

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic F. P. Taggart Store

and/or common Hobnob Corner Restaurant

2. Location

street & number Southwest corner Main and VanBuren Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

code 018

county Brown

code 013

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
 - being considered
 - N/A

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
 - commercial
 - educational
 - entertainment
 - government
 - industrial
 - military
- museum
 - park
 - private residence
 - religious
 - scientific
 - transportation
 - other:

4. Owner of Property

name John D. Rudd and Marilyn (Miller) Rudd

street & number P.O. Box 305, Jackson Branch Ridge Road

city, town Nashville

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 47448

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brown County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

street & number Northeast corner Main and VanBuren Streets

city, town Nashville

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

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <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 F. P. Taggart General Store, built in 1870-1875, is the oldest remaining commercial building in all of Brown County. It was built at the corner of Main and VanBuren Streets at the same time Nashville was incorporated as a town. This was a time when rural Nashville was isolated from the outside world.

The building is a rectangular, 24' x 90', two story, balloon-framed building of native hardwood construction. The downstairs level is one large open area, entered from the front (north) through double, half-glass doors. The side windows on this level are small and high, allowing for air circulation while protecting the interior from the dust so prevalent in the early days.

The second story level is reached by interior stairs, and is also one large, open room. There is a small storeroom in the rear. This level opens onto a small balcony at the front and has large, double-hung windows to give the customer a panoramic view of the town. Both levels served the community as a retail general merchandise store until 1919.

The entire structure is a significant example of Post-Colonial architecture in that it is very simple, yet beautifully detailed. It is built of original native hardwood by local craftsmen, using the new balloon-framing technique developed by the Americans of that time. The soundness of the materials used and the skill of the builders is apparent in the F. P. Taggart Building today: It stands as solid now as it did over 100 years ago.

The significant features of this building are the large native yellow poplar floor joists and wall framing, the yellow poplar horizontal beveled siding, the large General Store sign on the west side cut into the siding, using handmade routing techniques unusual for that period (photo 6), the old half-glass doors with latch hardware, the historic American flag wallpaper (photo 7), the wide oak plank flooring, and the original oak store fixture (photo 9).

The F. P. Taggart Building remains unchanged in appearance on three of its sides, still painted its original white color. It is still on the original site, in the heart of Nashville near the historic brick Courthouse, the log jail, and the Brown County Historical Society's museum area. It is a detached building (which is the reason it survived the fires that destroyed so much of the original town).

The west side was altered in 1982 for two reasons: To make the possibility of destruction by fire less likely, and to better serve the restaurant that caters to many thousands of tourists each year. A modern kitchen (photo 5) was built as a separate fire-rated structure and attached to the west rear of the building (the side least exposed to the public eye). An exterior stairway was also added to the west side as a safety feature. The owners and the local zoning board took great care to make the kitchen as inconspicuous as possible and to make the new exterior match the original building as nearly as possible. Great care was also taken not to disturb the routed lettering (photo 6) on the west side. The owners intend to repaint the lettering to its original appearance within the next two years.

The interior still contains reminders of the days gone by: The American flag wallpaper with 45 stars (photo 7), hung around 1890, reflects the patriotic feelings of the Taggart family and of the times. The original oak plank flooring is polished from over 100 years

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Continuation sheet F. P. Taggart Store

Item number 7

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of passing feet. The original coffee grinder from the general store stands in the front window. Beside the grinder stands a pump handle butter churn—an original item offered for sale in Taggart's store. An original oak fixture displays additional items from the old store (photo 9).

The apothecary items displayed in the building (photos 8 and 9) are dated from around 1900. They come from the businesses of Charles Genolin and Herbert Miller. They accurately represent the rural pharmacy as it existed in early Indiana history.

