

FINAL

**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 Fountain Square Commercial Areas

and/or common Fountain Square Commercial Areas

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet

N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis, Indiana N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
Thematic Group	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various private owners (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Center Township Assessor's Office (Plat Room)

street & number Room 1321, City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indianapolis/Marion County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 21, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Map #, Photos
Fountain Square is the oldest area of Indianapolis outside the downtown to function continually as an important commercial area. Its existing buildings span more than a century of development, from 1871 to the present. Focused at the intersection of the primary historic transportation routes leading from the southeast to the center of Indianapolis, the area historically served — and continues to serve — as a hub of the Southside community. This thematic group of commercial nodes is made up of 3 districts: 1) Virginia Ave. District, 2) Laurel and Prospect District, and 3) State and Prospect District. There is little remaining evidence of the original natural features of the land, nor are there any prominent geographical elements or changes in elevation. The street pattern of the district varies from the predominant grid of the city, as the result of the continuation of the diagonal of Virginia Avenue from the 1821 Ralston Plan for the Mile Square of the new city of Indianapolis. When outlying farmland was platted and subdivided, primarily during the 1870s, the streets to the north and east of Virginia Avenue paralleled the diagonal to their intersection with Shelby Street. East of Shelby, the conventional grid was followed.

32, J
36, D
The convergence of three major thoroughfares and two secondary streets forms one of the most interesting intersections of the city. The fountain at this location is one of the few urban amenities of its kind in Indianapolis. Two of the district's largest and architecturally most significant buildings — the Fountain Block of 1902 and the Fountain Square Theatre of 1928 — are prominently sited here, strongly contributing to the urban enclosure of the square.

K, L
Over 80 percent of the contributing buildings in the area are one- or two-story brick buildings, there being a nearly equal distribution of the two heights. Constructed between 1871 and 1932, buildings of every decade during this 60-year period are represented. The decade best represented is the 1910s with 11 examples. Most buildings are rectangular in plan, those located at points of intersection with the diagonals being the exception. As is common in densely developed urban areas, the majority of buildings share party walls (or did so originally before demolition of adjacent structures). A number of buildings take full advantage of their land parcels with building footprints corresponding to the lot lines. With few exceptions, the commercial buildings follow standard setback patterns resulting in continuous facade lines for several blocks — the 1000 block of Virginia Avenue between Woodlawn and East Prospect, for example. Where buildings have been demolished, the district's urban density has been eroded and continuous facade lines are interrupted. The streetscapes of the northwestern leg of the Virginia Avenue district have suffered the most from demolitions and intrusions.

10
12
Most of the commercial buildings still support commercial uses, although the businesses for which the buildings were designed have long since disappeared. Some buildings today are only used for storage purposes or support marginal uses; this is particularly true for those located at the formerly prosperous intersection of State and Prospect. There is only one building within the bounds of the district that was built as a residence and continues its solely residential function: the Arnholter House, 950 Virginia Avenue. Constructed in 1871, this house is one of the few in this area to survive from the 19th-century period when homes and businesses existed side by side. (Henry Arnholter's harness and saddle business was located next door to his home.) As the commercial area prospered toward the turn of the century, many early homes were converted to businesses, often by the construction of a front addition (for example, 1006 Virginia Avenue, an 1883 house with an addition of 1911). Others were

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (Paragraph)

The Fountain Square Historic Commercial Areas are significant for the city of Indianapolis in the following contexts: commerce, theater, and transportation. Each area of significance emphasizes the commercial nature of the three districts, and no area of significance is intended to be exclusive of another. The specific section on commerce emphasizes the responses and effects which led to and supported the commercial activity of the area from the 1870s to the present. Special significance lies in the fact that the Fountain Square historic commercial area is the only area of its kind still extant in Indianapolis; that is, it is the oldest area of Indianapolis outside the downtown to function continually since the 1870s as a recognized commercial area. Furthermore, the historic German ethnic influence in the area adds to its distinctive character.

The area derives its name from the successive fountains which occupied a focal point at the intersection of Virginia Avenue, East Prospect and Shelby Streets. (See attached map.) The commercial area of Fountain Square developed along these streets, and those buildings specified in Section 7, "Description," of this nomination are remnants of the historic commercial activity that has been associated with Fountain Square. These buildings are located in a district along Virginia Avenue, East Prospect Street, and Shelby Street, and in two smaller districts along East Prospect Street: one at the intersection of Laurel Street, the other at State Avenue. These nodes are not intended to be exclusive; however, the nodes contain the only surviving remnants of historic commercial activity in Fountain Square along East Prospect and beyond the larger district identified above.

COMMERCE

Fountain Square has been a recognized commercial area of Indianapolis for over 100 years. As a commercial district located and developed outside the center city, Fountain Square was a significant part of commercial growth in Indianapolis.

Fountain Square did not exist as a recognizable commercial area when Calvin Fletcher and Nicholas McCarty — Indianapolis pioneers — purchased Dr. John H. Sanders' 264-acre farm in December 1835. However, Fletcher and McCarty had purchased the farm with the intent to lay out this area southeast of the center city as "town lots" and to sell the small parcels for a "handsome advance."¹ With such a plan in mind, it is not surprising that a neighborhood or recognizable district would develop with new settlement and commercial enterprise in the area.

The initial settlement in what became Fountain Square was by the Fletcher family. Other than the residences in addition to the Fletchers' along Virginia Avenue, settlement in the area was sparse prior to 1870. Between 1870 and 1873, the area was platted and replatted a total of eight times as residential and commercial growth occurred along Virginia Avenue and East Prospect Street. A rapid demographic shift, especially in consideration of commercial activity reflected by the increase in the number of businesses, occurred during this time in Fountain Square.²

9. Major Bibliographical References

See notes from Item 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property I: Approx. 12 acres; II: Approx. 1 acre; III: Approx. 3 acres
Quadrangle name Indianapolis West Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1,6	57,346,0	44,007,5,0	B	1,6	57,382,0	44,004,6,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	57,382,0	44,002,6,0	D	1,6	57,368,0	44,002,6,0
E	1,6	57,343,0	44,007,2,0	F	1,6	57,409,0	44,004,1,0
G	1,6	57,450,0	44,004,3,0	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets

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 Mary Toshach, Preservation Planner; Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian; James Reed, Historian; Cecilia Boggs, Research Assistant

organization Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission date December 1982; revised February 1983

street & number Room 1821 City-County Building telephone (317) 236-4406

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana

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 *James M. Robinson*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date April 21, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 2

Page 1

Roughly one-half block either side of Virginia Avenue, South Shelby Street and East Prospect Street, as well as two nodes on East Prospect Street at the intersections of Laurel and State.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Item number 4 Page 2

Map #	Address	Classification	Owner
1	870 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	George A., Jr. & Fred J. Henry 872 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
2	872 Virginia Avenue	Non-Contributing	Same as above
3	874 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Same as above
4	848 Grove Avenue and vacant lots on Virginia Avenue	Contributing	K. & S. Holdings, Inc. 1126 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
5	902-06 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Joseph & Abbie Fogle & David & Libby Fogle c/o Best Rentals 123 North New Jersey Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
	900 Block Virginia Ave.	Vacant Lot	Same as above
	900 Block Virginia Ave.	Vacant Lot	Same as above
6	920 Virginia Avenue	Non-Contributing	Eldon L. & Mary June Pierce 651 Costella Lane Boynton Beach, Florida 33435
	900 Block Virginia Ave.	Vacant Lot	Same as above
7	936 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Viola L. Cardinal c/o Florence Evans 506 North Emerson Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46219
8	938-42 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Addressing Machine & Supply Co., Inc. 940 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
9	944-48 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	William A. & E.M. Bogie 944 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
10	950 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Wm. & Frieda McKinney 950 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
11	1004 Virginia Avenue	Non-Contributing	Alvin P. & Ann L. Levenson c/o Jerry & Mary Wyman 1004 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

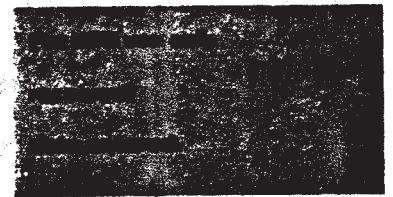
Item number 4

Page 3

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Owner</u>
12	1006 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Patrick F. & Judy Ann Kennedy c/o Linzie T. & Iva L. Brock 1434 Biloxi Beech Grove, Indiana 46107
13	1008 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Same as above
14	1010-14 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Linzie T. & Iva L. Brock 3208 Brill Road Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
15	1016-18 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Lawrence G. Kaseff 8308 Taunton Road Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
16	1020 Virginia Avenue	Non-Contributing	Louis & Pauline Kaseff 1018 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
17	1022 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Grace G. Willis 1022 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
18	1024-26 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	James Dalton 1024 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
19	1028-30 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Rolland E. & Mildred J. Kontak c/o Premier Stamp & Coin 1028 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
20	1036 Virginia Avenue	Non-Contributing	Joe A. & Welpha J. Steele 2517 South Tulip Drive Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
21	1042 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Fountain Square Building & Realty Co. c/o Merchants National Bank 11 South Meridian Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
	1000 Block Virginia Ave.	Vacant Lot	August W. & Mary Ann Muller 749 Crescent Road Jackson, Michigan 49203
22	1043-47 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Mack Realty Company 531 Fifth Avenue McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15132

