and ventilation louvers placed in the upper. The second-story portion of the bays is stucco with half-timbering. The first floor level of each is plain brick marked with a round-arched entrance that is now filled in. These were entrances into the men’s and women’s shower rooms, respectively. The entrances are each flanked with metal light fixtures matching the one above the main entrance. Between the outer projecting bays and the center bay on both sides are two additional bays, each with an eight-over-eight doublehung sash window. Above each of these in the second story level is a gabled dormer, each with stucco and half-timbering and featuring a vertical eight-light window. The gables have the aforementioned fly rafters and scrolled rafter tails. The east facade that opens to the pool is virtually identical. The interior, which originally had featured a lot of wood and
several separate changing rooms, has been entirely remodeled with surfaces mostly of gloss-painted concrete with an open plan on each side (the sexes still separated, of course). The open framework of the roof support system is still visible.

**Softball Diamond (C)**
Southeast of the pool is the softball diamond (photo 9), which historically was a baseball diamond; it includes two simple frame dugouts flanking the home plate area and some small ephemeral storage structures.

**Restrooms (NC)**
There are three virtually identical restroom buildings in the park, all built in 2017. They are basic concrete block rectangular buildings with gabled metal roofs. One is on the south side of Bob Sanders Drive east past the pool; another stands near Shelter #4 in the southeast part of the park, and a third stands between the tennis courts and Little League diamond.

**Stone Pillar (C)**
At the northeast corner of the park (photo 11) stands a squat stone pillar of the same local river stone used throughout the park. It is square with a cap of the same material. It probably dates to the 1930s and is likely the work of the Works Progress Administration.

**Stone Building (pumphouse/former office) (C) and Stone Garage (C)**
On the east side of Waddell Drive, directly east of the playground area, are two small gabled buildings (photo 13) faced with riverstone and surrounded by a low stone wall with entrance openings marked by stone pillars. The building to the north, completed before the park opened in 1911, is a saltbox form and features two stone chimneys; nearly all its original exterior features are intact. It seems to have been an all-purpose structure; early sources referred to it as a pumphouse, which it was and is, but it was also used for storage and for a park office until the current office was built in the early 1990s. The main west facade features a centered entrance topped with a limestone slab lintel; it is flanked by two six-over-nine wood frame doublehung sash windows with limestone slab sills and lintels. Immediately north of the entrance is a large bronze plaque placed in 1914, commemorating the opening of the park just three years before. On the north elevation is a large entrance with original wooden double doors; inside are steps leading into the basement where the pumping equipment was and is housed. Another entrance to the east on the other side of the chimney opens into a large room, likely originally used for meetings. There is a bathroom off to the west, a large storage room in the southeast corner, and the former office, which boasts a stone fireplace in its south wall, occupies the southwest corner. The entrance on the west opens into this room. Around the corner off the south side of the building is another entrance to the basement, currently unused. The former garage to the south, which matches the older building almost perfectly, was completed in 1938. A symmetrical gabled structure, it has a chimney at the peak of the gable on the south. A wood frame six-over-six doublehung sash window is placed slightly west of center beneath it. There is a similar window in the north elevation but it is centered, and another similar window in the east elevation, and yet another is placed north of the wood frame double garage doors (original) on the main west facade. Between the window and the door is a small bronze plaque identifying the structure as having been built by the National Youth Administration, 1937-1938. The interior is
simply a large open space.

**Concession Building (C)**

Just north of the playground and east of the bandstand is the concession or restaurant building (photo 14). It is a rectangular structure with a steeply pitched hip roof, supported by ten stone piers with window openings between and an entrance on the east side flanked by two lower stone walls capped with concrete. The entire lower part of the building is comprised of a stone wall capped with concrete; the window spaces above are filled with vertical shutters that open upwards all the way around the building. Originally the west part of the building was the concession stand, with a small kitchen area in the middle. The east end of the building was an open air seating area. The building is currently used in summer as a concession stand that patrons still approach from the west end, but the building is not open to the public. During the Festival of Lights, however, the building opens as a sit-down restaurant for about a month. Inside is open space for tables and a counter, behind which is the small kitchen. Plans are to rehabilitate the building and open it as a restaurant year round. Its construction date is not certain and records are sparse; it may have been built in the 1920s with stonework to match the nearby park office/pumphouse building. It may even be older, or it may have been a 1930s New Deal project, although the park’s popularity would argue for an earlier date.

