

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Stinesville Commercial Historic District

other names/site number 105-244-11015-019

#### 2. Location

street & number 8201, 8211, 8223, 8231, and 8237 West Main Street  N/A not for publication

city or town Stinesville  N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Monroe code 105 zip code 47464

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Patricia R. Kuhl* 4/26/95  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: specialty store

SOCIAL: meeting hall

FUNERARY: mortuary

GOVERNMENT: fire station

EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: department store

COMMERCE: warehouse

VACANT/NOT IN USE

GOVERNMENT: post office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls STONE: limestone

BRICK

roof METAL: tin

other WOOD: plywood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1886-1937

**Significant Dates**

1894

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Monroe County Library-Indiana room

Stinesville Commercial  
Historic District  
Name of Property

Monroe County, Indiana  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 1 6	5 3 0 1 0 0	4 3 4 9 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary J. Walls, Secretary and Stephen Summitt, Treasurer with Mark Dollase

organization Stinesville Renaissance date 9-15-94

street & number P.O. Box 402 telephone 812-876-5929/876-6203

city or town Stinesville state IN zip code 47464

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name List available at DHPA

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Stinesville Commercial Historic District comprises five adjoining limestone commercial buildings on Main Street in the center of this northwest Monroe County, Indiana small town. The typical gently rolling terrain of southern Indiana gives Stinesville its setting; the site of the district rolls sharply away from Main Street to the rear (south) of the buildings, while also sloping downward about 20 degrees to the west (photo 1).

The dominant structure is the two story Oolitic Lodge No. 682 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall at the southwest corner of Market and Main, built in 1894. Its combination of heavy masonry, round and pointed arches, and contrasting textured stonework hint at the Romanesque Revival and Victorian Gothic styles. The other four buildings are more vernacular in style, with an overall hint of classicism reminiscent of Victorian Renaissance Revival. These other four buildings were built between 1886 and 1894.

The I.O.O.F. Building (photo 2), anchors the east end of the district. Typical of lodge buildings, the first floor had commercial space on the first floor (drug store) and a funeral parlor in the basement. Additionally, the southeastern portion of the first floor was designed to house a church. The second story served as the I.O.O.F. Lodge. All exterior walls are of locally quarried limestone. The north elevation is the primary face, and is divided into seven bays by eight monolithic 12 foot high piers. Each pier is sculpted so as to appear as 11 coursed rock-faced blocks, with wider base and capital blocks. Four of the seven bays are storefronts, while the others (from the left, the second, fifth, and seventh) are doorways. Storefronts have either single or two paned fixed sash. Several transoms over windows have been boarded shut, while others are intact. Limestone kick plates are below storefront windows; each is paneled and has a bull's-eye or roundel in the center. Each doorway differs slightly. The two easternmost doors lead to the ground floor commercial space, while the western door leads upstairs. The easternmost door has original double-leaf single light wooden doors with transom, the center door is a 1960s replacement with single light, and the western door is an original narrow wood door with single light and transom. Rock-faced lintels with a dressed molded stone cornice cap the first floor main elevation.

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The second floor has five bays set within a broad four-centered arch of rough limestone, forming a recessed panel within the wall. Two double hung wood windows flank each side of a central blind bay with inscribed tablet. Each flanking bay is surmounted by a rock-faced arch with blind tympanum with floral carving. Flanking arches are stilted progressively taller toward the highest central arch, which has an eye carved into the tympanum, and a tablet underneath with the words: OOLITIC LODGE/No. 682/INSTITUTED/OCT 30 1891/BURNED/AUG 7 1894/REBUILT/OCT 1894.

The tympanum area overarching the five bays has a checkerboard or diaperwork pattern of alternating dressed or rock-faced square blocks. The gable end of the building is crow-stepped to a flat parapet. A tablet over the broad arch reads: I.O.O.F.

