

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FINAL

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 15 1995

HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

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 Seymour Commercial Historic District

other names/site number 071-581-31001-116

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet

N/A not for publication

city or town Seymour

N/A vicinity

state IN code IN county Jackson code 071 zip code 47274

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 consider significant nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

F. R. Roberts

4-26-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or 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:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Seymour Commercial H.D.

Name of Property

Jackson, IN

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 79, 30, 0, 0, 4, 1, 0, 0, 83, 31.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/department store
COMMERCE/restaurant
COMMERCE/financial institution
DOMESTIC/hotel
SOCIAL/meeting hall
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
AGRICULTURE/storage

- COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/business
COMMERCE/financial institution
COMMERCE/restaurant
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- ITALIANATE
ROMANESQUE REVIVAL
NEOCLASSICAL

- foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
STONE/limestone
roof ASPHALT
other GLASS
IRON

Narrative Description

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

Seymour Commercial H.D.

Name of Property

Jackson, IN

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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, 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 significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

c. 1876-c. 1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

ABRAHAM AND SONS

WETMORE, JAMES

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Seymour Commercial H.D.

Name of Property

Jackson, IN

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 34

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

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

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

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 Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant, for

organization Main Street Seymour, Inc. date October 26, 1994

street & number 422 1/2 Fifth Street, Suite 202 telephone 812/378-0800

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

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/title

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the 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.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 2 Page 1 Seymour Commercial Historic District

Roughly bounded by Walnut, Third, Ewing, and Bruce Streets.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1 Seymour Commercial Historic District

Seymour is located in Jackson County in southeastern Indiana. The Seymour Commercial Historic District is located near the center of the city. Two railroad lines, Conrail and the CSX, run through the historic district and intersect on the east side. U.S. 50 runs through the south side of the district on Tipton Street. The two main streets, Chestnut Street and Second Street, are 80 feet wide. Each of these streets runs parallel to one of the railroad lines. Blocks are laid out in a standard grid pattern, with some blocks adjacent to the railroad tracks angled.

The historic buildings date from c.1876 to c.1945. There are a few buildings of more recent construction. A large percentage of the structures are Italianate in style. Other styles which are represented include Romanesque Revival and Neoclassical. Buildings are similar in size, scale, materials, detailing, and ornamentation. They are one to three stories in height. Most are brick buildings with storefronts on the first story. Upper stories generally have double hung, wood windows, often with decorative window heads. Other ornamentation may include decorative brickwork or a galvanized metal cornice.

The buildings have uniform setbacks and generally share side walls, although there are a few freestanding buildings. Historically, there were no parks or similar open spaces. There are now a few vacant spaces where buildings have been removed. Among these is the southeast corner of Chestnut Street and St. Louis Avenue, where a municipal building was formerly located. This is now a public gathering space (photo 14). There is another vacant space on the southwest corner of Indianapolis Avenue and Third Street, where the Lynn Hotel, demolished in 1991, was located.

The district is similar to its c.1940 appearance. The buildings maintain their historic relationships, and, generally, their historic appearances; although, as is usually the case in commercial districts, changes have been made to individual buildings over time. The railroad tracks - which helped determine the physical layout of the district - are intact (photos 15, 16, 17, 27, 28), and continue to be used by trains. Street patterns are as they were originally laid out.

Although most of the buildings are commercial, there are some buildings of other types, including institutional and government buildings. Historically, buildings of all types could be found in city centers. As time progressed, however, buildings were more likely to be grouped by type. As late as the early 20th century, there were several dwellings scattered throughout the district. Gradually, most of these were replaced by commercial buildings.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2 Seymour Commercial Historic District

The buildings of the district are generally in good condition. Many of the storefronts have been altered. A few windows have been blocked down or bricked over.

Approximately 25 per cent of the buildings are noncontributing to the character of the district. This figure includes buildings which were constructed after the period of significance, or historic buildings which have been extensively altered. Among these are the Paris Style building at 109 N. Chestnut Street (right in photo 18) and the building at 103 E. Second Street (far left in photo 7), which represent remodelings of historic buildings; and a contemporary building at 106 E. Second Street (far right in photo 6).

To the east and west of the district boundaries on Tipton Street (U.S. 50) are more contemporary commercial areas. To the north and south of the boundaries are residential neighborhoods.

The district contains 79 contributing buildings, not including the Farmers Club, which was previously listed on the National Register; 30 noncontributing buildings; four contributing structures: the B & O Railroad grade, the Pennsylvania Railroad grade, a brick sidewalk on the northwest corner of Bruce Street and Indianapolis Avenue, and the Blish Milling Company Elevator. There is one noncontributing structure. a silo on the south side of St. Louis Avenue, west of Chestnut Street.

There is no U.S. Post Office in the district. The former U.S. Post Office, a Neoclassical style building on N. Chestnut Street (photo 22), is now the city hall.

Following are pivotal and representative buildings.

