

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 16 1984**  
date entered **SEP 13 1984**

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

**1. Name**

historic Tecumseh Historic District

and or common West Chicago Boulevard/Union Street Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number West Chicago Blvd. and Union Street N/A not for publication

city, town Tecumseh N/A vicinity of Congressional District 2

state Michigan code 26 county Lenawee code 091

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lenawee County Register of Deeds

street & number 309 N. Main Street

city, town Adrian state Michigan

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Michigan State Survey Data has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983-84  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Michigan History Division

city, town Lansing state Michigan

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tecumseh Historic District is a residential district which encompasses many of the most architecturally and historically significant homes in Tecumseh dating from the 1830s through the early twentieth century and located primarily along two major axes-- West Chicago Boulevard and Union Street. The district extends along West Chicago Boulevard from Adrian Street on the west to the edge of Tecumseh's commercial district on the east, and along Union Street, from Kilbuck Street on the south to Shawnee Street on the North. Also included are structures along Shawnee, Logan, Pottawatomie and Kilbuck Streets. The district contains eighty-two houses, three churches, a former school, and a former public library building. All of the eighty-seven structures contribute to the district's historic character. Notable Greek Revival and Italianate houses dominate the district, and later 19th and early 20th-century structures add significantly to its character reflecting Tecumseh's residential development and changes in architectural taste.

Located just to the west of Tecumseh's central business district along and adjacent to West Chicago Boulevard, the principal east-west highway through town, the district is located on level ground and has a cross-shaped configuration formed by the crossing of Union Street. West Chicago Boulevard is truly a boulevard, with a narrow grassy median in its center. The road is a major state trunk route carrying a heavy volume of traffic, and local residents have long had to contend with road-widening schemes of various kinds. The other streets are relatively narrow, two-lane roads. The boulevard and other district roadways are shaded by numerous large, old trees and the large, predominantly single-family houses in the district are for the most part set back a fair distance from the street.

Virtually all of the district's eighty-two houses were built as single-family homes. The houses are predominantly of frame construction, but some brick and cement block dwellings are present. Most houses are relatively modest, but a number along West Chicago Boulevard and Union Street are large and elaborately detailed. Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne dwellings predominate, but simple Late Victorian structures and early twentieth-century bungalows are also found.

The district's principal visual landmarks are the two red brick, Gothic-style churches on West Chicago, the First Presbyterian at 211 and Baptist (now Church of Christ) at 312. Several Greek Revival houses stand out by virtue of their large size and siting on street corners. These include the hip-roof houses (401 and 402 West Chicago) facing each other at the northwest and southwest corners of West Chicago and Union and the broad-fronted house with recessed portico at 501 West Chicago. On West Chicago the brick, cupola-

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crowned, cubical Italianate house at no. 303 is also a visual landmark, while the nearby brick house at 203 North Union and wood dwelling at 307 North Union are visually important because of their L-plan, towered, Italianate design and siting on very ample lots.

The following is the inventory of structures in the district. All structures contribute to the district's historic character. All are of frame construction unless otherwise stated.

1. 211 W. Chicago: First Presbyterian Church--Gothic, 1866. Rectangular-plan, brick church with corner tower and broached spire, 140 feet in height, and small ornamental tower on other front corner. Designed by Asahel Barrows of Adrian and built by Salmon Crane and Sons. Key visual landmark.
2. 303 W. Chicago: Alonzo Murray House--Italianate, ca. 1850. Two-story dwelling with low-pitch hipped and gable roof. The house has brick facades and wide, bracketed eaves. The symmetrical south facade has a pair of bay windows. Key visual landmark.
3. 305 W. Chicago: Dr. E.E. Hendershot House--Queen Anne-Colonial Revival, ca. 1910. Two-and-one-half-story house with a steep-pitch, end-gable roof and pedimented free-classic porch across the front.
4. 309 W. Chicago: Jerome B. Weller House--Mansard, 1872. One-and-one-half-story, with mansard roof over brown brick lower story. Roof has straight slopes and round-head dormers. Central bay with front entrance projects from south facade as does a bay window. Extension in north side of house. Key visual landmark.
5. 311 W. Chicago: Dolph Hessen House, 1922. Two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable roof and brown brick facades. One-story sunroom attached to west facade; vaulted entrance hood over front entrance.
6. 401 W. Chicago: Elijah Anderson House--Greek Revival, ca. 1837. One-story, rectangular-plan, with attic dormer and tall cupola above low-pitch hipped roof. White-painted clapboard facades, four-column Doric portico with heavy entablature. A balustrade around the perimeter of the house conceals the roof. Elijah Anderson, builder. Key visual landmark.
7. 409 W. Chicago: James McNair House--Greek Revival, ca. 1850s. One-and-one-half-story, L-plan, with low-pitch gable roofs, cornice returns and a recessed porch on the south facade.

