

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Hedden's Grove Historic District

DESCRIPTION

Hedden's Grove Historic District is located northeast of downtown New Albany, Indiana (population approximately 38,000). New Albany is located on the Ohio River in south-central Indiana, and is the county seat and largest city in Floyd County. The historic district encompasses forty early-to mid-twentieth century homes on two dead-end streets – Hedden Park and Hedden Court – as well as five homes on the arterial street, Charlestown Road, adjacent to the entrance to Hedden Park. Two contributing garages which date to the period of significance are present. The district also includes two contributing structures, which consist of limestone walls and entry piers at the juncture of both streets with Charlestown Road.

The area was once known as Hedden's Grove, named after the early property owner, David Hedden. Across from the Floyd County Fairgrounds in the 1850s, the property was often used for events and other activities. Located on the Charlestown-New Albany Road, it was one of the earliest areas to be accessible by road from New Albany.

Hedden's Grove Historic District is an early twentieth century suburb development in New Albany. Platted in the early 1920s, it was once tree-covered and rural in character. Today, the town has grown around it, to the south and the north, but the two-street district and the homes along the east side of Charlestown Road which lie adjacent, still convey the feeling of a quiet, tree-lined suburban area.

The topography of the land on which the district is located tends to be gentle, with little dramatic change in grade. Thus, it was perfect for the early development of the Charlestown-New Albany Road. This artery was an early transportation route leading from New Albany, to the community of Charlestown in Clark County, Indiana, an early nineteenth century settlement. The spatial organization of the district is linear, with two parallel dead end streets created at approximate right angles to the Charlestown Road.

The homes within the district include a number of early twentieth century eclectic revivals, including Tudor, Jacobean and Colonial. These tend to feature high quality materials and workmanship, including intricate masonry, interior and exterior woodwork. The five homes on Charlestown Road are all craftsman bungalows, of slightly varying design. In addition, some ranch-style homes and vernacular designs can be found, constructed after World War II. These styles are typical of national trends.

Boundaries are not strictly demarked within the district, except for the previously mentioned entry gates and walls. Structures include, however, stone retaining walls, where the buildings are elevated above street grade. Vegetation throughout the district includes statuesque trees, a hallmark of the historical use of the area, as well as small scale plantings around the homes.