NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 01 2013
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House

other names/site number Iriscrest

2. Location

street & number 734 East State Boulevard | N/A | not for publication

city or town Fort Wayne | N/A | vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Allen Code 003 zip code 46805

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:

x national ___ statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title 1/23/2013 Date

Indiana DNR-Div. of Historic Preservation & 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:)

Patrick Andrus 3/20/2013

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House
Name of Property

Allen County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] Site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	Buildings
0	0	District
1	0	Site
0	0	Structure
0	0	Object
3	0	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
LANDSCAPE/garden

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
LANDSCAPE/garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard
roof: ASPHALT
other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, built in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, for attorney Daniel B. Ninde, successfully combines hallmark architectural features of both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles in this outstanding example of early twentieth-century residential construction. Constructed circa 1910, the one-and-half story, front-gabled, wood clapboard house is located on the southwest corner of East State and St. Joseph Boulevards. The Craftsman style features utilized here include shed roof dormers and wide overhanging eaves, but the Colonial Revival style figures prominently in the design of the main entrance door which is flanked by multi-paned sidelights and topped with a fanlight. The entrance is further enhanced by a pedimented portico with curved underside. Multi-paned wood window styles throughout the house vary from double-hung to casement to fixed; most are grouped in pairs and threes, although some rooms of the house contain entire walls of windows. A newer addition to the house has vinyl windows. Also part of the property, but not original to the site, is a garage built sometime between the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance map[1] and map revisions through 1957.[2] It features a gabled form, wood clapboard siding, wide overhanging eaves, and a multi-paned, double-hung window – design elements that echo those of the house. A designed and natural landscaping surrounds the house and garage.

Narrative Description

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is located on approximately half an acre of land[3] encompassing the majority of four lots of the North Wildwood Addition of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, platted in 1913 by Daniel B. Ninde.[4] Developed as an early suburban neighborhood, the North Wildwood Addition is approximately 1.25 miles northeast from the town center. The addition was likely built around the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, notably the largest and most prominent house in the neighborhood. The house sits facing north on the southwest corner of St. Joseph Boulevard and East State Boulevard, a busy east-west thoroughfare known as Griswold Avenue prior to 1908 (photo 1).[5] The house is also positioned at the northern terminus of the St. Joseph Boulevard portion of the Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard System Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places.[6] A definitive date of construction for the house could not be determined. The first resident, Daniel Ninde, lived at an address that approximates the current address of the house as early as 1902.[7] Research indicates that the house was likely designed by Joel Roberts Ninde, Daniel Ninde's sister-in-law. Ms. Ninde was known to have designed her first house for her and her husband, Lee, but their house does not appear in a Fort Wayne City Directory until 1904; therefore, the Daniel Ninde house in 1902 could not be the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House.[8] A 1907 birdseye map does indicate a house in the approximate location of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, but this does not confirm the structures' design, so it could have been the 1902 house.[9] A passage in the book *Distant Vision: Romance & Discovery on an Invisible Frontier* by Elma G. Farnsworth, a subsequent Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House owner, makes a strong reference that the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House was built for Daniel Ninde,[10] but by 1913,

[1] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1918*, vol. 1 (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1919), 103.
[2] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana,1918*, vol. 1a, revisions through 1957 (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1957), 103.
[3] Allen County, Indiana, property record card for 734 East State Boulevard, http://www.acimap.us/website/prc/020736303017000074.pdf (accessed August 30, 2010).
[4] Plat map of North Wildwood Addition, 1913, Allen County, Indiana Recorder's Office.
[5] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*, (Fort Wayne, IN: R.L. Polk and Company, 1900 – 1950).
[6] City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, "Fort Wayne's Park and Boulevard System Now on National Historic Register," http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/parks,-boulevard-system-now-on-national-historic-register.html (accessed March 8, 2011).
[7] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*
[8] City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, "Shawnee Place Historic District," http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/shawnee-place-historic-district.html (accessed October 20, 2010); *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*
[9] B.J. Griswold, "Griswold's birsdeye view of the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, indexed for ready reference," http://international.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl?data=/home/www/data/gmd/gmd409/g4094/g4094f/pm001950.jp2&style=citymap&itemLink=r?ammem/gmd:@filreq%28@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g4094f+pm001950%29%29+@field%28COLLID+citymap%29%29&title=Griswold%27s%20birdseye%20view%20of%20the%20city%20of%20Fort%20Wayne,%20Indiana%20indexed%20for%20ready%20reference.%20B.%20J.%20Griswold (accessed September 27, 2010);
[10] Elma G. Farnsworth, *Distant Vision: Romance & Discovery on an Invisible Frontier*, (Salt Lake City, UT: Pemberly Kent Publishers, Inc., 1989), 252.

he was no longer living at the address.[11] Therefore, based upon the known events in 1907 and 1913, the date of construction is circa 1910.

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is front-gabled, one-and-a-half stories tall, and has approximately 4,200 square feet of finished living space.[12] It exhibits exceptional architectural integrity. Exterior building materials include wood clapboard siding, wood frieze board, wood corner moidings, wood-framed primary and storm windows, wood beadboard eaves, asphalt shingle roofing, and a reddish-brown, brick foundation laid in a running bond pattern. The main body of the structure is painted a pale yellow with gray, green, and white accents. Architecturally, the house features design elements of both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles.

The house is oriented lengthwise on the lot from north to south with shed roof dormers of unequal size flaring out from the east and west rooflines. The length of the east façade is broken by a single-story kitchen addition with open porch area, and the west façade features a three-sided, bay extension with sloped roof approximately centered along this side. A two-story enclosed porch, with an entry door and open porch to the backyard, is centered on the south façade.

The north façade (photo 2) features the main entry of the home with windows to either side and above on the upper story. Set slightly off center to the west, a Colonial Revival-style, five-panel door is flanked by multi-paned sidelights and topped with a fanlight. It is further enhanced by a pedimented portico with returns and curved underside. Two square columns, with capitals accented by stepped back moldings, and two square pilasters support the portico. Three wood stairs, with a wood balustrade of square balusters, lead to this entrance. The many windows of the house also reflect the Colonial Revival style. To the west of the main entry is a grouping of three windows which each contain a pair of ten-paned casement windows extending to the northwest corner of the house. Each pair of these tall and narrow windows is protected by a two-over-two storm window. To the east of the main entry is a pair of nine-paned, fixed windows framed by wide wood trim on the top and sides. Below the windows is a wood window box supported by three thick, wood brackets. Centered on the north façade on the upper story is a grouping of three double-hung windows surrounded on the top and sides by a wide, wood trim topped with crown molding. The center window is of a six-over-six design, while those on either side of it are four-over-four in design. Wide, overhanging eaves, typical of the Craftsman style, protect these windows.

A primary feature of the east façade (photo 3) upper story is the shed roof dormer, another Craftsman style element, running nearly the entire length of the house. Five groups of windows, consisting of two windows which each contain a pair of six-paned casement-style sashes, punctuate this dormer. Some of the casement pairs are protected with a nine-paned storm window while others have a wood-framed screen over them. The dormer also features a wide, overhanging eave. On the first story and placed slightly off center to the north, is a newer kitchen addition with entry, built sometime between 1976 and 2000. This addition only extended the original east wall of the kitchen further east by several feet. No other changes to the kitchen footprint were made.[13] The use of wood clapboard siding and groupings of multi-paned, vinyl casement windows help to make this structure blend with the original construction. At this entrance is a small porch with a vinyl balustrade consisting of square balusters. To the north of the kitchen addition is a grouping of three windows surrounded on the top and sides by wide, wood trim. The center window is a square, nine-paned, fixed window, but on either side of it is a pair of six-paned, casement windows. Each of the windows is protected by a nine-paned storm window. Below this grouping is a wood window box supported by four thick, wood brackets. To the south of the kitchen addition are two, six-over-six, double-hung windows, surrounded on the top and sides by wide, wood trim. Each window is protected by a twelve-paned storm window. A wood window box, supported by three, thick wood brackets, is positioned below. Further south on this façade are two windows which each contain a pair of six-paned casement windows surrounded on the top and sides by wide, wood trim with a wood window box, supported by three thick, wood brackets below.