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

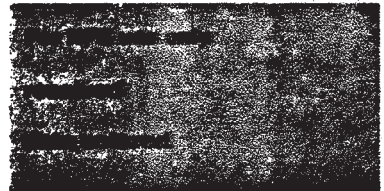
Item number 4

Page 4

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Owner</u>
23	1044-46 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Drs. Ronald L. & Howard Sagalowsky c/o Jeffery T. Lewis 1313 Merchants Bank 11 South Meridian Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
24	1048 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Jerome H. Epstein 1048 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
25	1052 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Same as above
26	1053-57 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Merchants National Bank & Trust Co. Property Management Division P. O. Box 5036 Indianapolis, Indiana 46255
27	1054 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Jerome H. Epstein 1054 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
28	1056 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Same as above
29	1058 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Myron C. Sevlean 1024 North Craycroft Road Tucson, Arizona 85711
30	1059 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Merchants National Bank & Trust Co. Property Management Division P. O. Box 5036 Indianapolis, Indiana 46255
31	1060 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Myron C. Sevlean 1024 North Craycroft Road Tucson, Arizona 85711
32	1062-68 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Robert J. & Geneva Morris 1062 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
33	1065-67 Virginia Avenue	Contributing	Merchants National Bank & Trust Co. Property Management Division P. O. Box 5036 Indianapolis, Indiana 46255
34	1024-26 South Shelby St.	Contributing	K. & S. Holdings, Inc. 1026 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

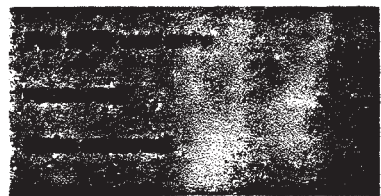
Item number 4

Page 5

Map #	Address	Classification	Owner
35	1033 South Shelby Street	Contributing	B. L. Thompson 8215 New Harmony Road Martinsville, Indiana 46151
36	1101-15 South Shelby St.	Contributing	Betty Jo McNeal & Jack W. Griffin 42 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
	1100 South Shelby Street	Vacant Lot (Parking)	Merchants National Bank & Trust Co. 11 South Meridian Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
37	1108-10 South Shelby St.	Contributing	Jack C. & Nancy C. Miller 1622 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
38	1122 South Shelby Street	Non-Contributing	Gary A. Page 1122 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
38	1127-29 South Shelby St.	Contributing	Wm. C. Renner 1131 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
39	1131 South Shelby Street	Non-Contributing	Same as above
40	1135-37 South Shelby St.	Non-Contributing	Harold & Loran Bender Trustees of Local 135 Welfare Fund 1135 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
41	1139 South Shelby Street	Non-Contributing	Catherine Siequist 5602 Lieber Road Indianapolis, Indiana 46208
42	1143-45 South Shelby St.	Contributing	International Brotherhood of Teamsters, et al. 1143 South Shelby Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
43	1102 E. Prospect Street	Contributing	Robert Scherschel 906 Leisure Lane Greenwood, Indiana 46142
44	1104-10 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Drs. Ronald & Howard Sagalowsky c/o Sandra J. Long 11 South Meridian Street, Room 1313 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

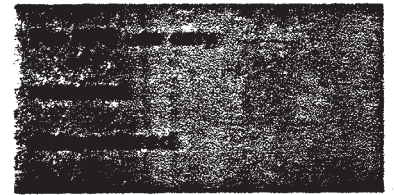
Item number 4

Page 6

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Owner</u>
45	1112-14 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Wesley A. & Mildred Schelske 2212 Trowbridge Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
46	1116-18 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	McKinney Boys Club Realty Board 1949 East Troy Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
47	1113-21 Boone Street	Non-Contributing	Harry R. & Benjamin Dorman 1031-37 South Keystone Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
			or
			c/o K. & S. Holdings, Inc. 1126 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
	1100 Block E. Prospect St. (Parking)	Vacant Lot	K. & S. Holdings, Inc. 1126 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
48	1117-19 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Kenneth R. Swan 6414 Thistle Drive Indianapolis, Indiana 46224
49	1121-23 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Martin & Alverna Young 6820 North Delaware Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46220
50	1126-28 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Harry R. & Benjamin Dorman c/o K. & S. Holdings, Inc. 1126 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
51	1127 East Prospect St.	Contributing	Hereford & Winona Eads 1453 Fletcher Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
	East Prospect Street	Vacant Lot	Anthony & Pauline Mascari 3240 Harmon Drive Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
52	1130-32 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Thomas & Alice Valadras 4707 Round Lake Road #5 Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 7

Map #	Address	Classification	Owner
53	1335-39 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Raymond C. & Lois Ann Joseph 5106 S. Emerson Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
54	1413 East Prospect St.	Contributing	Cecil D. & Martha T. Coe 8130 East 10th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46219
55	1415-19 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Same as above
	East Prospect Street	Vacant Lot (Parking)	Bridget Cunningham 1348 East Kelly Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
56	1623 East Prospect St.	Contributing	Leonard H. & Elsie C. Meisberger c/o Carl Meisberger 1267 Worchester Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
57	1627 East Prospect St.	Contributing	Marie McGinty 4551 North Park Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46205
58	1631 East Prospect St.	Contributing	Same as above
59	1633-37 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	WAFCO Manufacturing Company 1637 Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
60	1638-40 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Steven L. Mascher 1640 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
61	1701-03 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Russell & Catherine Scharbrough, Sr. 1701-03 East Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203
62	1702-06 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Dison Realty, Inc. c/o Ernest E. Dison 3001 West Michigan Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46222
63	1707-09 E. Prospect St.	Contributing	Kathryn Neuhoff c/o Ira Carter R. R. 1 Box 300 Greencastle, Indiana 46135

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

demolished to make way for new commercial blocks. The irregular setback of residences deep on their lots and commercial buildings at the street gradually changed to conform with the patterns of denser urban development.

Of the 63 buildings in the district 54 can be considered as contributing to the overall historic and architectural character of the area. (Lists of contributing and non-contributing buildings are included as the last continuation pages of this item.) In addition to their addresses, all contributing buildings are listed with their date of construction and historic name (if known). Identification of contributing and non-contributing buildings is keyed to the map.

Samuel P. Lorber's Saloon
1638-40 East Prospect Street
1885

Photo A
Map 60

Originally constructed for a residence and grocery business, this building served as a saloon for over 80 years. Almost no alterations have been made to the two-story hipped roof structure, which survives as a remarkably intact example of a frame commercial building of the 1880s. Even when the building's ell was extended to the west between 1898 and 1914 to provide more residential quarters, all exterior elements matched the original building. The simple commercial front has central double doors flanked by shop windows with paired brackets at the rain cap. The building's most distinguishing feature occurs at the cornice line, where short and narrow vertical boards with alternating pointed ends sheathe the top weatherboards.

1701-03 East Prospect Street
c. 1898

Photo B
Map 61

The two earliest, long-term commercial establishments located in this building were a dry goods shop at 1703 for 40 years and a pharmacy at 1701 for over 50 years. A well-maintained structure, it has retained much of its late 1890s character. Modifications have been made to the two storefronts, but the original design has been respected. At 1701, the cutaway corner so popular in the 1890s remains behind a cast-iron column; at 1703, the basic configuration is the same and the reeded trim of the entryway survives. An architectural element unusual to remain intact is the cornice comprised of ornamental head blocks, dentils, and frieze.

1702-06 East Prospect Street
1897/1905

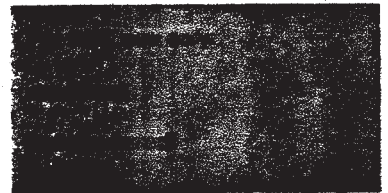
Photo C
Map 62

Frank Hosbrook erected a one-story, brick commercial building in 1897 which served as the core of the larger, two-story building that exists here today. In 1905 Hosbrook's widow sold the property to George D. Dirks and his associate Bernard Haverkamp, who soon after added a second story for three apartments, erected a new facade with two storefronts, and constructed a warehouse addition at the rear. From 1898 to the 1950s, a grocery business was located here.

