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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations 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 Salem Downtown Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Mulberry, Hackberry, Hayes Streets, the CSX Railroad, & Brock Creek N/A not for publication

city or town Salem N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Washington code 175 zip code 47167

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 36CFR 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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/4/99
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

Name of Property

County and State

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, district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Rows show counts for each type.

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

4

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store, SOCIAL: Meeting Hall, GOVERNMENT: Post Office, RELIGION: Religious Facility, EDUCATION: Library, GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store, SOCIAL: Meeting Hall, GOVERNMENT: Post Office, RELIGION: Religious Facility, EDUCATION: Library, GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival, OTHER: I-house, LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire, EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: STONE: Limestone, walls: BRICK, roof: ASPHALT, other: STONE: Limestone

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c.1824-1946

Significant Dates

1851

1888

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

McDonald, Harry P.

Shoppell & Harris

Hopkins, G.E.

9. Major Bibliographic 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Salem Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Washington IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ~74 ac.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 578670 4273590
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 578080 4272780
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 578720 4272920
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 578000 4273460
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 Nancy Hiestand & Cynthia Brubaker
organization Preservation Development, Inc. date 12-10-96
street & number 400 West 7th St., Suite 110 telephone 812/336-2065
city or town Bloomington state IN zip code 47404

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
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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Summary of Contributing Resources

Buildings

253 contributing buildings

52 non-contributing buildings

Structures:

limestone wall north and west of the Lyons Block

limestone embankment supporting railroad grade

Railroad Bridge South Water Street

Objects:

Lion Sculpture northeast side of square

Carriage steps in front of 206 South High

Paired Carriage steps beside 301 East Market

Sign on south side of Streaker Building

cannon pedestals

limestone markers on High Street adjacent to residential staircase

List of Principal Buildings

	Contributing	Non-contributing
Public Square		
north	8 Public Square <u>Clarke Building</u> 9 Public Square	
	13 Public Square <u>Dennis Building</u> 15 Public Square <u>Berkey Building</u>	12 Public Square <u>Allen Building</u>
<u>North Main</u>	16 Public Square <u>Daleure Bldg.</u> 17 Public Square <u>Hobbs-Paynter</u> 18 Public Square <u>Burr-Neal</u> 19 Public Square <u>Guy-Neal</u> 20 Public Square <u>Hobbs</u> 21 Public Square <u>Kyte-Murphy</u>	
east		24 Public Square <u>NBD Bank</u>
<u>East Market</u>	32 Public Square <u>I.O.O.F.</u> 36 Public Square	: 34 Public Square <u>McLintock</u>
south	38 Public Square Ratts 39 Public Square <u>Anderson</u>	37 Public Square

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		40 Public Square <u>Tash</u>
	41 Public Square <u>Dr. Murphy</u>	
	44 Public Square <u>Lanning</u>	
<u>Main Street</u>		
	45 Public Square <u>Knights of Pythias</u>	
	47 Public Square <u>Paynter</u>	
	48 Public Square <u>Western Auto</u>	
	50 Public Square <u>Redman's Building</u>	
	52 Public Square <u>Cauble Residence</u>	
west	53 Public Square <u>Dr. John Bare</u>	
	57 Public Square <u>Sinclair Batt</u>	
		62 Public Square
	66 Public Square	
<u>West Market</u>	58 Public Square <u>Duff Building</u>	
		1 Public Square <u>National City</u>
		3 Public Square <u>Salem Apothecary.</u>
	5 Public Square <u>Duffel Bag</u>	
	6 Public Square Flowers on the Square	
	7 Public Square	

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	Contributing	Non-contributing
North Water (Between Mulberry and Walnut)		
ODD	209	
	205	
	203	
EVEN	212	
	210	
	208	
	206	
	204	
		202
	200	
North Water (Between Walnut and Market)		
ODD	103	
EVEN	108	
	106	
	104	
South Water (Between Market and Poplar)		
ODD	103	
	107 Framer's Produce	
	109 Wynn's	
EVEN	103 Termite Control	108
	106 Monument Works	
South Water (Between Poplar and Cherry)		
ODD	201 Graves	200
	207 Old Creamery	
	209 Hughes	210
EVEN		
South Water (Between Cherry and Small)		
ODD	301 Johnny's Deli	
	309 Shrum Building Supply	
EVEN		304 J & J Feed Mill
North Main (Between Hackberry and Mulberry)		
ODD	305	
	303	
	301	
North Main (Between Walnut And Mulberry)		
ODD	211	:
	209	
	209 1/2	
		205 PSI
	201	

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	Contributing	Non-contributing
EVEN	213 Salem Public Library	
	210 Chamber of Commerce	
	202 TCI	200 Country Pawn
North Main (Between Mulberry and Public Square)		
EVEN	108	
South Main (Between Public Square and E. Poplar)		
ODD	105 Billy's <u>Routh Building</u>	
	107 Nale Insurance	
	111 Karen's Casuals	
EVEN	102 Bud's Jewelry <u>O.O. Williams Building</u>	
	104 Camera Store <u>Anderson Building</u>	
	106 Peking Chinese <u>Streaker Building</u>	
	108 <u>Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence</u>	
South Main (Between Poplar and Cherry)		
ODD	211 <u>Harris Building</u>	207 Gilstrap Motors
	213	209 American Legion
	215	
EVEN	210 Napa Auto	
South Main (Between Cherry and Small)		
ODD	301	300 Gas Station
	303	308 Dairyland
	303 ½	
	307 Graves Building	
	309 Legacy	
North High (Between Hackberry and Mulberry)		
ODD	303 <u>Church of Christ</u>	
	301	
EVEN	308	
	306	
	302	
	300	
North High (Between Mulberry and Walnut)		
ODD	207	
	205	
EVEN	206	
	204	
North High (Between Walnut and Market)		
ODD	109	105
EVEN	106 <u>First Presbyterian Church</u>	

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	Contributing	Non-contributing
South High (Between Market and Poplar)		
ODD	101 <u>Old City Hall</u>	
	103	
	105	
		107 <u>City Hall</u>
EVEN	108 <u>Auto Value</u>	
South High (Between Poplar and Cherry)		
ODD		209
EVEN	200	
	202	
	204	
	206	
South High (Between Cherry and Small)		
ODD	301	
	303	
	305	
	307	
EVEN	300	
	302	
	306	
South College (Between Market and Poplar)		
EVEN	106	
South College (Between Poplar and Cherry)		
ODD	201	
	203	
	205	
EVEN	200	
	202	
	208	
East Hackberry (Between High and College)		
ODD	203	
East Hackberry (Between College and Hayes)		
ODD	301	
	303 <u>Shrum</u>	
	305	
	307	
:	309	:
	311	
West Mulberry (Between Brock Creek and Water)		
ODD	201 Armory*	
West Mulberry (Between Water and Main)		
EVEN	106	

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	Contributing	Non-contributing
	104	
East Mulberry (Between Main and High)		
ODD	101	
	103	
EVEN	102	
	104	
East Mulberry (Between High and College)		
ODD	207	
EVEN	202	
	204	
East Mulberry (Between College and Hayes)		
ODD	301	
	303	
	305	
	307	
	309	
	311	
EVEN	300	
	302	
	304	
	306	
	308	
	312	
West Walnut (Between Brock Creek and Water)		
ODD	203	
EVEN		206 Miller Hardware
	202 <u>Armory</u>	
West Walnut (Between Water and Main)		
ODD	109	
	105	
	103	
EVEN	114	
	112	
	110	
	108	
	106	
East Walnut (Between Main and High)		
ODD	101	
	103	
	111 Salem Leader	
EVEN	104	
	110 Salem Post Office	