Centered on the south gable end (photo 4) of the house is a two-story, hipped-roof, enclosed porch structure, but this porch does not appear on the 1918 Sanborn map, so it likely was not original to the house.[14] Sometime between the 1918 Sanborn map[15] and map revisions through 1957, a one-story, enclosed addition was added to the south gable end, and eventually a second floor porch area was added on top of this to create one contiguous porch addition.[16] Although it

[11] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*
[12] Property record card for 734 East State Boulevard.
[13] Scott Hill, current Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House owner, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, August 21, 2012.
[14] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana 1918*, vol. 1, 103.
[15] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1918*, vol. 1, 103.
[16] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana,1918*, vol. 1a, revisions through 1957, 103.

appears by the Sanborn maps that the second floor porch was added after 1957, the materials used for this structure, their level of wear, and style appear consistent with other materials used in the house suggesting it is much older in age. Currently, the upper story porch is enclosed on three sides by ten, six-over-six, double-hung windows. The first floor porch is enclosed on three sides by nine pairs of four-paned, casement windows. The east side of this porch also has an entry door situated on the southern end. To the west of the first floor porch is a six-over-six, double-hung window with wide wood trim. Also on this side of the porch is an in-ground, exterior entrance to the basement. To the east of the porch is a pair of six-over-six, double-hung windows each protected by a twelve-paned storm window. This grouping is surrounded with a wide, wood trim. Connected off the east entrance of the enclosed porch is an open porch area, added sometime between 1968 and 1976,[17] to which the current owners recently added a wood balustrade consisting of square, wood balusters, and wood pergola.[18] The porch floor boards are made of a modern, composite material. Off the south side of the porch, four wood steps with a composite material tread connect to a stone paver path into the backyard.

The west façade (photos 5 and 6) of the house is fairly obscured from the public view. A three-sided bay extension with sloped roof, another Colonial Revival style feature, is approximately centered along this side. In the middle side of this bay is a set of French doors flanked by a six-over-six, double-hung window in each of the two other sides. These windows are each protected by a one-over-one storm window. Just south of this bay is another six-over-six, double-hung window, and south of that is a pair of six-over-six, double-hung windows with one-over-one storm windows. All of these windows are surrounded with a wide wood trim on the top and sides. North of the bay is a grouping of four windows which each contain a pair of ten-paned, casement windows extending to the northwest corner of the house. Each pair of these tall and narrow windows is protected by a two-over-two storm window. The southern end of this grouping is accented by a square pilaster extending from the top of the windows to the lower fascia board. The upper floor has a Craftsman-style shed roof dormer of unequal size on either side of the bay roof. The smaller, northern dormer has a pair of two-over-two, casement windows covered by a wood-framed screen. Wide wood trim surrounds the window on the top and sides. The larger, southern dormer has two windows which each contain a pair of six-paned casement windows one of which is protected with a nine-paned storm window and the other a wood-framed screen. These windows also are surrounded by a wide wood trim.

A structure that is also part of the property, but not original to the site, is a one-story, two-car garage (photo 7) built on the southern portion of the property sometime between 1918 and 1957 according to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. It replaced an earlier structure present in 1918.[19] The current garage features an asymmetrical gabled form, wood clapboard siding, wide overhanging eaves, and a six-over-six, double-hung window – design elements that echo those of the house. Compared to the south roof, the roof on the north side of the garage slopes closer to the ground to accommodate two separate storage areas incorporated into the garage design. Each is accessed by a five-panel, wood door. The service entrance to the garage is recessed between these storage areas and is accessed by a matching five-panel, wood door. On the east side, automobiles enter the structure by a wood, overhead door.

A designed and natural landscaping surrounds the house and garage (photos 1-7). Many of the existing plantings, with the exception of the mature trees and some peony bushes, have been planted since 2000.[20] Each public entry to the house is accessed by a poured concrete or laid stone path, and a slightly curving gravel driveway extends from the east property line to the east side of the garage. Likely original to the property and still existing is a low, dry-laid stone wall, extending nearly the entire length of the north and west property lines (photo 2). A similar wall bisects the sloping west yard from a point just north and west of the garage north to a point about in line with the southwest corner of the house where a set of stone stairs, consisting of four treads, leads east to the upper yard (photo 5). Another similar set of stairs, consisting of three treads, punctuates this wall at about its midpoint. Off the west door of the house there is a small flagstone patio. The lower area of the west yard contains remnants of two sunken, stone goldfish ponds, one of which retains a stone statuary feature. It is known that by 1948, the west yard had a small fish pond with statue.[21] Situated between the southwest corner of the house and the garage is a sizeable square, concrete pad which may have been associated with the original garage. In 1968, a trellis existed between the house and the garage, but this is no longer present.[22] Not original to the site is a tall, wood privacy fence spanning the width of the west side yard on the north side of the property. A

[17] Ronald Murphy, Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House owner from 1968 to 1976, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, November 14, 2010.

[18] Catherine Hill, current Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House owner, in-person interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, November 5, 2010.

[19] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1918*, vol. 1, 103; *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana,1918*, vol. 1a, revisions through 1957, 103.

[20] Hill, Catherine.

[21] Farnsworth, 252.

[22] Murphy.

low, vinyl picket fence, also not an original feature, extends from the northeast corner of the property to the north side of the driveway entrance and continues from the south side of the driveway entrance to the southeast property corner (photo 1).

Original interior features throughout the home include plaster walls, wide wood trim around windows and doors as well as wood baseboards, wood crown molding, and wood flooring. Most of the privacy doors are wood in a five-panel style. With the exception of the flooring, most wood surfaces have been painted white. Built-in storage areas, typical of the Craftsman style, appear in several rooms. The home is heated by steam heat, so most rooms contain a cast-iron radiator.

The rooms of the first floor are arranged around a central hallway that bisects the house from north to south. The north entrance of the home opens into a large foyer that now serves as a home office (photo 8). The northwestern corner of this space is glassed in by seven windows which each contain a pair of ten-paned casement windows as described earlier, while the south and east walls include three doorways to other areas of the house. These doorways include a wood-framed, multi-paned glass door flanked by ten-paned sidelights. One south doorway, in line with the main entry to the house, leads to the central hallway (photo 9), while the other south doorway leads to the living room on the west side of the house. The east doorway leads to the dining room.

The dining room (photo 10) is positioned in the northeast corner of the house with additional connections to the central hallway by a southwest doorway and by a south doorway to the kitchen. Several windows, as described earlier, appear on the north and east walls. A prominent feature of this space is the large cast-iron radiator on the north wall below the windows. The kitchen (photo 11), in addition to being enlarged since the house was originally constructed, has been updated over the years with new wood cabinetry, shelving, countertops, and hardware that blend with original architectural features in the home. A large central island figures prominently in the kitchen space. The kitchen flooring, consisting of interlocking, ochre-colored, octagonal tiles, is not original to the home. On the east wall is the exterior door to the side porch. A west doorway from the kitchen provides access to the central hallway, while a south doorway continues into a sunroom area. In the northwest corner of the sunroom, is a built-in banquette constructed of wood beadboard (photo 12). On the north wall is a built-in china cabinet with a pair of four-paned, upper glass doors with two, wood-paneled, inset doors below. There is an entrance to the hallway on the west wall, and an entrance to the den on the south wall. The prominent feature of the den is the floor to ceiling built-in cupboards and shelving on the north wall (photo 13). Access to the hallway is provided by an entrance off the northwest corner of the room. Further south down the central hallway and directly west of the den is a former bathroom that was converted to a laundry room sometime between 1968 and 1976. A tiled-in area on the north wall is evidence of the room's earlier function. Prior to 1976, this room was only accessed through the den, but is now accessed from the hallway.[23]

