

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John O'Ferrell Store

AND/OR COMMON The Olde Store (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West & Second Streets

CITY, TOWN Mongo

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4th

STATE Indiana

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
18

COUNTY CODE  
LaGrange 087

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Carroll & Esther Van Buskirk

STREET & NUMBER West & Second Streets

CITY, TOWN Mongo

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. LaGrange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Detroit Street

CITY, TOWN LaGrange

STATE  
Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1832 John O'Ferrell designed and built a general store to serve the small community of Mongo, Indiana. The two story wood frame structure has a hand made appearance, yet it is unified and elegant in proportion and overall character. It is a Greek Revival mode with classically lined wooden corner posts, lintels and slipsills. The peak of the asphalt sheathed roof is 30 feet above the ground. A boxed cornice was applied to the medium gable roof with a blind, semi-circular window accenting the pediment. The 3 bayed front facade is comprised of single glazed double hung windows with shutters on the upper floor. A door on the upper floor lent access to a balcony which was replaced by the present shed roof type porch, in 1930. The lower story has larger wondows surrounded by engaged columns and the main entrance of solid wood doors.

The building rests on a stone and brick foundation which also forms the walls for the full basement. Hand hewn oak beams and posts comprise the structural system.

Several additions to the original building on the south, east and north sides were built during its history, but the exact dates are not known. It is thought by the owner that they were probably all built by the turn of the century.

The main floor consists of a large showroom with three rear entrances leading into the respective additions. The second floor originally housed the family's living quarters, however these have been removed and the entire floor is used for storage purposes, as is the attic. Elegant butternut moulding probably added in the 1850's surrounds the ceiling of the first floor. A wood burning furnace on the first floor used instead of fireplaces has since been replaced by a gas furnace in the basement.

Although some of the exterior materials are deteriorating, the structure is basically sound and remains a handsome focal point for the community of Mongo.

## 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John O'Ferrell

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Olde Store, formerly the John O'Ferrell Store, was one of the first commercial structures in LaGrange County and a focal point in the early events and history of Mongo.

John O'Ferrell designed and built the Greek Revival structure in 1832 after doing business for nearly two years from a wagon. It was used as a general store and a post office with an inventory of about \$400. In 1836, O'Ferrell was supposedly run out of town for "treating the whites as unscrupulously as the Indians". O'Ferrell was also one of several perpetrators of an Indian scare known as the "Gage and Langdon War". This occurred during the Black Hawk War of 1832 when many settlers in Mongo feared an Indian attack. Drusus Nichols purchased the store and a nearby distillery greatly increasing their worth. The store then changed hands many times before becoming the acquisition of the present owners.

Throughout its history the store served as post office, distillery outlet (largely sold to the Indians in exchange for furs) and even as an informal courtroom during its history. The building is a good example of 19th century construction techniques and has unusual architectural refinement for early small town Indiana construction.