The east elevation of the I.O.O.F. Building (photo 3), like the main elevation, is built of rock-faced limestone. Courses alternate between narrow and wide layers. As the site slopes away to the south, the basement level with several bays is exposed at the south end. The basement level housed a commercial space distinct from the first floor. Stone piers divide the area into four bays, one with a large wooden door casing, the others with wood windows, one of which is boarded shut. Threshold and sills are rough limestone, essential they are part of the foundation. The first floor proper of the east side has two pointed arch lancet windows over the basement commercial space and one round arched double-leafed wood door entry with transom. The transom is divided into lancets by tracery-like muntins. The pointed arch windows have dressed enframements, while the doorway has rock-faced voussoirs. The distinctly Gothic Revival treatment of the first floor reflects the original intended use of this portion of the building, as space for a church. The second floor has four double hung one-over-one windows. Two are offset toward the north, while the other two roughly align over the first floor door and window. There are two stone chimneys on this elevation. One is roughly toward the center, the other is to the south.

The south elevation is the rear of the building (photo 4). This

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entire wall is of limestone coursed rubble. The basement level has two doorways, one toward the center and one to the west. Four evenly spaced rectangular one-over-one windows with rock-faced lintels and sills mark the first story. The second story has two widely spaced windows. There are two small attic vents above the second floor windows. The gable end is crow-stepped like the front gable.

The west elevation abuts the next building. The only visible portion of this facade can be seen at the rear of the building, which is found to be made of the same limestone rubble as the south elevation. One limestone chimney rises above the parapet wall.

The I.O.O.F. Building has a shallow pitched gable roof, which is not readily visible from street level. New standing seam tin was installed in 1993, replicating the original tin roof.

The interior of the I.O.O.F. Building originally had two commercial spaces on the first floor. The dividing wall has since been removed, leaving one large open space. Floors are tongue and groove pine. Five limestone columns are equally spaced down the middle of the main level. The walls are primarily plaster and lath; however, a small area has been altered with formica panels. Due to the current function of the building as a post office, a partition made of pine contains postal boxes. The ceiling in the front half of the main level is a dropped ceiling, however, the original plaster and lath ceiling remains above it.

The back half of the main level once housed the local Christian Church, and now is a part of the general store. It is separated from the front half by a partition wall, a later alteration. Floors and walls are the same as those in the front half. The ceiling, however, retains its original height and materials. A spiral staircase made of wrought iron connects the first and second floors. Although not original, it is an interesting addition to the building.

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The second floor served as the I.O.O.F. Lodge. It has three rooms. The large main space has a tongue and groove pine floor. At the front of the room is a riser which runs the entire width of the room. On the sides of the room (east and west) risers at a lower level also line the walls. On the south wall, a platform four feet wide is located between doors to the other rooms on the second floor. The four foot wainscoting, also of pine, runs the circumference of the main room. All of the original doors remain, comprised of five panels, including one that has a peephole through which I.O.O.F. members were identified for entry. Four windows are on the north wall, and four windows are on the east wall. The walls are plaster and lath and the ceiling is currently missing but is undergoing restoration.

The other two rooms are an entry vestibule, which still contains the original incandescent gas machine for the original fixtures. Walls and ceilings are plaster and lath. The other room on this floor was used for I.O.O.F. meetings, separated from the main space by a set of double doors. Walls and ceilings are plaster and lath.

The four other buildings of the district (photo 5) are one story commercial storefronts, similar in style, materials, and scale. All are in fair to deteriorated condition. The J.W. Easton Building adjoins the I.O.O.F. Building to the west and was erected in 1894. The north elevation is the main facade, and it has two bays. Limestone piers similar to the I.O.O.F. Building divide the bays, however, these piers are dressed on the sides rather being fully rock-faced. One bay consists of commercial style fenestration, divided into two single panes each having a fixed sash. Plywood now fills these openings. Above this window is a fixed transom. Below the window is a limestone kick plate with simplified rosette carved in the center.

The other bay was created when the facade was altered in the 1950s, enabling the building to be used by the local fire station. Originally three bays wide, the building was taken to two bays when one limestone pier was removed. The second bay seen



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today is filled with a large wooden sliding garage door. Rusticated limestone lintels define each bay. The parapet area has coursed rock-faced stone and a stepped coping. A smooth tablet in the center of the parapet is inscribed: 1894/J.W. EASTON.