The facade of brown, salt-glazed brick accented by dressed stone trim was a very stylish metamorphosis of the earlier 1890s building. One of its best features is its well-detailed cornice. Two storefronts at the rear of the State Street elevation which display a steel lintel with rosettes and rock-faced stone trim, indicate the contrasting stylistic character of the original building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 9

Fountain Square Theatre Building
1101-1115 South Shelby Street
1928 Frank B. Hunter, architect

Photo D
Map 36

Built by the Fountain Square Realty Company and opened in 1928, this building was the most significant construction project ever to occur in the area. The motion picture theater remained in operation until April 1960, when the building was gutted to provide retail space for the F. W. Woolworth Company.

The four-story brick structure, with mezzanine between the first and second stories, extends 14 bays along Shelby Street and seven bays along Prospect. Each bay is defined at the upper three floors by paired, double-hung windows between pilasters. A five-bay-wide, two-story section of the building to the east along Prospect forms a separate compositional unit and is located directly in front of the old theater portion of the building. Colorful terra-cotta detailing provides the chief architectural embellishment of the tan-colored brick facade. Of note are the floral motif panels at the center of the textured spandrels, the wave pattern stringcourse between entresol and second floor, and the Corinthian capitals of the pilasters.

J. P. Bruce Bakery
1016-18 Virginia Avenue
1893

Photo E
Map 15

The Bruce Baking Company was located at this site for 48 years -- 1876 to 1924. In 1893 James P. Bruce constructed a new \$6,000 building for his bakery business to replace two existing one-story structures. The American Hardware Supply store has been in business here since 1947.

As one of Indianapolis' best-preserved 1890s commercial buildings, the groundfloor storefront has survived in original condition. The two-story brick building with high parapet is divided in two visually by the central pier of the upper story. The striped effect created by the rock-faced stone trim was a popular stylistic feature of the time. The first floor facade displays a notably high percentage of glass for the period, with tall transom lights over plate glass display windows. On the interior, a handsome metal-stamped ceiling is intact, and at the rear of the lot, portions of the early brick bake-houses and oven rooms survive.

1024-26 Virginia Avenue
1875

Photo F
Map 18

George W. Hoffman constructed this commercial block in 1875. It housed a great variety of businesses, one of the longest-lived ones being a cigar manufacturing establishment of 37 years. The three-story, seven-bay-wide, brick structure is one of the two largest commercial buildings in Fountain Square to survive from the 19th century. Hallmarks of the Italianate style include the decorative window hood molds and the bracketed roof overhang, the cornice frieze of which is quite unusual in its detailing. Below the detailed wood stringcourse between the first and second floors, the facade was remodeled in the late 1940s or early 1950s with large plate glass storefronts surrounded by Carrara glass.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 10

Granada Theater
1043-47 Virginia Avenue
1928 Donald Graham, architect

Photo G
Map 22

The Granada Theater, built at the same time as the Fountain Square Theater, was operated by the U.I. Theater Circuit Company, Inc., which operated more than 400 theaters throughout the country. When the theater closed in 1951, the building was remodeled for the expansion of the G. C. Murphy Co., still located here today.

The theater's Virginia Avenue facade of tan-colored brick was enriched by fanciful terra-cotta ornament of Spanish Baroque inspiration. As a result of the 1950s remodeling, nothing remains of the original two first floor storefronts. The centerpiece composition of the second floor features three arched windows framed by pilasters and frieze band. Four wreathed columns aside the windows enliven the grouping, and the enframing ornament features winged cherub heads, shields, rams' heads, and Neptunes. Above this, a blind balustrade is carried as a parapet; at its center is a tablet elaborately ornamented with a shield on floral background. All windows of the second floor have terra-cotta surrounds, and the terra-cotta stringcourse and cornice lines help to unify the design.

Schreiber Block
1053-57 Virginia Avenue
1895

Photo H
Map 26

Built in 1895 by William Schreiber, this building housed a variety of small businesses including a creamery, a laundry, and a restaurant. The G. C. Murphy Company located at 1053-55 in 1929 and has remained here ever since.

The asymmetrical character of the facade is due to the demolition of the southern sections of the Schreiber Block to make way for new buildings, and the extension of the northern portion, during the 1920s. Because the current structure is nine bays wide, the parapet now appears curiously off center. The attic story features "portholes" characteristic of Indianapolis' commercial buildings as early as the 1860s. The square, colored glass lights of the second story double-hung windows are more typical of residences of the period and help to denote the apartments located here. Stone detailing of the brickwork has been obscured by the uniform paint color.

Fountain Square State Bank
1059 Virginia Avenue
1922 Vonnegut, Bohn and Mueller, architects

Photo I
Map 30

This building was erected in 1922-23 for the Fountain Square State Bank, incorporated in 1908; it became the Fountain Square Branch of Merchants National Bank in November 1948 through consolidation.

The elegant Neoclassical facade of dressed limestone displays the talents of one of the city's most prominent architectural firms of the era. Two fluted Doric columns flank the entryway, creating the effect of a temple front and providing a window wall for interior illumination. The banking room features marble floors and counter area, brass teller's cages, a denticulated beamed ceiling, and wall pilasters. Only minor alterations have been made to this building in its 60-year history.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 11

55

Fountain Block
1062-68 Virginia Avenue (1048-50 East Prospect Street)
1902 Prader and Krass, contractors

Photo J
Map 32

The Fountain Block was built by August Elbrecht in 1902 for commercial shops on the first level, apartments and offices on the second level, and the Fountain Block Hall on the top floor. One long-term business located here was a drugstore.

The block extends 11 bays along Virginia Avenue and five bays along Prospect Street. Although the Virginia storefronts have all undergone modernizations, those on Prospect are as originally built. The tall windows of the upper story, designed to illuminate the hall, lend an unusual sense of proportion to the building. The most interesting architectural feature is the distinctive window trim with scrolled, acanthus leaf keystones and sills and lintels with label stops. The original bracketed cornice survives only on the Shelby Avenue elevation.

Buddenbaum Grocery
1413 East Prospect Street
1879

Photo M
Map 54

Built in 1879 by Emil Drotz, this building was leased to grocers in the 1880s and 1890s and then sold to Stuckmeyer Brothers, both pharmacists, who operated a drugstore here until 1925. The business was carried on by successive pharmacists through the 1930s.

The two-story, three-bay-wide brick structure features attic "portholes" common to the city's commercial architecture of the period. During the late 1890s, the original first floor was remodeled to allow for larger storefront windows made possible by the steel lintel. The current 20th-century storefront represents at least a third generation alteration.

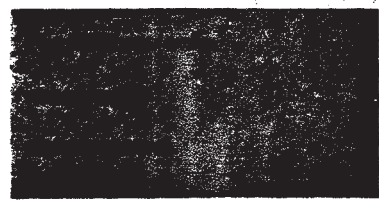
Contributing Buildings

All contributing buildings have been researched to determine the date of construction. The following list provides the address, date of construction, and name (if any) for each contributing building. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are described in detail in the previous pages.

Address	Date	Name	Map
848 Grove Avenue	c. 1900	Koehring and Son Warehouse	4
1102 East Prospect Street	c. 1885		43
1104-10 East Prospect Street	1913	The Sanders (Apex) Theater	44
1112-14 East Prospect Street	1908		45
1116-18 East Prospect Street	1912	Fountain Square Hardware Company	47
1117-19 East Prospect Street	1926		48
1121-23 East Prospect Street	1932		49
1126-28 East Prospect Street	c. 1924		50

