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FINAL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Courthouse Square Historic District  
other names/site number 105-055-67000

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by 7th, Walnut and 4th Streets  not for publication  
city, town and College Avenue, Bloomington  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Monroe code 105 zip code 47401

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>57</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>57</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 9

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Jane T. Kosellek  
Signature of certifying official  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

11-5-90  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Business  
COMMERCE: Specialty Store  
COMMERCE: Restaurant  
GOVERNMENT: Courthouse  
GOVERNMENT: City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Business  
COMMERCE: Specialty Store  
COMMERCE: Restaurant  
COMMERCE: Professional  
GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate  
Beaux Arts  
Classical Revival  
Chicago  
Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone  
walls STONE: Limestone  
BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other METAL: Cast Iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Courthouse Square Historic District is located in the center of Bloomington, the county seat of Monroe County in south central Indiana. The square is arranged on the "Shelbyville" plan with the courthouse square placed in a regular grid pattern bounded by streets on all four sides. Most of the blocks are further divided into equal sections by alleys. This district includes the Courthouse Square with the Monroe County Courthouse in the center surrounded by several sculptural objects, the adjacent commercial buildings on each of its four sides and commercial and civic buildings in portions of each of the adjacent blocks. The buildings of the district are situated in close proximity on a site that drops forty feet from its northern to its southern boundary, a distance of approximately two tenths of a mile. Parking lots, parking garages or non-contributing commercial structures are located immediately adjacent to the district at its perimeters.

The general character of the district is that of a small town commercial center accented with several civic buildings. There are 63 commercial structures, three civic structures distributed throughout the district, two civic structures that have been converted to commercial use and eight sculptural objects on the Courthouse lawn. The district's 64 total resources include 57 contributing buildings, 7 non-contributing buildings, and no sites, structures, or objects. This count does not include 4 previously listed buildings (Bloomington City Hall, 122 S. Walnut St., 9-14-89; Monroe County Courthouse, 10-8-76; Princess Theatre, 206 N. Walnut St., 6-16-83; and the Wicks Building, 116 W. 6th St., 3-3-83) nor does the count include 5 contributing objects and 3 non-contributing objects already listed as part of the courthouse grounds.

The Courthouse Square Historic District exhibits a great diversity of architectural styles including Italianate, Classical Revival, Beaux Arts, Chicago Commercial, Spanish Revival and Art Deco. The majority of the buildings have two or three stories; some are one story buildings, and there is one four and one eight story building. Most buildings are three or four bays wide and buildings with facades uniting more than one original building are up to six bays wide. The predominant materials are buff or gray limestone and red brick. Secondary materials are brown or yellow brick, stucco of various colors and

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other property

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Government

Period of Significance

1847-1936

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

MAHURIN, Marshall

NICHOLS, John Lincoln

GRINDLE, Alfred

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Courthouse Square Historic District is significant for its association with the history of government and commerce in Bloomington and Monroe County due to its status of county seat and center of commercial development for the city and county. The district is also significant for its embodiment of the characteristics of several commercial architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. With an economy historically dependent on the limestone industry, the district is representative of the historic context of commercial development in the limestone region of south central Indiana from 1827 to the present. The Courthouse Square Historic District is a cohesive group of architecturally diverse, predominantly limestone civic and commercial buildings surrounded by various residential and less significant commercial buildings. This surviving collection of exemplary buildings enables the district to maintain its role as the historic and architectural center of Bloomington and Monroe County.

The Courthouse Square Historic District can be evaluated according to the historic context of commercial development in the limestone region of south central Indiana from 1827 to the present. Indiana Limestone gained national and international prominence as a building stone due to its workability and appearance. The stone is soft and easily worked, yet durable as it hardens with exposure, and has great homogeneity of texture and composition. Several factors contributed to the development of quarrying and milling the limestone as an industry including the advent of the railroads, the gradual improvement of available technology and the fluctuating demand for the product.

Salem Limestone (stratigraphic name), or Indiana Limestone (generic or trade name), is found in an outcrop belt which stretches from as far as Parke and Fountain Counties through Montgomery, Putnam, Owen, Monroe, Lawrence, Washington, Floyd and Harrison Counties. The limestone occurs in commercial quantities however, primarily in Monroe and Lawrence Counties. Early settlers of the stone district, who first arrived between 1810 and 1816, used the

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical Reference**

Batchelor, Joseph A. An Economic History of the Indiana Oolitic Limestone Industry. Indiana Business Studies No. 27. Bloomington: Indiana University School of Business, February 1944.

Bloomington City Directories. Bloomington, Indiana. 1900-1940.

Brubaker, Cynthia. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Bloomington City Hall. Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 24 April 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Cantol Wax Company Building. Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 5 April 1989.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property approximately 20 acres

**UTM References**

A 116 54011010 43344010  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 116 5401390 43340110

B 116 54013910 43344010  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 116 54010910 433401010

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries chosen enclose the significant concentration of contributing, civic and commercial structures found on and around the courthouse square in Bloomington. Properties which were originally included in the Courthouse Square Historic District in the City of Bloomington Interim Report--Indiana

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cynthia J. Brubaker, Architectural Conservator  
 organization Portfolio Design Inc. date 16 February 1990  
 street & number 115 North College Avenue, Suite 113 telephone 812/334-2488  
 city or town Bloomington state Indiana zip code 47404

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Courthouse Square Historic District

white glazed terra cotta. Decoration varies from the subdued to the sublime rendered in carved limestone and creatively laid brick. The survival of so many fine historic buildings testifies to both good workmanship and quality of design.

The Courthouse itself is centered on its central square surrounded by green space including several mature trees (photo 20.). The remaining area of the district is composed of buildings which are immediately adjacent to one another with no open space in between and share a common facade line or setback from the street. With few exceptions, landscaping is limited to street trees and planters. Each corner of the intersections around the Courthouse Square is embellished with large planters which extend out into the street and were installed in the 1970's (photo 5.).