Masonic Temple, 214 W. Second Street, Romanesque Revival, 1901 (photo 1). The Masonic Temple is a three story brick building. The principal facade is faced in yellow brick. The storefront has been stuccoed and has aluminum and glass windows. The transom area over the storefronts has been covered. The upper stories are three bays wide. Second story windows have flat arch openings with flared brick lintels surmounted by stone scrolls. These windows have aluminum casings and double hung, wood sash. Third story window openings are round arched, and have brick and stone lintels. These windows have wood casings and double hung, wood sash. The center bay has one, larger window opening. The lintel is brick and stone with a keystone and label stops. At the top of the building is a parapet wall with decorative brickwork on the end bays, and a stone tablet in the center bay with "Masonic Temple" carved in stone. Above this tablet is a stone pediment with scrollwork and the Masonic symbol.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 3 Seymour Commercial Historic District

The bays of the parapet are defined by brick pilasters. The two pilasters which define the center bay have Ionic capitals. The end pilasters have pedimented heads. Between the top of the third floor and the parapet, there is a classical, stone entablature. The bays of the third floor are also defined by brick pilasters with Ionic capitals. The two center pilasters terminate at the base of the window, where they sit atop stepped brickwork. The two end pilasters extend down to just below the base of second floor windows where they sit on stone blocks. Rough stone bands extend across this facade at the base of second and third story windows. The secondary facades of the building have red, face brick.

The Seymour Post Office was located in part of the first floor in the early 20th century. Other tenants have been retail stores. The Reliable Furniture Company, located here by 1922, was a long-time tenant. Offices of several railroad unions were housed on the second floor for several years in the early 20th century. The Masons occupied the third floor of the building.

Harding Jewelry Store (Kamman Jewelry Store) 202 W. Second Street, Queen Anne/Art Deco, 1860/c.1910/c.1930 (center in photo 2). This is a two story, brick building with a two-bay facade. The storefront has a recessed, main entry on the west side, and a single door, accessing a stairway to the second floor, on the east side. On both sides of the main entry are display windows. The storefront area is faced in black and white Vitrolite. On a Vitrolite band above the doors and display windows are the name "PARKER" and a clock with neon letters encircling it, spelling out "DIAMONDS" and "JEWELRY." The second story has two, transomed, bay windows with semi-elliptical arched openings. Windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. The bay windows sit atop stepped brickwork. Lintels have brick voussoirs and keystones. Other ornamental features of the building include a decorative brick entablature and parapet wall, and rough stone banding.

The building was constructed and the jewelry store established in 1860. The business was first owned by Samuel Harding. George F. Kamman purchased it around 1915. In the early 1960s, the store was acquired by Earl C. Parker, who had been the store's manager for a few years prior to his purchase.

Pfaffenberger's Shoe Store (Bush's Shoe Store, Vondielingen Shoe Store), 120 W. Second Street, Romanesque Revival, c.1885 (center in photo 3). This is a three-story, brick building with a three-bay facade. The entry has a pressed metal ceiling and tile floor. The storefront has new display windows. There are concrete pilasters and a prism glass transom. Windows on the upper stories are double hung, wood windows, with two lights

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 4 Seymour Commercial Historic District

in each sash. Openings are round arched. Decorative elements include stepped brickwork and rough stone banding.

The building originally housed Pfaffenberger's shoe store. By 1912, William F. Bush had acquired the store. The store had received its present name, Vondielingen Shoe Store, by 1940.

Richart Block, 113 E. Second Street, 1900 (left in photo 7). This is a two-story, brick building with a three-bay facade. Cast-iron pilasters on the storefront have been covered. A new aluminum door has been added. A metal awning extends from the building at the base of the covered transoms. The second story of the facade is intact. Windows are paired, double hung, wood windows with one light in each sash. There are transoms and a blind, round arch above the windows of the center bay. Rough stone bands extend across the facade below and above windows, and define the blind arch. Decorative brickwork across the top of the facade gives the building a distinctive character.

Richart's clothing store was located in the building from 1900 to about 1950.

Commercial Building, 201 S. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c. 1890 (left in photo 11). This is a two-story, brick building with a four-bay, principal facade. The storefront has been altered from its original appearance. Transoms and cast-iron pilasters have been covered, and new aluminum and glass display windows installed. There is a canvas awning above the storefront. Second story windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. Window sills are stone. There are pedimented, galvanized metal heads above the windows. Along the top of the structure is a decorative, bracketed, pressed metal entablature.

A clothing store was housed here in the early 1890s. By 1896, and until the 1920s, Fred Voss had his undertaking business here. By 1940, an automobile supply store had moved into the building.

Commercial Building, 224-26 S. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c. 1880 (third from left in photo 9). This is a two-story, brick building with a seven-bay principal facade. The storefronts have been altered. The south half of the building has a recessed wood front. The north half has a brick and wood front and new display windows. The pilasters and cornice are stone. Second story windows are double hung, wood, with two lights in each sash. Window openings are segmental-arched, with decorative, galvanized metal, segmental-arched heads. Sills are stone. At the top of the building is a decorative,

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 5 Seymour Commercial Historic District

bracketed, galvanized metal entablature with oval attic windows on the frieze.

