				OMB No. 1024-0018
United 24	ates Department of ark Service	the Interior		FINAD
and the second second		6 1.11		or NPS use only
Invont	al Register o ory-Nomina	T HISTORIC P		eceived
	ons in How to Complete Na		d	ate entered
Type all entrie	es-complete applicable s	ections		
1. Nan	ne			
historic				
and/or common	Downtown Lawrencebu	rg Historic Distri	ct.	
2. Loc	ation		ייז ארגע איז	
street & numbe	Roughly bounded by 'and the ConRail tra	Charlotte, Tate, a cks east to St. Cl	nd Elm Streets air Street.	N/A not for publication
city, town	Lawrenceburg	N/Avicinity of		
state	Indiana code	018 county	Dearborn	code 02
3. Clas	sification		NEW MATERIA DE LA COMPANIA DE LA COM	
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture _Xcommercial educational _Xentertainment _Xgovernment industrial military	museum park X private residenc X religious scientific transportation other:
			minituary	Other.
4. Own	er of Propert	ty		
na na mana na sa	na an an an an ann an ann an ann an ann an a	ty		9 4 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
name	Multiple Ownership	ty		
name street & number	na an an an an ann an ann an ann an ann an a			
name street & number city, town	Multiple Ownership	N/A_vicinity of	state	
name street & number city, town	Multiple Ownership	N/A vicinity of Descriptio		
name street & number city, town 5. Loca	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega County	N/A_vicinity of		
name street & number city, town 5. Loca	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega County stry of deeds, etc. Dearb	N/A vicinity of I Descriptio Recorder's Office		
name street & number city, town 5. Loca courthouse, regis	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega County stry of deeds, etc. Dearb	N/A vicinity of I Descriptio Recorder's Office orn County Courthou igh Street	use	Indiana 47025
name street & number city, town 5. Loca courthouse, regis street & number city, town 6. Repr	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega Stry of deeds, etc. West H Lawrence County West H	N/A vicinity of I Descriptio Recorder's Office orn County Courthou igh Street ceburg	use state	Indiana 47025
name street & number city, town 5. Loca courthouse, regis street & number city, town 6. Repr Indiana	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega Stry of deeds, etc. West H Lawrend	N/A vicinity of I Descriptio Recorder's Office orn County Courthou igh Street ceburg I Existing S	use state Surveys	Indiana 47025 igible? yes X_n
name street & number city, town 5. Loca courthouse, regis street & number street & number sity, town 6. Repr Indiana itle	Multiple Ownership Ation of Lega Stry of deeds, etc. County Dearb West H Lawrence County County Dearb West H Lawrence County County Dearb County Dearb Mest H Lawrence Historic Sites and	N/A vicinity of I Descriptio Recorder's Office orn County Courthou igh Street ceburg I Existing S	ase state state state	

7. Des	cription	anna ann an an ann ann ann ann ann ann	na an a	nina ta berezen er segen er sen andere er un sen set er sen an de segen segen falle er se sen andere Berezen er segen te segen andere er segen seg	
Condition excellent Xgood yfair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered X_altered	Check one Not original site moved date		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lawrenceburg Historic District comprises the City's central business district (CBD) and its adjacent residential properties. The district is an area approximately three and one-half blocks long and over five blocks wide, containing approximately 300 principal buildings. The commercial portion of the District is relatively compact, being confined, principally, to two streets, Walnut and High, which intersect near the Ohio River, forming a T-shaped commercial area. The top of the T is formed by High Street which runs parallel to the Ohio River, from the northeast to the southwest. Walnut Street runs perpendicular to this. The B & O Railroad bisects the district, with its tracks running down the center of Williams Street.

The original 1803 plat of Lawrenceburg contained 196 lots, which are generally contained within the Historic District boundary. The downtown commercial area of Lawrenceburg was densely developed and is relatively large for a city of its size. Downtown buildings are generally two and three stories, and typically share common party walls. The commercial blockfaces of Walnut and High Streets create a relatively tight building fabric of 19th century storefronts, as shown in photographs 1-6, Walnut Street; and 14-16, 19-20, High Street. Residential areas are also generally quite dense, although most are free-standing structures.