The Monroe County Courthouse, the centerpiece of the district, is the most outstanding example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture in Monroe County (photo 20.). This three story limestone building has a central dome which nearly doubles its height. The ground floor is characteristically rusticated and has decorative keystones above the windows and central doorways in each of the four sides. The second and third floors contained within the smooth-faced limestone exterior are embellished with cartouches and large pilasters with Doric capitals. The building is topped by a full entablature and balustrade. The projecting entry portico on the south side is dominated by a free-standing group of sculpture positioned above the doorway. This sculpture group is flanked by four Ionic columns and in the recess behind it, a large arched stained glass window illuminates the interior stair landing. The name "Monroe County Court House" is carved in the frieze and flanked by festoons. Above the entablature, a carved panel with the date of construction in Roman numerals is topped by a heavily embellished cartouche and flanked by two caryatids. The octagonal structure supporting the dome contains four clock faces, each framed by pilasters and topped by a pediment. The dome is divided into vented panels and crowned by cresting. Perched above the dome is a weathervane fashioned in the shape of a fish. A Bloomington landmark, this 3'9" ornament has adorned every Monroe County courthouse since 1826.

An assortment of commemorative monuments and memorials can be found scattered about the courthouse grounds. These include a circular stone slab marking the 1910 U.S. population center (#1 on map), a drinking fountain erected by the Monroe County Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1913 (currently in its third location on the courthouse grounds and #2 on map), the Grand Army of the Republic limestone war monument erected June 9, 1928 and designed by architect George W. Bunting (photo 21. and #3 on map) and two canons mounted on limestone pedestals in 1909 to commemorate Civil War service (#4 and #5 on map). These five objects can be considered contributing objects. Three other objects, a World War II stone statue "The Spirit of the Fighting Yank" erected in 1943 (#6

6

6

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Courthouse Square Historic District

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on map), an electrified lamp mounted on a pedestal by the Jaycees in 1957 (#7 on map) and a 1979 limestone sculpture by B. Dahman (#8 on map) are noncontributing objects however, with the passage of time, they may be considered contributing objects.

In 1962, the building's interior was extensively remodeled to provide additional working space by converting the east and west doors into windows and inserting floors underneath the rotunda on the second and third levels. The rotunda was reopened in 1984 when the courthouse was renovated to its original condition with the exception of new anodized aluminum frame windows with tinted glass which do not resemble the original windows. This renovation allowed for the preservation of the building's wealth of exterior and interior decoration. The Monroe County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The Bloomington City Hall Building is perhaps the second most important Beaux-Arts structure in Bloomington (photo 15.). Built in 1915, the limestone building is an impressive, small town version of the classical style most often reserved for civic structures at that time and survives with a high level of integrity. The freestanding, three story structure has a rectangular plan. Vestiges of the traditional Beaux-Arts plan are evident in the centrally located skylight structure and the arrangement of the interior corridors that converge in a cross under the skylight. The central bay of the main or east facade protrudes slightly, which also gives the impression of the cross plan.

The first floor is housed in a massive foundation of horizontally coursed, cut limestone. The second and third floors and the parapet are constructed of dressed limestone. The parapet is separated from the lower floors by a full entablature of limestone. The main entrance, located in the central bay of the east facade, is in a modest portico with a large, double-height door opening in a dressed limestone surround topped by a triangular pediment supported by two decoratively incised brackets. On either side of the entrance are two limestone light stanchions. Symmetrically placed window openings with uniform widths and lintel and sill heights adorn the most visible east and south facades. The original, double-hung, one over one, wood frame windows remain throughout the original building. The first floor windows are housed in the coursed limestone foundation with dressed limestone surrounds, while the second and third floor windows have shouldered architrave surrounds of limestone that extend unbroken from the water table to the protruding limestone lintels over the third floor windows.

The west end of the building houses a fire station. There is a 1950 limestone veneer addition to the west beyond the original building and a 1972 frame addition on the roof of the 1950 addition, which both incorporate additional fire department functions. The city hall portion of the building is currently

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Courthouse Square Historic District

used for storage. The fire department continues to operate in its original space. The building is in a varied state of repair, with some degree of deterioration due to lack of maintenance and use for several years however, most changes are reversible with little damage to the integrity of the original structure. Currently plans are underway to rehabilitate the city hall building for use as an arts center. The Bloomington City Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

Another civic building exhibiting elements of the Beaux Arts style is the Federal Building at 119 West Seventh Street (photo 2.). A relatively restrained example of this normally exuberant classical style, this particular example is distinguished by Ionic pilasters and a full classical entablature. Built c.1912 of locally quarried limestone, this two-story building has a one-story limestone addition to the east, which replicates the appearance of the original structure. The original front facade facing College Avenue is symmetrically arranged with the central entry flanked by three windows on each side. The former entrance has been converted into a window and the main entrance has been reoriented to face Seventh Street. The characteristic classical ornament, here in the form of decorative cartouches and garlands, can be found over the former entrance and in four of the carved panels over the west side windows. A 1989 renovation included installation of a new standing seam metal roof and new anodized aluminum frame windows (which do not resemble the original windows) and interior alterations.

The fourth building displaying Beaux Arts elements in the district is the former Masonic Temple at 120 West Seventh Street (photo 1.). This large, limestone, fraternal building combines elements of both the classic Beaux Arts style and the exotic Egyptian Revival style. The Beaux Arts influence is illustrated by the centrally located pyramid (which replaces the more traditional dome), the projecting front portico with its full, pedimented entablature, two large, engaged, Ionic columns and the rusticated ground floor. The Egyptian influence is evidenced by the stepped pyramid roof capped with a large ornate urn. In 1985 this former Masonic lodge was extensively renovated for use as an office building, which included the addition of windows on the formerly window-less edifice, some intersecting and obscuring a decorative frieze carved in bas relief just below the parapet.