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

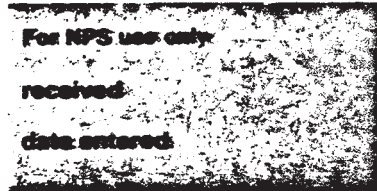
Item number 7

Page 12

Address	Date	Name	Map
1127 East Prospect Street	1929		51
1130-32 East Prospect Street	1930		52
1335-39 East Prospect Street	1885/1910	Mangold/Roepke Saloon	53
*1413 East Prospect Street	1879	Buddenbaum Grocery	54
1415-19 East Prospect Street	late 1870s/late 1880s		55
1623 East Prospect Street	c. 1890	Mitschrich/Schaefer Feed Store	56
1627 East Prospect Street	1925		57
1631 East Prospect Street	1875/1908	Sommer/Roempke Bakery	58
1633-37 East Prospect Street	1894/1910		59
*1638-40 East Prospect Street	1885	Samuel P. Lorber's Saloon	60
*1701-03 East Prospect Street	c. 1898		61
*1702-06 East Prospect Street	1897/1905		62
1707-09 East Prospect Street	1890-93		63
1024-26 South Shelby Street	1875/ c. 1916	Southside Wagon and Carriage Works/ Saffel Chair Company	34
1033 South Shelby Street	1893		35
*1101-15 South Shelby Street	1928	Fountain Square Theatre Building	36
1108-16 South Shelby Street	1900		37
1127-29 South Shelby Street	1932		38
1143-45 South Shelby Street	1915		42
870 Virginia Avenue	c. 1904		1
874 Virginia Avenue	1909		3
902-06 Virginia Avenue	1876/1915	Woessner Building	5
936 Virginia Avenue	1885		7
938-42 Virginia Avenue	1924	Guarantee Tire & Rubber Co. Branch	8
944-48 Virginia Avenue	1886/1900	Arnholter Block	9
950 Virginia Avenue	1871	Arnholter House	10
1006 Virginia Avenue	1883/1911		12
1008 Virginia Avenue	c. 1914		13
1010-14 Virginia Avenue	c. 1894		14
*1016-18 Virginia Avenue	1893	J. P. Bruce Bakery	15
1022 Virginia Avenue	1876		17
*1024-26 Virginia Avenue	1875		18
1028-30 Virginia Avenue	c. 1925	Wyn-Lee Building	19
1042 Virginia Avenue	1908		21
*1043-47 Virginia Avenue	1928	Granada Theater	22
1044-46 Virginia Avenue	1911	Southside Theater	23
1048 Virginia Avenue	1915		24
1052 Virginia Avenue	c. 1907		25
*1053-57 Virginia Avenue	1895	Schreiber Block	26
1054 Virginia Avenue	c. 1875		27
1056 Virginia Avenue	c. 1875		28
1058 Virginia Avenue	1892		29
*1059 Virginia Avenue	1922	Fountain Square State Bank	30
1060 Virginia Avenue	c. 1874		31
*1062-58 Virginia Avenue	1902	Fountain Block	32
1065-67 Virginia Avenue	1922		33

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 13

The following list of non-contributing buildings within the Fountain Square Historic Commercial Areas identifies those buildings which are not 50 years old. The majority of these buildings maintain a commercial function and do not detract from the character of the area.

Address	Map	Photo
1113-21 Boone Street	47	
1131 South Shelby Street	39	N
1135-37 South Shelby Street	40	N
1139 South Shelby Street	41	N
872 Virginia Avenue	2	
920 Virginia Avenue	6	
1004 Virginia Avenue	11	
1020 Virginia Avenue	16	
1036 Virginia Avenue	20	0

METHODOLOGY

The Fountain Square Commercial area thematic nomination was developed after a thorough inventory of structures along the historic transportation routes: Prospect Street, Shelby Street, and Virginia Avenue. The boundaries of the area inventoried were Interstate 65 on the west, the Penn Central Railroad tracks on the north, Keystone Avenue on the east, and Pleasant Run Creek on the south. These boundaries encompass the current trade area for the Fountain Square commercial area and the majority of the historic Fountain Square area. Portions of the historic area were omitted because of the demolition and separation caused by the construction of the interstate. (See map, p. 34.)

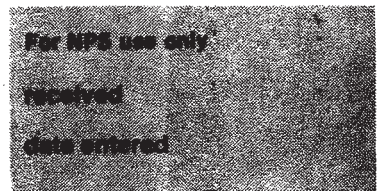
All structures were researched to determine age and historical significance. Research included a complete title search, a tracing of city directories, and biographical research through the files available at the Indiana Division of the Indiana State Library. The general history of the area was also researched, and the commercial activity and growth in Fountain Square was documented through the city directories.

After completion of initial research, buildings that had lost most of their integrity and/or were not located within clusters or nodes of commercial activity, as well as buildings not considered eligible due to age, were eliminated. This methodology resulted in the creation of the one large district and two smaller nodes or satellites of commercial activity.

Research and documentation was completed by the staff of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission. Those persons directly involved were: Mary Toshach, Preservation Planner; Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian; James S. Reed, Ph.D., Historian; and Cecilia Boggs, Research Assistant.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 14

This period of development was a response to the influx of German immigrants to the area at this time. It was also an effect of frequent isolation from the center city: The Fountain Square area was periodically cut off from the center of the city by two rail lines which crossed Virginia Avenue (see the discussion in the "transportation" area of the significance). For this area to develop and to serve southside residents in the 1870s, it was necessary for commercial interests to locate south of the rail crossings on Virginia Avenue. Thus, along Virginia Avenue and onto East Prospect and South Shelby Streets, businesses opened and, within a few years, a commercial area with a distinctive German character was established.

As alluded to above, German immigration greatly influenced the commercial development of Fountain Square. Although the reasons for emigration were diverse and varied, most of the pioneer Germans to settle in Indianapolis before 1850 were artisans—carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, coopers, blacksmiths—and common laborers.³

Due to the instability caused by "revolution" and the ensuing reactionary political suppression in Germany during 1848, many Germans who emigrated after the turmoil, and eventually settled in cities like Indianapolis in the 1850s, were journalists, merchants, and professionals.⁴ Beginning in the late 1860s and the early 1870s, a large, educated working-class group of Germans were among the immigrants in Indianapolis. Thus, by 1875, the basis for completely German communities, nearly self-sufficient, existed in and around Indianapolis. Although the German immigrants in Indianapolis did not follow the typical pattern of settling in one area of the city (as they had done elsewhere in the Midwest), there was a large concentration of Germans on the "south side,"⁵ particularly in the Fountain Square area. As such, there were numerous German businesses which developed in and contributed to Fountain Square's commercial area.

The list below identifies long-term commercial interests in Fountain Square, that no longer exist, and includes numerous German names. Particular note should be made of Poppe's Grocery, one of the initial German enterprises in Fountain Square, and of Lorber's Saloon, the business with the longest continuous occupancy at one location in Fountain Square.

LONG-TERM BUSINESSES⁶

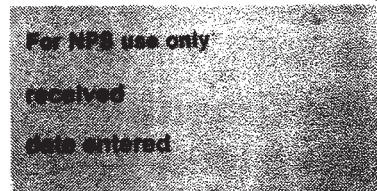
Map #, Photo

Poppe Grocery (1870s-1906), 936 Virginia Avenue	7
J. P. Bruce Bakery (1876-1924), 1016-18 Virginia Avenue	15, E
Buddenbaum-Albertsmeyer Grocery (1888-1922), 1413 E. Prospect St.	54, M
Mangold-Roepke Saloon (1888-1922), 1335-39 E. Prospect Street	53
Mitschrich-Schaeffer Feed Store (1888/93-1931), 1623 E. Prospect St.	56
Franke Hardware/Hall (1894-1941), 1633-37 E. Prospect St.	59
Samuel P. Lorber's Saloon (1885-1975), 1638-40 E. Prospect St.	60, A
Stuckmeyer-Johnson Pharmacy (1899-1933), 1415-19 E. Prospect St.	55
Morbach Dry Goods (1901-38), 1701-03 E. Prospect St.	61, B
Haverkamp and Dirks Grocery (1905-47), 1702-06 E. Prospect St.	62, C
Wiese-Wenzel Pharmacy (1905-50s), 1701-03 E. Prospect St.	61, B
Fountain Square State Bank (1908-22), 1042 Virginia Avenue	21, I
Sommer-Roempke Bakery (1909-45), 1631 E. Prospect Street	58
Bair's South Side Theater (1910-35), 1044-46 Virginia Avenue	23
Iske-Rockstroh-Banner-Whitehill Furniture (1910-38), 1054 Virginia Ave.	27
Fountain Square Hardware Company (1912-30s), 1116-68 E. Prospect St.	46

Owner: Alfred Oberfell

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 15

The Sanders (Apex) Theater (1914-52), 1104-10 E. Prospect St.	44
C. J. Quack Barbershop (1917-34), 1707-09 E. Prospect St.	63
Fountain Square Post Office (1927-64), 1028-30 Virginia Avenue	19
Charles R. Kluger, Jeweler (1928-40), 1064 Virginia Avenue	32, J
Fountain Square Theater (1928-60), 1101-15 S. Shelby Street	36, D
Owner: Fountain Square Realty Co. (B. E. Sagalowsky) Morris Horowitz and Dr. Goethe Link)	

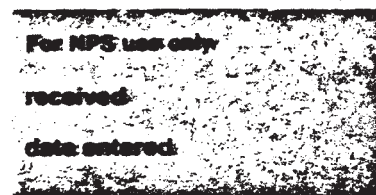
40 Koehring and Sons Heating and Air Conditioning Company, currently (1983) located at 1126 E. Prospect Street, is the longest continuously operating business in Fountain Square. This firm began operations in 1885 during the initial period of commercial development in Fountain Square. Charles Koehring and Brother opened for business at 4 880 Virginia Avenue in 1885, specializing in residential heating systems. That the Koehring s operated a very successful business during the later 1800s is evident by this recollection: "When Charles Koehring and Brother had a sidewalk sale in 1901, the wide variety of stoves and other heating equipment took almost half a block to display"7 Along with several other Fountain Square commercial enterprises, the Koehring family business expanded to include 880-882 Virginia Avenue after the First World War, in part a response to the general economic prosperity of the nation and of Indianapolis at that time. As well, the growth of the family business was due in no small measure to Paul Koehring's initiative and pioneering endeavors. He promoted and sold the first automatic oil-burning equipment in Indianapolis.8 From bicycle and horse-drawn wagon deliveries in the late 1800s to today's radio-dispatched vans, Koehring's is a worthy representative of Fountain Square's long-standing commercial contribution to Indianapolis.