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	Contributing	Non-contributing
East Walnut (Between High and College)		
	ODD 203	
	205	
	207	
	EVEN 200 <u>First Baptist Church</u>	
	204	
	206	
East Walnut (Between College and Hayes)		
	ODD 303	
	305 <u>First Christian Church</u>	
	EVEN 300	
	302	
	304	
	306	
West Market (Between Brock Creek and Water)		
	ODD 209	
	205 Salem Laundry	210 Rudders
	EVEN 208 Nolan	
	200	204
West Market (Between Water and Main)		
	ODD 105	
	EVEN 106	
East Market (Between Main and High)		
	ODD 106	
	108	
East Market (Between High and College)		
	ODD 205	
	207	
	EVEN	200 <u>Salem United Methodist Church</u>
	204 Dawalt*	
East Market (Between College and Hayes)		
	ODD 301	
	303	
	305	307 (9 structures)
	313	
	EVEN 300	
	:	304 Dr. Martin
	308	
West Poplar (Between Brock Creek and Water)		
	ODD 202	
West Poplar (Between Water and Main)		
	Contributing	Non-contributing

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ODD	107	
EVEN	104	108
East Poplar (Between Main and High)		
EVEN	105	
East Poplar (Between High and College)		
ODD	203	
	205	
	207	
EVEN	202	
	204	
	206	
West Cherry (Between Water and Main)		
ODD	103	
	101	
EVEN		
East Cherry (Between Main and High)		
EVEN	104	
East Cherry (Between High and College)		
ODD	203	
	207	
	209	
West Small (Between Water and Main)		
ODD	309 West Small	
East Small (Between College and Railroad)		
EVEN	304 ½	
	304	

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I. Summary

The Salem Downtown Historic District encompasses the governmental center of Washington County and adjacent streets and structures radiating from the public square. The district is bounded on the west by Brock Creek (Photo no.12) and on the south by the partially elevated CSX Railroad right-of-way (Photo no. 28). A coursed limestone embankment, constructed for the Louisville New Albany and Salem railroad in the 1850's, marks the southwest boundary of the district. The embankment is a contributing structure, representing some of the earliest construction in the district. The eastern boundary is formed by Hayes Street and College Avenue and the northern boundary by Hackberry and Mulberry Streets. The area east of Brock Creek and west of the square was once devoted to mills and factories. It evolved into numerous single story commercial buildings, many associated with auto-related uses. These buildings are situated below the grade of the commercial downtown following the topographical slope toward Brock Creek

The district is anchored by a Richardson Romanesque limestone courthouse (listed in the National Register, 6-16-80) which was completed in 1888. It was designed by Harry P. McDonald and built by local firms, Crumbo, Melcher and Routh (Photo no. 1) [Stevens, p.106]. The McDonald firm, from Louisville, KY also designed the Gibson County Courthouse in Indiana and the Toledo, Albion and Lawrenceville courthouses in Illinois. The present Washington County Courthouse is the third such structure to occupy this space.

Buildings surrounding the courthouse represent an impressive collection of nineteenth century commercial buildings. The north, west and south sides of the public square show a high degree of integrity, in both massing of buildings and the retention of historic details. The Salem downtown streetscape, including storefronts on Main and Market within a block of the square, continues to reflect the environment of a turn of the century county seat.

Surrounding the commercial downtown area on the north and east sides are fine homes linked with families, such as the Berkeys, Shrum's, Lannings, Paynters and Lyons who were instrumental in developing the downtown. Also located in the eastern quadrant of the Salem Downtown Historic District are five churches with long-standing presence in the community, two of them retain sufficient architectural integrity to be considered as contributing to the district.

There are 253 contributing and 52 non-contributing buildings in the district. There are currently four listed properties within the district: First Baptist Church (3-21-85), Washington County Courthouse (6-16-80), the Hay-Morrison House (10-26-71), and the Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence (11-23-84). A fine example of a Carnegie Library, the Salem Public Library (1910) (Photo no. 16) is located at the northern boundary of the district. There are also

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other examples of large institutional buildings within the district including a post office (1930) (Photo no. 15) and an armory (1929) both of which contribute to the compact nature of the town.

There are three contributing structures in the district. Two are limestone embankments, one associated with the elevated bed of the New Albany and Salem railroad, the other located on Water Street. The railroad bridge over Brock Creek at the southwest corner of the district was resurfaced with concrete in the 1940's but it remains a significant remnant of Salem's railroad heritage. The original bridge at this location was burned by Morgan's Raiders during the Civil War. Six objects; including sculpture and street furniture, are noted as contributing to the district. Although the courthouse was listed in 1980, an analysis of objects on its grounds was not a part of the nomination and can be described as follows: two contributing limestone stands, which once supported a pair of Civil War cannons, are located on the south side of the square. Although the canons were removed for scrap during the effort to find materials in World War II, the stands are contributing objects, verified both by the date of their erection and the significance of their removal. The story is frequently recounted by citizens of Salem. Other contributing objects include the stone lion on the east side of the square which once stood sentinel before a group of buildings developed by Lee W. Sinclair. The buildings have been demolished, but the lion remains a town landmark. A carved limestone carriage block with three risers is located in front of the property at 206 South High. Another double-sided one is located at 301 East Market (Photo no. 25). A painted advertisement sign on the south side of the Streaker Building maintains much of its original integrity and clarity. There are three non-contributing objects on the grounds of the courthouse including a war memorial, erected since the Vietnam War and a pair of anti-aircraft guns.

Historic brick streets as well as sidewalks composed of both brick and limestone enhance the streetscape along Cherry and Market Streets. Compatible new street light ballasts, the recent planting of street trees and brick detailing in the downtown sidewalks attest to Salem's commitment to the vitality of its historic retail district.

II. Description

Washington County is situated in south central Indiana. Its northern boundary is formed by the Muscatatuck River which flows into the main branch of White River. Blue River and its tributaries flow southwest through the middle of the county. Salem, Indiana is centrally located north of the main fork of the Blue River. Although north of an area known as the "barrens," covered with wild grasses and rolling topography, the town of Salem, by contrast, enjoys extensive mature tree coverage. The topography of the land within the district features a sudden drop to the southwest in the area of Water Street sloping to Brock Creek. In 1878, to accommodate this severe grade change, a seven foot limestone wall was constructed along the rear property lines on the west side of the square. In the middle of this wall are three stone arches, which represent the entrance to a well house built at the same time (Photo no.8).

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Underlying rock through out the region is conducive to the formation of building stone; including sand stone, limestone, and clay. The rockfaced Oolitic limestone used on the facade of the current Washington County Courthouse was locally quarried and cut, one mile southwest of town. In the nineteenth century, this was the first and only working quarry in the county, originally opened by Emmanuel Zink and James Needham in 1866 [Batchelor, p.10]. Rock quarried here was originally called "Salem limestone" before being renamed oolitic.

The town square of Salem was platted on the Lancaster Plan. The courthouse building is located in a central square bisected by perpendicular main thoroughfares. Main and Market streets were platted 80 feet wide, while secondary streets, Walnut and High, were 66 feet. The other most frequently implemented Indiana town plan, provides main streets intersecting diagonally at the corners of the square. In Salem, residential properties were built upon these corner lots. In 1926, three corners of the square were still occupied by residential properties, the fourth by a livery. Although two corner lots have been cleared for surface parking areas, one dwelling remains, the Cauble Residence (photo no.3), which has, through the years, been used for offices, restaurants, and retail uses. The square is still accessible by an alley system which connects the corners of the square to Water, Poplar, Walnut, and High Streets.