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8. 413 W. Chicago: John Heck House--Queen Anne, ca. 1890. Two-and-one-half-story with gable roofs, square-post, free-classic porches, and a bay window at the southeast corner.

9. 415 W. Chicago: House--Greek Revival, ca. 1850. One-and-one-half-story, rectangular-plan, flank-gable-roof structure; late nineteenth-century porch on front facade.

10. 501 W. Chicago: James McAllaster House--Greek Revival, 1839, 1849. Basilica-plan house with one-and-one-half-story, end-gable central section and flanking one-story wings; pedimented, Doric distyle in antis portico in front of central entrance; tall nine-over-nine windows. Wings were added in 1849 by Horatio Keyser, a Tecumseh builder. Key visual landmark.

11. 503 W. Chicago: Southworth House, 1899. Two-story T-plan Queen Anne house with rear extension; vertical-board, pierced-work gable ornaments.

12. 505 W. Chicago: Horatio H. Keyser House, 1872-73. Two-story, hip-roof house with gable-roof wing.

13. 509 W. Chicago: Berford P. Anderson House, 1882. Two-story, cubical house with hipped roof; aluminum-sided facades; modern bay colonial entrance.

14. 511 W. Chicago: Seaton W. Anderson House--Stick Style, 1880. Two-story, L-plan dwelling with tower in the angle; steep-pitched gable roof. Fine wooden porch and window details. Yellow aluminum-sided facades.

15. 515 W. Chicago: Albert Anderson House--Italianate, ca. 1880. Two-story, L-plan with low-pitch gable roof; wide bracketed eaves; yellow brick facades. A front porch has been removed.

16. 601 W. Chicago: Alvinza Whelan House, ca. 1890. Two-and-one-half-story structure with high cross-gable roof; second story projects over porch on front facades.

17. 603 W. Chicago: House--Greek Revival, ca. 1850. Two-story with pedimented, end-gable roof, brick facades. Off-center door has sidelights. Added porch across south facade is enclosed and has Ionic columns.

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18. 607 W. Chicago: House, ca. 1905. Two-story, L-plan dwelling with medium-pitch gable roof, brown-painted clapboard facades. Enclosed front porch.
19. 609 W. Chicago: House, ca. 1890-1900. Two-story with high cross-gable roof. Clapboard facades, corner porch.
20. 611 W. Chicago: Albert Bagshaw House--Late Victorian, ca. 1900. Two-story, T-plan house with rear extension; clapboard facades; picture window and other alterations to front.
21. 206 W. Chicago: Thomas Elliott House--Queen Anne, ca. 1892. Two-and-one-half-story with cross-gable and hip roof. Notable Eastlake-style porch around foremost portion of house. Gable ornaments and bargeboards. White aluminum-sided facades.
22. 208 W. Chicago: Spayde House--Queen Anne, 1884-85. Two-story, with medium pitch gable and hipped roof. Narrow aluminum siding. Wooden ornamental features--brackets, dentiled eaves, porch--remain intact.
23. 210 W. Chicago: Serrill C. LeBaron House--Greek Revival, 1847. L-plan house with two-story main body and one-story side wing; low-pitch gable roofs; recessed in antis-type porch; red brick facades; wide entablature and cornice returns.
24. 212 W. Chicago: Bungalow, ca. 1920. One-and-one-half-story with gable roof and shed dormer; white aluminum-sided facades; front porch has three tapered posts.
25. 214 W. Chicago: James Heck House--Queen Anne, ca. 1890. Two-and-one-half-story, with steep-pitch hip and gable roof, L-plan porch on front facade; white-painted clapboard facades.
26. 218 W. Chicago: Reverend E.N. Nichols House--Greek Revival 1855. Two-story main body with low pitch, end-gable roof; one-story wing attached to south end. Orange brick facades, wide entablature with cornice returns and frieze windows. North (front) door has transom and sidelights. Key visual landmark.
27. 304 W. Chicago: Carnegie Public Library--Neo-Classical Revival, 1904. Designed by Claire Allen of Jackson. One-story structure with raised basement and redtile, hipped roof. Brick facades. Entrance is set between two Ionic columns, under decorative pediment. Facades have variegated sandstone pilasters. Key visual landmark.

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28. 308 W. Chicago: Homer L. Stewart House, ca. 1890, 1939. Two-story, rectangular-plan house with low-pitch hipped roof and narrow exposure aluminum siding. Symmetrical north facade has free-classic porch over front door. Originally three stories in height and remodeled in 1939.