Merchants also had a tendency to move within the Fountain Square area, once their businesses were established. An example would be Charles H. Buddenbaum, who had a grocery store at 1413 E. Prospect Street for 12 years, and later relocated to the intersection of State Avenue and Prospect Street. Another example is Henry H. Bishop, a prominent southside jeweler, who operated a store in Fountain Square for 73 years. During those years, he relocated three times. Other examples could be cited to further demonstrate the desire of merchants to remain in the area and to conduct business with the surrounding neighborhood.

As the city grew, so did the commercial area of Fountain Square, extending south and east along Shelby and Prospect Streets. Since these streets were initially residential, the first signs of commercial activity were home occupations, e.g., shoemaker, tailor, etc. As transportation improved, some residences—particularly those located at or near prominent intersections—were replaced with commercial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 16

buildings. The two nodes on Prospect Street illustrate this linear change in function from residential to commercial, which still continues today. Because the growth continues, the historic fabric along Shelby Street is difficult to discern, and the nodes along Prospect Street are all that remain of the historic commercial fabric.

To reiterate, the commercial development of Fountain Square focused around the point occupied by the historic fountain and extended outward from that point along Virginia Avenue, East Prospect Street, and South Shelby Street. Although this commercial strip was interspersed with individual residences, the largest number of structures in the Fountain Square area after 1880 were commercial buildings. Additional commercial buildings were added along the strip as public transportation, namely the street railway system and the Virginia Avenue Viaduct, extended travel to this area. That this commercial development occurred outside the center city commercial district is a significant historic development in Indianapolis. Furthermore, that Fountain Square's commercial area developed as a response to German immigrants' initiatives and that the area is the only such commercial development of its kind which remains in Indianapolis add to Fountain Square's significance.

THEATER

Fountain Square has been a unique area of Indianapolis by virtue of the fact that it had a disproportionately high concentration of theaters. Outside the downtown, Fountain Square's commercial district had more operating theaters than could be found in any part of Indianapolis from 1910 to 1950.⁹ For the most part, the typical Fountain Square theater was privately built and was utilized as a movie house; this was unlike most of the downtown theaters, which were originally built or intended for live entertainment rather than "photoplays." Seven of the buildings utilized as theaters in Fountain Square still exist and are significant remnants of the history of entertainment of Indianapolis.

The first of several theaters to open in Fountain Square appeared in 1909 and was called the "Fountain Square Theatre." Other than the fact that this theater was listed in Polk's Indianapolis City Directory for one year (1909), nothing is known of the theater except that it was located at 1058 Virginia Avenue.¹⁰ After the first "Fountain Square Theatre," the next theater to open in the area was the "Airdome" in 1910 at 1044-46 Virginia Avenue. It simply adopted its name from the word used at that time to denote an open air theater. Another "airdome" opened for business in 1912 at 1106 East Prospect Street and was called the "Fountain Airdome." Both airdomes, however, were short lived. The "Airdome" lasted only one season; in 1911, the "Green Theatre" was built on the site.¹¹ The "Fountain Airdome" operated through 1913; in 1914, Frederick W. Sanders — one of the first movie operators in Indianapolis — became the owner of a new 600-seat theater built on the site. The Sanders (Apex) was one of the last two local film houses (the other was the Bijou) to show silent films regularly in Indianapolis. Also, the Sanders (Apex) Theatre was the longest-lived theater in Fountain Square, operating from 1914 to 1952.¹²

29

23

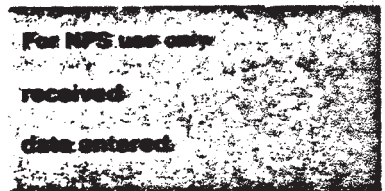
44

36, D

Another long-term resident among Fountain Square theaters was the second "Fountain Square Theatre," which was in business for 32 years at 1105-15 South Shelby Street. With a seating capacity of 1800 and a divided pipe organ, the Fountain Square Theatre was a major entertainment center when it opened in May 1928. To provide patrons with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 17

a full evening of entertainment, the Fountain Square Theatre had a ballroom -- later called the "Alamo Dance Hall"¹³-- in the basement of the building with direct access to the theater and with a separate entrance on East Prospect Street. Possibly the most unique feature of the Fountain Square Theatre and the ballroom was the fact that both were "ventilated with cool air, washing and refrigeration equipment making a complete air change every three minutes."¹⁴

- 22, G An ornate neighbor of the Fountain Square Theatre was the "Granada Theatre." It opened in April 1928 and featured a Spanish motif throughout the interior. Located at 1045 Virginia Avenue and built by the Universal Picture Chain, the Granada was the first Indianapolis theater to show a foreign sound movie in the city "Terra Madre". Along with Fountain Square Theatre, the Granada was one of the seven neighborhood theaters in Indianapolis in 1929 to have a seating capacity of over 1,000.¹⁵ The fact that two of these were neighborhood theaters in Fountain Square was remarkable.

- 23 Noteworthy in association with the theaters in Fountain Square were Indianapolis theater entrepreneurs Roy Blair, Lewis B. Goulden, and Carl Laemmle. Bair purchased the Green Theatre at 1044-46 Virginia Avenue and renamed it the "Bair Theatre" in 1915. For three years, Bair operated this theater while he developed his managerial skills. By 1939, Bair had formed a citywide chain of theaters which eventually became part of Olson Theatrical Enterprises, Charles M. Olson's nationwide theater chain. Lewis B. Goulden served as president of the Fountain Square Realty Company which owned the Fountain Square Theatre. In addition, Goulden owned several other theaters in Indianapolis: the Arcade, Capitol, Emerald, Howard, Illinois, Jewell, Laurel and the Orpheum. Carl Laemmle was the president of Universal Pictures in the 1920s and 30s and established the Universal Chain Theatrical Enterprises which owned the Granada Theatre. These individuals are foremost among those who "put Indianapolis on the theatrical map."¹⁶

- 36, D
- 22, G In addition to the fact of the high concentration of theaters in Fountain Square, the area has had a significant history in regard to entertainment in Indianapolis. The information above notes this significance and supports inclusion of this area as a significant part of the history of Indianapolis. Fortunately, all the buildings except one -- which housed the Fountain Eagle at 1113 South Shelby Street -- remain as reminders of that history and the important part which Fountain Square has played in Indianapolis' theater heritage.

TRANSPORTATION

Fountain Square is a significant part of the history and development of transportation of Indianapolis: the area lies along historic roadways and was a focal point of the street railway system in the city. The initial residents in the area located along the major transportation arteries to and from Indianapolis. When the city was originally platted in 1821, Virginia Avenue was one of the four major diagonal streets leading to the center of the city. At the juncture of Virginia Avenue and East Prospect Streets, the "Old Shelbyville Road" connected Shelbyville (17 miles to the southeast) with Indianapolis. Also, at the eastern edge of Fountain Square, a toll house was located on the northwest corner of East Prospect Street and State Avenue.¹⁷ Here, fares were collected from commercial traffic, more than likely on the major turnpike leading out of the city to the southeast -- the south division of the Michigan Road.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 18

As early as 1860, suggestions were made for the establishment of a street railway system in Indianapolis.¹⁸ However, it was 1864 before the Citizen's Street Railway Company was given a perpetual charter, with an exclusive right to the streets and alleys, for 30 years.¹⁹ One of the initial sections of street railway tracks was laid from Washington Street southeasterly on Virginia Avenue in the fall of 1864. The Virginia Avenue line ended in Fountain Square at the turnaround located at the intersection of Virginia Avenue, South Shelby and East Prospect Streets. As the city grew and the Fountain Square district became a recognizable commercial area, the Virginia Avenue line was extended in 1893 by the addition of the East Prospect Street line and the Shelby Street line. The East Prospect line ended at State Avenue and the Shelby Street line extended southward to Willow Street. These extensions, incorporating the entire commercial area of Fountain Square, were likely responses to increased travel in the area brought about by the Virginia Avenue Viaduct.