A number of the brick, commercial structures built around the Courthouse Square between 1847 and 1890 remain, many of them disguised by later alterations. The oldest of these buildings appears to be the former Faulkner Hotel, built in 1847 at 122-124 North Walnut Street (photo 19.). While much of the original Flemish bond brickwork has been obscured by later repairs and renovations, the proportions and doorways suggest a restrained Federal architectural style. Another early, brick building, the building at 103-105 West Kirkwood Avenue, built in 1867 (photo 22.), originally housed two stores on the ground floor and



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Courthouse Square Historic District

a large music hall with eighteen foot ceilings upstairs. The two-story-high, arched windows of the hall were lost in the remodeling of 1915 when the second floor auditorium was converted into two floors. This building was substantially renovated in 1987.

The ubiquitous architectural style in Indiana's nineteenth century commercial centers, the Italianate style, is well represented in Bloomington's downtown. Characterized by brackets at the cornice and tall narrow windows with arched hoods, this style frequently employed cast-iron and pressed or stamped metalwork to achieve its distinctive character. A representative example is the former Odd Fellows building at 200 North Walnut Street (photo 4.). This two-story brick structure has a pressed metal, bracketed cornice with a central pediment on the main facade, which bears the date 1892. The front facade is further complemented with decorative metal coursing between the cornice and the second floor windows. Two infill windows on the second floor retain their original ornate metal window hoods. The two ground floor storefronts have both been altered with vertical wood cladding on the southern half and Carrara glass on the northern half.

Another noteworthy example of the Italianate style, the former Bundy's European Hotel, is at 212-214 West Kirkwood Avenue (photo 10.). These two two-story brick buildings retain their original pressed metal cornice and cast-iron storefront. The front facades are further enhanced by corbelled brickwork at the cornice and segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills at the windows.

The Allen Building built in 1907 at 102-106 East Kirkwood Avenue was first occupied by the Bloomington National Bank and subsequently by a variety of commercial enterprises. This three-story limestone building features a symmetrical front facade and combines elements of the Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles of architecture (photo 17.). Its twin set of bayed windows with steeply pitched gables is strongly reminiscent of the Queen Anne style. The classical influence is evidenced by the molded cornice below the roof line punctuated by the twin gables and the decorative double-arch within an arch framing the center set of windows with flanking Ionic pilasters. During a recent renovation, eight of the original leaded glass windows were reinstalled above the first floor display windows. The west side store space, currently housing the Uptown Cafe, was remodeled to reveal the original ten foot pressed metal ceilings.

The building at 115-119 West Kirkwood Avenue built in 1895 (photo 23.), housed the Kahn clothing store on the first floor from 1898 until the early 1980's, the Knights of Pythias on the second floor and "Castle Hall" on the third floor. Arranged in a comparable fashion to the Allen Building, this three-story building features two-story bayed windows and a central window grouping on its rough-faced limestone exterior. A typical element of the Queen Anne style, the stacked bay windows have ornamental shaped shingles covering the space between

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Courthouse Square historic District

them. The classical influence is evidenced by the central window grouping containing two narrow windows framing a single larger one. Three lunettes, containing floral motifs, cap each of these central windows. A curvilinear parapet is found above a full entablature.

The former First National Bank Building built in 1907 at 121-125 West Kirkwood Avenue, is attributed to John Nichols (photo 14. and 23.). Designed in the Classical Revival style, this three-story, limestone building was obviously designed to complement the building immediately to its east. The vertical window bays punctuate the pattern of openings and display a variety of decorative motifs, including pressed metal ornamentation, classical pilasters and simple capitals. Similar pilasters frame the diagonal corner windows. The corner entry has a double door surrounded by a carved running palmetto motif. The limestone skin of the upper floors has alternating smooth and rusticated bands. A full entablature adorns the cornice. The grade drops one full story to the south on the west elevation of College Avenue.

The large and imposing Knights of Pythias building at 114 North Walnut Street also built in 1907, was designed in the Classical Revival style (photo 19. and 21.). The three-story brick building has a limestone facade with four bays, three with two windows in each and an entrance bay topped by a round oculus window. Each of the second and third level windows have a diamond-paned transom window, with a bracketed continuous sill underneath the second level windows. Located between the full entablature and the third level windows, are three small diamond-paned attic windows along with the oculus window. The ground floor storefronts have been altered by the application of contemporary cladding.

The former Graham Hotel Building at 205 North College Avenue displays elements of the Classical Revival style (photo 7.). The tallest building in Bloomington's downtown, this eight-story brick building has a ground level, two story arcaded limestone facade. Other classical details rendered in limestone consist of the decorative quoins on the front facade and corners, the keystones adorning each window and the classical balustrade with urns topping the building. In 1979, a complete renovation was undertaken and the exterior of the former Graham Hotel building was restored to its original appearance with the exception of the north side, which was altered with an enclosed stairway. To accommodate its intended use as an office building, the interior of this building was completely remodeled.

The Wick's Building at 116 West Sixth Street was the home of the Wicks Bee Hive department store. It is the only example in the Bloomington area of the Chicago Commercial style of architecture (photo 6.). The original facade of this three story brick building, constructed in 1891, consisted of large, limestone blocks that were later extended across the face of an adjacent brick building. Around 1915, the present steel and limestone facade was added. The facade is dominated by floor-to-ceiling windows on the second and third levels, while the ground

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6 Courthouse Square Historic District

level is made up of display windows. Above the display windows and entrance is a transitional panel of leaded glass running the width of the building. The second and third story windows exhibit ornamental ironwork, and the facade is complemented with limestone carvings which mirror and maintain the continuity of the ironwork design. The Wick's Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Around that time the building underwent a certified historic rehabilitation to accommodate professional offices.