Commercial buildings, including business, specialty and department stores facing the square represent over twelve decades of Salem's history. The area significant to downtown commercial retail development includes the single blocks north and south of the square on Main Street. The earliest of these existing buildings date from the 1870's, the latest from 1989. The entire collection includes a sampling of Italianate, Romanesque, Gothic, Classical Revival, and Commercial styles. Noncontributing buildings located on the northeast side of the square are limestone veneer with large first floor plate glass windows. Although they are primarily a single story in height, these buildings maintain the appropriate downtown building line abutting the sidewalk. Contributing buildings on the square range in height from one to three stories. Taller buildings facing the square are associated with fraternal orders, many containing second or third story assembly rooms of grand proportions. The square as a whole is characterized by an exuberant nineteenth century attention to decoration. Carved limestone, pressed metal, turned wooden elements, and cast iron fronts are common, particularly among buildings built between 1880 and 1900. They represent an era defined by Salem's burgeoning entrepreneurial classes. Several single story buildings also contribute to the district, for example, the Kyte Murphy Building, at 21 Public Square with its plate glass and granite veneer storefront, is emblematic of the dimestore heyday. This building was constructed as a five and ten cent store, by the Morris Company in 1935 and was remodeled in the 1950's by G.C. Murphy Co. The first floor facade of the building is covered with characteristic granite tile which was once the signature of the Murphy company during the time of its greatest expansion in Indiana.

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Other contributing commercial buildings, substantially different in appearance from those on the square, are located along Water Street and on West Walnut. These areas represent one of three early locations for industries in Salem. Several very early mill sites were located on North Main: the Lindley horse mill and the Coffin carding mill [Goodspeed, p. 761]. In the ensuing years, this area became less favored for industrial development. Another industrial area was located at the east end of Market Street outside the district and evolved from an early furniture factory site owned by the Berkey's to the present modern Childcraft Furniture Factory. A Water Street location, between Poplar and Cherry, was the first site reserved for construction of the county jail [1878 Atlas] and was the site of a sequence of roller mills and spoke factories, through the nineteenth century. Most of the construction associated with this era is lost. Existing Water Street buildings are of more recent development and characterized by one to two story brick or tile construction with stepped parapets. Most were built after 1910. As an example of the evolution of uses and buildings on this side of town, Lot 135 was initially the James Lynn "fulling" mill. Later, in 1867, it became the site of the Sinclair Woolen Mills, which at one time was the largest woolen manufacturer in southern Indiana [Goodspeed p. 762]. Now the Mulberry and Mill Street location, is the site of a large armory built in 1929.

Salem is unique in the retention of several historic dwellings on the square. The Cauble Residence and the Dr. John Bare House were converted to commercial uses in the nineteenth century, but still convey their residential appearance. The Dr. John Bare House (Photo. no. 3) is a Federal style brick home with a low pitched roof, flat lintels, and brackets with a later large addition to the rear. The Cauble Residence, linked by name to a pioneer family in Washington County, appears on the 1887 Sanborn map. The front gabled house has seen major exterior modifications, but it retains its single story original configuration.

Representative styles of residential structures in the district include Greek Revival, Gothic, Queen Anne, Second Empire and, in the twentieth century, Bungalow and American Four Square. Some earlier residences, are more vernacular in flavor. For example, the two Berkey homes (206 and 303 East Walnut) owe more to rural vernacular forms than to the classic styles preferred in cities. Many residences included in the district are associated with families who were prominent in business in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These are primarily frame construction, although there are a few examples of brick residences, such as the Lanning and Baker Houses.

The primary building material on the square is brick. But several of the most outstanding structures, for example the Washington County Courthouse and the Knights of Pythias Building, are of limestone veneer. Elements of limestone detailing on the brick facades are more common. For example, the 1881 Salem County Jail presents a limestone facade on its Main Street elevation and brick on its sides and rear. Limestone was locally available in the nineteenth century, but the quarries which served Salem's local construction needs failed to

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become competitive on a national scale. Limestone construction associated with Beaux Arts style of public buildings in the early twentieth created an economic explosion in Owen, Monroe and Lawrence Counties, but it passed Washington County by.

There are two examples of cast iron buildings on the square, the Dennis Building and the Dr. Murphy Building, which are nearly replications of each other, facing across the public square. Both buildings were manufactured by George Mesker and Company, of Evansville. Also characteristic of the nineteenth century commercial facade in Salem, is the use of pressed metal decoration on cornices and piers. This was a less costly method of implementing elaborate designs, which complimented more expensive development. An example of this is the Guy Neal Building (Photo. no. 4) which is adjacent to the limestone facade of the Hobbs Building.

On the public square today, much of the original limestone first floor detailing has been removed, through numerous remodeling projects. However, with the exception of the northeast side of the square, the scale, proximity, and massing of the buildings recall the nineteenth century. Wide sidewalks and large display windows with recessed entrances still invite the pedestrian shopper into a nineteenth century downtown retail atmosphere. Highway 135, currently routed around the courthouse, creates a feeling of activity and liveliness, highlighting downtown's dominant position in retail trade in Washington County. Although several franchised businesses occupy the square, for the most part, locally owned retail shops and apothecaries are still viable. By-pass construction is hotly debated in Salem. It is feared that a new highway routed around Salem will create opportunities for competing suburban commercial development, eventually endangering the vitality of local commerce. Salem is unusual in its retention of locally owned businesses on the public square. Gene Moss, a retired jewelry store owner on the square, explains that business on the square is cyclic and is currently enjoying a period of reinvestment. This is evident in the recently rehabilitated Lanning Building, #6 Lyon's Block, and the Hobbs Building.

III. Contributing Buildings:

Jonathon Lyon, one of the earliest citizens of Salem, purchased town lots on the west side of the square during the first sale of city land. The first brick commercial structure to occupy this site was built in 1824. After accumulating several more lots in the same block face, Jonathon's son, Dawson, was able to combine them to enable construction of a three story, seven unit attached commercial building. These buildings burned in August of 1874, and were rebuilt immediately after using bricks from the local Shrum brick yard. A stone retaining wall was constructed around three sides of the Lyon Block two years later. It remains with some alteration on the National City Bank side. Originally the Lyon block contained seven separate business locations with individual addresses. Among the historic uses in this building were the

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offices of the Salem Democrat to (1870-1920), a hardware store at #6 with continuous use from 1876 to the 1990's, a confectionery at #5 named the "Greek Candy Kitchen" but familiarly called "the Greeks" The founder of this store in 1916, was George Daleure and the building at the northeast corner of North Main and the Public Square now carries his name. The Armstrong family, hardware store owners who occupied #6 for so many years, is largely responsible for the preservation of this unit in its original configuration. Glenn Armstrong recounts the story of a mysterious circular structure located behind the building from 1887 until about 1926. This seven-seated outhouse was considered a luxurious amenity to the Lyon Block proprietors.

Lyon Block Description (Photo no.2): Today, the original side parapets walls still define the seven individual brick stores rooms reconstructed on the Lyon Block site in 1874. Their contemporary facades, however, have been heavily modified. The seven separate store rooms have been reduced to five and alteration of the first floor facade is pervasive. Original facades showed Italianate influence in the use of alternating paired and triple eave brackets. Limestone pilasters with plain capitals supported a wide lintel course which unified the first floor facade. This sequence of multiple pilasters on the buildings' original facade gave the effect of a colonnade. Today only one unit has been rehabilitated to reflect the original design. The address showing the most integrity is #6, now occupied by "Flowers on the Square" and previously occupied by a long-standing hardware business. In the larger building block, all of the eave brackets have been removed and fenestration on the second floor has been modified. Units #6 and #7 feature the original segmental arched window hoods and double hung windows. Historic photographs suggest that the original windows were four over four divided lights. Original store front windows have arched transoms with paired lights and recessed panels in the bulkheads. The bank space which has perennially occupied the West Market Street corner has undergone two intensive remodels. The first occurred in 1954 and consisted of application of a limestone veneer and second floor jalousie style windows. A later rehabilitation on this unit responds more sensitively to the historic context. It recovers former red brick facade with a limestone drip courses and pilasters framing the entrance. Triple eave brackets reflect the original configuration. Units 1,6, and 7 maintain the most historically appropriate facades, although unit 1 is a modern design and reconstruction.