Construction of the Virginia Avenue Viaduct began in 1836 as a direct result of the construction of Union Station. When the Union Railroad Company began its new station, Illinois Street was closed and alternate routes to the south of Indianapolis were devised. After extensive building of a tunnel (which took several years to complete) under the Big Four tracks at Illinois Street and litigation concerning a viaduct over the tracks at the first alley east of Meridian, railroad officials and Mayor Thomas L. Sullivan agreed to build a viaduct elsewhere — at Virginia Avenue. This action benefitted the railroads and the city, especially in solving a vexing problem for many years: the "great complaint over the division of the city north and south by railroad tracks."²⁰ The Viaduct was completed in September 1892, and the Indianapolis Sentinel reported:

. . . the opening of the Virginia Avenue Viaduct gives a new, safe and comfortable means of passage between the two sections of the city which have heretofore been so injuriously cut apart by R.R. tracks . . . (and) increases the value of property, assumes more rapid transportation, gives women and children a satisfactory way to the business sections.²¹

During the time the viaduct was constructed, considerable commercial growth occurred in Fountain Square.²² When the viaduct was completed, the commercial activity of Fountain Square was linked to downtown commerce. Thus, in addition to serving area residents of Fountain Square and Fletcher Place, the businesses of Fountain Square became accessible to the rest of Indianapolis after the viaduct opened. Because of this transportation development, commercial growth in Fountain Square, especially after that time, developed in both neighborhood and metropolitan contexts. (See the discussion in the "commerce" statement of significance section.)

HISTORIC SKETCH OF THE FOUNTAINS

The first fountain at the intersection of Virginia Avenue, East Prospect and South Shelby Streets was the "Lady of the Fountain" (also known as "Lady Spray") erected 1889-90.²³ William Mohs, whose Italianate commercial block stood on the southeast corner of Shelby and Prospect Streets, contributed \$500 for the construction of the fountain and the merchants of the Square matched his amount.²⁴ The sculptor of the fountain is unknown. However, it is known that this fountain had drinking places for both horses and humans.²⁵ According to legend, some 30 years later, "one of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 19

merchants strung a rope supporting a large banner advertising a sale from his store and attached the other end of the banner to the statue of the lady. A wind blew up and the weight of the banner caused the statue to topple to the ground. What happened to the statue after that is unknown.²⁶

A second fountain at the intersection of Virginia Avenue, East Prospect and Shelby Streets was constructed as a memorial. In 1902, when Mrs. Phoebe J. Hill died, her will stipulated that at her son Edgar E.'s death, the family home at 410 East New York be sold and that the proceeds from the sale be used to erect a public drinking fountain in Indianapolis as a memorial to her husband, Ralph Hill, an Indiana Congressman. Congressman Hill had died in 1889.²⁷

After Edgar E. Hill's death in 1922, Mayor Lew Shank decided that the Southside should receive the fountain specified in Phoebe Hill's will. Myra Reynolds Richards, internationally known sculptor, was selected as one of the artists for the fountain piece to be located in Fountain Square.²⁸ Best known for her bust portraits, Myra Richards created the figure of a pioneer woman in the Fountain Square group known as "the Pioneer Family." The work was unveiled September 9, 1924, in a ceremony held at the intersection of the major streets in Fountain Square.²⁹ The fountain and sculpture overlooked the area for the next 30 years.

In an effort to alleviate the traffic problems created by the three streets converging at this point, the fountain was removed to the Garfield Park conservatory August 8, 1954.³⁰ The United Southside Community Organization had the fountain returned, in June of 1969.³¹ The fountain as it now stands was restored in 1979.

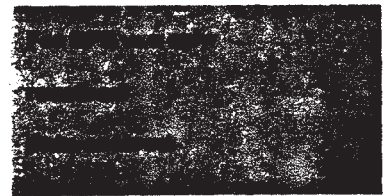
32, J As for the name "Fountain Square," one can only speculate on its exact origin. Mr. Charles R. Kluger, a jeweler who operated a shop at 1064 Virginia Avenue for 11 years, was noted as being "one of the group of men who selected the name many years ago."³²
29 Also, it is known that the first "Fountain Square Theatre" was located at 1058 Virginia Avenue in 1909; undoubtedly, the commercial area had adopted this name prior to that time. That the fountain was a focal point of the commercial area is apparent in accounts such as the following:

One of the first trading centers outside of the Mile Square — some South Siders say the very first — developed here. The sons of merchants who were "on the fountain" before World War I maintain the family business, serving a new generation of families "by the fountain."³³

As the area grew in the 1920s, the name came to represent a larger portion of this southeast-side community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 20

¹Gayle Thornbrough, Dorothy L. Riker, and Paula Corperty (editors), The Diary of Calvin Fletcher (Indianapolis: The Historical Society, 1972), 1:286-7 (1817-1838).

²See Appendix 1

³Emma Lou Thornbrough, Indiana in the Civil War Era: 1850-1880. The History of Indiana, vol. III (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society), p. 549, 1965.

⁴Theodore Huebner, Germans in America (Philadelphia: Chilton Company Publishers, 1962), p. 101.

⁵George Theodore Probst, Germans in Indianapolis, 1850-1914 (unpublished thesis, Indiana University, 1951), p. 115.

⁶Indianapolis City Directories (various publishers and editors, 1860-1972 editions).

⁷"Koehring Firm Carries on Tradition in Heating Field," Indianapolis Star, January 16, 1972, sec. 19, p.11.

⁸Ibid. Note that the company remained at the Virginia Avenue location until the mid-1970s when the firm moved to East Prospect Street.

⁹R. L. Polk and Company's Indianapolis City Directories (Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1910-1950 inclusive)

¹⁰Polk's, City Directory (1909)

¹¹Polk's City Directory Lists the "Green Theatre" at 1046 Virginia Avenue in 1911 and 1912; the same theatre is listed at 1044-46 Virginia Avenue in 1913 and 1914.

¹²See Appendix 2; lists the Fountain Square theatres and their operating years.

¹³The ballroom was utilized as a "dance hall" in the 1940s and 50s. The first "dance hall" in Fountain Square was the "Prospect" or "Franke Hall" located on the second floor of 1633-35 East Prospect Street from 1915-19. Gene Gladson, Indianapolis Theatres from A to Z p. 42; also see Polk's City Directories for years in question

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Indianapolis Council of Social Agencies, Leisure of a People (Indianapolis: 1929), pp. 484-488.

¹⁶Gene Gladson, p. 136

¹⁷Plat Book 3, p. 156, April 1, 1871.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 21

¹⁸W. R. Holloway, Indianapolis: A Historical and Statistical Sketch of the Railroad City (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Journal Print) p. 126, 1870.

¹⁹Directly quoted from the above source, p. 127.

²⁰Jacob Piatt Dunn, Greater Indianapolis, the History, the Industries the Institutions and the People of a City of Homes (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1910), Vol I, p. 413.

²¹"The New Viaduct," Indianapolis Sentinel, September 24, p. 4.

²²See Appendix 1; compare 1890 figures with previous years and note significant increase in commercial establishments.

²³James Rourke, "There's No Square, No Fountain in Fountain Square," Indianapolis Times, December 10, 1961, p. 4.

²⁴The Spotlight, (Indianapolis neighborhood newspaper - delivered in Perry Township and Southside Indianapolis, Jerry Cosby, editor) vol. XLIV, no. 26, August 1982, p. 2.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Myrtie Barker, "A Beloved Landmark Yields to Relentless March of Progress," Indianapolis News, August 13, 1954, p.6.

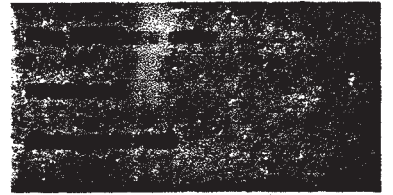
²⁸Fred D. Cavinder, "Fountain Square Pioneers," Indianapolis Star Magazine, July 29, 1973, p. 18. Myra Richards was a faculty member at the John Herron Art Institute at the time of her work on the Fountain Square piece. In 1927, her work won recognition at the National Academy of Fine Arts in New York City, and the following year she was recognized by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Philadelphia). Some sources believe that recognition by these two academies is the highest honor an artist can receive in the United States. Her best-known local works include: "...two drinking fountains in University Square, a statue of James Whitcomb Riley on the grounds of the Hancock County Courthouse in Greenfield, a bronze bust of William E. English..., a bust of John S. Duncan in the Indiana State Library, ...the Bird Boy for a fountain of the Columbus High School,... and a sun dial in Garfield Park." One of her pieces was on display in the Indiana exhibit of A Century of Progress Exhibition at Chicago in 1933. Indiana Biography Series, volume 13, p. 120.

²⁹Barker, Indianapolis News, August 13, 1954, p. 6.

³⁰"Fountain Out in South Side Traffic Plan," Indianapolis Star, July 13, 1954, p. 19.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 22

³¹The Spotlight, p. 2.

³²"Charles R. Kluger" (obit.), Indianapolis Star, February 7, 1939, p. 3.

³³Gene Gladson, Indianapolis Theatres from A to Z (Indianapolis: Gladson Publications, 1976), p. 41.