The physical architectural and environmental character of Lawrenceburg's downtown Historic District is not unlike that of downriver Madison, Indiana, (National Register, 1973), though on a somewhat smaller scale. Both cities share a number of common economic and cultural characteristics, including similar architectural styles, building types, and scale, as well as similar geographic characteristics. For example, both are Ohio River towns that were built on flood plains. Lawrenceburg was one of the first towns to be settled in the Indiana Territory, and Dearborn County was the first county to be platted. Lawrenceburg's oldest buildings range from 1818 to the mid-1880's. Like Madison, Lawrenceburg contains a number of different architectural periods and styles ranging from Federal and Greek Revival to Italianate and Queen Anne.

Downtown Lawrenceburg, as it was built up by the mid-1880's, has remained essentially intact. There have been relatively few 20th century intrusions within the downtown Historic District, with the overriding physical character of the downtown remaining much as it did at the turn of the century. Downtown buildings, because of their age, placement, size, scale, and relationship, combine to create a relatively uniform pattern of commercial storefronts, surrounded by pleasant residential streets. The type of architectural intrusions within the Historic District include relatively small, onestory modern office-type buildings, as shown in the foreground of photographs No. 20 and 14; also, several modern homes have been built in the residential section of the Historic District. Other types of non-contributing buildings include structural alterations and the addition of modern commercial storefront veneers. Two local savings and loan buildings on Walnut Street are in this category (see photograph No. 10.). Overall, however, the several architectural intrusions found within downtown Lawrenceburg do not detract, unduly, from the City's otherwise cohesive historic building fabric.

The city's early development pattern paralleled the river along High Street. This development pattern was followed by growth outward from the river, in the direction of Walnut Street and its parallel streets of Short and Vine. This pattern is evident in the fabric there today.

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)							OMB No. 107 9 001 Exp. 10-31-84
· · · ·	ates Depa		of the Inte	erior			
National P	Park Service	Э				For NPS u	se only
Nation	nal Reg	jister (of Hist	toric Pla	ices	received	
Invent	ory_N	omina	ition F	orm		date ente	red
		own Lawren					
Continuation s	sheet Histon	ric Distri	ct	Item numbe	r 7		Page 2

were constructed of logs. From 1806 to 1835, permanent wood frame and brick buildings, primarily of the Federal style, replaced the original log structures. These were characterized by two-story construction, gable roofs with brick end chimneys, and limestone window sills and lintels. There remain a number of outstanding examples of these twostory brick, Federal style homes, as well as commercial structures (see photographs 16, 20, 29 and 51). These buildings are generally in good condition, and many are unaltered.

A second style of architecture, the Greek Revival, was introduced in Lawrenceburg around 1835 and continued into the mid-1860's (photographs 9, 28, 38). There are a number of outstanding examples of Greek Revival commercial buildings along the three blocks of Walnut Street from Tate Street to the levee. From the 1860's to the end of the 1880's, a third period of Lawrenceburg's architecture included late Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Second Empire styles (see photographs 2, 3, 6, 7). There are a number of outstanding examples of each style from this period along Walnut Street south of Tate. By the end of the 1880's, the downtown area that comprises the Historic District was essentially developed.

The residential area adjacent to the commercial district developed in conjunction with the City's commercial growth and reflects generally the same architectural periods and styles. The adjoining residential area was included within the Historic District because of its close relationship with the commercial district, typical of the residential/commercial character of small midwestern towns. The residential environment that is included within the Historic District represents significant examples of 19th century architecture ranging from Federal to Carpenter Builder styles.

The general condition of commercial buildings within the Historic District is relatively good. The Historic District is the focus of an ambitious downtown revitalization program that is being carried out by the Lawrenceburg Development Corporation, a non-profit local development corporation, in cooperation with the City government. Some buildings in the adjoining residential district are in need of significant rehabilitation. Many of the residential buildings are renter-occupied. Major problems include the lack of adequate drainage and lack of timely building maintenance, particularly along East High Street and South Short Street. Rehabilitation activities that are programmed to be carried out within the Historic District include the establishment of a revolving rehabilitation loan program, augmented by low interest loans via a Community Development Block Grant. This is being carried out in conjunction with a technical assistance program spearheaded by the Lawrenceburg Development Corporation to provide architectural design/rehabilitation drawings, loan packaging, and application preparation to individual property owners.