The building has housed a variety of commercial uses since it was built, including a combination grocery/bakery, a saloon, a marble works, a poultry store, and a furniture store.

Steinker Meat Market, 218 S. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c.1885 (fifth from left in photo 9). This is a two-story brick building with a three-bay facade. The first story pilasters and cornice are stone. The second story pilasters and cornice are galvanized metal. Second story windows are double hung, wood windows, with galvanized metal window heads.

The Steinker meat market was in this building from the 1910s to the 1960s. Previously it had been C.J. Leidorf's meat market. Since the mid-1960s, it has been Harlow's Meat Market.

Heideman Furniture Store, 212-14 S. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c.1890 (seventh from right in photo 10). This is a two-story brick building. The historic storefront has been altered and the transom covered. Second story window openings have been blocked up, but stone sills and decorative, galvanized metal heads remain intact. Across the top of the building is a decorative, galvanized metal cornice.

F.H. Heideman had his furniture store in this building, possibly from the time it was constructed until the 1950s. In addition to furniture, Heideman sold stoves, rugs, and appliances.

Meyer's Drug Store, 202 S. Chestnut, Italianate, c.1890 (second from right in photo 10). This is a two-story, brick building. The principal facade is three bays wide. The wood and brick storefront dates from c.1920. An aluminum door has been installed. There is an awning above the storefront. Second floor windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. Windows have stone sills. Decorative pressed metal ornamentation includes some two remaining pilasters on the storefront, a band just below second story windows, pedimented window heads, and a bracketed cornice.

George F. Meyer had moved his drugstore here by 1912. The Meyer family continued to operate the store and live on the second floor of the building until the 1960s. Before Meyer moved here, the building was occupied by L.F. Miller and Company Dry Goods.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 6 Seymour Commercial Historic District

Farmers Club, 105 S. Chestnut Street, Neoclassical, 1914 (left in photo 16). The Farmers Club is a one-story, brick building with a raised basement and elaborate stone trim. The principal facade features a central, pedimented pavilion which frames the entry. Entry doors have iron lattice-work and are framed by a column, pedimented portico which is surmounted by a round-arch transom. On each side of the central pavilion is a narrow window with iron lattice-work. There is a stone stoop on the front of the building with a stone and iron lattice balustrade. A Doric frieze and cornice extend across the building above the entry. Above the cornice is a brick, parapet wall.

The Farmers Club is thought to be the first institution of its type in the nation. It was both a meeting place, and a base for farm families who came to town for the day to deliver produce and do their shopping. The building was financed by Meedy Shields Blish and Tipton S. Blish, owners of the Blish Milling company, and grandsons of the town's founder. In addition to being a center for farmers, their families, home economics clubs, and rural youth organizations, the building housed the local chapter of the Red Cross from 1917 to 1985. In 1986, the Seymour Chamber of Commerce moved its offices to the building.

Commercial Building, 104 S. Chestnut Street, Richardsonian Romanesque, c.1895 (third from right in photo 13). This is a two-story brick building. The storefront has been covered with aluminum siding and has an aluminum awning. The upper part of the building, retains its original, elaborate stone work. Windows are paired, double hung, wood windows in round-arched openings. A variety of stone treatments are combined to create a highly decorative effect. At the top of the building is a triangular parapet.

Hausenschild and Shutts Confectionery was located here early in the building's history. In the 1920s and 30s, it was home to a millinery.

Seymour National Bank, 100 S. Chestnut Street, Neoclassical, c.1920 (right in photo 13, and left in photo 15). The Seymour National Bank is a two-story yellow brick building with stone trim. The principal facade has a storefront with a pseudo Tudor design and a pent roof. Decorative brick pilasters with plain stone capitals are on the ends of the facade. Inside these, above the storefront, are fluted stone columns with scrolled capitals. Extending across this facade above the pilasters and columns is a stone entablature. The columns and entablature frame a set of three windows. These are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. A stone sill extends below this set of windows. Above the stone entablature is a metal cornice and a parapet wall with decorative stone and brick work. The north side of the building (photo 13) is similar in design to the north

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 7 Seymour Commercial Historic District

half of the main facade.

Seymour National Bank was chartered in 1891, and was originally located on this corner. The present building on this location appears to date from about 1920, but could be a remodeling of an earlier structure. The bank assumed control of the First National Bank in 1931. Seymour National then moved to First National's building on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Second Street, and remains there today. In the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, Seymour National's former building housed Jones Drugs.