Side walls are shared with flanking buildings. The rear (south) elevation (photo 6) has similar coursed rubble limestone walls to the I.O.O.F. rear wall. There are two bays at the basement and first floor level, each level having a doorway and window. Lintels and sills are rock-faced. Wooden stairs once led to the first floor door, but the stairs have long since been removed. All openings are boarded shut. The flat tin roof is in poor condition.

The interior of the J.W. Easton Building has been unused for years. Its floors are tongue-in-groove pine. When adapted to use as a fire station, poplar runners were added over the floor. Walls are plaster and lath, however, the ceiling plaster is longer intact, leaving the joists visible. Railroad cross ties were added in the basement to support the weight of a fire engine.

Next to the west is the George B. Mc. Easton Building, erected 1894. The north facade is the main elevation and it abuts the Easton Building. A narrow section of the foundation is visible below each of the three bays of this building. The storefront of this one story commercial building is divided into three bays, and the east pier of the first floor is shared with the Easton Building. Unlike the J.W. Easton and I.O.O.F. buildings, the piers of the Mc. Easton Building are dressed limestone with a square columnar treatment. They have bases with moldings, chamfering, necking moldings and decorative small roundels on the capitals. The flanking bays have paneled kickplates with rosette roundels centered in each bay. Lintels for each bay are dressed with a saw-tooth inner edge. The side bays have two vertical fixed windows with a transom above, now boarded shut. The former entry in the center bay is also boarded closed.

The George B. Mc. Easton Building has a similar stepped parapet to

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the J.W. Easton Building, except that the walls are of ashlar. The tablet in the center of the parapet reads: 1894/Geo.B.Mc.EASTON.

The limestone rubble side walls are shared with neighboring buildings. The rear (south) elevation is nearly identical to the rear of the J.W. Easton Building.

The M.L. Easton Building dates from 1890, and stands immediately west of the George B. Mc. Easton Building. Like its neighbors, it is a three bay commercial building facing north (photo 5). The facade is divided by piers identical to those of the Mc. Easton Building, and the end piers are shared with neighboring buildings. The main difference from the Mc. Easton Building in the storefront are the simple flat kickplates with small sill/ledge in the flanking bays. The original store windows and center entry have been removed and plywood infill with newer windows and a door have been installed. The parapet of the building is ashlar limestone, like the Mc. Easton, but the parapet is lower and has a centered semi-circular pediment. An inscribed tablet in the center of the parapet states: 1890/M.L. EASTON.

The south wall is the rear elevation (photo 7). It too is of coursed rubble limestone. The M.L. Easton Building has two rear doors, one for the basement, one for the primary floor, each centered in the rear wall. The roof has collapsed.

The last building described as part of this nomination is ironically the oldest structure in the district. Called the D.E. McHenry Building, it was built in 1886 (photo 8). It may have set the precedent for the adjoining buildings, for it has the same three bay, four pier design as the M.L. Easton Building; only the kickplates vary slightly. The central doors are original, but the transom and lights in the door have been boarded shut. The flanking windows have been removed, brick infill added, and smaller windows installed. The tablet in the parapet is inscribed: 1886/D.E. MCHENRY.

The one visible side elevation (west) and rear (south) elevation

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reveals the McHenry Building to be the only structure in the district to have a substantial amount of brick construction. Both brick walls rest on a coursed rubble foundation which is visible due to the grade. The side elevation has one detail of interest (photo 8): a boarded double hung window has a dressed stone surround and paneled pediment with small corbels. The rear wall has two centered entries with stone sills and lintels.

Although several buildings in the district are deteriorated, this block of Stinesville retains its identity as the historic commercial core of this typical Indiana small town. The unusual use of solid limestone construction still recalls Stinesville's role as a center of Indiana's quarry industry at the turn of the century.