Two of the most unique and interesting early twentieth century buildings in the district are two movie theaters. The exotic and fanciful designs of the Princess Theatre Building at 204-206 North Walnut Street (photo 4.) and the Indiana Theatre at 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue (photo 16.) symbolize the romanticism of a bygone era. Originally built in 1892 as a commercial structure, the Princess Theatre is a three-story brick building that was extensively remodeled in 1913 to suit its new function as a movie theater and again in 1923 when the present white, glazed terra cotta facade was added. The ground floor's wide arched opening is edged by the two large pilasters which extend the full height of the building. The northern half of the ground floor inside the arch has the original 1923 quarry tile floor. The southern half of the ground floor has been reconstructed to match an historic photo. The three bayed building has six second floor windows divided into sections by thin pilasters. The words "PRINCESS THEATRE" are incised in a slightly recessed panel across the facade above the second story windows. Above this panel is a terra cotta cornice molding with modillions separated by rosettes and above the cornice is an ornately decorated parapet. The parapet is adorned with elaborate floral decorations and a cartouche bearing the initials "P.T." On both sides of the parapet, the projecting pilasters are adorned with polychromed clusters of fruit. The Princess Theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

The eclectic design of the Indiana Theatre at 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue reflects both Spanish and Classical Revival influences. The symmetrical front facade of this two story glazed brick building is separated into three bays by four large plain pilasters with clay tiled caps. The center bay is highlighted with a recessed limestone pointed arch on the second floor. Within this recessed arch, are two Renaissance-inspired casement windows topped with fanlights. The flanking bays each have three double-hung windows with stone sills and continuous stone lintels and an ornamental clay tile roof. The two ground floor storefronts have been altered by the addition of stucco.

The building at 120 North Walnut Street is the another example of Spanish Revival commercial architecture found in Bloomington's downtown (photo 19. and 21.). This two story stuccoed building is topped by a dentilated cornice. The second story has three inset arched openings with the original flat casement windows. Glazed mosaic tiles set into the stucco are used as decorative devices, most prominently in the arches above the windows and in the rectangular

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7 Courthouse Square Historic District

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panels above the windows. Each of these three windows is further ornamented with a small iron balcony.

Another building which contributes to the district's significance is the Odd Fellows Building at 108 East Kirkwood Avenue built between 1907 and 1913 (photo 16.). The brown, glazed, brick facade is adorned with stylized shapes of limestone, such as two Roman crosses in the parapet, horizontal bands and small squares between the windows and simplified keystones piercing the window lintels. These details can be said to exude the feeling of the Arts and Crafts style.

The last historic, architectural style represented in the Courthouse Square Historic District is the Art Deco Style. The flat surfaces and pronounced verticality of the style is evident in the Old Monroe County Jail (photo 15.) and in several examples located on the west side of the square at 107, 109 (photo 9.) and 115 North College Avenue (photo 8.). Angular, abstracted forms are incorporated in the decorative carvings on the limestone facades.

Historic non-contributing buildings in the district include the structures at 100 and 102-106 West Sixth Street built c. 1870 (photo 5.), which have had their facades altered c. 1950's and the building at 107 West Kirkwood Avenue built c. 1870 (photo 22.), which had a new facade attached to it c. 1980. Newer non-contributing buildings in the district include a c. 1950 one story, limestone veneer structure at 113 South Walnut Street, a c. 1970 two story, limestone veneer structure at 100 South College Avenue (photo 9.), a c. 1985 one story brick structure at 123 South College Avenue (photo 13.) and an infill structure built in 1987 visible in the center of the block on the south side of the Courthouse Square (photo 23.) and next to the former Monroe County Jail (photo 15.).

The district maintains a high degree of integrity and therefore looks much as it did during its period of significance. The major changes include changes in street furniture including traffic lights, street lights, street planters and more mature or newer street trees. Alterations to buildings include changed or different signage, renovated storefronts and replacement windows. Many storefronts have been rehabilitated to a former appearance. Preservation and restoration activities in the district include two certified historic rehabilitations (the Wick's Building at 116 West Sixth Street (photo 6.) and the Princess Theatre Building at 204-206 North Walnut Street (photo 4.)), several sympathetic rehabilitations and some less sympathetic renovation projects. The net effect of alterations in the district do not deter from the significance or historic appearance of the district.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Courthouse Square Historic District

limestone in small quantities for foundations and window sills in local building projects, such as the first Monroe County Courthouse begun in 1819 in Bloomington. The first limestone quarry of record in the region was opened in 1827 by Richard Gilbert southeast of Stinesville along Jack's Defeat Creek. The primitive quarrying methods of these early years included blasting sections of rock with black powder, working with hand drills and tools and transporting the stone by oxen driven wagons. The difficulty of quarrying and lack of adequate transportation restricted the market to a local one of foundations, sills, chimneys, monuments and bridge piers and abutments.

The limestone industry experienced its first surge in production and exposure with the coming of the railroads to the stone district. The New Albany and Salem Railroad (later the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville or Monon), came to Bedford then Bloomington late in 1853. Although the railroads allowed the limestone to reach substantial markets beyond Indiana after the 1850's, quarrying methods remained primitive until the 1870's and the introduction of steam powered channeling machines to aid in cutting large pieces of limestone out of the bed and gang saws to aid in further reducing the limestone into workable sizes. Beginning in the 1870's and into the 1890's the building industry gained momentum and a greater demand for Indiana limestone was created by such events as the Chicago fire of 1871, the popularity of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, which made great use of stone, and an increasing population with increased needs for commercial and civic buildings, which were most often built of stone. This increase in the limestone industry can also be measured in terms of the increase in operating quarries in the stone district from less than a dozen before the 1870's to over 50 in the 1890's.