Commercial Building, 100 N. Chestnut Street, Neoclassical, c.1900/c.1910 (right in photo 17). This is a two-story, brick building with stone trim. The building has three entrances, which are similar in design. The principal entrance is on the southwest corner of the building. This is a wood, segmental-arched arcade. Recessed doors are wood and glass. Other entries are located at the northwest and southeast corners of the building. Second story windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. Above the main entry on the south side of the building is a group of three windows with decorative, metal mullions between. Above this set of windows is an arched, pressed metal head. There are also decorative metal mullions between grouped windows on the west facade. Other ornamental features include stone banding above and below the windows, and at the top of the structure. The building originally stopped, on the south side, at the east end of the entry. The part of the building to the east of this had been added by 1913.

The building housed a dry goods store early in its history. In the 1920s, a furniture store was here. From 1927-1961 it was the home of J.C. Penney. It now is the law offices of Pardieck, Gill, and Vargo.

Laupus Jewelry Store, 101 N. Chestnut, Italianate, 1889 (left in photo 18). The Laupus Jewelry Store is a two-story, brick building with a three-bay facade. The storefront is brick with a new aluminum door and aluminum display windows. The awning is copper. On the second story, there is a three-sided wood, bay window in the center, and a single window in each of the end bays. Windows are double hung, wood windows with one light in each sash. Among decorative features are wood window heads on the end windows, and galvanized metal mullions between the windows of the center bay. Along the top of the building is a galvanized metal, bracketed frieze and cornice, with a triangular center section. Under this triangular section is a stone tablet with the date, "1889."

John G. Laupus built this building to house his jewelry store, and remained here until at

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 8 Seymour Commercial Historic District

least the 1920s. By 1931, the Holtman-Yockey Jewelry Company, which had an optical department, occupied the building.

Cox Pharmacy, 112 N. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c.1890 (left in photo 19). The Cox Pharmacy building is a two-story brick structure. The storefront has been altered. It now has a brick base with display windows. Transoms have been covered. Case-iron pilasters on the ends of the storefront, and a galvanized metal cornice remain in place. On the second story are three, double hung, wood windows with one light in each sash. Below the windows is a smooth, stone band which extends the width of the facade. Between the first story cornice and this band, in line with the windows, are three lighter brick panels. Above the windows are flared, brick "lintels," of this lighter brick color. Between the windows and the top of the building are three lighter brick panels. Darker brick banding above and below panels and lintels also adds to the polychromatic effect. At the top of the building is a decorative, galvanized metal entablature.

The Cox Pharmacy was located in the building by 1912 (possibly earlier) and remained here until 1972. The second story was rented for residential use.

Commercial Building, 207-209 N. Chestnut Street, c.1900 (photo 21). Altered little since the early 20th century, this is a three-story brick building. On the first level, there are mirror-image storefronts. These are framed by decorative metal pilasters and a metal cornice. The storefronts are wood, with paneled wood and glass doors and display windows. Part of a pressed metal ceiling in the entry remains. Transoms above the display windows have been covered. On the second story are two oriel windows. Windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash, and have metal hoods and bases. There are three windows on the third floor. These have pointed arch openings and are double hung, wood, with two lights in each sash. At the top of the building is a band of decorative brickwork with stepped brick brackets.

The Progressive Music Company was located in the building from about 1900 to the late 1920s. The storefront may have been altered in the 1930s to allow for two different uses on the ground floor. The oriel windows may also date from this time. In the 1930s, the building was occupied by an insurance office and a jeweler. Various offices and stores have been located in the building since.

Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Building, 301 N. Chestnut Street, Eclectic, 1929 (photo 23). This is a two-story building with a raised basement. It is faced in decorative, polychromatic terra-cotta. The principal facade is three bays wide. The

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 9 Seymour Commercial Historic District

entry is recessed, with exterior steps, and is located in the center bay. There is a decorative metal awning above the recessed part. The entry door is wood and glass with a aluminum storm door. At the street level are small basement windows. Above the entry is a door with an iron balconet. On each side of this door are turned terra cotta posts. Windows are triple hung steel windows with transoms. Below first story windows is a molded, beaded, water table. Between first and second story windows are spandrels with diamond patterns supported by modillions. Between the second story windows and a parapet wall are decorative moldings, including a frieze with anthemion. Extending from these moldings to the water table on each side of the windows is a decorative strip of alternating plain and star tiles. The parapet wall has diamond-patterned panels, plain panels framed in beaded moldings, and bas-relief panels. On the corners of the building are terra-cotta spirals.

The building was originally built for the Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Company. By 1940, the company was known as the Indiana Telephone Company. In 1978, the Continental Telephone Company purchased the Indiana Telephone Company. Today, the name of the company is Contel of Indiana. The building was built by W.J. Abraham and Sons, a local construction company established in 1901.