The display cases also contain the medical and surgical instruments and supplies of an early Southern Indiana country doctor: Dr. Reuben H. Miller (1853-1930), father of Herbert Miller. Dr. Miller practiced medicine in Cross Plains, Indiana, until he followed his son to Brown County in 1926. He practiced medicine here until his death in 1930. The display gives the viewer a close-up look at early rural medicine.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input 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 1870-1875

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Taggart Building is significant as one of the oldest of the few remaining early commercial structures in Brown County. Nearly unaltered since its construction between 1870 and 1875, it is a good example of a 19th-century, wood-frame, small-town store. The building is also significant for the role it has had as a commercial and social center of Nashville, a town which began as an isolated settlement in the hill country of southern Indiana, became one of the best-known art colonies in the Midwest, and today attracts over one million tourists each year.

The Taggart Building was constructed as a general store for Franklin P. Taggart, at about the time Nashville was incorporated as a town. In merchandise, it was unsurpassed in the county. It offered breaking plows, gingham, cook stoves, fresh groceries, shoes, and made-to-measure suits—a full stock of every line of goods demanded by the public. The building served the public in this capacity until 1919, when it was sold to Pharmacist Charles Genolin to become a "corner drugstore." During this time, Brown County's only soda fountain was added. The pharmacy offered the customer such over-the-counter items as Lydia Pinkham's Compound, herbal remedies, and tonics. While Genolin owned the store, the second story was the home of the Red Men's Lodge. In 1925, the Genolin family sold the pharmacy to Herbert J. Miller, a pharmacist from Cross Plains, Indiana. At this time, Miller asked the Red Men's Lodge to leave and converted the upper story to a large storeroom. He continued to operate the pharmacy and soda fountain until his death, at which time the business was taken over by his son, Maurice, also a pharmacist. After Maurice Miller's death in 1972, the building was sold to his daughter, Marilyn Miller Rudd, and his son-in-law, John D. Rudd. The Rudds continued the fountain service and converted the rest of the building into the restaurant which it is today. Located in the heart of Nashville, the Hobnob Corner Restaurant caters to many thousands of tourists each year, and provides, as it always has, a gathering place for local residents to relax and exchange the "news of the day."

Franklin P. Taggart was the son of James Taggart, an early Brown County settler. James was the first County Sheriff and served as an associate judge in the first Circuit Court. He died in the Mexican War after attaining the rank of captain. Franklin Taggart was also a prominent Brown County citizen. In 1872, he served as one of the trustees who adopted a series of bylaws and ordinances to form the Town government. In 1874, Taggart was elected Treasurer and Assessor. He served as second lieutenant in the 145th Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Nashville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lots #61 and 62 in the original plat of the Town of Nashville, Brown County, Indiana; said lots located in Section 19, Township 9 North, Range 3 East, described as follows: (Please see Continuation Sheet No. 2)

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 Marilyn R. (Miller) Rudd, Owner

organization N/A

date June 2, 1983

street & number P.O. Box 305

telephone 812/988-2706

city or town Nashville

state Indiana 47448

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

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11-7-83

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

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

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Continuation sheet F. P. Taggart Store

Item number 9

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(Charles Blanchard, 1884) 1972 Reprint by Brown County Historical Society.

Biographical Record of Bartholomew and Brown Counties, Indiana. (B. F. Bower, 1904)
Franklin, Indiana, Public Library

Bailey, Dorothy B. Archivist Brown County Historical Society, oral history, 5-21-1983.

The Democrat , May 5, 1899, Brown County Historical Society Archives

The Democrat, 1914-1916, Brown County Public Library

Hohenberger, Frank M. "Down in the Hills of Brown County." Indianapolis Star, 8-24-1941,
Lilly Library Mss. Division, Indiana University.

Indiana Magazine of History. September, 1975, Photos by Frank M. Hohenberger

The Jacksonian , May 1, 1873, Brown County Historical Society Archives

Miller, Maurice V., oral history, May, 1983

Miller, Stephen V., architect, May 29, 1983, oral interview

Walker, Leatha, oral history, May 19, 1983, May 24, 1983

Item No. 10

Beginning at the N.E. corner of said lot #61 thence west 52 feet; thence south 119 feet to the south line of said lot #62; thence east on said south line 52 feet to the S.E. corner of lot #62; thence north 119 feet to the beginning.

F. P. Taggart Store
Nashville, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/564960/4339810

G GART
D I N G
V I L L E

