

EXP. 12/31/14  
#WAL 13

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Name

historic Honeywell Memorial Community Center

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 275 West Market Street N/A not for publication

city, town Wabash N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Wabash code 169

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Honeywell Foundation, Inc.

street & number 275 W. Market Street

city, town Wabash N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46992

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wabash County Courthouse

street & number 30 South Wabash

city, town Wabash state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Honeywell Community Center is a large, two story, multi-purpose facility located near the center of Wabash, Indiana. It is situated at the southwest corner of Market and Carroll Streets. Built in the art deco style, the structure is of buff brick with limestone and cast-concrete detailing. It has an L-shaped plan, with a four story tower situated at the intersection of the two wings. The tower is situated at a 45° angle in reference to Market and Carroll Streets, and the two main wings are parallel to the city streets.

The four story tower is 25 feet square and has a medium pitch, pyramidal roof of copper. The ground floor houses the main entry, which is contained in a glass and granite vestibule, which projects slightly from the face of the tower. A plain metal canopy with rounded corners shelters this entry.

The tower itself is formed by brick pilastered corners, which are stepped back vertically towards the center of the tower to meet a vertical strip of windows. The pilasters are also stepped back at the top, to meet a paneled frieze below the base of the pyramidal roof. The net effect of the setbacks and the window placement is to accentuate the verticality of this relatively low tower.

The south wing of the building measures 105 feet by 155 feet and has a low pitch, hipped roof. The short (west) side of this wing fronts on Carroll Street; a large doorway in this wall provides access to the auditorium which fills this wing. Fenestration in this wing consists primarily of a horizontal band of glass block at the second floor level, separated by wide mullions with decorative horizontal banding. Limestone banding is used to define a water table below the low, first floor window level, while corbelled brick and a limestone cap define the cornice.

The north wing of the building measures 56 feet by 80 feet and has a flat roof. Windows in this wing are predominantly eight-pane casement units, often used in groups of two or four. Elaborate brickwork surrounding these windows serves to frame decorative, cast-concrete panels which depict the equipment used in the various leisure-time activities sponsored by the facility. Windows on the west side of this wing are arranged vertically, echoing the vertical emphasis of the adjacent tower, and expressing the high-ceilinged lounge.

The center contains over 50 rooms, designed to handle a multitude of community functions. The main lobby features white oak paneling and a large, marble-topped reception desk. North of this lobby is a carpeted lounge with 28' ceilings and a marble fireplace; this room is often used for weddings, meetings, and receptions. The auditorium in the south wing has a seating capacity of 2,000 and contains both a stage and a hardwood basketball court. Tucked under the tiered auditorium seats are a ceramics workshop and a health club, complete with sauna and exercise equipment. The building's kitchen, executed in stainless steel, is one of the largest in the state. Other noteworthy rooms include the library, the art gallery, and the roller skating rink.

Various art deco touches can be found throughout the building's interior. The handrails on the lobby staircase are typical of this style, as are the light fixtures in the library. The chandelier in the stairwell, conceived as a stylized stalk of corn, was Mr. Honeywell's own design. Whimsical cartoons of cooks and chefs line the kitchen walls just below the ceiling.

The Honeywell Community Center is owned and operated by the Honeywell Foundation, Inc., founded and endowed by Mark C. Honeywell in 1941. This foundation continues to maintain the building and has kept it in excellent repair.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1940–1952

**Builder/Architect** A. M. Strauss

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Honeywell Community Center is significant for its architecture, for its connection with industrialist Mark C. Honeywell, and for its importance to the people of the Wabash, Indiana, area. The building is an Art Deco structure, built through the generosity of Mr. Honeywell, to provide a convenient site for the area's social and leisure activities.

The building was designed by the architectural firm of Alvin M. Strauss, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Strauss, born in 1895, had worked for the noted Fort Wayne architect, Charles Weatherhogg, before starting his own company. In addition to the Honeywell Community Center, Strauss' works include six Indiana University buildings in Bloomington, and the Lincoln Bank Tower in Fort Wayne, for many years the state's tallest building. He also designed the Administration Building for the Auburn Automotive Company, Auburn, Indiana, (National Register, 1978). The Honeywell Center was designed in the late 1930's; construction began in 1940 but was not completed until 1952, due to the scarcity of material during World War II. It is the most notable example of the Art Deco style in the community.