The 1890's brought another wave of improvements for the limestone industry including the introduction of electric power, improved machinery for quarrying and milling the stone and the popularity of another compatible architectural style. Cut stone mills began to emerge locally, sometimes operated by the quarry companies, which allowed the selling and shipping of a more finished product: ready to set stone. The stone was easier to work into various cut and carved shapes when newly quarried and eliminating waste meant lower freight and shipping charges. At the turn of the century buildings around the Courthouse Square in Bloomington began to be built of limestone, perhaps as a result of the increased availability of cut stone and the prosperity of the industry. The Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago is widely credited with inaugurating a national trend of building civic structures in the Beaux Arts architectural style out of stone, which lasted well into the 1920's. Bloomington's civic buildings built between 1907 and 1936 were built in this style of locally quarried and milled limestone.

The twentieth century history of the industry is characterized by fluctuations in production and sales of stone as well as, steady improvements in technology. Limestone sales peaked in 1912, then wafted and waned throughout the two World Wars, the Great Depression and changing architectural trends. Courthouse Square

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Courthouse Square Historic District

buildings were primarily built of limestone after the turn of the century reflecting the significance limestone had attained in Bloomington. Technological improvements in the industry since World War II include better cutting materials such as tungsten carbide. Limestone continues to be a most popular building material of choice in Bloomington; examples include the Bank One Building built in the 1970's on the corner of Walnut Street and Kirkwood Avenue (photo 9.), and an infill structure built in the 1980's visible in the center of the block on the south side of the Courthouse Square (photo 23.) and next to the former Monroe County Jail (photo 15.) (both non-contributing buildings in the Courthouse Square Historic District).

Organized in 1818, Bloomington is the earliest county seat to be established among the neighboring counties. Other dates of establishment for county seats in the adjacent counties are 1820 for Spencer in Owen County, 1821 for Martinsville in Morgan County, 1825 for Bedford in Lawrence County and 1836 for Nashville in Brown County. The current Monroe County Courthouse (photo 20.) is the third to be built in the same location. The former Monroe County Jail at 116 South Walnut Street (photo 15.) is the second county jail to be built on its site. The district's association with federal government history is reflected in the former Federal Building and U.S. Post Office at 123 West Seventh Street (photo 2.), which currently houses county offices. The former Bloomington City Hall located at 122 South Walnut Street (photo 15.) was the first structure built for its purpose in 1915, before which time city offices were housed in various locations downtown (see National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the former Bloomington City Hall).

Bloomington was established and platted in 1818 and settled by thirty families within a year. Early businesses such as tanneries, lumber, woolen and grist mills, distilleries and a foundry supplied the local needs of agriculture and daily life as the lack of adequate transportation meant goods were not easily shipped in. In the 1830's and 1840's transportation was improved with a stage coach line from the Ohio River to Indianapolis, state built highways and the construction of canals. These corridors opened up access to the Ohio and Mississippi River trade routes, which brought in goods and allowed locally produced goods to be sold elsewhere. New industries using manufactured goods appeared in Bloomington, which produced harnesses and saddles with leather from the tanneries, tailored goods with cloth from woolen mills and a wagon factory with products from the foundry and saw mills. With the coming of the railroad in the 1850's markets were further expanded and local businesses flourished. An 1840's cabinet and repair shop became the Showers Brothers Furniture Company with the manufacture of bedsteads in 1868. The foundry established by Austin Seward in 1821 doubled in size after 1853. Hotels and saloons near the railroad depot and brick commercial buildings around the Courthouse Square sprung up throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, many of which still stand today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Courthouse Square Historic District

While limestone provided the major source of income for Lawrence and Monroe Counties from the 1890's until World War II, Bloomington's economy was diversified with furniture manufacture and other small industries, numerous commercial establishments and Indiana University. The most well known and successful pre-World War II manufacturing concern in Bloomington was the Showers Brothers' Furniture Company mentioned above. The company steadily increased their inventory to include suites of furniture and employed more than 2000 people by 1929. Part of the Showers Brothers' factory still stands on Morton Street between 8th and 9th Streets (City of Bloomington Interim Report 105-055-80064; Showers Brothers' offices: 105-055-80061). The Nurre Mirror Plate Glass Company was located across the street from the Showers Brothers' factory, furnished all the mirrors used in Showers Brothers' furniture and also made wind shields, plate glass, glass shelving and glass novelties. The Bloomington Basket Company, established in 1907, produced 1400 fruit and vegetable baskets daily in 1937 most of which were shipped from Bloomington for sale. Other small industries which flourished in the first half of the this century were:

The Cantol Wax Company; established January 1920; employed 8-10 men in 1937; produced wax products mostly for markets west of the rockies via Philadelphia and the Panama Canal. The Cantol Wax Company Building still stands at 211 North Washington Street. (For more information see the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Cantol Wax Company Building.)

The Field Glove Company; established in 1902; employed 30 workers in 1937 (mostly women); produced mittens and gloves distributed throughout the Midwest.

The Seward and Company foundry and machine works; established in 1821; served mostly local markets. In operation until the 1980's, the Seward business was perhaps the oldest and longest running business in Bloomington.

In 1937 there were 270 retail stores including 65 groceries, 5 bakeries, 12 dry cleaners, 20 automobile dealers, 4 department stores, 10 druggists, 12 furniture dealers, 20 garages, 5 hardware stores, 5 jewelers, 30 restaurants, 6 women's clothing stores and several filling stations. The majority of these retail establishments were located in the central commercial core around the Courthouse Square. Secondary commercial districts were located near the university and on South Walnut Street with local stores such as groceries scattered throughout residential areas.

Parallel to the growth of the limestone industry was another major influence on the history of Monroe County: Indiana University. A land grant was made in 1816 and the State Seminary opened in 1824 at the corner of South Walnut and Second Streets. Four years later the seminary became Indiana College and ten years after that the college became Indiana University. The campus was moved to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Courthouse Square Historic District

its current location in Dunn's Woods five blocks east of the Courthouse Square in 1883. By 1889 enrollment was up to 300 students, up from less than 50 until the 1850's. The university grew quickly, tripling its student population by 1902, which had a direct positive effect on the growth of Bloomington. Many original university buildings, most built of limestone, remain on the Dunn's Woods campus (see National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Indiana University Old Crescent).