*Section 8-Statement of Significance*

Evaluated as a typical Indiana small town, Stinesville has an exceptional collection of solid limestone commercial buildings. The nominated district is the most impressive remnant in the community which represents the town's period of prosperity as a limestone quarrying and milling site. This prosperity was directly shown in the unusually high level of quality of the construction of these five limestone commercial blocks, which, nearly anywhere else, would have been simple wood-framed shops. The social life of Stinesville focused on the downtown as well. The I.O.O.F. Building was not only the most prominent lodge hall in town, but was home to a Christian Church congregation. In the 1930s, the J.W. Easton, George Easton, M.L. Easton and D.E. McHenry Buildings briefly housed the town public school classes after the school building suffered a fire. The period of significance includes the oldest building (1886) and includes the period when the public school was housed here (ending 1937).

The exploitation of natural resources provided most of the industrial growth for southern Indiana during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Mineral water bottling, sand mining, and stone quarrying are examples of industries which flourished in southern

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Indiana, unlike the heavy manufacturing characteristic of central and northern Indiana industry. Lawrence and Monroe Counties are most renowned for the quantity and quality of limestone which became sought nation-wide for a new generation of monumental architecture.

The value of Indiana limestone was recognized early in the state's history, however, only portions of extreme southern Indiana had easily accessible freestone which could be used for durable foundations or details. The arrival of steam power for rail transport and quarrying made deeper deposits available for use to a wider market. In Monroe County, Richard Gilbert opened the first limestone quarry near Stinesville in 1827. As with many early quarries, Gilbert's enterprise was not very profitable until the arrival of the railroad. The New Albany and Salem Railroad had reached Stinesville by 1853, insuring access to outside markets. In 1855, Eusebius Stine, the operator of a nearby sawmill and gristmill, sold off lots next to the tracks and platted Stinesville. By 1860, four quarries were in operation in the vicinity. It was John Hoadley's stone mill which brought growth and prosperity to Stinesville beginning in 1880. The founding of Hoadley's mill was timely. Just as improved technology allowed more powerful quarrying machines and milling processes which could handle monolithic blocks, American tastes and needs in architecture turned toward monumental designs which increasingly called for stone exteriors with intricate detail.

Stinesville became a boom town in the 1890s. The population swelled to nearly one thousand as skilled carvers and stone workers found employment at the mill and settled here. European artisans were commonly employed at the mill or quarries. It was said that one could walk down Main Street and hear seven different languages being spoken during the town's heyday. For thirty-six years, the rumble of trains loaded with cut stone on its way to Chicago, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C. and other distant cities was a welcome sound to the citizenry. County courthouses in Monroe, Vigo, Clay, and Boone Counties; the Indiana Statehouse; the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument (Indianapolis); the

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Tribune Tower (Chicago) and the Masonic Temple in Washington, D.C. are among the many notable structures made of Stinesville stone. A devastating fire leveled the Hoadley mill in 1916, and the owners decided to rebuild in Bloomington. Bereft of the most significant employer in town, Stinesville settled into a quiet existence as a typical market town.

It was during the 1890-1916 period that James Williams, the Easton brothers-Millard, John, George McCellan "Clell", and Delmer, as well as D.E. McHenry became leaders in the business life of the Stinesville community. About twenty-five stores had opened in Stinesville by the 1890s, but these five stone buildings are only intact remnant of downtown Stinesville. These men were not only merchants, but acted as a chamber of commerce, bankers, lawyers, and "good Samaritans".

The Easton brothers were sons of William and Jennie Easton, known by area residents as "Uncle Billy and Aunt Jennie", who operated the first hotel in Stinesville, a structure which remains standing today. During the early years of the stone industry in Stinesville, their large hotel could not begin to take care of the many people who came to work in the stone industry. Many rooming and boarding houses were in operation to accommodate workers who came from all parts of the United States and Europe.

On August 7, 1894, a fire burned the business section of Stinesville, including the buildings of James Williams and two of the Easton brothers. The older buildings were replaced with three of the current limestone buildings during October of 1894. The I.O.O.F. Lodge, the John Easton, and the George B. Mc. Easton Buildings were built after the fire, but the M. Easton and D.E. McHenry Buildings (1892 and 1886) survived the conflagration, perhaps because of their masonry walls and metal roofing.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge was the center of both business and social life in the town. Odd Fellows were a benevolent secret fraternity which flourished in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Membership dues became a form of life insurance and members