**Petting Zoo (NC)**

Northwest of the concession building is the petting zoo (photo 15), dating from 1992, bounded by Bill Waddell Drive on the northeast until it reaches Adrian Marks Drive. An unnamed drive heads south from Adrian Marks Drive forming the west boundary of the petting zoo, which is essentially triangular. Another unnamed drive that is the south boundary of the zoo connects back to Waddell Drive. The zoo, surrounded by a chainlink fence, contains an assortment of friendly animals, some of which are tolerant of cold weather and remain on display throughout the year, with two small wood frame sheds within the enclosure to shelter them. The enclosure also has a number of concrete animal statues and other features, along with a small duckpond and three large cages (two metal, one frame) for the wilder creatures.

**Log Cabin(C) and Stone Well (C)**

On the east side of Bill Waddell Drive up the bluff is a historic log dwelling (photo 16), originally built in 1859 in the northern part of the county, which was dismantled and moved to this site in the early 1930s. Constructed of hewn notched logs and roofed with wood shakes, the cabin features a fireplace chimney of fieldstone and two doublehung sash windows on the south flanking the entrance. East of it is a stone “well” sheltered with a gabled roof of wood shakes supported by four stone columns rising from the edge of the well, constructed around the time of the cabin’s placement in the park. Early on there had been a small parking lot east of the cabin but that was removed decades ago.

**Bicycle Hill (C)**

Southwest of the log cabin is an enhanced natural feature beloved by generations of daring children called Bicycle Hill (photo 17), a narrow concrete path down the steep slope to Bill Waddell Drive. A commemorative stone notes “BICYCLE HILL/FOUNDED 1937/BY GLENN & FRED/COFFMAN.”
Gazebo (NC)
An octagonal wooden gazebo of recent vintage, likely purchased at a garden supply store, sits amidst a flower bed in the triangle formed by the unnamed drive crossing the southeast corner of the park, Burlington Avenue, and East Green Street. The gazebo originally was set up temporarily each year near the concession building to shelter Santa Claus during the Festival of Lights when it was begun in the 1990s. It was replaced with a temporary booth to serve that purpose, and the gazebo was then moved permanently to its current location in the late 2000s.

Little League Diamond/Concession Building (C) and Tennis Courts (C)
The Little League baseball diamond is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Bill Goodwin Drive and Green Street. The two-story flat-roofed frame concession stand/storage building behind homeplate that serves the ballpark dates to its beginning ca.1950, along with the brick dugouts. Immediately north of the ballpark are the tennis courts (photo 19), which have been in this location since the early years of the park, although they have been enlarged and improved over the years.

Altar (C)
Near the northeast corner of Green Street and Bill Goodwin Drive, up the hill, is an altar constructed of sandstone slabs (photo 20). Two low irregular walls support plantings and stand before a raised planting area surrounded by another wall. Within it is a stone altar with a bronze plaque listing the donors and the date of 1957. In back of all, to the northeast, stands a large cross.

List of Resources (noted in **bold** within the narrative site description):
There are seven contributing buildings: the 1911 stone pumphouse/former office; the NYA-built stone structure adjacent to it, including the stone walls surrounding it; the 1920 red frame barn; the 1928 bathhouse; the ca.1927 comfort station; the ca.1920s concessions building, and the nineteenth century log cabin, moved to the site in the 1930s.
There are seven non-contributing buildings: the current park office; three gabled metal pole barns, all post-1990, clustered nearby, and three modern concrete block restrooms throughout the park built in 2017.
There are three contributing structures: the original picnic shelter, including the walls and stairways leading to it, the bandstand, and the Little League concession stand.
There are nine non-contributing structures: five shelters, the gazebo, the caboose, the greenhouse, and the aviary.
There are three contributing objects: the stone well, the firebell monument, and the stone pillar (ca. 1930s) marking the northeast corner of the park, and one non-contributing object: the rebuilt stone fountain.
There are five contributing sites: the Little League ball diamond, the softball diamond (historically, the baseball diamond), the tennis courts, Bicycle Hill, and the altar with its surrounding construction.
There is one non-contributing site: the petting zoo.
The park as a whole is also a contributing site that includes drives, sidewalks, playground (not...
including the actual equipment, which is ephemeral), plantings, ovens, various commemorative boulders with plaques, and the hillside entrance sign of concrete letters. (Note: any historic landscape feature mentioned in the narrative that is not in bold type is part of the overall contributing site.)

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
TPA Park
Name of Property

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1911-1967

Significant Dates
1928
1938

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Leonard, Rodney W.
National Youth Administration (NYA)

Period of Significance (justification)
The period comprises the time of the origin of the park to fifty years ago, several decades over which the development of the park and its structures took place and in which TPA Park became a regional recreational destination. The park is a three-dimensional document of developments in park and recreational facilities and changing public tastes over time.
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.)