³⁴Rourke, Indianapolis Times, December 10, 1961, p. 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 23

APPENDIX 1

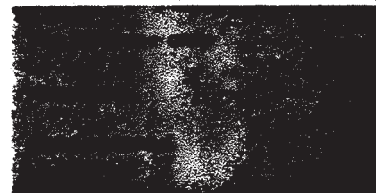
BUSINESS LISTINGS FOR FOUNTAIN SQUARE 1860-1930

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>PROFESSIONAL</u>	<u>INDUSTRIAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1860	0	0	0	0
1870	2	0	1	3
1875	23	2	6	31
1880	50	3	9	62
1885	56	9	12	72
1890	98	12	15	125
1895	98	14	20	132
1900	115	18	12	145
1905	108	18	10	136
1910	139	28	7	164
1915	152	29	5	186
1920	150	30	3	183
1925	189	32	4	225
1930	210	51	1	262

Information compiled from Indianapolis City Directories
(various publishers for years listed).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 24

APPENDIX 2

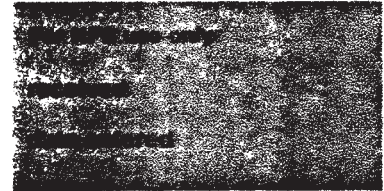
FOUNTAIN SQUARE THEATRES

<u>THEATRE NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Fountain Square (1st)	1909	1058 Virginia Avenue
Airdome	1910	1044-46 Virginia Avenue
Green	1911-14	
Bair	1915-18	
Southside	1919-28	
(vacant)	(1929-33)	
Sunshine	1935	
Fountain Eagle	1911	1113 South Shelby Street
Fountain Airdome	1912-13	1106 East Prospect Street
Sanders (Apex)	1914-52	
Iris	1913-16	1637 East Prospect Street
Granada (Capacity 1142)	1928-51	1045 Virginia Avenue
Fountain Square (2nd) (Capacity 1500)	1928-60	1101-15 South Shelby Street

Information compiled from R. L. Polk and Co.'s, Indianapolis City Directories.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet ATTACHMENT I

Item number

Page 25

FOUNTAIN SQUARE COMMERCIAL AREA: Virginia Avenue District

The Virginia Avenue District is the largest of the three Fountain Square Historic Commercial Areas. It contains 43 contributing buildings and eight non-contributing. The majority are of brick construction and average two stories in height. This area has the greatest variety in architectural styles and age of buildings. Ages of structures range from 1873 to the present.

36, D
32, J

The five-way intersection at Virginia Avenue, Shelby Street and Prospect Street is the nucleus of the area and is where the commercial growth began. Early residences and churches were located along Virginia Avenue, including the Lovely Lane African Methodist Episcopal Church at 938 Virginia Avenue (demolished). As Virginia Avenue developed, residences were replaced or altered to serve as commercial buildings. Older commercial buildings were also replaced when prosperity permitted. For example the Fountain Square Theater building replaced a substantial three-story brick "Italianate" commercial building (Mohs Block) built in the early 1870s. The Fountain Block (1903) replaced a frame building which had served as a grocery business since the early 1870s. Although some demolition has occurred on the northern end of Virginia Avenue, the area still presents a strong sense of place.

The Virginia Avenue District provides identity to the commercial area with the largest concentration of significant commercial buildings and the area's namesake — the fountain. Although some commercial enterprises existed at the main intersection, growth was not significant until the first street railway entered the area in 1864. Since the line ended at the five-way intersection, then known as "The End," a variety of commercial buildings were built. The most substantial was the Mohs Block located at the southeast corner of Shelby and Prospect.

37

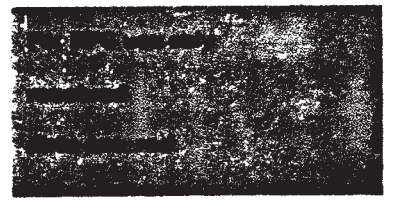
As business practices changed and the "branch" stores came into existence, Fountain Square became a popular place for locating a branch. Examples in this area include: the Guarantee Tire and Rubber Company's first branch at 938-40 Virginia Avenue, and the Horuff Shoe Store, whose home office was located further north on Virginia Avenue. Grocery Stores also had branch stores in the area. Among those represented were the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company, the Standard Grocery Company, and the Great A. & P. Tea Company.

22, G
36, D

The Virginia Avenue District was also the location of all but one theater. The Granada and Fountain Square Theatres were the most prominent architecturally and functionally within the area. Serving as a recreational facility with both theater and ballroom, the Fountain Square Theatre Building also housed many of the physicians and dentists who served the community. An obstetrician, Dr. John Rosenberg, practiced in the Fountain Square area for nearly 50 years and was cited in the Indianapolis News (August 5, 1954) for having "delivered nearly 5,000 babies, most of them on the Southside." From the date of the building's construction (1928) until Dr. Rosenberg's death in 1954, he had his offices in the Fountain Square Theatre Building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet ATTACHMENT I

Item number

Page 26

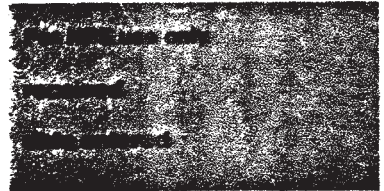
The following lists represent the contributing and non-contributing buildings within the Virginia Avenue District. All of the non-contributing buildings function as commercial buildings and respect the scale and massing of the contributing buildings. Therefore these structures are not considered intrusive.

CONTRIBUTING

Address	Date	Name	Map
848 Grove Avenue	c. 1900	Koehring and Sons Warehouse	4
1102 East Prospect Street	c. 1885		43
1104-10 East Prospect Street	1913	The Sanders (Apex) Theater	44
1112-14 East Prospect Street	1908		45
1116-18 East Prospect Street	1912	Fountain Square Hardware Co.	46
1117-19 East Prospect Street	1926		48
1121-23 East Prospect Street	1932		49
1126-28 East Prospect Street	c. 1924		50
1127 East Prospect Street	1929		51
1130-32 East Prospect Street	1930		52
1024-26 South Shelby Street	1875 c.1916	Southside Wagon and Carriage Works/ Saffel Chair Company	34
1033 South Shelby Street	1893		35
*1101-15 South Shelby Street	1928	Fountain Square Theatre Bldg	36
1108-16 South Shelby Street	1900		37
1127-29 South Shelby Street	1932		38
1143-45 South Shelby Street	1915		42
870 Virginia Avenue	c. 1904		1
874 Virginia Avenue	1909		3
902-06 Virginia Avenue	1876/1915	Woessner Building	5
936 Virginia Avenue	1885		7
938-42 Virginia Avenue	1924	Guarantee Tire & Rubber Co.	8
944-48 Virginia Avenue	1886/1900	Arnholter Block	9
950 Virginia Avenue	1871	Arnholter House	10
1006 Virginia Avenue	1883/1911		12
1008 Virginia Avenue	c. 1914		13
1010-14 Virginia Avenue	c. 1894		14
*1016-18 Virginia Avenue	1893	J. P. Bruce Bakery	15
1022 Virginia Avenue	1876		17
*1024-26 Virginia Avenue	1875		18
1028-30 Virginia Avenue	c. 1925	Wyn-Lee Building	19
1042 Virginia Avenue	1908		21
*1043-47 Virginia Avenue	1928	Granada Theatre	22
1044-46 Virginia Avenue	1911	Southside Theater	23
1048 Virginia Avenue	1915		24
1052 Virginia Avenue	c. 1907		25

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

ATTACHMENT I

Item number

Page 27

Address	Date	Name	Map
*1053-57 Virginia Avenue	1895	Schreiber Block	26
1054 Virginia Avenue	c. 1875		27
1056 Virginia Avenue	c. 1875		28
1058 Virginia Avenue	1892		29
*1059 Virginia Avenue	1922	Fountain Square State Bank	30
1060 Virginia Avenue	c. 1874		31
*1062-68 Virginia Avenue	1902	Fountain Bank	32
1065-67 Virginia Avenue	1922		33

NON CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

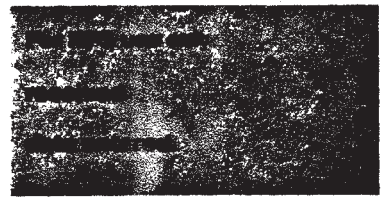
Address	Number	Photo
1113-21 Boone Street	47	
1131 South Shelby Street	39	N
1135-37 South Shelby Street	40	N
1139 South Shelby Street	41	N
872 Virginia Avenue	2	
920 Virginia Avenue	6	
1004 Virginia Avenue	11	
1020 Virginia Avenue	16	
1036 Virginia Avenue	20	0

*Building described in Item 7, Description

Address of contributing buildings

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet ATTACHMENT II

Item number

Page 28

FOUNTAIN SQUARE COMMERCIAL AREA: Laurel and Prospect District

53

The intersection of Laurel and Prospect Streets currently contains three buildings, all of which are contributing. Except for the addition to 1335-39 East Prospect Street, the buildings were constructed during the 19th century and before the street railway was extended along Prospect Street to State Avenue. 1413 East Prospect Street was one of the first buildings to be constructed and is the most architecturally significant of the group. Historically the intersection had commercial buildings at all four corners, but recent construction has led to the demolition of the buildings on the north side of Prospect Street.