29. 310 W. Chicago: Edgar A. Tribow House, ca. 1865. Two-story, rectangular-plan house with rear extension; medium pitch flank-gable roof; grey-painted shingle siding; paired brackets under eaves.

30. 312 W. Chicago: Baptist Church (now Church of Christ), 1865, 1884. Rectangular, red brick, gable-roof church, with Gothic door and window openings; corner towers of differing size at northwest and northeast corners and the northwest one having an octagonal belfry and spire. Brick facades are embellished with pilasters and corbelled brickwork at the frieze level; paired brackets under eaves; church was expanded and remodelled in 1884. Salmon Crane and Sons, builders.

31. 402 W. Chicago: Dr. Increase S. Hamilton House--Greek Revival, ca. 1840. One-story with hipped roof, attic dormer and rectangular, Italianate cupola. Flush board siding on north facade, clapboard elsewhere, painted blue with white trim. Fully articulated entablature and antae at corners. Victorian details include bay window and porch with arcade-like openings. Key visual landmark. Built by Elisha Anderson.

32. 406 W. Chicago: Charles Heck House, 1903-1904. Simply detailed, two-story, L-plan with steep-pitch gable and hipped roof.

33. 408 W. Chicago: James McCann House--Queen Anne, 1898-1899. Two-and-one-half-story with steep-pitch hipped and gable roof; clapboard facades; decorative gable ornaments and vergeboards.

34. 410 W. Chicago: Horace Baker House, ca. 1868. Very modest, two-story, flank-gable, rectangular-plan; asbestos shingle-sided facades.

35. 412 W. Chicago: DeWolf House, ca. 1862. Two-story, L-plan house, with low-pitch hipped roof, asbestos shingle-sided facades.

36. 416 W. Chicago: John H. Osborne House, ca. 1872, ca. 1920. Remodeled two-story, square-plan, Italianate house with rear one-story extension. Low-pitch hipped roof; stuccoed facades; screen-enclosed front porch with stuccoed piers.

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37. 502 W. Chicago: William C. Heck House--Queen Anne, 1888. Two-and-one-half-story, L-plan with medium-pitch gable roof; clapboard facades with shingled gables; bay window and one-story front porch with turned posts.
38. 506 W. Chicago: Van Marter House--L-plan Late Victorian, ca. 1860. One-and-one-half-story with one-story side extension. Medium-pitch gable roof; aluminum-sided facades; enclosed entrance porch.
39. 508 W. Chicago: Heesen House--Queen Anne, ca. 1900. Two-story with cross-gable roof, yellow-painted clapboard facades and white-painted trim. Scalloped shingles in gable end; ornate L-plan, arcade-like porch on front facade.
40. 510 W. Chicago: S.H. Merritt House, ca. 1870. Two-story, L-plan with low-pitch hipped roof; one-and-one-half-story side extension with low-pitch gable roof; aluminum-sided facades.
41. 516 W. Chicago: Henry Nyland House--Bracketed, 1862. Two-and-one-half-story, rectangular-plan structure, with cross-gable roof. Symmetrical north facade has paired entrances. White-painted clapboard facades; paired brackets in eaves.
42. 610 W. Chicago: Albert Hyde, Sr. House, ca. 1870. Two-story square-plan main body with low-pitch hipped roof; one-and-one-half-story side extension with gable roof. Front door has sidelights and transom. Aluminum-sided facades; added Queen Anne front porch.
43. 612 W. Chicago: House, ca. 1890. One-story, rectangular-plan house with flank-gable roof and symmetrical center-entrance north facade; aluminum siding. Additions on side and rear.
44. 616 W. Chicago: James Updyke House--Late Victorian, ca. 1890. Two-story, rectangular-plan structure with low-pitch hipped roof, one-story colonial porch across front and paired entrances.
- West Kilbuck Street, south side
45. 301 W. Kilbuck: West Branch School, 1886. One-story former schoolhouse with red brick facades, combination hip and gable roof; high, coursed rock-faced stone foundation.

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46. 402 W. Kilbuck: House--Queen Anne, ca. 1900. Two-and-one-half-story, rectangular-plan dwelling with medium pitch jerkinhead roof; upper story projects over free-classic porch and first story.

47. 404 W. Kilbuck: House, ca. 1900. Two-story, with steep-pitch cross-gable roof, white-painted clapboard facades, and one-story, free classic porch on front and side.

West Logan Street, south side

48. 305 W. Logan: former Presbyterian Manse, 1892. Two-and-one-half-story house with medium-pitch gable roof and one-story L-plan porch in front. This house served as the Presbyterian Manse from 1907 until 1973.

49. 311 W. Logan: House, ca. 1875. One-and-half-story, rectangular-plan dwelling with rear extension; steep pitch gable roof; white-painted brick facades; decorative wooden vergeboard.