The Center was a gift to the people of Wabash from Mark C. Honeywell. Born in 1874, Honeywell had founded the M. C. Honeywell Heating Company in 1902. In 1927 this firm merged with the Minneapolis Heat Regulator Company, with Honeywell serving as president. Honeywell later founded the First National Bank of Wabash and helped establish the Wabash Country Club. A noted philanthropist, he established the Honeywell Foundation in 1941 to build and operate the Center, and to engage in other charitable activities in the Wabash community. He passed away on September 13, 1964.

By the 1930's Mr. Honeywell had become impressed with the many recreational programs offered at various sites by Wabash Community Service, a local United Fund agency. He commissioned the Honeywell Community Center to provide a central facility for such programs. Currently hosting over 3,000 different activities each year, the Center has become the site for almost all major social and recreational events in the Wabash area. Almost 150,000 visitors are welcomed each year, a significant number in a town of only 13,000. During the thirty years of its existence, the Center has become an important local landmark and has perhaps more social significance than any other building in town.

The Honeywell Memorial Community Center is the one major structure in the community most importantly associated with Mark C. Honeywell, one of Wabash's most distinguished and successful citizens. His early involvement in heating systems and controls developed into an international corporation that placed the name of this local man on millions of thermostats, worldwide.

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received

date entered

Supplement to Statement of Significance, May, 1983

Continuation sheet Honeywell Community Center Item number 8

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The Honeywell Community Center is significant as the best, and nearly the only, example of the Art Deco style in Wabash. An inventory of the architectural and historic resources in Wabash, completed in 1982, found only one other example of the style in the community. That building, however, is more in the sleek Moderne mode. A small commercial building, it is faced with enameled metal panels, and features a tiered marquee. The ground floor has been altered.

The Honeywell Center, on the other hand, offers a more substantial and unaltered representation of the Art Deco. The tower, in particular, is one of the better examples in the state, with its upward thrust emphasized by the vertical setbacks, vertical windows, and pyramidal roof, and with its low relief surface ornamentation. A late example of the style it anticipates the International Style which came into vogue later in this region. Although most International Style buildings in Indiana are too recent to have been surveyed, it is known that they are not common. The style is expressed in the Honeywell Center in the two flat-roofed wings. Both suggest their functions by their fenestration: the two-story lounge by the full-height vertical windows in the north (east) wing, and the gymnasium, and locker and meeting rooms below it, expressed by the horizontal windows in the south (west) wing. Although corner windows do not exist on the building per se, that effect is created in the second story of the south wing, by a recessed band of windows outlined with a continuous concrete frame, the windows separated by concrete piers that are light in color and also recessed, so that the band of windows is visually unbroken (see photo 3). The horizontality seen in this wing is in direct contrast to the vertical thrust of the central tower. Contrast is also provided by the auditorium entrance, which features large, cylindrical pillars and circular windows set back from the wall surface and surrounded by a heavy frame.

Although constructed over a period from 1940 to 1952, the building was completed according to plans drawn in 1939. (See newspaper articles of June 3, 1939, and September 16, 1940.) Construction was under way in 1940, but because of the war the gymnasium (south) wing took seven years to complete. The north wing was begun in 1950, and on the exterior looks essentially the same as in drawings and a model that were made public in 1939 and 1940. Based upon available drawings, it appears that interior decorative details for the north wing were finalized during the 1940s, but that few other changes were made. A more detailed explanation of the changes is provided in the enclosed letter.

In summary, the Honeywell Community Center provides a hybrid of two styles that had gained or were gaining wide acceptance in 1939: the Art Deco and the International. These two styles predominated in the buildings of the New York World's Fair of that year; Honeywell Center has, in fact, been said to resemble the fair's Belgian Building. It is contemporary with another Art Deco building in this region, the 1938 Greyhound Bus Terminal in Evansville, which was listed on the National Register in 1979.

The Honeywell Community Center is thus a unique and full expression of the turn of the decade, as well as being the city's best Art Deco example, and a very important facility for the community.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Indiana Biography Service, compiled by the Indiana State Library  
 McCarty, C. Walter, Ed. Indiana Today, New Orleans: James O. Jones Company, 1942  
 The Wabash County History Bi-Centennial Edition, July, 1976. The Wallsworth Publishing Co.,  
 Inc., Marceline, MO  
 Who's Who in the Central States, Chicago: Larkin, Roosevelt & Larkin, 1947.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Wabash, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is located on Lots 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24 of the Western Addition in the City of Wabash, on the western edge of downtown Wabash.

