

Indiana

Known Condemnations Benefiting Private Parties ¹⁵⁸

Threatened Condemnations  10

Legend  = 1

Evansville

In January 2006, City officials voted unanimously to put 10 properties on their site acquisition list for future development.¹⁵⁹ Among the 10 properties are an 1860s home that is on the National Register of Historic Places, a commercial building on the National Historic Register, now used for parking,¹⁶⁰ and four properties owned by the Hadi Shriners, including the Temple on Walnut Street, where they have coordinated their charity efforts for decades. The Shriners have provided for the treatment of 700,000 children, supported 18 hospitals and three burn centers and all their properties are in regular use.¹⁶¹ The Temple is also on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures.¹⁶² These properties may all be occupied homes and working businesses, but, according to Jane Reel, of the City's Department of Metropolitan Development, they are falling short of the

¹⁵⁸ These numbers were compiled from news sources. Many cases go unreported, and news reports often do not specify the number of properties against which condemnations were filed or threatened.

¹⁵⁹ Byron Rohrig, "Hadi land stays on city's list despite appeals, property designated for future redevelopment acquisition," *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 19, 2006, at B1.

¹⁶⁰ Byron Rohrig, "Acquisition list steeped in history; Downtown Auto Hotel Garage built in 1930," *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 23, 2006, at B1.

¹⁶¹ Byron Rohrig, "Hadi land stays on city's list despite appeals, property designated for future redevelopment acquisition," *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 19, 2006, at B1; Byron Rohrig, "City earmarking properties," *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 14, 2006.

¹⁶² Byron Rohrig, "Acquisition list steeped in history; Downtown Auto Hotel Garage built in 1930," *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 23, 2006, at B1.

maximum development potential within the Downtown Redevelopment Area.¹⁶³ Although officials have no specific plans right now, putting properties on the acquisition list is a first step towards the use of eminent domain to seize them “for increasing assessed value and jobs, of course,” says Metropolitan Development director Gregg LaMar.¹⁶⁴ In May 2006, six properties, including the Shriners’ property and the Kemper building were removed from the list.¹⁶⁵

163 Byron Rohrig, “City earmarking properties,” *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 14, 2006; Byron Rohrig, “Hadi land stays on city’s list despite appeals, property designated for future redevelopment acquisition,” *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 19, 2006, at B1.

164 Byron Rohrig, “Hadi land stays on city’s list despite appeals, property designated for future redevelopment acquisition,” *Evansville Courier & Press*, January 19, 2006, at B1.

165 Byron Rohrig, “Hadi Temple to be taken off list of potential targets for eminent domain,” *Evansville Courier & Press*, May 3, 2006; “Property acquisition list cut despite appeals, property designated for future redevelopment acquisition,” *Evansville Courier & Press*, May 4, 2006, at B1. <http://www.builderonline.com/industry-news.asp?sectionID=718&articleID=298030> (retrieved May 30, 2006).