50. 313 W. Logan: House, ca. 1875. Two-story; low pitch hipped roof; wooden cornice and brackets.

51. 315 W. Logan: Woodard House, ca. 1882. Two-story, square-plan house with rear extension; low-pitch hipped roof; tall, narrow windows with pedimental window caps. Queen Anne front porch with pediment-gable.

52. 310 W. Logan: House--Queen Anne, ca. 1895. Two-and-one-half-story, end-gable roof house; slate roof with iron cresting.

53. 314 Wn Logan: House, ca. 1870. Two-story, L-plan structure with low-pitch gable roofs and pediment window caps.

54. 316 W. Logan: House--Bungalow, ca. 1915. Two-story structure, with double-pitch, flank-gable roof and a broad shed dormer in front. Facades are of clapboard on upper story and stucco on first story. Battered stuccoed posts on street facing porch.

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West Pottawatamie Street, north side

55. 313 W. Pottawatamie: Dr. H.H. Peters House--Italianate, ca. 1865. Two-story, square-plan with one-story side and rear extensions; low-pitch hipped roof; wide, bracketed eaves; white-painted clapboard facades. Portico and classical door surrounds added later. Currently serves as the Proctor Funeral Home.

West Pottawatamie Street, south side

56. 316 W. Pottawatamie: Williamson House--Bungalow, ca. 1915. Large two-story bungalow with flank-gable roof, front-facing, shed dormer, and clapboarded and shingled facades. Brackets and exposed purlins under eaves; front porch has brick foundation and wood column posts.

West Shawnee Street, north side

57. 311 W. Shawnee: House--Colonial Revival, ca. 1900. Two-and-one-half-story house with steep pitch gable roof with gambrel roof facing south. Key visual landmark.

58. 315 W. Shawnee: Judge George Rathbun House, 1895-1896. T-plan, two-story, rusticated concrete block dwelling, with low-pitch hipped roof; one-story, pillared porch around front. Cornice has wide, concave molding at eaves.

Union Street, west side

59. 107 S. Union: Adelbert W. Mills House, 1884. Two-and-one-half-story; steep-pitch hipped roof with front gable; red brick facades. Windows have relieving arches with stone springers. Bracketed L-plan porch on east and north sides; two-story bay window unit.

60. 109 S. Union: John S. Strong House--Italianate, 1878. Two-story with low-pitch hipped roof, flat upper deck, bracketed eaves. Buff brick facades; two-story bay window; pedimented window heads; one-story porch over front door. Two-story rear wing.

61. 115 S. Union: Schneider House--Greek Revival, ca. 1840. One-story, rectangular-plan house with end-gable roof forming a pediment with lunette in the east facade. Square-post front entrance porch.

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62. 201 S. Union: C.A. Stacy-Lucius Lilley House, ca. 1850, ca. 1875. Italianate, two-story, rectangular-plan house with low-pitch hipped roof and paired brackets under the eaves. Some windows have round heads. Porch across entire front.
63. 207 S. Union: House--Queen Anne-Colonial Revival, ca. 1895. Two-and-half-story with steep-pitch gable roof and free classic porch.
64. 209 S. Union: House, ca. 1885. Two-story with low-pitch hipped roof.
65. 215 S. Union: House--Italianate, ca. 1875. Two-story, L-plan structure with medium-pitch gable roof with wide eaves and paired brackets; white-painted clapboard facades; L-plan porch on east and north facades.
66. 111 N. Union: (former) Universalist Church, 1858-1859. Rectangular-plan, belfry-less structure; medium-pitch gable roof with paired brackets under eaves. Walls are of cast concrete block. Corner buttresses and segmental-arch-head door and window openings. Now a residence.
67. 113 N. Union: House --Late Victorian, ca. 1885. Two-story plan with low-pitch gable roof; one-story, enclosed front porch.
68. 115 N. Union: Joseph H. Smith House--Queen Anne, 1885. Two-story structure with steep-pitch gable and hipped roof; openwork front and side gable ornaments and corner braces. Partly enclosed modern front porch.
69. 203 N. Union: E.B. Wood House--Italian Villa, 1867. Two-story L-plan dwelling of brick with a hipped roof and three-story tower in the angle. Paired-bracket eaves; round-head windows with brick hood moldings. Large one-story, late nineteenth-century brick porch with round arch openings added to east facade. Key visual landmark.
70. 207 N. Union: Rosacrans House--Dutch Colonial Revival, 1899. Two-story, L-plan house, with gambrel roof and clapboard facades. Circular free-classical porch with a high, sandstone and granite base. Projecting second story has Palladian-type window and oculus window under gable peak.
71. 211 N. Union: Webster House, ca. 1860. One-and-one-half-story, L-plan with low-pitch gable roofs; one-story enclosed porch.