Architects important to the development of the Courthouse Square Historic District include Marshall Mahurin and John Lincoln Nichols. Mahurin designed the current courthouse in 1907 (photo 20.). His firm was also responsible for courthouses in Hancock, Starke and Dekalb Counties, city halls in Fort Wayne and Kokomo and the Indiana Building at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Nichols was Bloomington's first native architect and was responsible for numerous residences and commercial structures in Bloomington. Within the Courthouse Square Historic District he is credited with several limestone commercial buildings including the Allen Building of 1907 at 102-106 East Kirkwood Avenue (photo 17.), the Knights of Pythias Building of 1907 at 114 North Walnut Street (photo 19. and 21.) and 115-119 West Kirkwood Avenue built 1898 (photo 23.). Nichols also worked with Frank Riedel of Indianapolis on the Bloomington City Hall at 122 South Walnut Street (photo 15.). Alfred Grindle, a British raised and trained architect, is credited with designing the building at 120 North Walnut Street. Grindle is responsible for several Bloomington area buildings, which he produced late in his career.

The oldest remaining buildings in the district are 122-124 North Walnut Street, 101 West Kirkwood Avenue and 122 West Sixth Street. The painted brick building at 122-124 North Walnut Street was built in 1847 and housed commercial establishments on the ground floor and a hotel. The second oldest building is either 101 West Kirkwood or 122 West Sixth Street; both were constructed c. 1859. The former was built c. 1859 by Johnson McCullough. Originally a two story brick structure, the building was purchased in 1868 by the Masonic Fraternity when a third floor was added. This building was altered early in this century with the addition of an exterior stucco and again in the 1980's with the addition of exterior hardboard insulation covered with stucco and a substantial interior renovation. The painted brick building at 122 West Sixth Street was constructed c. 1859 by Jesse K. Marsh, sold to William O. Fee by 1865 and remained in the ownership of the Fee family and descendants to the present. The first floor housed a dry goods and later department store until recently. The third floor was an entertainment hall and also the I.O.O.F. lodge for a time.

The Courthouse Square Historic District is rich in the prominent architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century characteristic of civic and commercial buildings of the period. The Beaux Arts style is well represented by the Monroe County Courthouse (photo 20.), the former Bloomington



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Courthouse Square Historic District

City Hall (photo 15.), the former Federal Building (photo 2.) and the Masonic Temple (photo 1.). Each of these structures embodies some vestige of a three part composition, central dome and classical decoration such as sculpture, columns or pilasters and other carved decoration.

Most of the commercial structures around the Courthouse Square built before the turn of the century are built of brick in the Italianate style. Still visible on the structures at 212 and 214 West Kirkwood Avenue (at one time Bundy's European Hotel), (photo 10.) are large plate glass shopfront windows framed by cast iron decorative columns, a common feature of the Italianate style. Other features of this style, upper story windows with round arched windows, decoratively profiled window hoods and projecting cornices with modillions or brackets, are found at 118 West Sixth Street (photo 6.), 112-114 South College Avenue (photo 11.), and 208-210 North Walnut Street (photo 4.), among others.

The appearance of limestone as a building material for commercial buildings around the Courthouse Square coincided with the appearance of elements of Revival styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The transition is neatly embodied in the Old Monroe County State Bank Building at 100 North Walnut Street (photo 18.) where an 1880's brick, Italianate, commercial structure, which had housed a grocery store, was updated with a rusticated, limestone first floor facade around 1900 to house a bank. The building at 115-119 West Kirkwood Avenue (photo 23.) built in 1898 has a rough faced limestone facade with three Roman arches, which give a Richardsonian Romanesque feel to the building. This same building as well as, the one next door at 121-125 West Kirkwood Avenue built in 1907 (photos 14. and 23.), the group of buildings from 213 to 221 North Walnut Street (photo 3.), which were joined by a common limestone facade c. 1906 and the Allen Building built in 1907 at 102-106 East Kirkwood Avenue (photo 17.) all have full classical entablatures.

The earlier versions of limestone, revival style, commercial buildings mentioned above tended toward a heavy sense of massing and design with generally rough-faced limestone facades. Later examples of the Classical Revival style employed smooth-faced, dressed limestone and finer detailing such as the limestone building at 110 North Walnut Street built in 1926 (photo 18.) and the brick and limestone Graham Hotel Building built in 1929 at 205 North College Avenue (photo 7.). Both are symmetrical in composition and have a balustrade above full entablatures, decorative bas relief carving and, at the Graham, urns atop the balustrade and keystones punctuating the window lintels. The buildings at 116-120 South College Avenue (photo 11.) and 212 West Fourth Street (photo 12.) were constructed for an automobile showroom in 1929 and also display finely detailed classical motifs carved on a dressed limestone facade. Cornice level balustrades also once graced these two structures, but were removed for safety reasons.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6 Courthouse Square Historic District

More unusual and distinctive architectural styles are also represented around the Courthouse Square. Three buildings in the district display elements of the Spanish or Mission Revival style: the Indiana Theatre built in 1922 at 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue with its red tile roof (photo 16.), the building at 108-110 East Sixth Street built c. 1910 with its stepped gable front (photo 19.) and the building at 120 North Walnut Street designed by Alfred Grindle and built c. 1928 with its stucco and tile facade (photo 19. and 21.). Characteristics of the Art Deco style are present on several limestone facades around the Courthouse Square including the former J.C. Penney Building given a new facade c. 1929 at 115 North College Avenue (photo 8.), the former Monroe County Jail built in 1936 at 116 South Walnut Street (photo 15.) and the building at 109 North College Avenue built c. 1930 (photo 9.).

