NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 18 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic J. C. Johnson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 322 East Washington N/A not for publication

city, town Muncie N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Delaware code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name J. Roberts Dailey and Company, Inc.

street & number 100 East Washington

city, town Muncie N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47305

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office, Delaware County Courthouse

street & number 100 West Main Street

city, town Muncie state Indiana 47305

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J. C. Johnson House is a large, 2½ story home located just north of the central business district in Muncie, Indiana. It is an irregularly shaped structure that combines elements of Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The structure is predominantly brick, with a tower and a two story bay constructed of limestone, and gable areas and dormers sided with shingles. The roof is slate and features decorative ridge trim with finials at the apices of the tower and some of the dormers. There are four slender chimneys located at random throughout the roof area; each of these features some type of limestone decoration near the top. The foundation of the building is of rough faced stone.

The main entry to the house is located in the south facade. This facade consists of a two-bay, 2½ story gabled unit with a low, two story tower projecting from the east side. The western bay contains identical triple-window units on the first and second floors; these units feature pilasters at either side, stone sills and lintels, and a fixed, stained glass panel over each center window. The east bay of the ground floor contains the main entry, a large double doorway surmounted by a rectangular transom. On the second floor this bay contains an oriel decorated with garlands and featuring two double-hung, one-over-one stained glass windows. The projecting gable area, covered with shingle siding, contains a recessed Palladian-style window unit. The center window of this unit features a rounded arch hood with a keystone, supported by a pair of plain columns. Limestone quoins are used to accentuate the corners of this entire rectangular, gabled area.

The two-story tower projecting to the east is constructed of alternating courses of smooth and rough faced limestone, and contains double-hung, one-over-one windows, as well as one smaller stained glass window. The main entry and the ground floor of the tower are both protected by an open porch constructed with plain wooden columns, and a railing with slender turned balusters.

The east facade of the building echoes the south facade in its use of an oriel and a recessed, triple-window unit in the gable area. The north, or rear, wall contains a large frame summer porch on the second floor level, topped by two dormers. The west wall features a two story, polygonal bay which, like the tower, is constructed of alternating courses of smooth and rough faced limestone. This bay is surmounted by a hipped dormer. Various small, stained glass windows are located throughout the structure.

The interior of the house is notable for the extensive use of finely crafted woodwork in the Queen Anne style. This is particularly evident in the main entry hall, which features an oak fireplace surround, paneled staircase, and coffered ceiling. Ionic columns of oak support a screen consisting of turned and tapered balusters set in rails, positioned over the doorway leading to the staircase. Oak pocket doors provide access to the library in the rear of the house, which has built-in bookcases, oak wainscotting, and a coffered ceiling similar to that in the entry hall. Other rooms in the house are less ornate, but oak woodwork and fireplace surrounds predominate throughout the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1897 **Builder/Architect** Grindle & Weatherhogg, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The J. C. Johnson House is significant for its architecture and fine craftsmanship, for its design by two of Indiana's most prominent architects, and for its association with one of Muncie's leading citizens. The house, built in 1897, is a mixture of Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne design elements. It features several stained glass windows, two oriels, two story stone bay, and numerous other interesting exterior elements. The interior boasts ornate oak mantlepieces and coffered ceilings, and finely crafted woodwork.

The house was designed by the Fort Wayne architectural firm of Grindle and Weatherhogg. Alfred Grindle was originally from London, and came to this country in 1888. After a short stay in New Jersey, he moved to Indiana and practiced architecture in Fort Wayne, Muncie, and Indianapolis. Charles R. Weatherhogg was also from England, and moved to America in 1893. He worked primarily in the Fort Wayne area. During the two years these men were partners, they collaborated on the Jasper County Courthouse, and the Suzanne Thomas House in Muncie, as well as the Johnson home.

The home was built as the residence of John C. Johnson. Johnson was born in New York in 1843, and served in the Union Army throughout the Civil War. He then spent 17 years working for a lumber company in Albany, New York, and finally started his own lumber business in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1882. He sold his interest in that firm two years later, moved to Muncie, and bought into his brother's company, the A. L. Johnson Lumber Company. In addition to his position with this firm, he also became president of the Muncie Paint and Roofing Company in 1892, and was named president of the Delaware County Bank in 1896. He served as a member of the City Council for several years. He passed away on December 13, 1904. His importance in the community might be measured by the fact that during his funeral, all commercial and business activities in the city were suspended for ten minutes in his honor.

The J. C. Johnson residence remains one of Muncie's finest and best preserved old mansions, and is notable for having survived with its integrity intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Muncie West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	637600	445039 0	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 8 in Block 32 of the Gilbert Addition to the City of Muncie

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Debra Beetem		
organization	Region 6 Planning Office, Muncie	date	January, 1980
street & number	327 W. Oakdale Drive	telephone	219/745-7353
city or town	Fort Wayne	state	Indiana 46807

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date June 16, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7/15/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

1. Haimbaugh, Frank D., History of Delaware County, Vol. 2. Indianapolis, IN: Historical Publishing Co., 1924.

2. Hubbard, Kin, ed. A Book of Indiana, Indiana Biographical Association, 1929.

3. Portrait and Biographical Record of Delaware County. Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Company, 1894.

4. Kemper, General William H., Twentieth Century History of Delaware County, Vol. 2 Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1908