The Berkey Store was founded in 1845 and has been managed by three generations of the same family. The drygoods and grocery business actually originated in Vallonia fifteen years prior to the family's move to Salem. In Salem, the short-lived Berkey and Klerner Furniture Factory on East Market (1878) and Berkey Building (1882), on the public square, were built at the incipience of a building boom in Salem, which defines the current architectural character of the square. Thirty commercial buildings fronting on the square date from the period between 1878 and 1910.

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Berkey Building Description (Photo no. 2): The building, located at the corner of North Main and the Public Square, is a very good example of Italianate commercial architecture in Salem. The Italianate style is the most common building style extant on the square. The two story building is brick with limestone corbeling, brackets and lintels. Round arched window hoods with keystones and prominent eave brackets are distinctive elements. The Berkey Building, is actually a pair of store fronts patterned with a variety of horizontal courses. Its wide cornice is articulated by repetitive brackets and saw tooth dentilling. Recessed panels separate the vertical members. A lintel course above the cornice features dentils with periodic brackets. Finally an additional wide beveled string course links the plain window surrounds horizontally across the facade. The first floor of the building has been altered. Corinthian columns and transoms visible in an historic photograph have been removed and replaced by plate glass and modern bulkheads. The commercial front of west side of the building has a suspended metal awning and paired double hung windows below the store front lintel.

Because of the long standing presence of the Berkey business in the community, the store has achieved local recognition as a landmark. Historic photographs also show an arched parapet wall containing the 1882 construction date and name "Berkey Bros." This centrally located parapet detail is observed on many buildings on the square in historic photographs, but is not retained in their contemporary facades. Some remaining examples are, however, found on the Sinclair Batt Building and Hobbs Building.

Guy Neal Building is a uniquely eccentric example of a Classical Revival commercial building in Salem, and emphasizes the priority placed on decorative features in buildings facing the square. The yard behind this structure was the location of Neal's Palm Garden, an outdoor entertainment area behind a confectionery store which was a prime Salem gathering spot through the 1950's.

Guy Neal Building Description: This is a two story three rank storefront with exuberant classical detail. The first floor facade has been modified with plate glass and a brick veneer bulkhead. Above the storefront lintel, the original historic fabric is preserved. The elaborately detailed stepped parapet wall is decorated with pressed metal rosettes and rosettes chains both vertically and horizontally across its face. Two pommels frame a row of half rosettes across the top of the parapet, bordered beneath by a row of relief fleur de lis. The entire parapet wall is supported by alternating symmetrically placed brackets with recessed panels between. Major supporting brackets are decorated with acanthus leaves. Three recessed windows on the second floor are framed by Ionic columns whose supporting pedestals are decorated with rosettes in square frames.

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The Hobbs Building (Photo no. 4) Located directly east of the Guy Neal Building is an equally unique limestone facade building. The date "1886" is centered in the parapet. Located on a tract of land originally owned by John DePauw, this building has been continuously owned by the Hobbs family since 1910.

Hobbs Building Description: The first floor storefront retains original painted limestone pilasters however, doors and windows have been altered and a large sign obscures the lintel. This is a four bay symmetrical building with gothic arch windows. The dressed limestone surrounds are topped with bosses. Tool marks are evident on the stone sills of the store front.

A good collection of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings remain on streets radiating from the public square as well. Those within a block as the square, facing Market or Main Streets, uphold the style and massing of the buildings facing the courthouse. The Italianate Routh Building eclectic Streaker Building (Photo no.1), and c. 1926 Bundy Building retain the scale of buildings on the square, with storefronts close to the street frontage. Farther from the courthouse area, the NAPA Auto Supply building on South Main was built as the Pennington auto dealership in 1926. Its bow string truss construction and parapet wall facade are representative of construction on Water Street to be described later.

At 307 South Main, a c.1904 two story storefront was built by John T. Graves to house a hardware and implement store. It is first noted as a harness and buggy showroom on the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. This handsome brick and limestone building, with its projecting bracketed eaves and wide frieze, is architecturally worthy of being placed in the public squares in most small towns in Indiana. The building now contains vacuum cleaner sales and a consignment shop. The second floor is vacant.

The Graves Building Description (Photo no.9) is a commercial storefront with a flat roof and a rectangular plan. The second floor contains 4 bays of paired windows across the street elevation. Flat decorated window hoods are bracketed at the sides and centered by a truncated bracket which bisects the pair. The retail storefront is separated into six bays of large glass display windows by limestone pilasters. The transoms above have been closed but the proportion remains defined by the original storefront lintel which is embellished with bosses.

An historic industrial area located west of the square on Water Street was redeveloped during the early twentieth century and features another distinctive style of architecture. The characteristically utilitarian buildings were intended to house auto related services and light industrial uses. Open floor plans common in these buildings accommodate the movement of heavy machinery. Along the Water Street corridor, bow-string truss, flat and pitched roofs are

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represented. It is characteristic of this corridor that the street facades of these buildings are more decorative reflecting the location of the retail component within the floor plan. Pilasters, decorative brick work and limestone coping are frequently found on the Water Street elevations, while the north and south elevations are composed of common bond brick with utilitarian repetitive windows for light and ventilation.

The Hughes Tire Service Building (Photo no. 11) at 213 South Water, is one of several buildings in the district that were originally constructed for automotive use and maintain that connection today. Many have changed from their original uses as car dealerships to auto related service uses, such as tire and body shops. Smaller dealerships have consolidated, closed, or moved to other locations. For instance, The Graves Body Shop (Photo no. 10) on South Water was originally a Chevrolet, Hudson and Pontiac dealership owned by Lee Davis. Several similar buildings also began as auto dealerships. The bow string truss building at 205 West Market housed a Starr, Essex and Terraplane dealership owned by Everett Graves. During the years from 1910 to 1926, blacksmiths and liveries disappeared and garages appeared. By 1926, there were seven automotive garages and only two liveries remaining in the district.

The Hughes Tire Service Building 213 South Water (c. 1920) features the steel bow string truss roof, characteristic of the Water Street corridor. Its high parapet wall is capped with tile coping and contains a row of six rectangular brick panels, framed with header courses. On the store front level, seven brick pilasters support a wide lintel frieze accentuated with brick corbelling and cross shaped stations. Above the two plate glass windows are transoms which have been closed. Other bays have been modified to house garage doors. The south bay shows the most integrity with a single double hung window and door. The door features divided lights at the top and panels beneath and is topped by a single pane transom. Many steel sash divided light windows line the side walls of this building.

Bow string truss buildings are also located at 210 and 307 South Main (remodelled) and 201, 213 and 211 South Water Street.

Other businesses which, during the early twentieth century, occupied the Water Street area were associated with food and grain warehousing and processing, farm and building supplies. Two creameries, located on the west side of Water Street, date from the 1920's. One was part of the larger Farmer's Produce Company, which occupied the block between West Market and Poplar, extending west to Brock Creek. Two other structures remain from this complex, the building to the north west and the limestone building directly north. This was one of several complexes selling agricultural supplies and feed storage for area farmers. It was formerly associated with the Cauble Mill, which closed.

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One of the more interesting and unique buildings constructed along Water Street during this period of heavy industry replacement, was a tile creamery, which, in 1926, was also used for poultry processing. It was at this location that 2% milk was invented by Roy Robertson. This event is depicted on public mural facing the courtyard of the new city hall. Many remember buying milk and ice cream directly from the Salem Maid Creamery.

207 South Water (Photo no.10) The building is two story with glazed buff colored structural tile. The gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal and is faced with a steeply stepped asymmetrical parapet. The store front features asymmetrical openings for doors and windows. The windows are paired wooden sash with divided transoms above. A single pair of double hung windows occupies the second story.