Three singular buildings in the district are particularly unique architectural resources. The Wick's Building at 116 West Sixth Street (photo 6.) was given a new limestone facade around 1915 in the Chicago Commercial style. The building has a strong vertical orientation with narrow limestone panels running between the floors separated by leaded glass panels and decorative metal spandrels. Built as the Henry and Kerr Building between 1907 and 1913, the Odd Fellows Building at 108 East Kirkwood Avenue (photo 16.) can be said to exude the feeling of the Arts and Crafts style. Constructed of an earthy, brown, glazed brick, the facade is adorned with stylized shapes of limestone, such as two Roman crosses in the parapet, horizontal bands and small squares between the windows and simplified keystones piercing the window lintels. The Princess Theatre Building at 204-206 North Walnut Street (photo 4.) has Monroe County's only terra cotta facade, which was added to an 1892 structure in 1923. Designed by local architect John L. Nichols, the facade is primarily glazed white with some polychromed sculptural decoration including cartouches, the name of the building and clusters of flowers and fruit.

Non-contributing buildings within the Courthouse Square Historic District can be divided into three categories. Three buildings built c. 1870 have facades which have been severely altered (photos 5. and 22.). Another three buildings are new structures built since 1950 (photos 9. and 13.). The third category includes one new infill structure, which was designed to imitate the neighboring limestone buildings (photos 15. and 23.). These buildings are dispersed throughout the district, conform to the district's standards of scale and massing and are constructed of compatible materials. Therefore, they do not affect the district's ability to convey a sense of significance.

Preservation and restoration activities in the district include two certified historic rehabilitations (the Wick's Building at 116 West Sixth Street (photo 6.) and the Princess Theatre Building at 206-208 North Walnut Street (photo 4.)), several sympathetic rehabilitations and some less sympathetic renovation projects. The most common, non-historic alterations are replacing windows with inappropriate units and modernizing storefronts. The most recent unfortunate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Courthouse Square Historic District

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loss is that of a 1930's plate glass storefront with marble bulkhead at 107 North College Avenue (photo 9.), which is being reconfigured with a wood frame storefront. Much historic fabric remains throughout the district however, and the preservation and restoration activities in the district have had a net positive effect on the significance of the district.

The diversity of architectural styles present in the Courthouse Square Historic District, graphically portrays a history of local building influences throughout the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. These representative styles, when considered with the history, use, age and surviving integrity of the structures, also portray the district's association with the history of government and commerce and the district's significance within the historic context of commercial development in the limestone region of south central Indiana from 1827 to the present. This cohesive group of architecturally diverse, predominantly limestone civic and commercial buildings continue to display their inherent significance through their integrity of design and historic fabric.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Courthouse Square Historic District

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Courthouse Square Historic District

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1 Courthouse Square Historic DistrictBoundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the east curb line of Gentry Street and the north curb line of West Fourth Street, proceed eastward along the north curb line of West Fourth Street to the east property line of 123 South Walnut Street. Proceed northward following the east property lines of 123-113 South Walnut Street to the south property line of 102-106 East Kirkwood Avenue. Proceed eastward along the south property lines of 102-114 East Kirkwood Avenue to the east property line of 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue. Follow the eastern boundary of 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue and the south curb line of East Kirkwood Avenue to a point intersected by the east property line of 100 North Walnut Street. Then proceed northward, crossing East Kirkwood Avenue and following the east property lines of 100-118 North Walnut Street and 108-110 East Sixth Street to the south curb line of East Sixth Street. Proceed westward along the south curb line of East Sixth Street to a point intersected by the east property line of 200 North Walnut Street. Proceed northward from this point, crossing East Sixth Street, following the east property lines of 200-210 North Walnut Street and crossing the alley to the south property line of 212 North Walnut Street. From this point, follow the south, east and north boundaries of 212-222 North Walnut Street, crossing North Walnut Street to the west curb line of North Walnut Street. Follow the west curb line of North Walnut Street north to the south curb line of West Seventh Street. Then proceed westward to a point intersected by the east property line of 120 West Seventh Street. Cross West Seventh Street and follow the east and north boundaries of 120 West Seventh Street to the east curb line of North College Avenue. Proceed southward along the east curb line of North College Avenue, crossing West Seventh Street to a point intersected by the north property line of 205 North College Avenue. Proceed westward, crossing North College Avenue and follow the north and west boundaries of 205 North College Avenue. Continue southward, crossing West Sixth Street and following the west property lines of 113-125 North College Avenue to a point intersected by the north property line of 212 West Kirkwood Avenue. Follow the north and west boundaries of 212-222 West Kirkwood Avenue to the north curb line of West Kirkwood Avenue. Follow the north curb line of West Kirkwood Avenue to a point intersected by the east curb line of Gentry Street. Proceed southward, crossing West Kirkwood Avenue and following the east curb line of Gentry Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification - continued

Historic Sites and Structures Inventory are not included due to the demolition of some of the properties and the evaluation of the district boundaries by Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology staff. Immediately outside the district boundaries are parking lots, new construction and other low density non-contributing structures, which mark a definite edge to the visual continuity and historic character of the district.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo- graphs Page 1 Courthouse Square Historic District

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PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Courthouse Square Historic District  
Bloomington, Indiana  
Cynthia Brubaker  
Portfolio Design Inc., 115 N. College Ave., Ste. 113, Bloomington,  
Indiana 47404