Located on the southwest corner of the house and across the hallway from the laundry room is a bedroom with attached bathroom to the north. It is speculated that this was once the maid's quarters. Prior to 2000, the only access to the attached bathroom was through the bedroom, but a doorway now exists to this space from the central hallway.[24] The last room on the first floor is the living room (photo 14) which is located between the bathroom and the office. In addition to being accessed from the office as described earlier, the room also contains a doorway to the hallway on the north end of the east wall and at the southeast corner. Each doorway includes a pair of ten-paned glass doors. On the west wall is the bay extension as characterized in the exterior description. A built-in bookcase is centered on the lower portion of the east wall. Protruding into the room and extending up about two-thirds of the south wall is a fireplace with brick facing, two wood pilasters, and wood mantel. A thin wood shelf supported by two wood brackets sits between the mantel and the top of the brick facing. Prior to at least 1976, this fireplace was all brick and extended from floor to ceiling.[25]

The staircase to the upper story of the house connects to the central hallway at about the middle of the house and directly west of the kitchen. The second floor rooms are arranged around the stairwell opening and consist of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, hallway, and storage areas. The wood staircase (photo 15) features a wood balustrade of turned wood balusters that extends along the upper floor hallway. Just to the west at the top of the stairs is the entrance to the north bedroom. Spanning the width of the house, this room includes the west dormer and a portion of the east dormer. The south wall of the east dormer space contains built-in storage areas, and the east wall has a doorway to a bathroom. To the east of the top of the stairs is a small bathroom with white tiled walls and black accents. The room features a white pedestal sink and white porcelain light fixtures on either side of the medicine cabinet. Just south of the bathroom is a

[23] Ibid.
[24] Hill, Catherine.
[25] Murphy.

small bedroom centered on the east side of the house (photo 16). The south wall of this room has a doorway that leads into a smaller playroom area.

A wide upstairs hallway extends from the north bedroom to the master bedroom and contains built-in drawers, cupboards, and closet space on the entire west wall (photo 17). Access to the master bedroom is through the south wall of the hallway space. The southwest dormer provides built-in storage areas for this bedroom and is accessed by a pair of multi-paned glass doors on the west wall. A pair of six-over-four glass doors, located in the center of the south wall of the bedroom, provides access to the upstairs porch which is accented by a beadboard wainscoting and ceiling. Connected to the bedroom on the east wall by a pair of ten-paned glass doors is a bathroom, located on the southeast corner of the home, accented with light blue and white tiles and a beadboard wainscoting. A small shaving sink, likely original to the house, still exists in this space.

Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House
Name of Property

Allen County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Commerce
Invention

Period of Significance

c.1910 to 1963

Significant Dates

c. 1910
1913
1948

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

Farnsworth, Philo Taylor
Mead, Franklin B.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins circa 1910 at the approximate time of construction and ends in 1963 at the 50-year cutoff. Philo and Elma Farnsworth continued to live in the house until they sold the property in 1968.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with commerce and invention. Between the years of 1913 and 1968, two men connected to companies or events of national significance lived in the residence.

Daniel B. Ninde was first to live here from about 1910, the approximate date of construction, until 1913.[26] Mr. Ninde served as the attorney for the incorporation of Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (Lincoln), now Lincoln Financial Group, a company established in Fort Wayne, Indiana, that quickly gained national prominence for its innovation in the industry and that still exists today.[27] Mr. Ninde held various offices with Lincoln until his retirement from the company in 1930.[28] Additionally, Mr. Ninde was associated with The Wildwood Builders Company,[29] a residential development and home building company based in Fort Wayne, and publishers of *The Wildwood Magazine*, a nationally-known publication that reported on architecture, city planning, and interior design.[30] Although Mr. Ninde was associated with these well-known companies, he only lived in this house a short while before regularly moving into Wildwood Builders Company homes every few years.[31] Two later residents of the house would have a greater historical impact at the national and international levels.

Beginning in 1913, Franklin B. Mead and his wife Georgiana (Waters) Mead lived here.[32] Mr. Mead also was associated with Lincoln and is credited with positioning the company in an industry-leading role within its first decades of existence. Also, in his spare time, he cultivated nationally-recognized iris collections,[33] and originated the "Hyperion" daylily hybrid that is still popular today.[34]

Perhaps the best known person associated with this house is Philo T. Farnsworth who lived here from 1948 to 1967 with his wife Elma (Gardner) Farnsworth.[35] In 1927, Mr. Farnsworth submitted a patent for an all-electronic "television system" that would become the basis for modern-day televisions, thus he became known as the inventor of television.[36]

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is also significant under National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of Craftsman/Colonial Revival-style architecture. Built circa 1910, the one-and-half story, front-gabled, wood clapboard house features shed roof dormers and wide overhanging eaves common to the Craftsman style, but the Colonial Revival style figures prominently in the design of the main entrance door which is flanked by multi-paned sidelights and topped with a fanlight. The entrance is further enhanced by a pedimented portico with curved underside. The multi-paned, casement and double-hung windows, placed mostly in pairs and in threes, also reflect the Colonial Revival style.

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[26] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*

[27] Michael C. Hawfield, *Ninety Years and Growing: The Story of Lincoln National* (Indianapolis, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 1995), 1, 3; Lincoln Financial Group, "History," http://lfg.com/LincolnPagerServer?LFGPage=/lfg/lfgclient/abt/hist/index.html (accessed September 22, 2010).

[28] "D.B. Ninde Succumbs At Durham, N.H.," *Fort Wayne (IN) News-Sentinel*, 9 December 1937, 12.

[29] B.J. Griswold, *The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne Indiana: A Review of Two Centuries of Occupation of the Region About the Head of the Maumee River*, vol. 2 (Chicago, IL: Robert O. Law Company, 1917), 610.

[30] "Shawnee Place Historic District."

[31] Creager Smith, City of Fort Wayne (IN) Preservation Planner, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, February 21, 2011.

[32] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*

[33] Hawfield, 110.

[34] Donald Wyman, *Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia* (New York, NY: Scribner, 1997), 516.

[35] Property record card; State of Indiana, "Home of Philo T. Farnsworth," http://www.in.gov/history/markers/38.htm (accessed October 11, 2010).

[36] The Historical Marker Database, "Farnsworth's Green Street Lab," http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=20900 (accessed October 11, 2010); "Home of Philo T. Farnsworth."

Narrative Statement of Significance

Commerce and Invention

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with commerce and invention. Between the years of 1913 and 1968, two men connected to companies or events of national significance lived in the residence.

Beginning in about 1910 until 1913, attorney Daniel B. Ninde resided in this home.[37] Mr. Ninde was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 28, 1870, to Lindley M. and Beulah (Puckett) Ninde. In 1891, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, ranking seventh in his class. He then spent a year at Harvard, after which he spent a year studying law in his father's law office in Fort Wayne. Apparently the field of law sparked his interest as he later graduated from the law school at the University of Michigan in 1895. Mr. Ninde then joined in a law practice with his father and brother, Harry W. Ninde.[38] In 1904, he was elected Allen County (IN) prosecuting attorney, a position he served for just two years.[39] By this same time, he was the attorney for the Fraternal Assurance Society of America (Society), a local insurance enterprise organized in 1902 by Wilbur Wynant. By 1905, however, the Society was bankrupt and Mr. Wynant had left town in search of other business opportunities. On May 15, 1905, the remaining directors of the Society reorganized as a legal reserve company, and the preliminary agreement was drawn up by Mr. Ninde.[40] The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (Lincoln) was officially founded on June 12, 1905.[41] Until his retirement from Lincoln in January 1930, Mr. Ninde held various offices with the company in addition to being the company's attorney. From June 1905 to January 1930, he was a member of the board of directors and executive committee, and from January 1918 to January 1930, he was the vice-president. He also served several years on the finance committee.[42]