Although nineteenth century Salem was touted as the "Athens of the West," little remains of the several school buildings associated with this reputation. However, the most significant of these is still located within the district. The Hay-Morrison House was called the Salem Grammar School when it opened in 1825. Although the building saw limited utility as a school, it is individually listed on the National Register because of its association with John Hay and John T. Morrison. The Hay Morrison House, an excellent example of 1824 Federal architecture in the Midwest, is now part of the Stevens Museum complex and open to the public. The Eikioski Academy, Washington County Seminary and Salem Female Collegiate Institute were all renowned private schools of their day, drawing from surrounding counties as well as Washington County itself. These early institutions facilitated the placement of generations of students in colleges through out Indiana. None of the structures remain standing.

The Salem Carnegie Library is located on the main north-south thoroughfare through town, which is also a state highway. Situated on almost one quarter of a city block, the structure's symmetrical placement recalls the Beaux Arts influence on public buildings in the U.S. Shopbell and Harris, architects for the Salem library, are also credited with the Greensburg, Martinsville, Mt. Vernon, Princeton and Seymour libraries all of which bear strong resemblance to the Salem library which is Classical Revival in style. Common features include tetrastyle porticos with recessed wings and central domes. The Shopbell firm, located in Evansville, Indiana, built 18 Carnegie libraries in Indiana [Wells, p. 35]. A Classical Revival style predominates among these.

The Salem Carnegie Library Description (Photo no. 16): was built in 1904. This Classical Revival institutional building has a symmetrical cross axial plan and a pedimented portico. Its main facade is symmetrical with two bays of paired double hung windows, enclosing the portico area. Single quoins mark the transition between floors. The entrance recalls Roman Classic style with four monumental limestone columns of Ionic order and a characteristic oculus located beneath the gable. An identical window,

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repeated under each gable end, is centrally divided into 8 lights and encircled by a radiating brick pattern with limestone stations. The building is constructed of Roman brick with limestone detailing including steps, lintels and sills. Its roof is tile, supported by a full dentilled entablature. The entrance to the building is raised above grade one half story and is accessed by steps. A bracket supported pediment is located beneath the main portico and above the double leaf oak doors. Engaged brick pilasters frame the entry with small windows on either side. These windows have decorative limestone entablature, bracketed sills and lintels. Square transoms located above the doors have radially sectioned lights.

Interior details of the building is similarly comprehensive. The entrance features a round mosaic tile floor design leading to white marble steps. The central atrium is domed with a stained glass roundel at its apex. It is supported by oak engaged Ionic columns.

Throughout its history, The Salem Post Office has occupied a number of different buildings on the public square. The first building constructed expressly for the post office was the 1932 structure located on the corner of Walnut and High Streets. That building, "authorized by Congress" is attributed to architect, James Wetmore and predates the formation of the Work Progress Administration.

Salem Post Office Description (Photo no. 15): The buff brick building is rectangular in plan, with a later addition at the rear. The Walnut Street facade includes four bays of fenestration on the first level and five on the second. The tile roof is hipped with an elevated deck. It features recessed dormers with shed roofs. The central entrance contains a double leaf bronze door with a bronze decorative grate in its transom. The dressed limestone surround encasing the entrance is embellished with bronze decoration. A carved limestone frieze which wraps the cornice of the building contains the centrally located words "United States Post Office" which is surmounted by a limestone relief eagle in a plaque. The frieze, framed by alternating limestone rosettes and larger stylistic leaves. Metal casement windows on the primary facade have divided light transoms above, and are topped with plain dressed limestone panels. Beneath these panels, a brick soldier course links decorative limestone stations with continuous brickwork banding the building.

Built in 1929, The Armory at 201 West Mulberry replaces a smaller and earlier armory which still stands at 202 West Walnut.

The Armory Description: The two story brick building was constructed in 1929. Three limestone string courses distinguish the first and second floors and cornice. The parapet of the original flat roof is capped with limestone, but the roof has been modified to a

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gable and surfaced with aluminum siding and asphalt shingles. Details on the 5 bay facade emphasize its horizontality. The foundation is detailed with brick coursing, the cornice by corbelling and decorative brick work. A limestone arch with a radiating brick reveal frames the central entryway. The arch is supported by stepped brick pilasters. A carved limestone escutcheon is placed at its apex.

The Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is the third jail structure built in Salem. Two others were built on an explicitly reserved lot on the original city plat, drawn by John Depauw. Both were log buildings located on South Water between Poplar and Cherry Streets. The c. 1881 sheriff's residence stands in front of the jail structure on South Main and is one of three French Second Empire residential structures in town and is one of the few designed by an architect, Joseph Balsley. The local contractors were Alfred Shrum and H.H. Routh, both of whom are involved in the construction of many buildings on the square, including the Redman's Building, the Routh Building, Lyon Block, and the Berkey Building.

As is characteristic of most small towns in the midwest, the grandest public spaces are either associated with churches, governmental units or fraternal organizations. Four buildings on the square historically contained fraternal lodges: The I.O.O.F. Building, the Redman's Building, The Lanning Building and the Knights of Pythias Building. Several were built expressly for fraternal meetings replacing earlier buildings which had been leased for meeting space. The IOOF Building Salem Lodge #67 (Photo no. 5) which is still actively used by the Odd Fellows, stands at the corner of East Market and the Public Square. This site was used by fraternal groups prior to the construction of the current building in 1897. Its architect was G.E. Hopkins. In the room used as ceremonial space on the third floor, a perimeter dais surrounds the recessed central stage area. Three sides of the room are dramatically lined with large windows shaded with double pairs of interior shutters. The 12 ft. walls are bisected by bead board wainscoting.

The IOOF Building, Salem Lodge #67 Description: The structure is a three story brick building with Italianate limestone details and wide projecting eaves. Each story is defined by limestone drip course. Decorative brick work beneath the limestone banding further emphasizes each rank. Below the third story drip course is a narrow brick corbel course. Pronounced flat eaves have block modillions with a dentil course beneath. A pressed metal frieze with linked paterae completes the entablature. Vents located above the store front and on the third story are composed of patterned brick. Each story features a distinctive fenestration. Windows on the five bay third story features flat limestone hood moldings with shield keystones and supporting brackets. The second windows have plain flat window hoods with a keystone only on the central window. The storefront has been heavily remodeled. Coursed limestone veneer has replaced the original bulkheads and vertical aluminum siding sheaths the upper part of the storefront. Shuttered replacement windows do not match the original openings. Also removed was

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a parapet sign apparent in historic photographs. On the north side of the building a single pair of round arched windows surmounted by a soldier course drip cap remain of the original window openings facing East Market Street.

The Lanning Building (Photo no. 6), on the southeast side of the public square, housed the U.S. Postal Office until 1913. It also served as the long-standing office of Citizens State Bank, one of two locally controlled banks in Salem, surviving as the Farmers and Citizens State Bank until well into the 1990's. The original bank vault is still located in the pharmacy back room of the old Pennington Pharmacy. This c.1889 three rank building, was originally used as the meeting place of the Knights of Pythias and remained so until after 1910 when they purchase the Benua Building across Main Street and renamed it. Today the building is one of a handful of buildings on the square which has undergone recent exterior rehabilitation.

Through the years the southwest corner of South Main and the Public Square has been familiarly known as Mallott's Corner [Goodspeed, p. 417] or the "Warringer Opera House." The present three story building, built in 1881, served originally as an Opera House and later was used for fraternal meetings. The first floor is now occupied by "The Fashion" a store that has been in business in Salem since 1949, beginning business in #7 of the Lyon Block. Unlike most of the buildings facing the square, The Knights of Pythias Building (Photo no. 3) retains the integrity of its nineteenth century limestone storefront.