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72. 213 N. Union: Captain A.D. Lawrence House--Queen Anne-Colonial Revival, ca. 1905. Two-and-one-half-story house with steep-pitch hip, gable, and jerkinhead roof; porte cochere on south side.

73. 215 N. Union: Benjamin J. Pulver House--Bungalow, 1912. Two-story, with tall flank-gable roof and broad shed dormer in front.

74. 301 N. Union: C.B. Thomas House--Italianate, ca. 1865. Two-story, square-plan, hip-roof, clapboarded house, with bracketed eaves. Presently has a Colonial Revival door surround.

75. 307 N. Union: Jeremiah S. Hendryx House--Italian Villa, 1860-1865. Two-story, L-plan house with a low pitch hipped roof and three-story corner tower. White-painted clapboard facades; paired brackets under eaves; some windows with round heads; iron balustrade around tower's third story; L-plan porch in front. Key visual landmark.

76. 309 N. Union: Algernon Van Winkle House--Four-square, 1907. Two-story with medium-pitch hipped roof, attic dormer; white-painted clapboard facades; screen-enclosed, free-classic porch.

Union Street, east side

77. 208 S. Union: House--Late Victorian, ca. 1880. Two-story, L-plan house with steep-pitch gable roof; pointed window heads on second-story windows; decorative vergeboard.

78. 210 S. Union: House--Late Victorian, ca. 1875. One-and-one-half-story; steep-pitch gable roof.

79. 212 S. Union: House--Italianate, ca. 1875. Reverse image of 214 S. Union; however, asbestos shingle siding and free-classic porch added.

80. 214 S. Union: House--Italianate, ca. 1875. Two-story with low-pitch hipped roof, flat roof deck, bracketed eaves. One-story front porch; bay window.

81. 100 N. Union: H.S. Temple House--Bungalow, 1913. Two-story with flank-gable roof and gable and shed-roof dormers; shingle and brick facades. Screen-enclosed porch.

82. 108 N. Union: Mulvaney House--Bungalow, 1913. Two-story, with flank-gable roof and shed dormer; clapboard facades and brick front porch.

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83. 206 N. Union: House--Late Victorian, ca. 1875. One and two-story, L-plan dwelling with low-pitch gable roofs. Colonial porch fronting wing.
84. 208 N. Union. Beamish House, ca. 1860s. One-and-one-half-story, end-gable dwelling with plain raking cornices and a Queen Anne front porch.
85. 210 N. Union: Fred Rosencrans House, 1879. Much altered in the early twentieth century, this two-story, L-plan house has a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial detailing.
86. 212 N. Union: House, ca. 1922. Two-story, bungalow-style house; flank-gable roof with broad shed dormer; exposed rafter ends; shed-roof front porch.
87. 214 N. Union: Robert McCoy House--Dutch Colonial, 1928. Brick, two-story dwelling having a gambrel roof with attic eyelid dormers; broad shed dormers across front and back of second story; vaulted entrance porch.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 19th and early 20th **Builder Architect** See attached inventory, items 1,6,27,30,31.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tecumseh Historic District is significant for its high concentration of architecturally notable homes, churches, and public buildings dating from the 1840s to about 1900 which reflect nearly a century of Tecumseh's development. At the time of its founding in 1824, Tecumseh was among the farthest inland of settlements in the Michigan Territory, newly opened for settlement following a treaty between the territorial government under Lewis Cass and the Indian tribes within the territory. Like most early communities in southern Michigan, Tecumseh was settled by New Englanders and upstate New Yorkers who were lured westward by reports of abundant water supply and fertile soil. The ample water power potential offered by the Raisin River and the frequent "oak openings"--open spaces in the otherwise dense forests--at the future site of Tecumseh provided a fortuitous location for settlement.

The settlement of Tecumseh was organized by Musgrove Evans and his brother-in-law, Joseph Brown, both Quakers from Brownville, New York, and by Austin E. Wing of Monroe, Michigan. After Evans, a surveyor and civil engineer, had travelled to the site of the settlement and arranged land purchases with Wing, he returned to Brownville to recruit settlers. He then led a party of about twenty Quakers (only two of whom were women) to Michigan, reaching their final destination in May of 1824. They settled first on high ground north of the Raisin River, and there they erected the first structure--a twelve feet-square building constructed of logs and known as the company house. During the summer of 1824 the settlers built about twelve homes, surveyed the land, planted crops, and built a dam, a bridge and a sawmill. A trading post, which served also as a store, was opened at the present site of Tecumseh's commercial district.