In addition to being involved with Lincoln, Mr. Ninde was also an organizer and vice-president of The Wildwood Builders Company (Wildwood Builders), a residential development and home building company based in Fort Wayne.[43] Mr. Ninde's sister-in-law, Joel Roberts Ninde, was a self-trained architect whose first house design in the early 1900s was for herself and her husband, Lee.[44] Eventually, she designed and built several other houses that caught the attention of "the whole city," and "the demand for her services in house planning began to monopolize her whole endeavor."[45] Thus began the genesis of Wildwood Builders in 1910. In 1913, the company began publishing *The Wildwood Magazine*, a nationally-known publication that reported on architecture, city planning, and interior design. By 1914, it was reported that Wildwood Builders had designed and built over 300 homes.[46] Shawnee Place, the first Fort Wayne residential development created by the company, received favorable publicity in Indiana, and the Midwest.[47] Three later developments included partnering with noted Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff.[48] Although the magazine ceased publication after 1917, just a year after the untimely death of Mrs. Ninde, the company continued to prosper into the late 1920s.[49] Mr. Daniel Ninde later moved to Durham, New Hampshire, the hometown of his wife, Margaret Coe, whom he married in 1913. Together they had three sons: David, Daniel, and Richard. Mr. Ninde died in Durham at age 67 on December 8, 1937.[50] Although Mr. Ninde was associated with these well-known national companies, he only lived in this house a short while before regularly

[37] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*
[38] "D.B. Ninde Succumbs At Durham, N.H.," 1, 12.
[39] Griswold, *The Pictorial History*, 428.
[40] Hawfield, 1-3.
[41] "History."
[42] "D.B. Ninde Succumbs At Durham, N.H.," 12.
[43] Griswold, *The Pictorial History*, 610.
[44] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[45] "Joel Roberts Ninde," *The Wildwood Magazine*, Summer 1916, 16.
[46] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[47] "Mrs. L.J. Ninde Dies Suddenly From Apoplexy," *Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette*, 8 March 1916, 1, 13.
[48] Bert J. Griswold, *Builders of Greater Fort Wayne: A Collection of Portraits of the Men of Today Who Are Carrying on the Work of the Fathers in the Making of "The Wonder City of Midwestern America"*, (Fort Wayne, IN: 1926), 737.
[49] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[50] "D.B. Ninde Succumbs At Durham, N.H.," 1, 12.

moving into Wildwood Builders Company homes every few years.[51] Two later residents of this house would have a greater historical impact at the national and international levels.

Beginning in 1913, fellow Lincoln executive Franklin B. Mead and his wife, Georgiana (Waters) Mead, lived here.[52] Mr. Mead was born in Greenfield, Ohio, in 1875.[53] He attended Hughes High School, in Cincinnati, Ohio,[54] and at age 19, entered the University of Cincinnati where he studied English, classical literature, and mathematics. In 1897, his interest in insurance surfaced after he began working for the Security Trust and Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia as a brokerage salesman.[55] This led him to the University of Michigan to focus on actuarial science and economics.[56] In 1906, after just two years of study, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Beginning in 1908, he was employed as an actuary by the Michigan State Life Insurance Company in Detroit, Michigan. It was in 1911 that Mr. Mead was lured to Fort Wayne by Lincoln president Arthur F. Hall. Mr. Hall had been impressed with Mr. Mead's understanding of substandard insurance and underwriting after seeing Mr. Mead present papers at trade association conventions, and felt he would be a good match for Lincoln. Immediately, Mead was made secretary of the company, and was considered to be the leading force in the survival of Lincoln in its first few decades of existence as the company developed innovative insurance industry practices or perfected those already in place bringing national prominence to Fort Wayne.[57]

By 1911, Lincoln had "assumed a respected position of expertise among fellow insurers and regulators" according to company history.[58] At Mr. Mead's urging, Lincoln delved into the reinsurance business[59] whereby an insurance company contracts with a third party to protect the insurance company from losses.[60] Between 1913 and 1914, Lincoln obtained the reinsurance business from 120 companies.[61] After World War I, Lincoln positioned itself to be the world leader in reinsurance following the exit from the market of Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company, the only other significant reinsurer in the United States, and Munich Life and Cologne Life, the world's largest reinsurers. This tact led to future notoriety for Lincoln.[62] By 1955, it was the ninth largest life insurance company in the United States,[63] and by 1995, led the world in life-health reinsurance and led the nation in writing individual annuities. In addition to promoting reinsurance, Mr. Mead, in 1919, pioneered the practice of allowing lay people the authority to approve clearly acceptable insurance applications, rather than having the medical director and his staff do it as was the customary practice at the time. Years later in 1984, Lincoln created an automated life underwriting system (LUS) to accomplish the same task. The software for LUS was patented in 1990, a first in the insurance industry. Also developed by Mr. Mead, in 1925, was the basis for a training program known today as LOMA (Life Office Management Association),[64] an international organization devoted to the training and development of insurance industry employees.[65] Mr. Mead served as LOMA's first president. In 1926, Mr. Mead was elected vice-president of Lincoln, and in 1930, was named executive vice-president, a position he held until his death.[66]

Mr. Mead spent his spare time gardening. According to his obituary, he "was internationally known in horticultural circles and had, at his home, one of the finest gardens in the country."[67] Mr. Mead had an excellent iris collection, for which he

[51] Creager Smith, City of Fort Wayne (IN) Preservation Planner, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, February 21, 2011.
[52] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory.*
[53] Hawfield, 110.
[54] "Franklin B. Mead, Insurance Company Official, Is Dead," *Fort Wayne (IN) News-Sentinel*, 29 November 1933, 1, 2.
[55] Hawfield, 110.
[56] "Franklin B. Mead, Insurance Company Official, Is Dead," 1, 2.
[57] Hawfield, 9, 110.
[58] "History."
[59] Hawfield, 9.
[60] The Free Dictionary, "reinsurance," http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/reinsurance (accessed October 14, 2010).
[61] Hawfield, 9.
[62] Ibid., 103.
[63] "History."
[64] Hawfield, 1, 11, 106.
[65] "Franklin B. Mead, Insurance Company Official, Is Dead," 1, 2.
[66] Hawfield, 1, 9, 11, 103, 106;
[67] "Franklin B. Mead, Insurance Company Official, Is Dead," 1, 2.

earned national recognition and inspired him to name this house "Iriscrest." He also wrote articles on irises and gardening that regularly appeared in magazines such as *House and Garden* and *Country Life*.[68] In addition to irises, Mr. Mead apparently had an interest in daylilies as he originated the "Hyperion" hybrid in 1925, a variety that is one of the best-known among this flower genus.[69] Because of Mead's gardening interests, it is likely, although unconfirmed, that Mead influenced the existing designed landscape elements associated with the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House. These elements include a low, dry-laid stone wall, extending nearly the entire length of the north and west property lines. A similar wall bisects the sloping west yard from a point just north and west of the garage north to a point about in line with the southwest corner of the house where a set of stone stairs, consisting of four treads, lead east to the upper yard. Another similar set of stairs, consisting of three treads, punctuates this wall at about its midpoint. The lower area of the west yard contains remnants of two sunken, stone goldfish ponds, one of which retains a stone statuary feature. It is known that by 1948, the west yard had a small fish pond with statue.[70]

For twenty of the twenty-two years spent at Lincoln, Mr. Mead resided at Iriscrest until he died at age 58 on November 29, 1933. His wife, and their two sons, Franklin, Jr., and John, survived him.[71] The home's flowers, which included iris, daffodils, and lilacs, were given to the City of Fort Wayne which subsequently planted them in Fort Wayne's Foster Park.[72] Mrs. Mead continued to own Iriscrest until she sold it to Philo and Elma Farnsworth in September of 1948.[73]

Philo Taylor Farnsworth was born on August 19, 1906, to Lewis E. and Serena (Bastian) Farnsworth in Indian Creek, Utah, near Beaver, Utah.[74] In 1918, the family moved to an uncle's farm near Rigby, Idaho,[75] where young Mr. Farnsworth attended Rigby Idaho High School. From 1923 to 1925, he was a student at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah,[76] but lacking financial stability, dropped out in the spring of 1926. He soon got a job in Salt Lake City, Utah, working for a national charitable organization called Community Chest. On May 27, 1926, he married Elma Gardner, who preferred to be called by her nickname of "Pem."[77] By January of the following year, Mr. Farnsworth had filed for a patent for his "television system."[78]