The Knights of Pythias Building Description: This building is as high style as any in Salem and this is reflected in its studied application of decoration: quoining, store front colonnade, and pedimented windows. The five bay facade is recessed from a centrally located pair of double hung rounded arch windows sharing a single elliptical window hood with putti. Side single windows are rounded arch double hung. Floors are separated by limestone drip courses, and a horizontal frieze with incised panels beneath boxed cornices. The first floor facade fronting on the public square is supported by 8 Tuscan columns. The arched intercolonnations have dentilled course work above.. The entrance is composed of double leaf doors enclosed by limestone pillars supported by a limestone sill.

There are five churches located within the boundaries of the Salem Downtown Historic District. Two of them, the First Baptist Church (listed on the National Register, 3-21-85) and the Salem Presbyterian Church, are historic structures with sufficient integrity to contribute to the district. Three other churches, although they are located in the district, occupy modern or heavily modified buildings: Salem Church of Christ, North High Street (1946), Salem United Methodist Church, High and East Market (1962), and First Christian Church, 305 East Walnut (1959).

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Salem Presbyterian Church (Photo no.14) was organized in 1817 by Rev. Samuel Shannon of KY. The structure, located on North High near Walnut, was dedicated in 1841, and is the first church built by the congregation. A simple red brick structure with a slender steeple, it is the earliest church in Salem and is constructed of handmade brick and limestone. The building has sustained modification through time. Four original window openings on the front facade have been closed and a c.1950 community room added, rendering it ineligible for individual listing. However the elegant simplicity and proportion of the architecture is readily apparent. Five simple lanceted windows line the south wall of the church. Part of the church's charm is the appearance of the hand worked brick. Beneath the brick is a limestone knee wall. The church interior is plain and undecorated. Its furniture is not original but collected from other Presbyterian churches through out Washington County.

Salem Baptist Church or First Baptist Church was organized in 1810 at Royse's Lick and its first church was located on the South High Street. The brick Gothic Revival building on East Walnut was constructed in 1900 and listed on the National Register in 1985. Of the five churches in the district this was the only structure previously listed. Other churches within the district, have extensive histories in Salem, but they have been reconstructed or modified to the extent that they are noncontributing. These include the Salem United Methodist Church on East Market Street rebuilt in 1962 and The First Christian Church at 305 East Walnut which has been substantially changed from its original configuration. The limestone chapel of Salem Church of Christ was constructed in 1947 and it has expanded to fill most of the quarter block at the corner of High and Hackberry.

Salem is unique in its retention of residential structures in the downtown area. Two of these, the Cauble Residence and the Dr. John Bare Residence remain, but have been converted to commercial uses. An 1887 Sanborn map indicates that as early as 1887, the Cauble residence was used as a restaurant, returning to residential use for a time in the early twentieth century. Dr. John Bare's residence was used as an office and dwelling until the 1920's when the front was converted to a storefront and several small additions were made on the rear of the property including a creamery.

Original town lots platted in 1814 and an addition called Newby's Plat comprise the early upper middle class neighborhoods of Salem. In many instances these homes are associated with families and individuals who were involved in development of the town square.

The Lanning House at 206 East Poplar (Photo no.26) was built in 1867, by a returning Civil War soldier, Azariah Lanning, who became a dentist in Salem. The residence was constructed of locally made brick from the Shrum yard. Its colonial revival front porch was a later addition. This early home has been converted to a bed and breakfast close to the Hay Center and has been sensitively restored..

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The Lanning House Description (Photo no. 26): Although it is so restrained in design that the term "eclectic" is a misrepresentation, the Lanning House does combine several styles. The two story house is rectangular in plan and two rooms deep. The facade is cross gabled and hipped with brackets beneath the front gable. The shed roofed front porch is centered by a pedimented portico supported by corbel brackets. The porch is supported by six Tuscan columns which stand on pedestals and turned balustrade. Five bays of windows are symmetrically placed to emphasize the porch and centered gable. Each double hung window has a rockfaced limestone hood and dressed sills. The front door is topped by a rectangular transom and sidelights framed by pilasters. Garlands decorate the portico, and the gable is faced with fishscale shingles. Among these elements, Greek Revival, Federal, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles are represented.

The house at 301 South Main is the only remaining residential structure of sufficient integrity to be considered contributing south of the square within the district. This area has suffered substantial loss of historic fabric. Several residential structures on the west side of South Main Street have modified storefront additions. The residence at 301 South Main is the only example of a Greek Revival home within the district. Vinyl siding was applied in 1996 during the process of this nomination.

301 South Main Description (Photo no. 9): The house is rectangular in plan and constructed on an uncoursed dressed limestone foundation. A metal standing seam roof covers the front facing gable. The simple boxed cornice and return features a wide plain frieze. A single six-over-six double hung window is located beneath the gable. The house has a modest verandah enclosing the east and south sides of the house which is supported by square Doric columns. The columns rest on pedestals with recessed panels. A low balustrade of continuous board and batten vertical paneling wraps the verandah. The centrally located entrance retains its original configuration with a plain lintel enclosing full transom and side lights. All the openings have been covered with boarding.

There are several examples of Victorian Gothic cottages scattered throughout the district. Many have suffered insensitive addition or remodeling such as the Old Paynter Home on North Main which faces the Carnegie Library. Dr. Paynter is associated with construction of the c. 1900 Italianate Hobbs-Paynter building on northeast side of square and the Paynter Building adjacent to the Knight of Pythias Building as well as this c. 1884 residence. Other examples of the Gothic Revival residential style are located at 311 East Mulberry (Photo no. 19) and 204 North High.

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311 East Mulberry Description (Photo no. 19): The frame cottage at 311 East Mulberry dominates its site by adapting an L-shaped plan to its corner location. Cross gables face either thoroughfare. A wrap around verandah with a pedimented corner stoop faces both frontages. The gable is decorated by curvilinear verge boards with cross-bracing, plain returns and a central kingpost. A triangular apron with a scrolled skirt and corner pendants divide the first and second floors on the east side above a tripartite bay window. The open porch is supported by bracketed turned columns. The balustrade features reduced scale turned balusters which mimic the design of the columns. Below the front gable, are paired arched casement windows with wooden muntins. Other windows are double hung topped by simple drip caps. The window beneath the side gable contains coming with interlaced lancet arches. A later single story addition and porch was attached to the south elevation.

Jonas Berkey is responsible for the construction of two frame houses which face each other diagonally across Walnut. Jonas Berkey built Mitchell House 206 East Walnut in 1857 several years after the construction of the first Berkey store on the north side of the square (1845) Jonas was one of two sons of the founder of the business, James B. Berkey. A dozen years later he built another frame house, called the diagonally across Walnut. This property goes by the name "Berkey House" (Photo no. 22) but is one of several residences associated with the family. These two properties and another very early residence called the Baker House built in 1824, are more closely associated with traditional folk forms than with derivative styles. Two are front gable forms and the Berkey House is an example of an I-House common throughout southern Indiana. Constructed of yellow poplar without a kitchen or plumbing, the home was built in an L form. Although it was previously surrounded by a variety of outbuildings and sheds, the only remaining original structures are cisterns and foundation stones from barns and chicken houses. Early photographs indicate that the full length front porch was added later. All have restrained detailing with multilight windows separated by wooden muntins. The Berkey House has modestly pedimented windows surrounds which suggest influence of the Italianate style, while the Baker House shows Greek Revival influence in its entrance design.