Following is an inventory and description of buildings contributing to the character of the District. The addresses correspond to the addresses indicated on the map. The photographs are also identified by street address and are keyed to both the inventory of buildings and the map.

6. Significance

Lericd prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	 community planning conservation economics education engineering x exploration/settlement 		religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
---	--	---	--	---

Specific dates 1802-c. 1940 Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (In XMexparagraph)

The Lawrenceburg Historic District is significant for several reasons. Settled in 1802, it is one of the oldest cities in the State of Indiana. It was founded by a Revolutionary War hero, Captain Samuel C. Vance, who named the city in honor of his wife. The Historic District comprises significant examples of 19th century architecture built primarily from 1815 to the 1890's, and it remains remarkably intact, thus retaining its unique sense of history. Finally, the Historic District contains the boyhood home of famous bridge engineer, James Buchanon Eads, and of Louis Skidmore, a founder of the renowned architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

Lawrenceburg was one of the first towns to be settled in the Indiana Territory. The founder of Lawrenceburg, Captain Samuel Vance, had obtained his first commission in the Army from General George Washington. He served under Washington as an aide to General Anthony Wayne in his campaigns against the Indians. Vance afterwards commanded Fort Washington. The war over, Vance returned to civilian life, married Miss Lawrence, granddaughter of General St. Clair, and settled in Lawrenceburg.

The first house erected in Lawrenceburg was a double log house built by Dr. Jabez Percival in 1802. It was followed by log houses constructed by Samuel Vance and James Hamilton. By 1806, Lawrenceburg was a thriving community, its principal buildings being a ferry house on the bank of the Ohio River, and a warehouse on the opposite side of the street, plus numerous small commercial and industrial establishments, and numerous houses. The residents at this time included Benjamin Chambers, General Jones Dill, James Hamilton, Michael Jones, Dr. Percival, Jesse Thomas, Reverend Baldridge and Samuel Vance. By this time, it had a chair manufacturer, grocery, blacksmith shop, livery, and tavern.

From 1815 to 1820 a number of substantial buildings were erected, including the Jesse Hunt Hotel, reported to be the first three-story building in Indiana. During the same period the town had its first newspaper, <u>The Dearborn Gazette</u>, and the first bank was chartered. By the 1820's Lawrenceburg had become the major business center for the surrounding area. By the end of the decade the town's population was 700 people, and there were 150 brick and frame residences, nine stores, five taverns, a variety of merchants, three physicians, and six lawyers.

By 1835 Lawrenceburg had become an aggressive and thriving commercial center. In that year, George H. Dunn promoted a railroad, the Charlestown South Carolina and Upper Mississippi Railroad, which would run from Lawrenceburg to Indianapolis. By the late 1840's, substantial work had been completed on this line. In 1838, the Whitewater Canal was completed and ran from the Ohio River at Lawrenceburg to Brookville. The canal basin was constructed at the foot of Elm Street and an extensive flour mill was erected along with other manufacturing establishments to take advantage of the power furnished by the water from the canal. The canal added new impetus to the businesses of the town. However, with the development of the railroads, the canal was soon abandoned. In 1848 the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad was begun, and in 1868 the Whitewater Valley Railroad was completed.

NPS Form 10-800-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

For NPS use only

OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31=84

date entered

	Downtown	Lawrenceburg						÷	
Continuation sheet	Historic	District	Item	number	8	-	Page	3	- 1

Lawrenceburg's major transportation link with the rest of the country was still the Ohio River. River traffic was so large that the riverfront was normally lined with flatboats loading goods for trips south. The town's early development pattern thus paralleled the river along High Street. This development was followed by growth outward from the river in the direction of Walnut Street and its parallel streets, Short and Vine. Continued growth of the city was halted in the late 1930's due to the construction of an earth embankment levee. Construction began because of a number of costly and devastating floods which plagued the town; but the levee also eliminated the town's river-related economy, making it totally dependent upon the railroads and highways.