Mr. Farnsworth developed an early fascination with technology as he was intrigued by such things as the workings of trains, the telephone, and the gramophone, and was subsequently inspired by the people who made them work – the inventors. Fascinated by electricity, he once even tried to create his own source by putting together parts he found lying around his family's farm. It did not work, but he was happy with his attempt at an invention.[79] He also became interested in radio and transmitting devices, particularly those that transmitted images, so he began studying the concept and reviewing experiments already in progress by others. The story goes that in 1921, as fifteen-year old Philo was plowing the lines of a potato field, his idea for how to convert electron beams into an image materialized. Soon after, he first revealed a drawing of his television invention to Justin Tolman, a science teacher at Rigby Idaho High School.[80]

It was not until Mr. Farnsworth began working at Community Chest that his invention caught steam. It was here that he met George Everson and Leslie Gorrell and in whom he confided about his plans for a television system. He explained that although there were four other men leading the development of television, he reasoned that because they were all mechanically based, the systems would never work to transmit images. His electronic system was what would do the trick. The three men then entered into a partnership toward perfecting the invention and applying for a patent. This eventually

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[68] Hawfield, 110.
[69] Bloomingfields Farm, "Hyperion Blooms," http://www.bloomingfieldsfarm.com/hype.html (accessed October 21, 2010).
[70] Farnsworth, 252.
[71] "Franklin B. Mead, Insurance Company Official, Is Dead," 1, 2.
[72] Foster Park Cultural Landscape Report, Fort Wayne, Indiana; http://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/stories/CulturalLandscapeReport/folster_2007_clr2.pdf (accessed March 19, 2011).
[73] Property record card.
[74] Farnsworth, 23.
[75] Evan I. Schwartz, *The Last Lone Inventor* (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 2002), 14.
[76] The Museum of Broadcast Communications, "Farnsworth, Philo," http://www.museum.tv/eotvsection.php?entrycode=farnsworthp (accessed October 11, 2010).
[77] Schwartz, 52-53, 56, 62.
[78] "Farnsworth, Philo."
[79] Farnsworth, 26-27.
[80] Schwartz, 19-22, 26, 27.

led to a move to laboratory space in San Francisco, California. It was at this lab, at 202 Green Street,[81] that a photograph of a young woman was transmitted as the first crude television image. The date was September 7, 1927.[82] Three years later, two of the key parts of Mr. Farnsworth's electronic television system were awarded patents.[83] However, at about this same time, the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) claimed that its own inventor, Dr. Vladimir Zworykin, had originated electronic television as Dr. Zworykin had applied for a patent in 1923, despite the fact that no patent had actually been issued by the time of the Farnsworth patents.[84] In 1934, Mr. Farnsworth filed a lawsuit against RCA to settle the matter of who actually invented electronic television.[85] It was ruled that Dr. Zworykin's 1923 invention was inoperable,[86] and that "priority of invention is awarded to Philo T. Farnsworth."[87]

In 1931, Mr. Farnsworth moved from San Francisco to Philadelphia to work for the Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, known as Philco, developing the company's television subsidiary.[88] It was in late 1939 that Mr. Farnsworth first moved to Fort Wayne where he located his newly-formed company, the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation (FT&R),[89] to take over a local maker of high-end, high-quality radios and phonograph systems known as the Capehart Company.[90] However, Mr. Farnsworth found the work of manufacturing, rather than inventing, to be depressing, so he and Pem moved to Brownfield, Maine, in 1940 for several years while continuing to be affiliated with the FT&R.[91] During World War II, the FT&R continued to prosper by providing millions of dollars of electronic contracts to the Pentagon. By 1948, however, the FT&R had designed a complete line of television sets that included portable tabletop models to living room consoles.[92] Newly inspired, the Farnsworths purchased the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth house in Fort Wayne [93] and moved back. However, the FT&R found itself in financial straits by the spring of 1949, and was subsequently bought by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT). ITT then renamed its Fort Wayne division the Farnsworth Electronics Company, of which Mr. Farnsworth served as vice-president of research.[94]

During this second stay in Fort Wayne, Mr. Farnsworth applied for and was issued at least eleven patents including those for a color television apparatus, the cathode ray tube, and a process and apparatus for drying and treating lumber.[95] While with ITT, Mr. Farnsworth invented submarine detection devices[96] as well as an early-warning system that could detect and explode a missile before it made impact with its target. He also developed the Iotron which was a memory tube that was able to retain an image for an indefinite amount of time. One version of the Iotron was used in telescopes and helped astronomers see 50,000 more times into space than they could before,[97] while another was used to control air traffic from the ground resulting in the world's first air traffic control system. Today, the modern-day version of his system benefits more than two billion plane passengers per year.[98] Mr. Farnsworth also embarked on a study of nuclear fusion toward the ultimate goal of safely producing an endless supply of free energy. On January 4, 1961, the *New York Times* reported that ITT and Mr. Farnsworth had announced the prospect of a low-cost nuclear fusion process. Mr. Farnsworth named his invention the Fusor, for which he applied for patents and was issued two, but ITT cut off his funding in 1966 and put him on medical retirement.[99] In 1968, the Farnsworths sold their Fort Wayne home to Ronald and Nancy Murphy[100] after having

[81] Ibid., 53-56, 91.
[82] "Farnsworth, Philo."
[83] Schwartz, 161.
[84] Farnsworth, 154.
[85] Schwartz, 200.
[86] Farnsworth, 157.
[87] Schwartz, 220.
[88] Ibid., 47,183-185.
[89] Farnsworth, 208.
[90] Schwartz, 242.
[91] Farnsworth, 216, 219, 227.
[92] Schwartz, 279, 283.
[93] Property record card.
[94] Schwartz, 283-284.
[95] Farnsworth, Appendix.
[96] ITT, "Philo Farnsworth: A brilliant mind takes flight," http://www.itt.com/docs/news/advancing-human-progress/safer.html (accessed March 19, 2011).
[97] Farnsworth, 259.
[98] "Philo Farnsworth: A brilliant mind takes flight."
[99] Schwartz, 285, 295-296.
[100] Property record card.

moved to Holladay, Utah, near Salt Lake City,[101] where the nuclear fusion research continued but was not completed. On March 11, 1971, Mr. Farnsworth died at age sixty-four. He was buried in Provo, Utah.[102]
Of the many places Mr. Farnsworth was known to have lived in his lifetime, he settled for considerably more years at the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House than any other place. Many attempts were made to determine the current existence of other Farnsworth residences. It has been confirmed that homes in Rigby, Idaho;[103,104] San Francisco, California;[105] and Holladay, Utah[106,107] have been demolished, and a home in Brownfield, Maine, was lost in a forest fire.[108] The apartment he lived in on Vallejo Street in San Francisco when his television breakthrough occurred still exists[109,110] as does a rented home in Berkeley, California.[111,112] Although the rural Utah log cabin where he lived as a child is extant, it has been moved from its original site to an artificial, museum-like setting in Beaver, Utah.[113] The exact location of his earlier Fort Wayne home is not known, and the Farnsworth Electronics Company building no longer exists,[114] making the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House the only building remaining in Fort Wayne known to be associated with Mr. Farnsworth.[115] In 1992, the Indiana Historical Bureau erected an historical marker at the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House recognizing Mr. Farnsworth's television invention. Placed in the right-of-way on the east side of the house, the marker states "Home of Philo T. Farnsworth. Home 1948-1967 of Farnsworth, inventor of television. Farnsworth (1906-1971) was instrumental in perfecting the image formation mechanism which enabled the first effective image transmission in 1927. Farnsworth Radio and Television Corporation in Fort Wayne 1938-1949."[116]