TPA Park is significant at the local level under Criterion C for its architecture, which taken as a whole represents park structural development over several decades, including examples from the 1910s and 1920s embodying Craftsman styling, most notably the 1928 bath house designed by local architect Rodney W. Leonard. From the earliest period and later are numerous iterations of the park rustic style much favored in New Deal park construction and improvement, although much of the extant work is earlier. The small stone garage in TPA Park built by the National Youth Administration (NYA) in 1938 may be the most impressive example of their construction work in the state. Later improvements and additions to the park have done little to alter its historic integrity.

Established by the Travelers Protective Association in 1911, TPA Park is also significant under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation. The park, the first in the city, became a regional recreational destination almost immediately, in large part owing to its location along the interurban line constructed within a year after the park’s opening (the tracks cut across the far southeast corner of the property.) Moreover, it has kept intact most of its buildings and structures erected over nine decades, providing a three-dimensional document of developments in park and recreational facilities and changing public tastes over time. Most of the other parks in Frankfort were developed long after World War II. (The one exception is Dorner Park established in 1941, which included some minimal NYA construction, chiefly a small concession building, since altered).

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

Dedicated in 1911, TPA Park is the only one in the nation established by the now-venerable Travelers Protective Association, a nonprofit fraternal benefit society founded in 1890 by a group of traveling salesmen. It was strictly the local chapter, Post D, that was seeking to do something for Frankfort, which at the time lacked a park, though the idea had been mentioned off and on. Influential farmers, working and retired, had seen little need for such foolishness (and unnecessary expense). No other TPA chapters followed suit elsewhere, however.

Post D of the then-Traveling Men’s Protective Association had begun in 1895 with fifteen members; by 1910 there were three hundred. Not all members were traveling salesmen; men who were interested in fostering service projects in the community also joined Post D. That year John Kraft, a traveling shoe salesman, proposed that the
TPA Park

organization purchase land for a city playground and park. Once decided, it seemed to take no time for a good site to be found, one with rolling topography, mature trees, a creek and meadowland, right at the edge of town. Kraft paid the owner, Pressly Given, an option fee and members of TPA led by Ralph Cheadle (decades later to become mayor of Frankfort) and J.W. Keys (who became the first park superintendent) set to work in earnest on a petition drive to take before the city council. Before the year was out, the land was purchased and a shelterhouse and office/pumphouse built, the stone work—referred to as “cobblestone” at the time—begun by Mr. Keys. The stones were gathered from the nearby creek, as were those for later buildings of the same style. Other features developed prior to the park’s grand opening the following summer were a baseball field, a deer park, and a playground that included a “sandpile.” Surrounded by a low concrete wall, the sandbox still exists in its original location. The current softball field is believed to be the original baseball diamond. (The present Little League baseball diamond was constructed ca. 1950 at the far south end of the park.) The tennis courts at the south end (immediately to the north of the Little League field) were also an early attraction in the park, although they have been expanded and upgraded over the years.

Some fifteen thousand people swarmed into the new park for its Grand Opening celebration July 4, 1911. Temperatures in the scorching sun soared over a hundred degrees, and while a parade was planned from downtown to the park, it was canceled—or at least truncated—because of the heat. People came for the dedication ceremony, but more, no doubt, for the free entertainments: aerialists, a balloon ascension, and fireworks, not to mention a carnival with its many rides and attractions. Most people probably walked across the then-open fields, but some hopped on the streetcar from downtown to the southeast corner of the park.

TPA Park continued to expand its attractions in its first two decades, especially since people came to the park in droves, aided no doubt by the interurban line that connected to the far southeast corner of the park less than a year after it opened. The Kokomo, Frankfort and Western formed in 1911, and by the following summer had connected Kokomo (and beyond) to the street railway in Frankfort. Under changing ownerships and names, the line lasted for twenty years, ending service in 1932. A deer park that soon became home to other animals was started when the park opened, located near the north boundary, but the expenses of feeding and care of the animals became cost-prohibitive. The zoo was discontinued in the 1920s. In 1992 a new petting zoo was constructed in a different location near the maintenance buildings and the new park office, where it remains today. A bandstand was constructed north of the shelterhouse about two years after the park opened. At various times regular Sunday concerts took place there, with a local band or, in later years, the high school band performing. The lower level of the structure contained space for storage; possibly it was even used for a dressing room.
About 1915 a dam across Prairie Creek at the southern end of the park was constructed to create a small swimming pool. The city erected two tents in which boys and girls could change. Used only for a year or so, this so-called swimming pool was less than satisfactory. In 1927 a fabulous new pool costing $65,000 was planned, designed by the noted local architect Rodney W. Leonard. It is probable that he designed the large comfort station as well. It was completed and opened before the pool was finished, which held its big grand opening in mid-August of 1928. Frankfort newspapers that week were filled with advertisements for swim attire, along with those of every contractor associated with the construction.