Today's Downtown Historic District provides a sense of continuity with the past of this small, 19th century, midwestern river town. What is unique is that it has remained relatively intact, in spite of 20th century modernism. The range of its architectural styles forms an interesting and enjoyable chronicle of the City's development. The architectural details of various periods and styles reflect the sense of pride and workmanship during specific eras of the town's history. Indicative of the town's historic continuity is the fact that the Jesse Hunt Hotel (formerly the King Hotel), built in 1818, has been in continuous operation throughout the town's history and remains in business today (see photo 19).

Among the most significant buildings in the Historic District is the Dearborn County Courthouse (National Register, 1981), built in 1870 and designed by George H. Kyle (photographs 12 and 13). An excellent example of a limestone Classical Revival building with a central dome, it is Kyle's most important building. Kyle, a student of Francis Costigan, worked primarily in Vevay, designing the Benjamin Schenck House and the Craig House.

Another significant building is the Hamline Chapel (National Register, 1982), located at the southwest corner of Vine and High. Built in 1847, the church is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival style in the city, and is noted for the fine craftsmanship of its interior. It has also long served as a visual landmark from the River.

A pivotal group of historic commercial buildings are located on the north side of Walnut Street, in the 300 block, that include outstanding examples of Italianate style commercial architecture, as shown in photographs 1 through 3. Number 321 Walnut Street (photo 2, right), is an 1857 Italianate style commercial building with living quarters on the second and third floors. This three-story brick building is only slightly altered, having a stainless steel entranceway. The building has a pressed metal cornice with an inscribed date of 1857 in the center. The adjoining commercial building was built in 1880 and is also in excellent physical condition. This building and the building adjoining it, (311 Walnut Street) represent outstanding examples of unaltered 19th century architecture. The Trade and Industrial Building (photo 3) is a three-story Italianate brick building, with side chimneys, heavy pressed metal cornices, and window lintels of exquisite architectural detail. It has six bays with cast iron columns supporting the storefront. Its storefront windows have transoms. The date of 1881 is inscribed in the center of the cornice. NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Downtown LawrenceburgContinuation sheetHistoric DistrictItem number8Page4

In the next block south, toward the River, is the Lawrenceburg Theater, a two-story, brick building built in 1875 (photo 6). The building, which represents an intriguing combination of styles, has the name, "Lawrenceburg," inscribed in heavy relief in the center of its unique castellated metal cornice. Eight cast iron columns support the front of the building, which incorporates two small commercial storefronts, located on opposite sides of the main theater entrance. A broad arch embraces the entrance, and the arch motif is repeated in the second story windows.

In the next block south on Walnut Street is the Harper Furniture Store, at 125 Walnut (photo 7). This commercial building provides an outstanding example of the variety and richness of Italianate style architecture within the City's central business district.

Examples of early 1830-40 Federal style residential architecture are found on East High Street. Typical of the group of homes on East High Street is 111-113, a two-story, Federal style building with paired end chimneys, limestone lintels and sills, and two-over-two window lights (photo 16, right).

Lawrenceburg is the birthplace and home town of two important builders, James Buchanan Eads and Louis Skidmore. James B. Eads, born in 1820, lived in Lawrenceburg until the age of 13, when his family moved to St. Louis, where, in 1869, he designed the James Eads Bridge. He later built jetties in the Mississippi River at New Orleans, enabling it to become a major port, and President Lincoln commissioned him to design and build iron clad gun boats for the Union forces during the Civil War. The frame house where Eads was born stood at the end of East High Street and was relocated when the flood levee was constructed around the City, to 225 West Williams Street, where it stands today.

Louis Skidmore, born in 1897, was one of the founders of the Chicago and New York architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, best known for the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition, the 1939 World's Fair, the Lever House, the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the Air Force Academy. In 1936 Louis Skidmore purchased his birthplace at 365 Elm Street for his mother (photos 35 and 36).