### 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 Donald F. Knapp, Executive Director

organization The Honeywell Foundation, Inc. date April 16, 1980

street & number 275 West Market Street telephone 219/563-1102

city or town Wabash state Indiana 46992

## 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

*James M. DeLong*

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

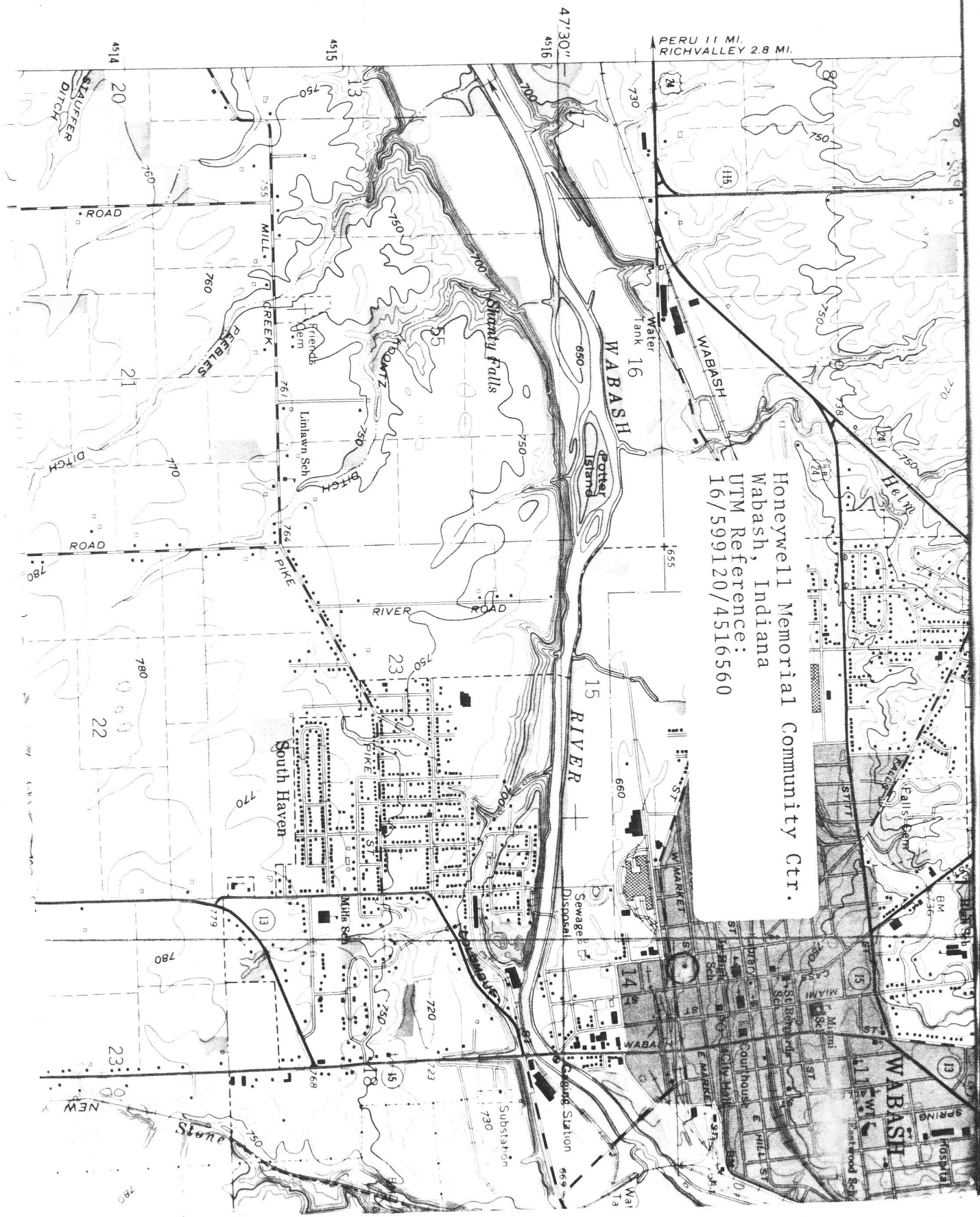
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



PERU 11 MI.  
RICHVALLEY 2.8 MI.

Honeywell Memorial Community Ctr.  
Wabash, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/599120/4516560