I.O.O.F. Building (Vehslage Building), 300 N. Chestnut Street, Italianate, c.1880 (photo 24). This is a three-story, brick building. The principal facade is seven bays wide. The main entry door is in the center of the first level. The door is aluminum and glass, with an aluminum and glass transom above. Above this is a wood and glass transom. On each side of the door is a decorative, metal pilaster. There are small, two-light basement windows just above the sidewalk. Above there are double hung, wood windows with two lights in each sash. A galvanized metal cornice is intact between the first and second levels. On the corners of the building above the first level are galvanized metal quoins. Upper level openings have tall, double hung, wood windows with two lights in each sash. These windows have stone sills and decorative, galvanized metal heads. The center window on the third floor has been bricked in. Extending across the top of the building is a bracketed, galvanized metal cornice.

The building was originally divided into two stores on the first level. For many years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a grocery stores on this level. The second floor was leased for office use, and the third floor was the I.O.O.F. hall. By 1931, other than the I.O.O.F. hall, only offices were located in the building, so it may have been just prior to this that the exterior of the first level was remodeled to its present appearance. Among the building's tenants the 1931 city directory lists are doctors, dentists, insurance

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 10 Seymour Commercial Historic District

companies, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Seymour Auto License Bureau.

Kidd Saloon, 110 N. Jeffersonville Avenue, Italianate, 1887 (center in photo 26). This is a two-story brick building with a three-bay facade. The cast-iron storefront is partially intact, but transoms have been covered. Second story windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. Sills are stone. There are decorative, galvanized metal window heads. A galvanized metal, bracketed frieze and cornice extends across the top of the building.

Peter Kidd had a saloon here from at least 1900. By 1912, the establishment had become Kidd's Lunch Room. By 1922, it was Edward Kidd's Restaurant. The building later housed the Yater Candy and Beverage Company (1930s and 40s), the Royal Crown Bottling Company (1950s), and liquor stores (1950s, 1960s). It is now home to Stewart's Bottled Gas.

Jonas Hotel (Hardesty Hotel), 102 Jeffersonville Avenue, Italianate, c.1876 (photo 27). This is a large, three-story, brick building. There are two facades of equal visual importance. The east facade is 11 bays wide. The north facade is 10 bays wide. The main entrance is on the northeast corner of the building. This, a wood, segmental-arched, arcaded entry, was historically the entrance to the hotel lobby. There are similar entrances on the north and east facades. First story windows and several upper story windows have been bricked in. Remaining upper story windows have been blocked down. Widow openings have stone sills and pedimented stone heads. There are stone quoins on the northeast corner of the building. Across the top of the east and north facades is a galvanized metal bracketed frieze and cornice. There are modillions under the eaves.

The building, constructed c.1876, was originally the Hotel Jonas. The proprietor was John Jonas. By 1912, it had become an annex for the Lynn Hotel, which was located a block away, on the northwest corner of Indianapolis Avenue and W. Second Street. The offices for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were also located in the building by 1912. By 1922, the building was called the Hardesty Hotel, and this it remained until about 1950, when it became the Truman Hotel. A few years later the name was changed to its present one, the Walton Hotel. The building housed one of Seymour's early hotels. There were at one time three passenger depots in the vicinity, and a number of hotels. This is one of the few which has survived. The building reflects Seymour's historic importance as a transportation center.

The Seymour Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A, in the areas of commerce, and transportation; and under Criterion C, in the area of architecture.

Seymour became the most important center of commerce and transportation in Jackson County with the start of the railroad era in the 1850s. Architecturally, the district, which contains the finest collection of historic commercial buildings in the county, is typical of many small Indiana cities. Many of its substantial brick buildings exhibit distinctive metal ornamentation. There are several outstanding examples of late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles.

Commerce and Transportation

Laid out in 1852 by Meedy Shields, Seymour can trace its beginnings to two early Indiana railroad lines. The Jeffersonville Railroad (later Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis, or JMI), on which construction was started in the 1840s, would ultimately extend northward from Jeffersonville on the Ohio River, through the established towns of Scottsburg, Columbus, and Franklin, to Indianapolis. Shields' parents had been Jackson County pioneers, and he inherited a farm which the railroad crossed on its way through the county. In 1852, he laid out a town along this important north-south transportation route.

The railroad also went through the Jackson County town of Rockford, a located two miles north of Shield's plat. Rockford's 1850 population has been estimated as 500. When it was learned that the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad (O & M) would build an east-west line through Jackson County, a competition started between Shields and John Kester of Rockford to get it routed through their respective towns. Shields offered to donate land to the railroad and fill in swamps. According to one source, he built several miles of the line himself (meaning, presumably, that he paid for part of the line to be built). It is not known what type of incentives Kester offered. Offers of land for the railroad right-of-way were common. In any case, Shields won the competition, partly by agreeing to name his town after the chief engineer for the project, Henry C. Seymour. Since a railroad could lead to growth and prosperity, this type of competition between towns was common.