Colonial Redfield House 206 South High is one of three houses built in the Second Empire style by Colonel Redfield, the others the Elliott Home on Market and the Shrum home on Hackberry. Although the residence appears to be constructed of coursed limestone, it is actually yellow poplar with a tromp d'oeil finish. The property was owned by the Persise family, who were early involved with the Persise Hotel (c. 1860) and Sinclair Woolen Mills, and later the Bank of Salem, and construction of the West Baden Hotel. The house was constructed in 1882, and its immediate environment contains many preserved nineteenth century site elements. The High Street frontage is crossed by a limestone sidewalk of massive, stone squares which is bounded by an upright limestone curb against the yard. Limestone stairs and pillars lead to a

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stone stoop entrance topped by an arched portico. A carriage step, noted as a contributing object, is located directly in front of the house at the curb line.

Colonel Redfield House Description (Photo no. 27): The frame two story structure is dramatic in its use of relief patterned coursing and chamfered quoins. It suggests a much grander structure than its reality; however as a unique design achievement, it surpasses the use of authentic stone. The distinguishing feature of its Second Empire design, the mansard slate roof, is straight sided with a flared profile. The residence is constructed in a rectangular plan with an off-center tower and irregularly placed bay windows. The tower which shows a 3 ½ story configuration on Sanborn maps, has been truncated at the height of the existing eaves. Prominent hoods, cornice moldings and brackets emphasize the grandeur of the residence rather than its decidedly compact form. Layers of wooden corbeling, including dentiled, sawtoothed and arcaded layers, are applied to the wide boards friezes beneath boxed and bracketed cornices. Diverse designs for window surrounds serve to emphasize their placement on the building. Second floor window surrounds have flat hoods with pronounced brackets, while bay windows have plain surrounds with flared corners. Pedimented hoods surmount the paired windows in the tower. The off-center entrance is framed by an arched portico with elaborately turned brackets and pendants and centered double leaf doors.

A twentieth century residential style well represented in the Salem Downtown Historic District is the craftsman bungalow. Several excellent examples are interspersed throughout the district. A frame story and a half structure at 205 East Walnut is an outstanding example of the type, both because of its individual design and the fit to its site.

205 East Walnut Description (Photo no. 21): Its foundation and a surrounding retaining wall are constructed of rough cut rubble with dressed stone caps. The house features a low racking side gabled roof with inverted stepped knee braces. A wide front dormer with a shed roof extends to wards the front porch. The dormer contains a bay of multi-light ribbon windows. Its massive front porch extends entirely across the facade of the house the stucco squared corner piers are battered. Beneath the cornice on the front porch, an undecorated curvilinear frieze stretches across the facade. The side elevation contains a tirpartite bay window with a shed rood and stepped knee brace. The front facade contains a side entrance with two sets of ribbon windows. A cross gabled rear addition was constructed after 1926.

Other bungalow examples are located at 209 and 209 ½ North Main, 302 and 304 East Walnut, and 207 and 301 East Market. The latter residence was owned by Gene Shrum. A grandson of Ambrose Shrum, Gene Shrum built the Kyte Murphy Building in the 1930's and the new bank building on the east side of the square in the 1950's.

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Twentieth century popular residential styles are represented by several four square forms in the northeast quadrant of the district. Like the bungalows, these homes were infill on properties originally sited on several city lots, some with grounds large enough for multiple outbuildings. The residence at 300 East Walnut (Photo no. 23) is a frame example influenced by the Prairie style, constructed c.1915. It has a low-pitched pyramidal roof and hipped central dormer. The full length front porch is supported by battered pillars on rubble stone pedestals. Other examples are located at 302 North High and 306 East Walnut.

A notable feature of the Salem Downtown Historic District is the comprehensive nature of preservation within its boundaries. Brick streets run through the residential neighborhoods on East Market, passing in front of the John Hay Center and Museum. Historic limestone and brick sidewalks, and limestone embankments are enhanced by the preservation of small objects like hitching posts, carriage steps and cisterns. In most other communities these seemingly negligible objects have been removed.

Salem has invested several objects with landmark status. The most important of these is the carved lion which stands in front of the NBD Bank Building. Another is the carved limestone medallion which was once affixed to the parapet of the Bank of Salem and now rests in the garden of the Hay Center. The head of the young girl depicted in the relief carving, is said to be a portrait of Lee W. Sinclair's daughter, commissioned by him in Italy.

Located on the northeast side of Public Square in front of the NBD Bank, the lion sculpture has become as much a symbol of Salem as the Washington County Courthouse. It was carved in 1884 to stand sentinel in front of the State Bank of Salem, among a group of building developed by Lee W. Sinclair, now razed to make way for a one story banking complex. The lion was carved from a single block of limestone by Collins James Morgan, who also worked on the construction of the Courthouse. The newels and columns incorporated in the courthouse design are all unique efforts of individual stone carvers.

Lion Sculpture Description (Photo no. 7) The lion sculpture stands over six feet tall in its entirety. It rough hewn limestone base and slab pedestal comprise 70 per cent of this height. The figure depicts a male lion reclining, but alert.

The carriage step located in front of the residence at 206 South Cherry a single element in the nineteenth century street context preserved on the site. The three step mounting block is carved from a single piece of limestone. Another, double sided step is located on the grounds of 301 East Market (Photo no. 25), however the bungalow style house was probably built after the steps were placed.

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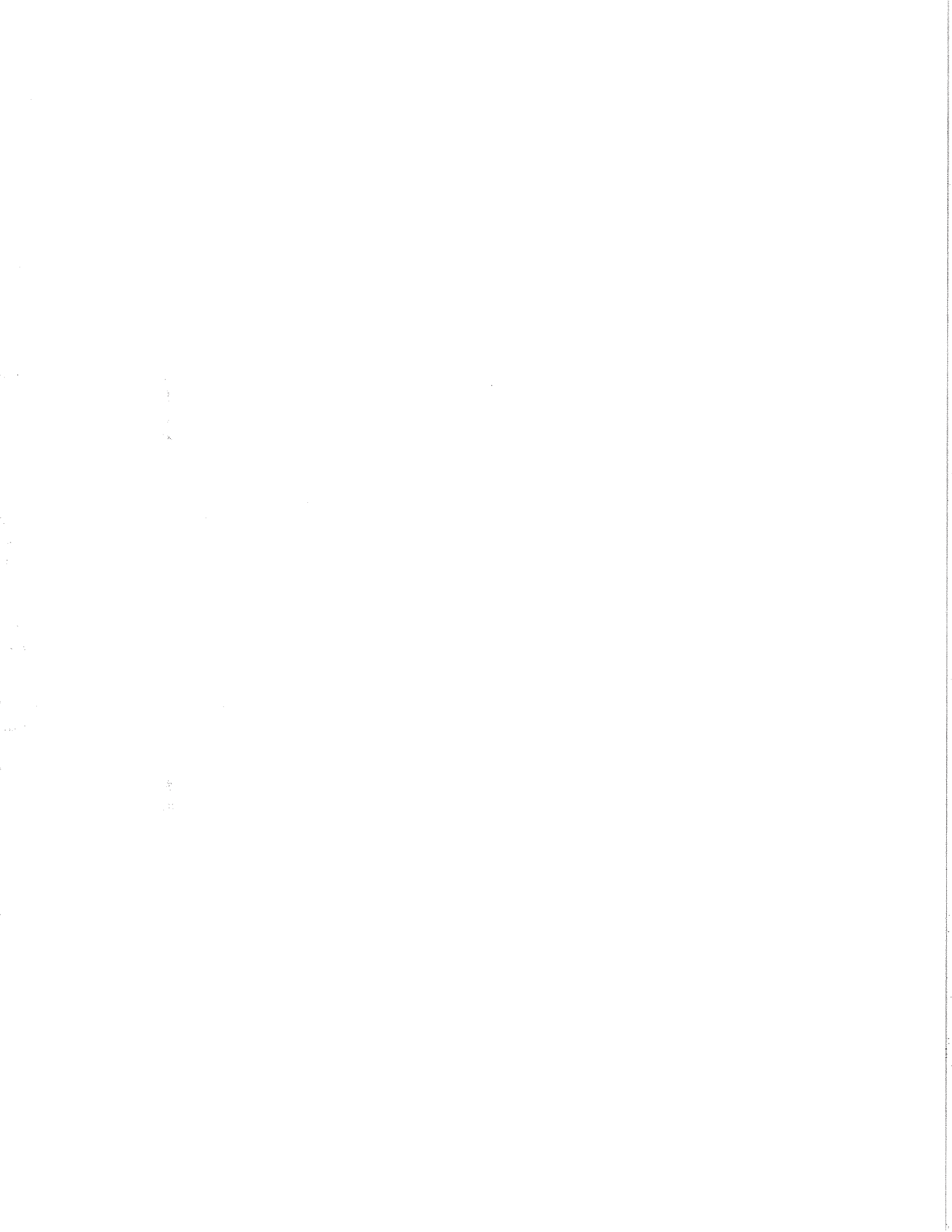
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One of three contributing structures in the district, the stone retaining wall around Lyon Block was built in 1876 by local bricklayers Moses Shrum and V.T. Reid. The uncoarsed limestone wall borders Water Street, was constructed to accommodate the rise in grade and drainage problems from the higher east side of the square. Its originally square boundary has been modified to permit construction of a free standing banking structure. During the twentieth century, doors on the Water Street side permitted use as a business and dwelling.