The community was named during its earliest days for the Shawnee Indian Chief, Tecumseh. During the first summer, Musgrove Evans laid out the town's streets, registering the plat at the county office in Monroe on June 26, 1824. The platted ground included sixteen blocks and two major axes--Chicago and Miami (now Maumee) streets--and was located across the Raisin River from the original point of settlement. The district area lies to the west of Evans' first plat. As Tecumseh grew, the area first settled and that later laid out acquired separate, rival identities. The original point of settlement became known unofficially as Brownville.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portrait and Biographical Record of Lenawee County, Michigan. Chicago: Chapman Bros. 1888.  
Tecumseh, Michigan. Charles Reed and Joseph Smith, publishers, 1895.  
Waldron, Clara. One Hundred Years-A Country Town. Thomas A. Riordan, 1968.  
District inventory cards and other materials, on file at Michigan History Division.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property About 36 acres

Quadrangle name Tecumseh North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	2	5	5	6	1	0	4	6	5	4	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	7	2	5	5	9	1	0	4	6	5	4	2	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	2	5	5	6	0	0	4	6	5	3	8	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	7	2	5	5	2	6	0	4	6	5	4	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Page

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. M. Davis

organization Resource Analysts, Inc.

date April 1984

street & number 233 Winslow Road

telephone 812-334-0303

city or town

state

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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

*Martin M. Bigelow*

title Director, Michigan History Division

date Aug 9, 1984

### For NPS use only

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

*J. Melores Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9-13-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Community leaders sought to establish Tecumseh as the county seat when Lenawee County was detached from Monroe County. When first organized, Lenawee County extended westward to Lake Michigan. Tecumseh was the Lenawee county seat for ten years; since 1836 the county government has been located at Adrian. The Tecumseh community was governed as a township until 1837 when it was incorporated as a village. The village grew rapidly during the late 1820s; a census taken in 1830 shows the township population as 771.

The area encompassed by the West Chicago Boulevard-Union Street Historic District was developed after the Tecumseh community had achieved some degree of economic stability in the late 1820s and early 1830s. Homes in the present district were built mostly by relative newcomers who arrived during the 1830s and later, and who derived prosperity from the town's early commercial and industrial enterprises. Among the oldest homes in the district were those built by the twin brothers Elijah and Elisha Anderson: the Dr. Increase S. Hamilton House (site 31), built in 1840, and a similar house across the street (site 6), built probably in 1837, are distinctive Greek Revival homes suggesting a refinement of taste which would characterize subsequent development along West Chicago Boulevard and Union Street. The latter was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934.

The preference for the Greek Revival style continued through the 1840s and 1850s. Two-story houses with one-story wings were erected on Chicago Street for Serrill C. LeBaron in 1847 (site 23) and for the Reverend E. N. Nichols in 1855 (site 26). LeBaron arrived in Tecumseh in 1832 and established the first private school there, known as the Academic School. LeBaron later became the Lenawee county clerk and a prominent businessman. The Reverend E. N. Nichols was the first pastor of the Tecumseh Presbyterian Church, established in 1828. The present Presbyterian Church (site 1) stands across from the Nichols house.

The earliest of the important Italianate houses in the district is the Alonzo Murray House (site 2), built about 1850, presumably by its first owner, Alonzo Murray. Murray was a prominent local mason whose projects included the Methodist and Baptist churches in Tecumseh. Fund-raising meetings and events to aid the Union cause during the Civil War were held in the Murray House. Two outstanding Italianate houses of slightly later construction stand on North Union Street. These are the E.B. Wood House (site 69) and the Jeremiah Hendryx House (site 75); both are of the asymmetrical, towered Italian Villa type. E.B. Wood arrived in Tecumseh in 1849,

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studied law with Judge C.H. Stacy, and became a successful lawyer and one of Tecumseh's elder statesmen. Jeremiah Hyndryx was a contractor, a farmer, and prosperous landowner. Another house, of later Italianate design, was built in 1878 at 109 South Union (site 60) by J.S. Strong, who, in the 1840s, established a steam engine foundry. Strong's foundry developed into one of Tecumseh's most substantial industries and one which would survive well into the twentieth century. Strong sold his interest in the foundry in 1851 but continued to be actively involved in Tecumseh's commercial and industrial activity.

Though the Greek Revival and Italianate houses dominate the district's character, fine houses of later styles contribute significantly to the district. Gothic elements can be found in a few structures, most notably in the above-mentioned Presbyterian Church (site 1); in the Seaton Anderson House (site 14), built in 1880 for a dry goods merchant; and in the eclectic Baptist Church (site 30), built in 1865 by Tecumseh builders Salmon Crane and Sons and remodeled in 1884. The district contains one mansard-roof house, the Weller House (site 4), built in 1872. This finely proportioned home is associated with several important Tecumseh citizens, among whom were John Shepard, one-time editor of the Tecumseh Herald; Judge C.A. Stacy, foremost among Tecumseh's late nineteenth-century lawyers; and, in the mid-twentieth century, author-educator Allen Seager.