From its unlikely conception in a farm field in Idaho, the Farnsworth electronic television system grew to be an enduring invention that few homes would be without. In about 1937, a few pioneer television companies began producing regular television schedules that included programs such as fashion shows, musical performances, or sporting events. In 1938, it was estimated that there were only about 100 television sets in the United States. During World War II, television transmissions were reduced to showing such things as newsreels and sporting events.[117] It was not until the late 1940s to the early 1950s that transmission and reception facilities took root.[118] By 1947, there were approximately 170,000 private television sets in use. Author Rick Marschall wrote that by 1948, "television had arrived...Many homes had it – thousands by the week ordering them – and those that didn't knew that it was merely a matter of time."[119] By the end of 1952, homes

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[101] Farnsworth, 317.
[102] Schwartz, 296-297.
[103] Schwartz, 14.
[104] Glena Smith, curator for the Jefferson County (ID) Historical Society and Museum, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, March 18, 2011.
[105] Farnsworth, 115.
[106] Ibid., 317.
[107] Mark Cornelius, owner of 5166 Cottonwood Lane, Holladay, Utah, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, March 20, 2011.
[108] Farnsworth, 243.
[109] Ibid., 87.
[110] Wendy Kramer, San Francisco (CA) Public Library librarian, e-mail to Jill Downs, March 13, 2011; Tina Tam, Assistant to the Director of Neighborhood Planning/Senior Preservation Planner, City of San Francisco (CA), e-mails to Jill Downs, April 8, 2011; Jennifer Root, Oakland, California resident, e-mails to Jill Downs, March 28 and April 6, 2011.
[111] Farnsworth, 71.
[112] John Aronovici, Berkeley (CA) Historical Society docent, e-mail to Jill Downs, April 7, 2011.
[113] J.D. Osborn, Beaver County (UT) Travel Council, telephone interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, March 22, 2011.
[114] Indiana's NewsCenter, "Farnsworth building being demolished," http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/86971107.html (accessed March 19, 2011).
[115] In an effort to find other Farnsworth homes still in existence, local and state historic preservation organizations and libraries associated with known Farnsworth locations were contacted for information. Several had no information on Farnsworth residences in their cities or states or did not return requests.
[116] "Home of Philo T. Farnsworth."
[117] Rick Marschall, *The History of Television* (New York, NY: Gallery Books and W.H. Smith Publishers, Inc., 1986), 18, 19, 21, 22.
[118] Raymond Williams, *Television: Technology and Cultural Form* (London, England: Fontana, 1974; reprint, Padstow, Cornwall, United Kingdom: TJ International LTD, 2003), 23.
[119] Marschall, 23, 26.

with televisions numbered twenty million.[120] By early 1993, ninety-eight percent of homes, or approximately ninety-five million, in the United States owned at least one television, and sixty-four percent of homes, or approximately sixty-two million, had at least two televisions.[121] Today, nearly ninety-nine percent of United States households, or almost one hundred seventeen million, have a television.[122]

Mr. Farnsworth accumulated over 300 U.S. and foreign patents for electronic and mechanical devices, approximately 100 of which related to television components in use at the time of his death.[123] Although occurring after his death, he received two substantial honors in light of his accomplishments as an inventor. In 1983, the United States Postal Service issued a twenty-cent stamp commemorating him and the first television camera.[124] In 1990, the State of Utah donated a statue of Mr. Farnsworth to be placed in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol. This statue collection honors persons notable in individual states' histories.[125]

Architecture

The Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C. Built circa 1910, it is a well-designed combination of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles of architecture that retains exceptional integrity. Colonial Revival architecture emerged following America's celebration of its Centennial in 1876, and is in reference to the country's early Georgian and Federal architecture.[126] From about 1880 to 1955,[127] Colonial Revival architecture was commonly used for residential buildings in the United States, and generally on a larger scale than their predecessors.[128] Characteristic features of the style include a symmetrical main façade with prominent center entrance often topped with a fanlight and flanked by sidelights. The entrance typically is accented with a pediment and pilasters or columns. Colonial Revival-style windows are usually double-hung, are frequently placed in pairs, and feature multi-paned sashes containing six, eight, nine, or twelve panes.[129] Interior ornamentation often includes dentil moldings, swags, and white trim.[130]

The Craftsman style gained a following in the United States in the early 1900s after California-based brothers Charles and Henry Greene began designing homes based upon Asian-inspired architecture and the English Arts and Crafts Movement, which emphasized the use of craftsmanship over machine-made objects.[131] The "Craftsman" terminology took hold after Gustav Stickley, an American furniture maker also inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, began publishing the magazine *The Craftsman* in 1901 to further the Arts and Crafts ideals, as well as his own house designs based upon them.[132] Eventually, the Craftsman style of architecture was more typically seen in small houses, and had a limited popularity for house design spanning only the years from about 1905 to 1930. Characteristic Craftsman style features

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[120] High-Tech Productions, "The History of Film, Television & Video," http://www.high-techproductions.com/historyoftelevision.htm (accessed October 27, 2010).

[121] "The History of Film, Television & Video;" "Table 16. Households, by Type, Tenure, and Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: March 1993, http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/p20-477/tab16.pdf (accessed November 23, 2010).

[122] "Connecting: Then & Now," *Woman's Day,* 1 November 2010, 14; Table 6. Household and Family Units by Race, and Origin, March 2010, pg. C-29, http://www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar10.pdf (accessed November 23, 2010.

[123] Lemelson-MIT, "Philo Farnsworth," http://web.mit.edu/invent/iow/farnsworth.html (accessed August 22, 2012).

[124] U.S. Stamp Gallery, "Philo T. Farnsworth," http://usstampgallery.com/view.php?id=07bc689729c9e87200f5721e132f48b9d6f02e6b (accessed August 22, 2012).

[125] Architect of the Capitol. "Capitol Campus/Art," http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/index.cfm (accessed August 22, 2012).

[126] Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1994), 188.

[127] Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 321.

[128] Carley, 188.

[129] McAlester and McAlester, 321, 324.

[130] Carley, 188, 189.

[131] Ibid., 208.

[132] Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home* (New York, NY: Penquin Group, 1995), 7, 8.

include a low-pitched gable roof with wide, unenclosed, overhanging eaves; exposed roof rafter tails; the use of triangular braces, usually decorative rather than structural, under gables; porches supported by tapered, square columns; and a frequent use of gabled or shed roof dormers. Additional commonly seen exterior elements include wood clapboard siding, wood windows consisting of a multi-paned upper sash over a single-paned lower sash,[133] while interior elements include a use of natural woodwork, built-in features, and exposed ceiling beams.[134]

Although the architect of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is not confirmed, it is highly likely that the house was designed by Joel Roberts Ninde, the sister-in-law of Daniel Ninde who first owned the house. Ms. Ninde was a self-trained architect whose first house design in the early 1900s was for herself and her husband, Lee, as they had been unable to find a home that was suitable in size and price.[135] According to her obituary, Ms. Ninde specialized in "attractive designing for moderately priced homes."[136] Eventually, she designed and built several other houses that drew city-wide attention ultimately leading to the development of The Wildwood Builders Company (Wildwood Builders), a residential development and home building company based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1910.[137] Lee Ninde was president of Wildwood Builders and his brother Daniel Ninde was the vice-president.[138] In 1913, the company began publishing *The Wildwood Magazine*, a nationally-known publication that reported on architecture, city planning, and interior design. By 1914, it was reported that Wildwood Builders had designed and built over 300 homes often utilizing architectural features from the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles.[139] Shawnee Place, the first Fort Wayne residential development created by the company, received favorable publicity in Indiana and the Midwest.[140] Three later developments included partnering with noted Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff.[141]

Other evidence exists to suggest that the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House was designed by Ms. Ninde. A 1914 newspaper advertisement placed by Wildwood Builders listed owners of Wildwood homes through 1913, and Daniel Ninde was among them.[142] By 1913, Mr. Ninde no longer lived in the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, but the house he did live in at that time was a Greek Revival-style house built circa 1855; therefore, this Greek Revival house could not have been designed by Wildwood Builders.[143] The assumption is that the ad referenced an earlier house owned by Mr. Ninde which would correlate with the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House.