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received sick benefits (disability pay), funerary expense payments, payments to widows of members, and membership cards which helped relocated persons find work. Additionally, the Odd Fellows carried out other humanitarian efforts corresponding to their credo: Visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan. Started in 1819 in Baltimore, the first Indiana chapters were founded in 1836. Many local chapters were founded in Indiana in the 1800s. Membership benefit and benevolent groups like the Odd Fellows were very popular in towns like Stinesville, which had grown rapidly without the long standing social ties of eastern towns. They filled a social need which gradually was replaced by social structure and the insurance business. Typical of lodge buildings, the upper floor housed the meeting halls and the first floor commercial space helped defray costs. The Stinesville chapter of the Daughters of Rebekah, a ladies group aligned with the Odd Fellows, also met upstairs. The second floor also was used as a movie theater.

Other uses include the Christian Church space, which filled the back half of the first floor. Jennie Easton and James Williams had the I.O.O.F. Building built. James Williams was a long time member of both the I.O.O.F. and the local Christian Church, and he had the building finished to accommodate both groups. Businesses housed on the first floor have included a bakery, dry goods, and restaurant; since 1929, the first floor has housed a general store and the town's post office. The basement level has been a furniture store and funeral parlor.

John Easton was a cobbler and blacksmith by trade, and operated a shoe and clothing store from 1891 until 1931. The Great Depression brought about his retirement, and the J.W. Easton Building sat vacant for several years. The destruction of the Stinesville School by fire on March 14, 1935 brought a new use to the building. From 1935 until 1937, this building as well the Geo. Easton, M.L. Easton, and D.E. Henry Buildings served as the local public school. From 1954 until 1963 the Stinesville/Bean Blossom Township Fire Department used the building to house their fire engine. A garage door was installed to accommodate the engine.

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Since 1963, the building has been used for storage.

The George B. McClellan Easton Building was built in 1894. Like his brother John, Clell Easton was a local merchant who operated a hardware store in the building until 1931. As noted above, this building also served as a local school from 1935-37. From that time until 1976, a restaurant operated here. Dick Payton ran the restaurant from 1939 until the late 40s, and Thelma Potter was the proprietor after Payton and until its demise in 1976. The building is vacant.

The M.L. Easton Building dates from 1890. M.L. Easton housed his grocery and dry goods store here until 1927. As noted earlier, the local school used this building from 1935-37. After this, it was an apartment until about 1980. It is now vacant.

D.E. McHenry Building was built in 1886 and is the oldest of the five Main Street stores. Mr. McHenry owned a variety store here until the Depression. The Stinesville School held classes here as well. At one point, a pool hall was located here. Later, it was an apartment until the mid-1970s. It is now vacant.

Today, Stinesville's downtown buildings are deteriorated. Since the last quarries closed in the 1960s, job opportunities for local residents are limited. The depressed local economy supports only one commercial building, the former I.O.O.F. Building. The others are vacant.

The five nominated structures which comprise the Stinesville Commercial Historic District are the most significant commercial buildings in Bean Blossom Township. The only other Monroe County communities which have limestone commercial blocks are Ellettsville and Bloomington. Despite the fact that Stinesville was a limestone processing town, these five buildings are the only complete limestone buildings in town. Limestone was prevalent for foundations and footings, but frame construction was less expensive, granted the limited incomes of most citizens in town. These five buildings remain the most tangible evidence of the

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Stinesville Commercial Historic District  
Monroe County, Indiana

town's limestone processing heritage.