According to the park’s insurance records, the concession building was constructed about 1927, but given the other structures built at that time, its style is inconsistent, although it may have been intended to complement the nearby stone office/pumphouse building. It seems just as likely though, that it was constructed in the next decade by either the Works Progress Administration, discussed below, which was working in the park in the mid-1930s, or the National Youth Administration, whose young men built the little stone garage/maintenance building immediately south of the then-office.

Although some secondary sources claim that the log cabin in the park was built new to resemble a typical pioneer cabin, that information is false. Around 1930, the idea of placing an authentic pioneer cabin in the park to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the city and the county gained momentum, and a search for a surviving pioneer dwelling began. This sort of activity was widespread in this era, and most of the log buildings still seen today in Indiana parks or on courthouse squares were moved or erected there in the 1920s and 30s. There is ample evidence that the log house in TPA park was moved from its original location near Gettingsville in the northern part of the county where James Mink, a cooper, had built it in 1859. After his son Jacob inherited the property in the 1890s, for a time the building housed the Gettingsville Telephone Company. The cabin was carefully disassembled by members of the Clinton County Historical Society and reassembled at its current site. Within a short time a stone well (of the “wishing” variety) was constructed just east of the cabin. The Girl Scouts regularly used the building for many years.

The New Deal years brought some new buildings and many improvements to the park. The National Youth Administration (NYA), best described as a sort of junior Works Progress Administration (WPA) that offered employment and training to young people, constructed another stone building, a garage and maintenance structure, next to the original 1910-11 pumphouse and office building. They built a low stone wall around both. A bronze plaque is embedded in the newer structure, noting it was built by the

1 The cabin’s integrity is based on its 1930s reconstruction. Architecturally it conforms to the rustic context established by the park’s other structures.
TPA Park

National Youth Administration in 1937-1938. The WPA did landscaping and other work around the park (records offer scant specific information) and also constructed the Izaak Walton League headquarters just to the north of the park, which was demolished several years ago. It is probable that WPA workers built the stone arch for the firebell memorial near the picnic shelter that was erected in 1938. The only other extant New Deal work in the city appears to be a small amount of NYA construction in Dorner Park, created in 1941 a little over a mile south of TPA Park.

From its earliest period and later, TPA Park boasts numerous iterations of the park rustic style. Connected to the Arts and Crafts movement and also influenced by American picturesque architecture, so-called rustic buildings began to appear, mostly in park settings, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, characterized by the use of native materials such as stone and timber. The structures are meant to harmonize with their natural settings, blending in with their surroundings. Arguably this style reached its peak during the New Deal, as its work programs built structures in national, state, and local parks. Certainly this is true in Indiana, which abounds in New Deal-built rustic structures, although there are examples of the style appearing earlier in parks. (Besides those structures noted in TPA Park, specifically the pumphouse and the picnic shelter present from the beginning, some other early embodiments of the style are found in Glenn Miller Park in Richmond and Memorial Park in Huntington.) Most New Deal park construction in Indiana was undertaken by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or its predecessor agencies, chiefly in local and state parks. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) did similar work in state parks and forests. But another agency, the National Youth Administration, has also left a small legacy of rustic buildings in parks around Indiana, although these are quite rare. Their small stone garage in TPA Park is certainly one of the most impressive examples of their construction work in the state.

Frankfort is a railroad city, having housed the Nickel Plate railyard (portions of which still stand), later taken over by Norfolk Southern. The Norfolk Southern was deaccessioning several cars, one of which was the old Nickel Plate caboose NKP 1202, built in 1924, which had seen regular short-run service for forty years. In 1971 the Jaycees, with a lot of volunteer help and equipment, moved the caboose over to its current location in TPA Park, refurbished it, and left it open to children, the elements, and vandals. After years of deterioration, the caboose was beautifully restored in 2009, but this time it is kept locked and secured.

In the early 1990s an ambitious expansion program was begun under new director Travis Sheets. With city funding and private donations, a new office was constructed at the north edge of the park, the petting zoo was resurrected and a walk-in aviary fashioned nearby, and more picnic shelters were added. The annual Festival of Lights display was begun at this time as well, a major regional attraction held between Thanksgiving and the New
Year, during which the entire park becomes a fantasyland of lights. TPA Park is much loved and much used to this day.