Even after Shields secured the O & M, however, trains did not stop at the swampy crossroads of Seymour, barely yet a village. Other, more established towns along both railroad lines were more desirable stations. Taking advantage of his office as a state senator, Shields pushed through legislation, in 1857, requiring trains to stop where railroad tracks intersected. After this law took effect, Seymour was a stop on two important railroad lines which connected the town to markets on rail lines nationwide.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2 Seymour Commercial Historic District

The town grew rapidly. Many businesses were started, and new jobs created. Between 1860 and 1870, according to the U.S. Census, the population grew from 966 to 2,372.

The Census did not record the population for Rockford, which suffered an economic decline after the 1857 law took effect, but a comparison of the 1850-1870 populations for Redding Township (in which Rockford was located), and Jackson Township (in which Seymour was located), reflect the respective fall and rise of their principal towns.

| | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Redding Twp. (Rockford) | 1,325 | 1,561 | 1,525 |
| Jackson Twp. (Seymour) | 625 | 2,128 | 3,509 |

Seymour also grew at a faster rate between 1860 and 1870 than Brownstown, the county seat. The Ohio and Mississippi bypassed Brownstown when it came through Jackson County. The 1860 population of Brownstown was 504. By 1870, it had only reached 572. In 1890, the population of the county seat was 1,422 compared to 5,337 for Seymour. The next largest Jackson County settlement recorded by the Census that year was Crothersville, in the southeastern part of the county on the JMI, which had 599 people. These population figures illustrate the critical role the railroads played in the development of towns in 19th century Indiana.

Seymour's original plat was roughly bounded by Fifth Street on the north, Chestnut Street on the west, St. Louis Avenue on the south, and Ewing Street (east of Indianapolis Avenue) on the east. Seymour became a center of shipping for the region. The principal occupation in Jackson County, as in all of Indiana at that time, was farming. Farmers came to Seymour to ship their goods and buy supplies. The commercial district grew as the city became an important market town.

The presence of the railroads insured that Seymour would become a center of industry as well. One of the first industries was the mill started by Meedy Shields and his son-in-law, J.H. Blish, in 1852. This was the beginnings of the large Blish Milling company which would flourish well into the 20th century. Part of this complex is extant on the southeast corner of E. Tipton and Indianapolis Avenue (photo 25). This is the Blish Mill Grain Elevator, which dates from the early 20th century.

Other important industries, outside the boundaries of the historic district, included the Seymour Woolen Mill, established in 1866 on the south side of the city; and the Seymour Manufacturing Company, started in 1872 northeast of the commercial district (identified in

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3 Seymour Commercial Historic District

the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory as site 34057). The latter manufactured scythes, grain cradles, and wagon spokes. It is doubtful that these industries would have located in Seymour had it not had such a favorable transportation network.

Seymour continued to grow and prosper, as the railroads became an increasingly important method of shipping and traveling. The O & M Railroad selected Seymour as the location of its railroad shops on the eastern part of the line in Indiana. The Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad transversed the northern edge of Seymour by 1890. The line which succeeded this railroad in 1897, the Southern Indiana Railroad Company, built a spur to downtown Seymour.

The interurban system was built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Indiana to supplement the regular railroad lines. Mainly a means of travel for passengers, some light shipping was done on interurban lines. The line which serviced Seymour from 1909 to 1941 was the I. C. and S. Traction Company. It extended south to Louisville and north to Indianapolis. The car shed, which was located on W. Second Street, is gone, but the building which housed the depot is extant. It was located in the west half of the building at 112-116 E. Second Street (photo 6).

Because of Seymour's status as a railroad center, it was inevitable that there would be many restaurants and hotels to cater to visitors. The oldest extant hotel is the Hotel Jonas, located at 102 Jeffersonville Avenue (photo 27) The hotel opened its doors in 1876 and has been in use under various owners ever since. Another major hotel, the Lynn, which dated from 1883, was demolished in 1991. Just south of the Hotel Jonas at 110 Jeffersonville Avenue, is the Kidd Saloon, built in 1887 (center of photo 26) This establishment was operated as a saloon by Peter Kidd, and later as a lunch room by his son Edward.

By the late 19th century, in addition to hotels and restaurants, the commercial district contained all types of businesses expected to be found in a city the size of Seymour: dry good, clothing, boot and shoe, jewelry, drug, and grocery stores. An early business which has been in continuous operation is the Harding Jewelry store, at 202 W. Second Street (center in photo 2). The building, which has been remodeled over the years, dates from 1860. Pfaffenberger's Shoe Store, at 120 W. Second Street, (photo 3), is another late 19th century business which has had the same use since its founding.

Banks have played an important part in the development of the commercial district. One

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4 Seymour Commercial Historic District

of the early financial institutions was First National Bank. It was located in various buildings until a substantial, Neoclassical style structure at 117 N. Chestnut Street was built in 1926 (right in photo 20). The Great Depression had a devastating impact on the bank, and its assets were assumed, in 1931, by Seymour National Bank. The latter was chartered in 1891, and occupied the building at 100 S. Chestnut Street (right in photo 13, and left in photo 15) before moving into the First National Bank building at 117 N. Chestnut.