These buildings represent some of the earliest commercial ventures along Prospect Street east of the main intersection. Used primarily as groceries, bakeries and saloons, these buildings served the adjacent neighborhood. Location along Prospect provided easy access to transportation and delivery of wholesale goods. The buildings were also built and operated by persons of German heritage.

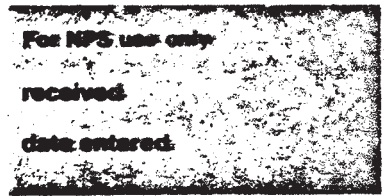
Following is a list of buildings within this area.

Address	Date	Name	Map
1335-39 East Prospect Street	1885/1910	Mangold/Roepke Saloon	53
*1413 East Prospect Street	1879	Buddenbaum Grocery	54
1415-19 East Prospect Street	late 1870s/ late 1880s		55

*Building described in Item 7, Description

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



FOUNTAIN SQUARE HISTORIC COMMERCIAL AREA: State and Prospect District

The State and Prospect District contains eight contributing buildings situated on the four corners of the intersection. Primarily built between 1890 and 1910, the majority of the buildings are two stories and are of brick construction. The earliest building still standing is the Sommer/Roepke Bakery at 1631 East Prospect Street. A small, one-story structure located at the rear of the lot once served as a bakehouse.

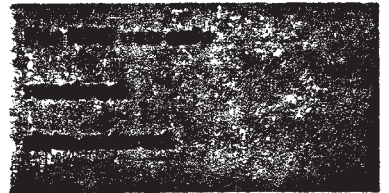
The street railway was extended to this intersection in the 1880s and further in c. 1900. These extensions provided improved transportation to the area for a greater number of people and thus increased commercial activity. Coinciding with the extensions of the street railway, some buildings at this intersection experienced major remodelings. 1702-06 East Prospect was originally a one-story brick grocery store that was enlarged for apartments and additional commercial space in 1905. 1633-37 East Prospect was enlarged when a dance and meeting hall were added for a fraternal order in 1910. The original portion of the structure served as the Iris Theater after the expansion. This was the only theater in the Fountain Square commercial area outside the Virginia Avenue District.

The State and Prospect District derives its importance from the toll house which was sited at the northwest corner of this intersection. A limestone road marker still remains as evidence of this early transportation route. Because Prospect Street linked Fountain Square and the downtown with the South Michigan Road and the Churchman Free Pike, it was a well-traveled route. Lorber's Saloon was built on the site of the toll house and is one of the oldest businesses continuously operated by the same family in Fountain Square. Built in 1885 by a German brewer from Cincinnati, Ohio, but operated by Solomon Lorber, it was purchased by Lorber in 1900. Lorber and his son, Samuel, operated the saloon until 1975. Other businesses in the area were also prosperous for long periods of time as is apparent from the list of long-term businesses in Item 8.

Following is a list of the buildings in the district.

Address	Date	Name	Map
1623 East Prospect Street	c. 1890	Mitschrich /Schaefer Feed Store	56
1627 East Prospect Street	1925		57
1631 East Prospect Street	1875/1908	Sommer/Roempke Bakery	58
1633-37 East Prospect Street	1894/1910		59
*1638-40 East Prospect Street	1885	Lorber's Saloon	60
*1701-03 East Prospect Street	c. 1898		61
*1702-06 East Prospect Street	1897/1905		62
1707-09 East Prospect Street	1890-93		63

*Building described in Item 7, Description
Approx. 3 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 30

Fountain Square Historic Commercial Areas: Virginia Avenue District.

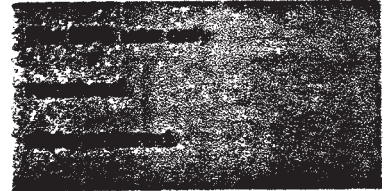
From a point one hundred thirty-one (131) feet northwest of the intersection of Grove Avenue and the alley running southeast along the rear property line of lots fronting on Virginia Avenue, across Grove Avenue following same property lines to southeast side of Woodlawn Avenue; thence running northeast on the southern right-of-way line for Woodlawn Avenue to the western right-of-way line for Shelby Street; thence south on Shelby Street two hundred and twenty two (222) feet; thence east across Shelby Street and along the northern property line across north-south alley to a point two hundred eighty (280) feet from Shelby Street; thence south along property line to Morris Street; following the northern right-of-way line for Morris Street, go west to the alley between Shelby Street and Olive Street; thence south on the eastern property line for lots fronting on Shelby Street to a point one hundred eleven (111) feet north of the alley between Orange Street and Morris Street; thence west along property line to Shelby Street; thence north along the eastern right-of-way line for Shelby Street to a point approximately fifteen (15) feet north of the northeast corner of the intersection of Morris and Shelby Streets; thence west to Atwood Street; thence north on the eastern right-of-way line for Atwood Street to Prospect Street; thence west along the northern right-of-way line for Prospect Street for forty-three (43) feet to the alley between Virginia Avenue and St. Patrick Street; thence northwest along western property line for lots fronting on Virginia Avenue one hundred forty-one and three-tenths (141.3) feet, thence west one hundred eighteen and eight-tenths (118.8) feet along southern property line of lot 81-97-70, to St. Patrick Street, thence north along the eastern right-of-way line for St. Patrick Street to Woodlawn Avenue; thence east along the southern right-of-way line one hundred seventeen (117) feet to Virginia Avenue; thence northwest along the northeast right-of-way line for Virginia Avenue to a point nine hundred twenty-four (924) feet from the northeast corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Virginia Avenue; thence northeast along the property line to starting point.

State and Prospect District

Beginning at a point one hundred eighty-seven and one-tenth (187.1) feet west of State Avenue at southern right-of-way-line for Prospect Street, head south along property line to southern (or rear) property line; thence east to eastern right-of-way line for State Avenue; thence north forty (40) feet to southern property line of lots located at southeast corner of State Avenue and Prospect Street; thence east along property line seventy-nine (79) feet; thence north along property line to northern right-of-way line for Prospect Street; thence west seven (7) feet and north on property line following jog, thence west along northern wall of 1702-04 East Prospect Street, crossing State Avenue to western right-of-way line; thence north along right-of-way line to a point one hundred fifty-two (152) feet north of corner of State Avenue and Prospect Street, thence west forty (40) feet along property line to western property line, thence south to southern right-of-way line for East Prospect Street, thence west along right-of-way line to starting point.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 31

Laurel and Prospect District

Beginning at a point eighty-four (84) feet west of the corner of Laurel and Prospect Streets, head south ninety-eight (98) feet; thence east to eastern right-of-way line for Laurel Street; thence north sixteen (16) feet, follow property line as it jogs northeast to a point seventy-six and fifty-six hundredths (76.56) feet south of Prospect Street right-of-way line; thence north along eastern property line to right-of-way line; thence west along the southern right-of-way line for Prospect Street to starting point.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 32

EXPLANATION OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

As the Fountain Square Commercial area grew, it became distinct from the surrounding residential area. Commercial activity was generally limited to one-half block either side of Virginia Avenue, Shelby Street, and Prospect Street. With a few exceptions, this is reflected in the boundaries of the three districts.

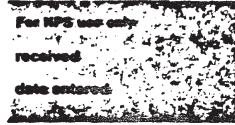
Near the northern end of Virginia Avenue, demolition and new construction have occurred on the south side of the street. The construction of Interstate I-65/I-70 was the primary cause of these changes, and it disrupted a continuous commercial corridor that once existed along Virginia Avenue.

The sense of place is strongest at the five-way intersection where the fountain is located. From here, when traveling east on Prospect Street, there are two additional commercial nodes (the Laurel and Prospect and the State and Prospect Districts) which are strongly related to the commercial growth of the area. As explained earlier, Prospect Street served as an early transportation route into Fountain Square and the city, with a toll house located at the corner of State Avenue and Prospect Street. Strengthened by the extension of the street railway to State Avenue, Prospect developed as a commercial corridor during the late 19th and early 20th century.

Because of demolition, new construction and unsympathetic conversions of the historic fabric along East Prospect Street, and thus the loss of integrity, it was felt that a contiguous district could not be justified. Consequently, the three districts were delineated — the ones at Laurel and Prospect Street and State and Prospect exist as satellites to the main district at the intersection of Virginia Avenue, Shelby Street and Prospect Street, although all three are strongly identified with the larger Fountain Square neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 33