Photographs 1. through 19. were taken on January 7, 1990

1. Masonic Temple, 120 West Seventh Street  
Camera pointing northwest, south and east elevations.
2. Federal Building, 119 West Seventh Street  
Camera pointing southeast, north and west elevations.
3. 213-221 North Walnut Street and 111-113 West Seventh Street  
Camera pointing southwest, north and east elevations.
4. 200-212 North Walnut Street  
Camera pointing northeast, south and west elevations.
5. 100-122 West Sixth Street  
Camera pointing northwest, south and east elevations.
6. 112-122 West Sixth Street  
Camera pointing north, south elevations.
7. Graham Hotel Building, 205 North College Avenue  
Camera pointing northwest, south and east elevations.
8. 109-125 North College Avenue  
Camera pointing west, east elevations.
9. 100 South College Avenue and 101-109 North College Avenue  
Camera pointing southwest, north and east elevations.
10. 212-222 West Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing northwest, south and east elevations.
11. 112-122 South College Avenue  
Camera pointing southwest, north and east elevations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photo-  
Section number graphs Page 2 Courthouse Square Historic District

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12. 212-214 West Fourth Street and 122 South College Avenue  
Camera pointing northeast, south and west elevations.
13. 119-123 South College Avenue  
Camera pointing east, west elevations.
14. 125 West Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing northeast, south and west elevations.
15. Bloomington City Hall, 122 South Walnut Street and Monroe County Jail, 116 South Walnut Street  
Camera pointing northwest, south and east elevations.
16. Indiana Theatre, 112-114 East Kirkwood Avenue and Odd Fellows Building, 108 East Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing southwest, north and east elevations.
17. Allen Building, 102-106 East Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing south, north elevation.
18. 100-110 North Walnut Street  
Camera pointing northeast, south and west elevations.
19. 110-124 North Walnut Street and 108-110 East Sixth Street  
Camera pointing southeast, north and west elevations.

Photographs 20. through 23. were taken on February 8, 1990

20. Monroe County Courthouse  
Camera pointing north, south elevation and courthouse lawn.
21. Grand Army of the Republic war monument and 114-124 North Walnut Street  
Camera pointing northeast, west elevations.
22. 101-111 West Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing south, north elevations.
23. 115-125 West Kirkwood Avenue  
Camera pointing south, north elevations.



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COLUMBUS 34 MI.

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COURTHOUSE  
SQUARE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
BLOOMINGTON,  
INDIANA,  
MONROE CO.

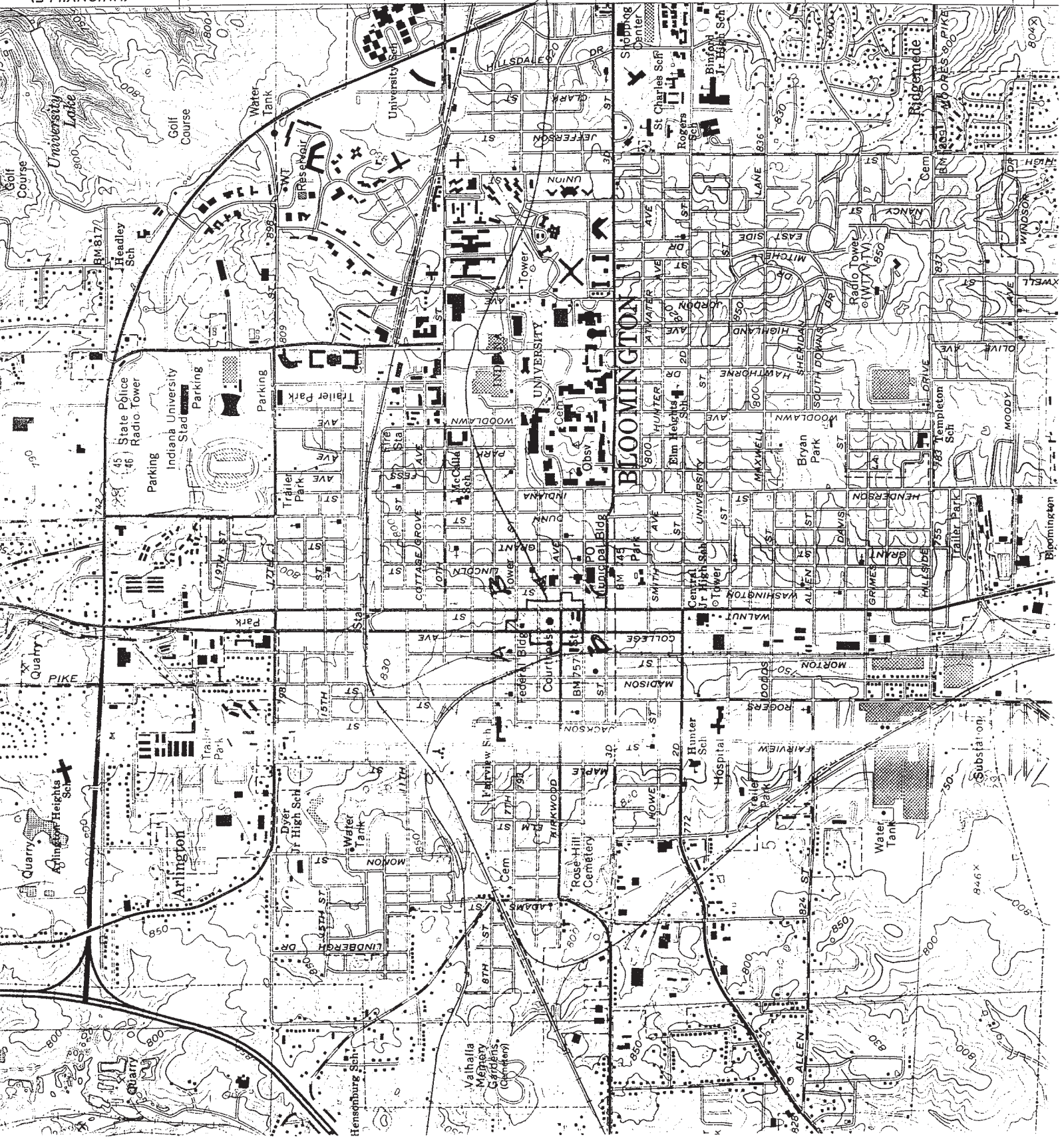
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