The first two decades of the 20th century were prosperous years in agriculture. This contributed to the growth of the Seymour economy, as area farmers stored and shipped products out of Seymour, and bought supplies in the city. Many industries (outside the commercial district) reflected the city's tie to farming: a fertilizer plant, a canning factory, slaughterhouses, and dairies.

Representing this local connection to agriculture in the historic district is the Farmers Club at 105 S. Chestnut Street, built in 1914 (left in photo 12). Thought to be the first building of its type in the nation, it was constructed to serve the needs of area farmers and their families. Thirty-five thousand dollars for the building's construction was donated by Meedy Shields Blish and Tipton S. Blish, the owners of the Blish Milling Company, and grandsons of the town's founder. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture David Franklin Houston was on hand for the dedication of the building on July 8, 1914.

It does not appear that the establishment of a Farmers Club in Seymour influenced the construction of other Farmers Clubs in Indiana. The building's significance is mainly as an illustration of the importance of farming in Jackson County. At the time the building was built, Jackson County was a leading producer of corn, wheat, and hogs, and was among the top 14 counties in the state in acreage devoted to agriculture.

Another agriculture-related resource is the building at 111 S. Walnut Street (photo 29), originally a grain warehouse for the Hodapp Hominy Company. The 1887 Sanborn map shows J.H. Hodapp's corn mill on the site. At that time, the property included a mill and several storage facilities. By the time the existing grain warehouse was built, about 1910, the name of the property was Hodap Hominy Plant A. By 1924, the property had become Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company. Organization of co-operative elevators in Indiana began about 1910. Through co-operatives, farmers hoped to benefit economically by greater control over the sale of agriculture products.

By 1931, the name of the property had been changed to Farmers Hominy Mill. It was

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 5 Seymour Commercial Historic District

purchased in 1945 by the Robertson family, which had operated a mill in Ewing (near Brownstown) since 1881. The Seymour mill is still located on the southeast corner of St. Louis Avenue and Walnut Street. The c.1910 Hodapp grain warehouse, commonly referred to as the Robertson Feed Store, is the only historic mill structure remaining on the site. Other structures on the property date from after the period of significance for the historic district.

Historical information on other representative buildings in the district is included under individual buildings in Section 7.

The Seymour Commercial Historic District is one of three historic districts in the city identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The other two are residential districts. The Walnut Street Historic District, located just north of the commercial district is a neighborhood of 58 late 19th and early 20th century houses. The houses in this district, many of the Queen Anne era, are generally of a high style. A number of prominent citizens of Seymour were residents. The other residential district, the Westover Addition Historic District, is located west of downtown. This district, developed between about 1913 and 1940, contains a cohesive collection of Bungalow and period revival houses.

Most of the individual buildings in Seymour identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory are houses. Other types of buildings are schools, churches, industrial and commercial buildings. Among industrial resources are the Seymour Manufacturing Company (34057), built in 1872. The commercial buildings include neighborhood stores at 402 S. Walnut Street (34108), and 502 W. Brown Street (34109), both built around 1880. There is one extant historic railroad building, the Southern Indiana Railroad Depot (34064), a freight depot, built around 1890.

There are no other historic districts identified in Jackson Township other than the three in Seymour. Individual resources in the township include houses, farms, bridges, a service station, cemeteries, a school, and buildings associated with Freeman Field, a military training facility of the World War II era.

The Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District consists of 43 buildings, the courthouse and surrounding buildings, mostly stores. Brownstown has historically been the center of county government. The city was secondary to Seymour as a center of transportation, commerce, and industry. Brownstown was bypassed by the O & M (later the B & O), which chose to locate its station at Ewing, a short distance to the west. The

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 6 Seymour Commercial Historic District

B & O freight depot, built in 1908, is still in an area which was formerly the village of Ewing, and is now part of Brownstown.

The Crothersville Downtown Historic District consists of 40 buildings, including stores, banks, lodges, houses, a church, and a service station. Crothersville was historically a small market town on the JMI. No railroad buildings remain.

Other resources identified in the county associated with transportation include gas stations and bridges. Among industrial resources identified are the Jackson Brick and Hollow Ware Company Historic District (28001-019), located northeast of Brownstown on the B & O; and the Medora Brick Company Historic District (58001-018), southwest of Medora on the same railroad.

Architecture

Architecturally, the Seymour Commercial Historic District typifies the character of many small Indiana downtowns. A large number of buildings are of the Italianate style of architecture, representing late 19th century prosperity. Among these are the building at 101 N. Chestnut Street (left in photo 18), and the commercial building at 201 S. Chestnut Street (left in photo 11). The Masonic Temple at 212-14 W. Second Street is an outstanding example of the Romanesque Revival style popular in the last decade of the 19th century (photo 1).

There are several examples of the Neoclassical style, an early 20th century mode of architecture. The U.S. Post Office, designed by federal architect, James Wetmore, and built in 1915, is a good example of the style (photo 22). Another is the Farmers Club, completed in 1914 (left in photo 12).