Significant for both its architecture and its history, the Lawrenceburg Historic District is symbolic of the City's struggles and dynamics during the 19th and early 20th century.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>Approx. 65 acres</u> Quadrangle name <u>Lawrenceburg</u> UTM References

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

A 16 Zone	685980 Easting	4 ₁ 3 ₂₁₈ 7 ₁₃₁₀ Northing
c 1,6	685860	4 3 2 9 5 0 0
E 1,6	686560	4,3 2,9 3,0,0
G		

B 1 6 Zone	685730 Easting	4 ₁ 3 ₂₁₈ 9 ₁₈₀ Northing
0 1 6	686380	4 3 2 9 4 6 0
	LILLI	

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all state	es and counties for p	properties over	rlapping state	or county bo	undaries		
	/A	code	county	al solard		code	
state		code	county		a deservations	code	and get
11. Fo	orm Prepar	ed By	Mistra Ballon Li 1963 Mistra de La 2000 Li Constante da Ballona de Canada de Canada de Canada de Canada de Cana				
name/title	David W. Shaw,	Consultant					
organization	Lawrenceburg De	evelopment C	orp.	date	June 14,	1983	
street & numbe	er 227 Walnut Stre	et	and sector	telephone	812/537-	0614	
city or town	Lawrenceburg			state	Indiana	4702	5
	significance of this prop	perty within the	state is:	n Offic	er Ce	rtifica	ation
The evaluated s As the designa 65), I hereby n according to th State Historic P	significance of this prop n@ional ted State Historic Prese cominate this property f e criteria and procedur Preservation Officer sign	perty within the state ervation Officer for inclusion in t es set forth by t nature	state is: X_ local for the National he National Reg he National Par	Historic Prese	rvation Act of y that it has I	f 1966 (Publi been evaluat	c Law 89– ed
The evaluated s As the designat 65), I hereby n according to th State Historic P Itle Indiana For NPS use I hereby c	significance of this property in the second	perty within the state ervation Officer for inclusion in t es set forth by t nature Preservatior	state is: X_ local for the National Reg he National Par 	Historic Prese ister and certif k Service.	rvation Act of y that it has I date Ja	f 1966 (Publi been evaluat nuary 24,	c Law 89– ed

nited States Department of the Interior ational Park Service Iational Register of Historic Places nventory-Nomination Form	For NPS use only received date entered
Downtown Dominuation sheet Lawrenceburg Historic Dist. Item number 9	Page 5

OMB No. 1024-0018

History of Dearborn County, Indiana, by Archibald Shaw. Editorial with biographical sketches of representative citizens and genealogical records of old families. B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

History of Dearborn & Ohio Counties, Indiana from their earliest settlement. F. E. Weakley & Company, publishers, Chicago: 1885. NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received date entered

For NPS use only

Downtown Lawrenceburg Continuation sheet Historic District Item number 10 Page 6

Beginning at the intersection of the northwesterly right-of-way of ConRail Railroad with the southwesterly property line of the property at 300 West High Street; thence N 45°00' W with that property line, across High Street to the southwest property line of the property at 301 West High Street; thence northwest along that line and continuing along the rear property lines of properties facing on the southwest side of Charlotte Street, crossing Center Street, to the southwest property line of the property at 303 West Center Street; thence following that line, being the line common to Outlots 32 and 33, 160'; thence with the rear line of portions of outlots fronting on Center Street the following eleven courses:

Ν	45°00'	Ε,	338	feet
Ν	45°00'	W,	64	feet
	45°00'	Ε,	121	Feet
S	45°00'	Ε,	64	feet
Ν	45°00'	Ε,	175	feet
	45°00'	W,	121	feet
Ν	45°00'	Ε,	120	feet
S	45°00'	Ε,	16	feet

thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ E to the line common to Outlots 37 and 38; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ W along that line to the southeasterly line of Tate Street; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ E with the southeasterly line of Tate Street 412'; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ W, 134'; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ E, 132'; thence S $45^{\circ}00'$ E, 134'; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ E with the southeasterly line of Tate Street 346'; thence S $45^{\circ}00'$ E with the southwesterly right-of-way of Elm Street 993'; thence N $45^{\circ}00'$ E with the southeasterly right-of-way of William Street 840'; thence southerly with the westerly right-of-way of the aforesaid ConRail Railroad main track to the point of beginning.

The District is bounded on the southeast by the railroad and the Ohio River, an obvious edge. On the southwest, the residential character changes into one of mixed use, with numerous intrusions in terms of date as well as use. On the northwest, the district was terminated at Tate Street on Walnut because the size and density of commercial buildings changes in the next block, and integrity is reduced. On the northeast, the east side of Elm Street is now occupied by three large, modern housing complexes, and the architectural quality and integrity of the remaining houses do not merit extending the District.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