The period around the turn of the century witnessed the building of several Queen Anne houses, some with elaborate Eastlake-style porches, and some notable Colonial Revival houses. Non-residential structures in the district other than the two churches mentioned include the former West Branch School (site 45), built in 1886; the former Carnegie Library (site 27), built in 1904 in a handsome Neo-Classical style; and the former Universalist Church (site 66), built in 1858-1859 and now a residence.

A major change in the appearance of the district occurred in 1922 when Chicago Street was divided by a fourteen foot parkway, thus creating the present boulevard. Some houses in the district have been altered since that time--generally by the addition of artificial siding; however, the district contains a remarkable quantity of structures significant for their outstanding architectural quality and their association with Tecumseh's historical development and prominent citizens.

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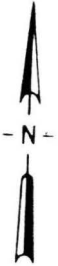
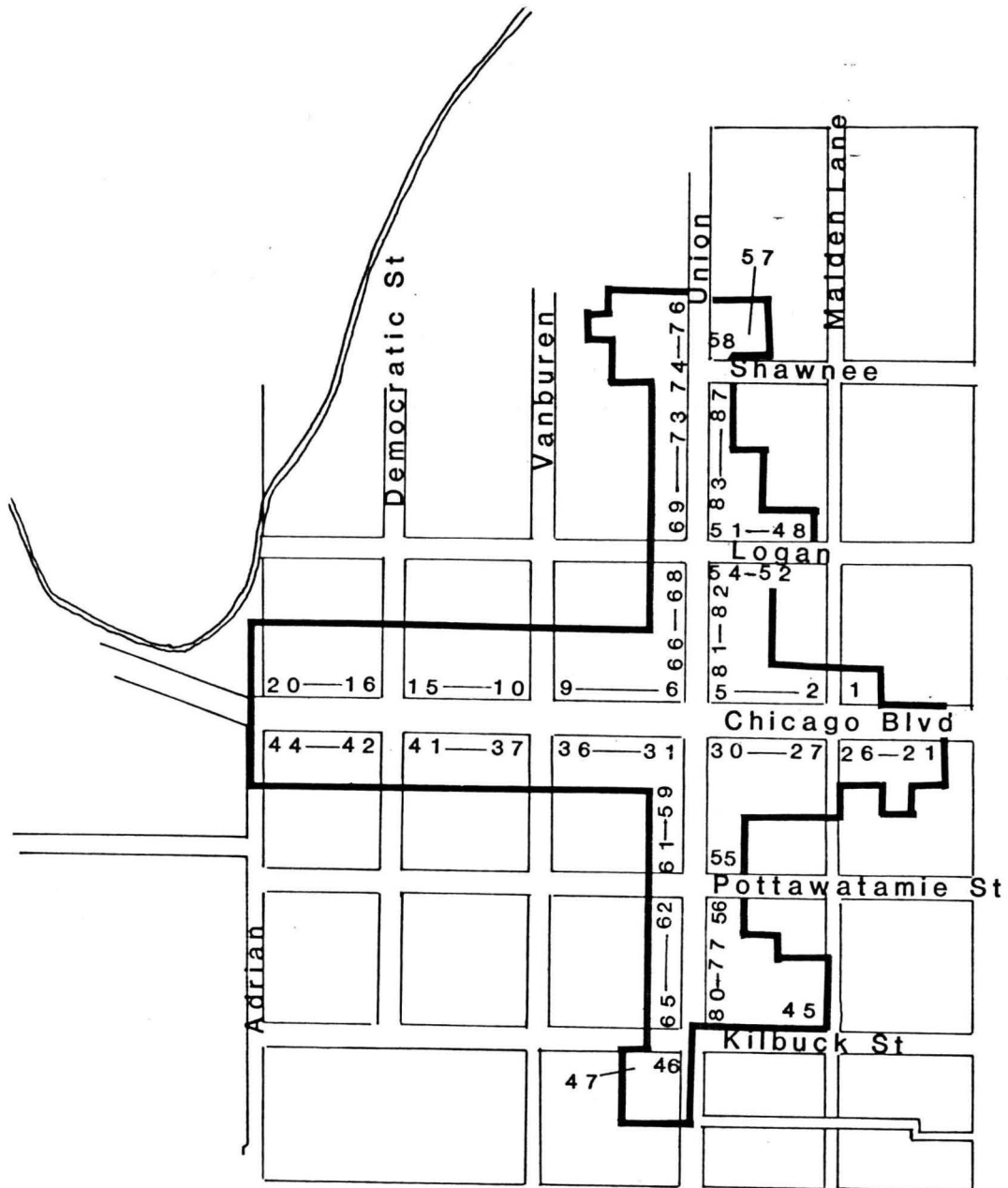
Boundary:

The district is bounded, beginning at its westernmost boundary, on the west by the easterly line of Adrian St. and by the western boundary of lot 5 of block 5 of Hoeg's Addition; thence on the north by the northern boundary of properties fronting on the north side of W. Chicago Blvd. east to the northwest corner of lot 8 in block 7; thence on the west by the rear of properties fronting on the west side of N. Union St. north to include 309 N. Union; thence on the north by the northern boundary of the lot at 309 N. Union St. and by the northern boundary of the lot at 309 N. Union St. and by the northern boundary of lots 15 and 16 of the Assessor's Plat #1; thence on the east by the eastern boundary of properties fronting on the east side of N. Union St. (and including lot 16 of Assessor's Plat #1 and lots 11-13 of block 3 and lots 3 and 4 of block 4, Hewitt's Addition); thence on the north by the northern boundary of properties fronting on the north side of W. Chicago Blvd.; thence on the east by the eastern boundary of lot 8 of block 5, Hewitt's Addition; thence on the north by the southerly right-of-way of W. Chicago Blvd.; thence on the east by the east line of lot 2 in block 8; thence south by the rear lines of the lots facing the south side of W. Chicago west to lot 5 in block 9; thence on the east by the eastern boundary of lots 5 and 6 of block 9, and lot 4 of block 10, Hewitt's Addition--and including at the southernmost portion of the district lots 5-9 in block 10 of Hewitt's Addition and lots 16 and 17 of Assessor's Plat #2; thence on the west by the western boundary of properties fronting on the west side of S. Union St. north to the southwest corner of lot 1, block 8, of Hoeg's Addition; thence on the south by the southern boundary of properties fronting on the south side of W. Chicago Blvd. to point of beginning at the easterly right-of-way of Adrian.

Boundary Justification:

This area is viewed as the core of a larger historic area that, it is hoped, will eventually be nominated to the National Register. The present district includes the bulk of the key historically and architecturally significant houses in Tecumseh, along with several of the town's oldest church buildings and its oldest school, the boundaries were drawn to exclude (for the present) equally old residential areas--which, however, have fewer "pivotal" structures--on the southwest, southeast, and northeast, the downtown area to the east along Chicago Blvd., and newer residential areas to the west and northwest.

# Tecumseh Historic District—Tecumseh Lenawee County, Michigan



Not to Scale

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Tecumseh Historic District  
Lena wee County  
MIC HIG A N

Working No. AUG 16 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85  
Date Due: 9-13-84 / 9/30/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-13-84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southwest  
Photo 1 of 11

5/10/84



Alonzo Murray House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southwest  
Photo 2 of 11

8/10/84



Weller House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southwest  
Photo 3 of 11

2/10/84



Elijah Anderson House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southeast  
Photo 4 of 11

5/6/84



James McAllister House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southeast  
Photo 5 of 11

5/16/11



509-515 W. Chicago Blvd.  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southeast  
Photo 6 of 11

5/16/84



500 Block of W. Chicago Blvd., southside  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from northwest  
Photo 7 of 11

4/17/84



E.B. Wood House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from east  
Photo 8 of 11

11/10/83



J.S. Hendryx House  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southeast  
Photo 9 of 11

2/16/84



300 Block of West Logan, northside  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southwest  
Photo 10 of 11

8/16/84



West Branch School  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chicago Boulevard -  
Union Street Historic District  
Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., MI

Resource Analysts, Inc. 11/1983  
Neg.: 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

View from southeast  
Photo 11 of 11

11/11/83

## Missing Core Documentation

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>County, State</b>	<b>Reference Number</b>
Tecumseh Historic District	Lenawee, Michigan	84001796

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

**MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION**

**ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS  
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES**

208 N. Capitol Avenue  
517 — 373-0510

**STATE ARCHIVES**

3405 N. Logan Street  
517 — 373-0512

**MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

208 N. Capitol Avenue  
517 — 373-3559

August 8, 1984

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Supervisory Historian  
National Register of Historic Places Branch  
Interagency Resource Management Division  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register of Historic Places nomination materials for the Tecumseh Historic District (West Chicago Boulevard/Union Street Historic District) in Tecumseh, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All notarized statements of objection and written comments concerning this property submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Robert O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator (517/373-0510).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Martha M. Bigelow'.

Martha M. Bigelow, Director  
Michigan History Division  
and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB:ROC:jl  
enclosure