Possibly the most distinctive edifice in the district is the eclectic Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Building, built in 1929 (photo 23). The building is elaborately decorated with polychromatic terra-cotta.

Though many of the storefronts in the district have been changed to some degree, a few remain unaltered. Worthy of mention is the storefront for the building at 115 W. Second Street (photo 4). Original decorative metal pilasters and cornice are intact, as are display windows, the paneled wood and glass front door, and prism glass transoms. Above the recessed entry, a panel of glass reads, "CORDES."

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 7 Seymour Commercial Historic District

Another distinctive storefront is that of the jewelry store at 202 W. Second Street (photo 2). Probably added in the 1930s by the store's proprietor, Kamman, the storefront utilizes Vitrolite, a popular material of the time.

The Seymour Commercial Historic District comprises the finest collection of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture in Jackson County. There are two other commercial historic districts in the county which were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: the Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, and the Crothersville Commercial Historic District. There is also one historic district - the Medora Historic District - which contains a mixture of commercial and residential buildings.

The Brownstown district is the most comparable to the Seymour district. As discussed previously, however, Brownstown was a smaller and less prosperous town. The district is less than half the size of the Seymour district, and the buildings tend to be plainer. The most distinctive building in the Brownstown district is the Jackson County Courthouse (26033), an 1873 building remodeled in the Neoclassical style in 1910-11. Most other historic commercial buildings in the district were designated as "functional" or as vernacular types, and are lacking in stylistic definition. The only exceptions are a Queen Anne style building (26005), two Italianate style buildings (26009, and 26030), and the Romanesque Revival Oddfellows Building (26039).

The Crothersville Downtown Historic District is similar in size to the Brownstown district. Most of the commercial buildings were surveyed as "functional" or as vernacular types. There are three Italianate style commercial buildings (41002, 41010, and 41026), and one Neoclassical style building, the Crothersville State Bank (41037).

The Medora Historic District contains 13 historic buildings relating to commerce, most concentrated in a two block area of Main Street, and a one-block area of Perry Street. Most of these buildings are "functional" or vernacular types. Exceptions are the Neoclassical Medora State Bank (56015), the Gothic Revival Knights of Pythias Building (56017), and the Colonial Revival Sickles Hotel (56058).

The Seymour Commercial Historic District is a significant group of historic buildings in Jackson County. Seymour is in a period of expansion, and protection for its historic downtown is an important local issue. Main Street Seymour, Inc., is seeking National Register listing to increase local appreciation for the commercial district.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1 Seymour Commercial Historic District

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 10 Page 1 Seymour Commercial Historic District

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of W. Bruce Street and the north-south alley west of S. Chestnut Street; thence north along the east side of said alley, across W. Tipton Street, to the axis of the south boundary of the property at 111 S. Walnut Street; thence west, along said boundary, to the east side of S. Walnut Street; thence north along the east side of S. Walnut Street to the southeast corner of S. Walnut street and St. Louis Avenue; thence east along the south side of St. Louis Avenue to the east side of a north-south alley east of S. Walnut Street; thence north, across St. Louis Avenue, continuing along the east side of said alley, to the north side of W. Second Street; thence west along the north side of said street to the west boundary of lot 222 of Shield's Addition; thence north along said boundary to the north side of W Third Street; thence west along the north side of W. Third Street to the east side of a north-south alley north of W. Third Street and east of N. Walnut Street; thence north along the east side of said alley to the northwest corner of a property located at 301-309 N. Chestnut Street; thence east along the north boundary of said property to the west side of N. Chestnut Street; thence south along the west side of said street to the axis of the north boundary of lot 12 of Shield's Addition; thence east along the north boundary of said lot, across a north-south alley east of N. Chestnut Street, and along the north boundary of lot 1 of Shield's Addition, to the west side of Indianapolis Avenue; thence south along the west side of said avenue, across W. Third Street, to the south side of an east-west alley south of W. Third Street; thence east along the south side of said alley to the west side of Ewing Street; thence south along the west side of said street, across E. Second Street, to the southeast corner of lot 8 of the Original Plat; thence west along the south boundary of said lot and lots 10, 11, 12, and 15 of the Original Plat, to the east side of the right-of-way of the former Pennsylvania Railroad; thence south along the east side of said right-of-way to the south side of E. Tipton Street; thence east along the south side of said street to the southwest corner of E. Tipton and East Streets; thence south along the west side of East Street to the northwest corner of E. Bruce and East Streets; thence west along the north side of Bruce Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The Seymour Commercial Historic District is identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The boundaries of the surveyed district were adjusted to include an historic grain warehouse in the west half of the block bounded by Walnut Street, Tipton Street, Chestnut Street and St. Louis Avenue; and historic commercial buildings and an historic grain elevator in an area between Chestnut, Tipton, East, and Bruce Streets.