From an architectural perspective, the design of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House clearly utilizes elements associated with the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles favored by Wildwood Builders. The one-and-half story, front-gabled, wood clapboard house features shed roof dormers and wide overhanging eaves common to the Craftsman style (photo 1). The larger scale of the house reflects the Colonial Revival style as does the main entrance door which is flanked by multi-paned sidelights and topped with a fanlight. This entrance is further enhanced by a pedimented portico with curved underside (photo 2). The multi-paned, casement and double-hung windows of the house, placed mostly in pairs and in threes, also echo the Colonial Revival style (photo 1). While the interior of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House is lacking in the typical ornamentation of either the Colonial Revival or Craftsman style, such as exposed ceiling beams or dentil molding, there are small references here and there to each. The turned balusters of the staircase (photo 10) and white trim throughout the house are common to the Colonial Revival style, while the frequent use of built-in features, such as shelving, drawers, and cupboards, is typical of the Craftsman style (photo 11).

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[133] McAlester and McAlester, 442, 453-454.
[134] Carley, 208, 211.
[135] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[136] "Mrs. L.J. Ninde Dies Suddenly From Apoplexy," 1.
[137] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[138] Griswold, *The Pictorial History*, 610.
[139] "Shawnee Place Historic District."
[140] "Mrs. L.J. Ninde Dies Suddenly From Apoplexy," 13.
[141] Griswold, *Builders of Greater Fort Wayne*, 737.
[142] "Growing Bigger by The Year," *Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette*, 4 February 1914, 7.
[143] *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*; *Fort Wayne, Indiana, Interim Report: A Presentation of Historic Resources, Achievements, and Possibilities* (Fort Wayne, IN: 1996), 133.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

First settled by the Native American Miami tribe and known as "Kekionga,"[144] Fort Wayne, Indiana, was established in 1794[145] at the confluence of the St. Mary's, the St. Joseph, and the Maumee Rivers in the northeastern part of the state.[146] Named for a fort built here by General Anthony Wayne,[147] the site was chosen for the three rivers and close proximity to the Wabash River which provided access to the Great Lakes and Ohio River. This resulted in Fort Wayne becoming a center of trade and commerce. Attracted by the economic possibilities of the area and availability of land no longer occupied by Native Americans, early settlers began arriving in Fort Wayne in the early 1820s. Allen County, for which Fort Wayne is the county seat, was created in 1823. In the 1830s, the highest point of the Wabash & Erie Canal was in Fort Wayne, thus resulting in the town's nickname of the "Summit City." Naturally, residential and commercial buildings sprang up around this new source of commerce for Fort Wayne. The development of major industries by such as Wayne Knitting Mills, Jenney Electric Company, and Bass Foundry led to the building of more residential neighborhoods in the late 1800s. By 1892, a trolley system had been created that spurred the development of neighborhoods further from the center of town. Between 1900 and 1930, Fort Wayne's population grew from 45,115 to 114,946.[148]

The North Wildwood Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, which includes the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, was one of those early suburban neighborhoods. Located approximately 1.25 miles northeast from the town center, the North Wildwood Addition was platted in 1913 by Daniel B. Ninde who owned the land.[149] The 1918 Sanborn map[150] shows only a few houses in the area near the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House, but in later Sanborn revisions,[151] houses are present on nearly every lot in the neighborhood. Today, this is a stable neighborhood that retains much of its architectural character and integrity.

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[144] Griswold, *The Pictorial History*, 36.
[145] Archiving Early America, "'Mad Anthony' Wayne at Fallen Timbers," http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/fall96/anthony.html (accessed November 24, 2010).
[146] City of Fort Wayne, "Fort Wayne History," http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/fort-wayne-history.html (accessed November 24, 2010).
[147] "'Mad Anthony' Wayne at Fallen Timbers."
[148] City of Fort Wayne, "Fort Wayne History," http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/fort-wayne-history.html (accessed November 24, 2010).
[149] Plat map.
[150] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1918*, vol. 1, 103.
[151] *Insurance Maps of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1918*, vol. 1a, revisions through 1957, 103.

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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
__x__Local government
____University
__x__Other
Name of repository: **ARCH, Inc. , Fort Wayne, IN**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 003-215-17411

10. Geographical Data

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

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	657026	4551157	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundaries of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House include lot 124 except the south ten feet, and lots 136, 137, and 138 of the North Wildwood Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is the property associated with the house during the period of significance.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries of the Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth correspond to the legal description of the property encompassing the significant resources of this nomination.

Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House
Name of Property

Allen County, IN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill D. Downs

organization Partners In Preservation, Inc. date September 20, 2012

street & number 1202 Elmwood Ave. Telephone (260) 424-4197

City or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46805

e-mail andyandjill@juno.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House

City or Vicinity: Fort Wayne

County: Allen State: IN

Photographer: Jill Downs

Date Photographed: November 5, 2010 and March 31, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 17. Looking southwest at the intersection of St. Joseph and East State Boulevards showing the east and north facades of the home. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0001.tif)

2 of 17. North façade, looking south. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0002.tif)

3 of 17. East façade, looking northwest. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0003.tif)

4 of 17. South façade, looking north. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0004.tif)

5 of 17. West façade, looking northeast. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0005.tif)

6 of 17. West façade, looking southeast. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0006.tif)

7 of 17. View of driveway and garage, looking west. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0007.tif)

8 of 17. Looking west into office from dining room. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0008.tif)

9 of 17. At southern end of central hallway, looking north. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0009.tif)

10 of 17. Dining room, looking northwest. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0010.tif)

11 of 17. Kitchen, looking southwest. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0011.tif)

12 of 17. Sunroom, looking northwest. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0012.tif)

13 of 17. Den, looking north. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0013.tif)

14 of 17. Living room, looking south. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0014.tif)

15 of 17. Stairs to upper floor, looking northeast. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0015.tif)

16 of 17. East bedroom, looking southeast. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0016.tif)

17 of 17. Storage wall in upper floor hallway, looking southwest. (IN_AllenCounty_NindeMeadFarnsworthHouse0017.tif)

Property Owner:

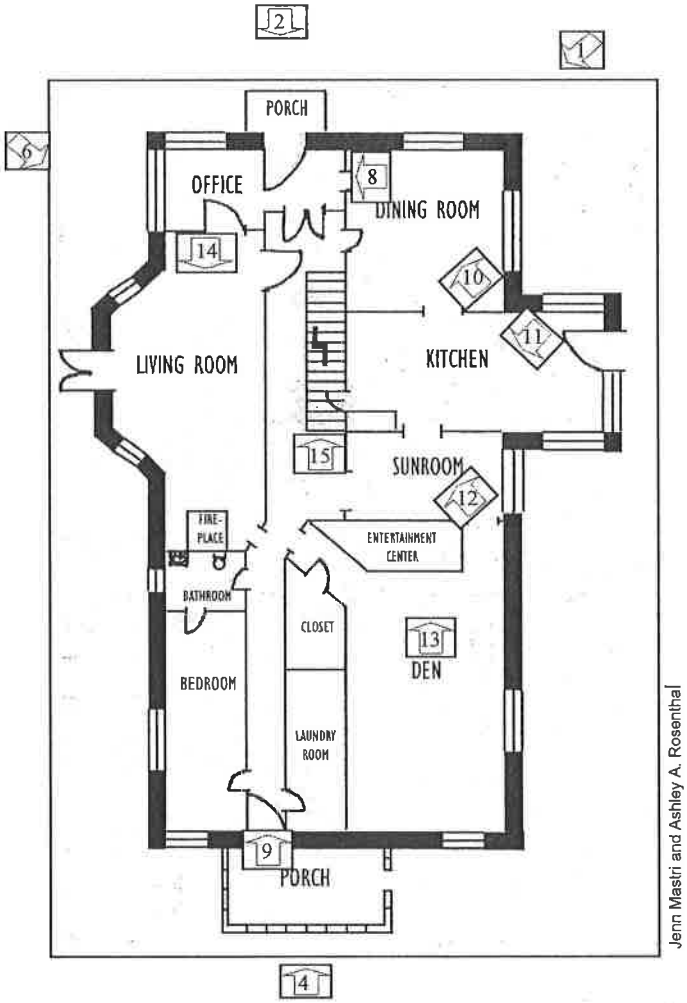
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Scott and Catherine Hill