The Architect
Rodney W. Leonard (1886-1959) was a prominent local architect born in Paris, Illinois. He moved to Frankfort in 1917 after first establishing his career in Terre Haute and the surrounding area. His work there included two theaters, the American Theater (1914) on Wabash Avenue in Terre Haute and the Holmes (1916, later renamed the West) on Paris Avenue in West Terre Haute, as well as the Barber Avenue United Brethren Church and several apartment buildings and single-family houses. Leonard kept busy in Frankfort and the surrounding county, designing several schools, including the reconfiguration of Frankfort High School (now called “Old Stoney”) after a disastrous fire in 1922 left only the exterior stone walls. He also designed the Clinton County Hospital and a major addition to it thirty years later. It is likely that Leonard also designed the historic restrooms at TPA Park. The comfort station was built before the swimming pool, probably in 1927, and Leonard’s bathhouse design is noted in a newspaper account of the opening that it “conforms in general lines to the comfort station.” (Frankfort Times 16 August 1928). These appear to be the only park structures that Leonard ever designed.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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


Claybaugh, Joseph H. *History of Clinton County, Indiana*. Indianapolis 1913.


"Frankfort Known as Community of Beautiful Homes." *Frankfort Times*. 9 May 1925.


TPA Park Files, housed at City of Frankfort Parks Department Office.


Travelers Protective Association Website. https://www.tpahq.org/
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: Clinton County Public Library; TPA Park office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____70____

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927  or  ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16  Easting: 541921  Northing: 4460472
2. Zone: 16  Easting: 542388  Northing: 4460471
3. Zone: 16  Easting: 542399  Northing: 4459835
4. Zone: 16  Easting: 542103  Northing: 4459844
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at the northwest corner of the intersection of Bob Sanders Drive and Burlington Avenue (the northeast corner of the park), proceed south along the west side of Burlington Avenue to the northwest corner of its intersection with East Green Street. Proceed west on the north side of East Green Street to Prairie Creek; follow the east bank of the creek northward to the north side of East Kyger Street, thence east to the west side of North Park Road. Proceed north on the west side of North Park Road to the northwest corner of the park property, which is the junction of North Park Road and the now-abandoned westward extension of Bob Sanders Drive; proceed eastward to the northwest corner of Bob Sanders Drive and Burlington Avenue, the point of origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the historic boundaries of the park but not including the 15 acres at the southeast corner of the adjacent golf course on the west that, although part of the original 85 acres purchased for the park, have been part of the golf course since it was founded.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ___Glory-June Greiff_________________________________________
organization: ___Historian-at-Large______________________________________
street & number: 1753 South Talbott Street________________________________
city or town: Indianapolis _________ state: __IN______ zip code:_46225____
e-mail______glory@indy.net_________
telephone: ___317-637-6163__________
date:__ 19 September 2017___________________________

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 3000x2000 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: TPA Park
City or Vicinity: Frankfort
County: Clinton
State: Indiana
Photographer: Glory-June Greiff
Date Photographed: March and May 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 20
Looking NE along North Park Drive to stone steps leading up to large picnic shelter. Caboose on left. May 2017.

2 of 20
Looking N toward large picnic shelter, former fountain basin in foreground. Stone arch with bell to left of shelter in background; stone buildings in background on right. March 2017.

3 of 20

4 of 20

5 of 20
Looking SW at comfort station. Housing addition on south side of Kyger Street in background at left; golf course in background at right. March 2017.
6 of 20

7 of 20
Looking N at aviary on left, white pole barn seen through it. From there, left to right: blue pole barn, park office, 1920 barn, storage and pens. May 2017.

8 of 20

9 of 20

10 of 20

11 of 20
Looking NE at stone pillar marking the NE corner of the park at Bob Sanders Drive and Burlington Avenue. Note the county home in the background. March 2017.

12 of 20
Looking NNW at shelter #3 and two limestone fireplaces. March 2017.

13 of 20

14 of 20

15 of 20
16 of 20
Looking NNE at pioneer cabin and well. Note shelter #4 in background to right of well. March 2017.

17 of 20
Looking SW down Bicycle Hill. Little League baseball field visible at top right. March 2017.

18 of 20
Looking SE at the gazebo. Park drive in foreground where interurban tracks had been. Burlington Avenue in background on left; Green Street in background on right. May 2017.

19 of 20

20 of 20

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.