*Section 9-Bibliography*

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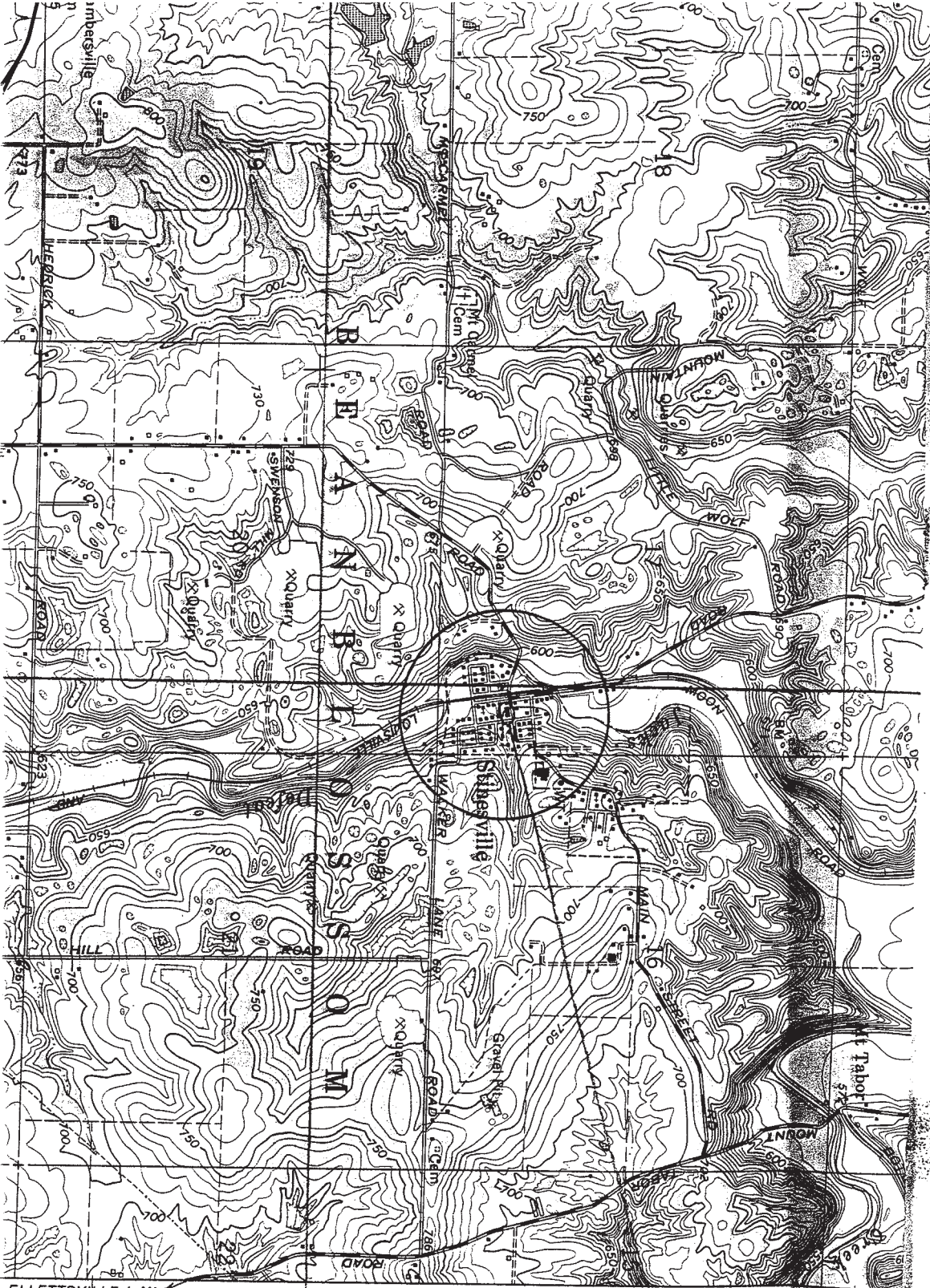
*Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description*

The boundary is the south curb of Main Street on the north, the north edge of the alley parallel to Main between Main and Walnut on the south, the west curb of Market Street on the east, and the east edge of the alley parallel to Market between Market and Railroad on the west, known legally as Lots 47 and 48 in the Original Plat of Stinesville, Monroe County, Indiana.

*Boundary Justification*

The boundary comprises the most intact and significant collection of contiguous commercial buildings in Stinesville. Other individual resources may also reflect the limestone industry and history of Stinesville, but these five structures are the most evident collection of resources which summarize the once busy commercial core of the town.





ELLETTSVILLE 4 MI.

ZONE 16  
 E 530100  
 N 4349750

1730" MONROE CO.

Stinesville  
 Commercial  
 Historic  
 District  
 8001-8047  
 West Main Street  
 Stinesville, MO  
 64764

MODES  
 3662 15