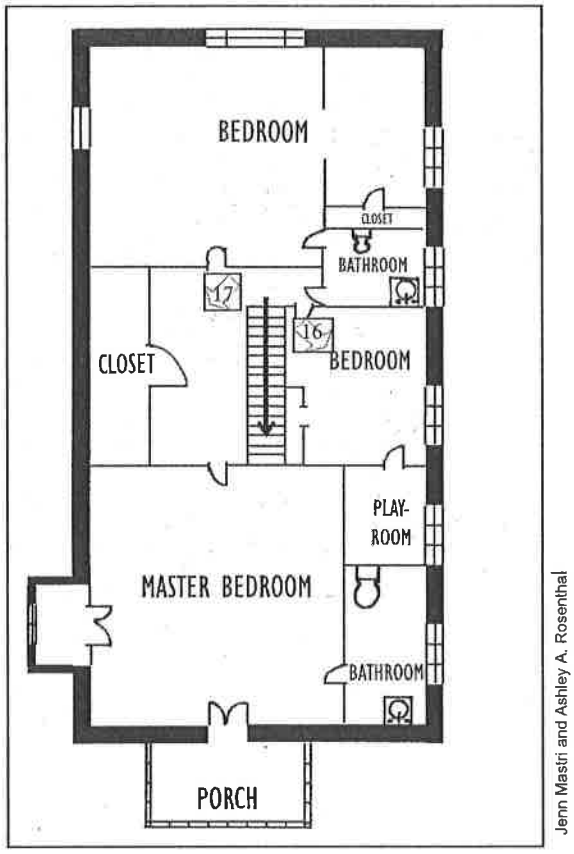
street & number 734 East State Boulevard Telephone (260) 496-9755

city or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46805

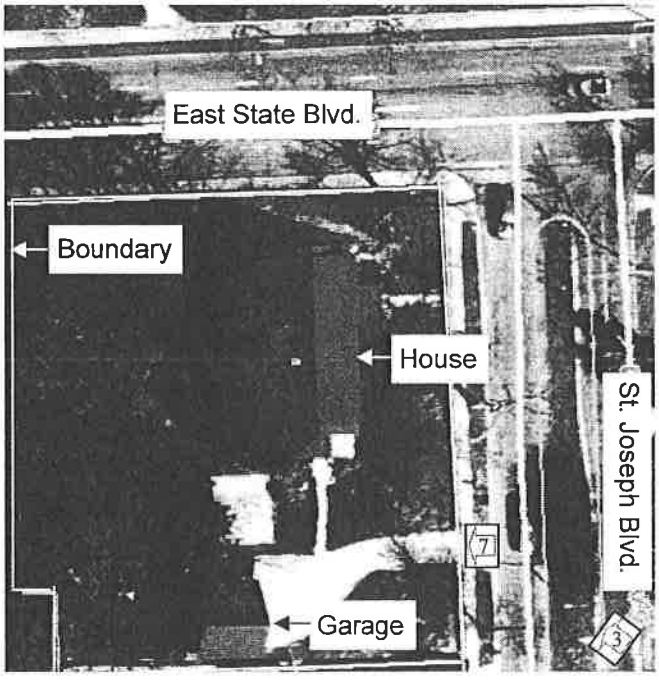
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Site Plan

N

= photograph

Ninde-Mead-Farnsworth House
734 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Allen County, IN

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FORT WAYNE WEST QUADRANGLE
INDIANA-ALLEN CO.
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85°15′ 41°07′30″ 85°07′30″ 41°00′

R 11 E R 12 E 137 500 METERS 145 000 METERS

T 31 N T 30 N T 30 N T 29 N

640 000 METERS 650 000 METERS

L A K E

W A S H I N G T O N

A B O L I T

W A Y N E

P L E A S A N T

FORT WAYNE

Bethlehem Sch
Elks Country Club
Northcrest
Shopping Center
Highland Bethel Ch
Johnny Appleseed Memorial Park
Schaaff L
Riverside Sch
Franke Park Sch
Vesey Park
Athletic Field
Northside High Sch
Price Sch
Radio Towers
Queen of Angels Sch
Shopping Center
Franklin Sch
St Vincents Orphan Home
Power Plant Substation
Rudisill Sch
North Highland
Hamilton Park
Trinity Sch
Precious Blood Sch
Lawton Park
Lakeside Sch
St Francis College
Mirror Lake
Linden wood Cemetery
Nebraska Sch
St Joseph Hospital
Swinney Park
Washington Sch
Emmanuel Sch
Central High Sch
Rockhill Park
Souls Harbor Ch
Fairhaven Mission
Portage Sch
Study Sch
Emmans Sch
Reservoir Park
Hamilton Sch
Fairfield Jr High Sch
Hanna Sch
St Patricks Sch
St Peters Sch
Zion Sch
Williams Park
Packard Park
Southside High Sch
Weisser Park
Ward Sch
Fort Wayne Bible College
Indian Village
Bethany Ch
Keionga Jr High Sch
Harrison Hill Sch
St John the Baptist Sch
Lafayette Park
Foster Park
Golf Course
Peace Sch
Shopping Center
South Calhoun Sch
Kettler Park
Bishop Luers High Sch
Geyer Jr HS
Lincolnshire
Westchester
Hillcrest
Golf Course
Hillcrest Sch
Athletic Field
Waynedale
Mt Calvary Sch
Radio Towers
Lake Shores
Maplewood Sch
Avalon
Waynedale Memorial Park
Strethorn Bridge
Gaging Station
Orchard Ridge Country Club
Elmhurst Sch
Elmhurst Ch
Prairie Grove Cem
Fox Island County Park
Pit
Westlawn
Ansley Acres
Covington Dells
Westmoor
Times Corner
Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery
Brierwood Hills
Radio Tower
Anthony Wayne Sch
Fort Wayne Country Club
Country Club Gardens
Oak Grove Cem
Sewage Disposal
Armory
Substa
Tower
Little River
Robinson Cem
Lawrence Ditch
St Marys River
Aboite Creek
Mud Creek
Fox Island Creek
Cedar Creek
Hoagland Ditch
Flaugh Ditch
Durnell Ditch
Hadley Ditch
Feeman Ditch
Fillmore Ditch
Taber Ditch
Dicke Ditch
Yellow River
Seegar Road
Leesburg Road
California Road
Lillegas Road
Kroemer Road
Butler Road
Arcola Road
Bass Road
Durnell Road
Flaugh Road
Thomas Road
Lindenwood Road
Rudisill Blvd
Taylor Street
Lafayette Street
Clinton Street
Calhoun Street
Harrison Street
Broadway
Main Street
Berry Street
Jefferson Blvd
Wayne Street
Superior Street
Columbia Street
Washington Blvd
Coliseum Blvd
Parnell Ave
Lima Road
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SCALE 1:24 000

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 2001

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Topography compiled 1963. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1956

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16
2 500-meter ticks: Indiana Coordinate System of 1983 (east zone)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Landmark buildings verified 1956

MN GN
4½° 80 MILS
1° 11′ 21 MILS
UTM GRID AND 2000 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1 0.5 0 KILOMETERS 1 2
1000 0 METERS 1000 2000
1 0.5 0 MILES 1
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

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INDIANA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Churubusco
2 Huntertown
3 Cedarville
4 Arcola
5 Fort Wayne East
6 Zanesville
7 Ossian
8 Poe

ADJOINING 7.5′ QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface
Secondary highway hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

FORT WAYNE WEST, IN

1998

NIMA 3966 II SW-SERIES V851

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9 780607 937688

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30

734

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