Numerous early sheds, small barns, and accessory buildings are still located along the alley grids in the residential part of the district and they constitute an additional enhancement to the historic environment (photo no. 20). Often these structures had a more agrarian utility when they were originally erected, so they are now remarkable in their preservation. Alley views feature outbuildings placed closely along the right of way, in many cases the size of these small structures render them useless for automobile storage and this has helped them maintain their integrity. A casual walk through these secondary drives lends continuity and context to the historic residential neighborhood and illuminates lifestyles that have passed away.

Redevelopment of areas on and proximate to the commercial square has occurred in Salem. For many years Salem's City Hall was housed in a building at 81 East Market, which originally was the sanctuary of the Salem United Methodist Church, and consequently the city fire department for many years. In seeking a new site in 1968 the city wished to retain its central location near the square. The Etzler Opera House and Livery were demolished in order to make way for the new construction on this site.

The NBD bank complex on the east side of the square is also noncontributing (Photo no. 7). In 1970, a collection of buildings associated with Lee W. Sinclair, including a retail store, residence and bank building were removed to permit construction of this one story limestone and glass building. Remarkably, the plan for the building retained the line of the buildings along the square, and although this modern building is an intrusion, it retains a sense of closure.



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Summary

The Salem Downtown Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. As a seat of county government and as a commercial center, Salem is locally significant for its role in government, commerce, social history and, in architecture, for its collection of 19th and early 20th century buildings. The relative size and formality of downtown Salem reflects its role as the location of Washington County government, and its place within the early 19th century economic dominance of southern Indiana over the rest of the state. Architects whose work is evident in the present day streetscape of Salem include G.E. Hopkins, Harry P. McDonald, Shopbell and Harris, James Wetmore, and Joseph Balsey.

The city of Salem, established in 1814, is significant as the early seat of Washington County government and for its collection of contributing governmental buildings including the Washington County Courthouse and the Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Salem's early platting influenced its development as an important population center coinciding with Indiana settlers' migration north from established towns along the Ohio River. Because of Salem's early organization, citizens who obtained prominent roles in city affairs, were often propelled into state politics. Among these were John DePauw, James Hay and Judges Parke and Harrison.

In commerce, Salem established itself as a trade location within Washington County enhanced in importance by being situated on the first railroad link with New Albany which was completed in 1849. New Albany, at the time was the largest city in Indiana with a population of 8,181. But other railroad linkages followed, quickly balancing Salem's advantage. For example, the town of Seymour's growth after completion of the railroad linkage in 1857, is directly attributable to an increase in commerce supported by this linkage (see table below).

	1830	1850	1870	1880	1900
Salem, Washington Co.	1,500			1,500	
Seymour, Jackson County		625	3,509		
Bedford, Lawrence County				2,198	6,115

From 1830 through 1880, Salem shows no population growth, but it continued to be a mercantile center with several large mill sites, such as the Peerless Rolling Mills, the C. W. Mobley Planing Mill and the Star Rolling Mills, fronting Water Street. Lee W. Sinclair's large woolen mill was located on the west side as well until a fire in 1883. It was touted as the largest mill of its kind in southern Indiana and its loss put 100 citizens out of work. But growth in commerce per se, cannot be considered an influence on the development of Salem's downtown. It was Salem's central location within the county and its importance as a location of government sustained Salem's commercial position through the 19th and 20th centuries.

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In Social History, Salem is significant for its early prominence as an educational center. Although there is only one remaining building which illustrates this, the Hay-Morrison House, the indirect influence on Salem's built environment is apparent. The plethora of early newspapers also seems indicative of Salem's prominence as a cultural center in the 19th century: the first - *The Tocsin*- being founded just 4 years after the platting of town. The Salem Democrat is the oldest newspaper in Washington County. The level of literacy and culture in Salem is reflected in its collection of buildings fronting the square. By contrast, towns like Seymour and Bedford, which sustained more impressive population growth, do not manifest the quality of building craft, in detail and style. Salem reflects a more high style urban environment as compared with these other municipalities, particular for its small size. Also influencing the architectural formality of the downtown, is the existence of at least four buildings associated with fraternal organizations: the I.O.O.F. Building, the Knights of Pythias Building, the Lanning Building and the Redman's Building. These fraternal buildings are usually three stories in height to enable the construction of large ceremonial rooms. These two aspects of social history in Salem contributed to the development of the built environment.

The city of Salem contains a representative selection of commercial and residential building styles, with many outstanding examples. Relatively few of these can be characterized as vernacular types, as compared with other locations in southern Indiana. Salem is more easily compared with Ohio River towns like Madison. Architecturally significant commercial buildings of the nineteenth century are clustered in the square area, while twentieth century styles are concentrated on Water Street and sporadically appear throughout the district. The residential architecture included in the district represent homes which are linked to the commercial area of the historic district for to the district's development.

History and Background:

Early Washington County was inhabited by Delaware, Shawnee and Pankashaw Indians, who released their land with the 1805 Treaty of Grouseland and began the disastrous trek into the west. All Washington County became "Congress Land," and was organized as a county in 1813. Salem was laid out by John Depauw, who chose the site of the county seat mainly because of its central location and its access to fresh spring water. The original town of Salem was platted on 174 acres purchased from William Lindley and Benjamin Brewer. It included 142 lots framed on the west side by Brock Creek. "Necessary public buildings" including a courthouse and jail, were constructed on designated lots. Both of these facilities are now in their third iteration. The first court house, an interesting blend of public market and assembly space, was called the "stilted castle of justice and equity" and stood on 12 foot brick arches. It was promptly demolished in 1827, having been converted to a livestock yard on its first floor. Initially flat boats carried goods to town. But the navigable waterways were insufficient for larger cargo, and

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because of constraints on transportation, Salem's growth as a trade center was limited. By 1851 the New Albany and Salem railroad had been completed to the edge of town, although its linkage to Indianapolis would take several more years. Settlers came primarily from Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. The town grew rapidly from 1820-40, then stabilized at 1,500 citizens for forty years. The completed New Albany and Salem Railroad, intended to link New Albany to Michigan City, did not result in the predicted growth of the town. In 1910, the population of Salem was 2400.

During this early nineteenth century era, the square was described as being "lined with poplars," which later perished in an epidemic in 1878. In 1882 grading and sidewalk construction on the square were completed. The first frame commercial building was constructed on the west side of the square in 1815. The first retail use was a drygoods store opened by Lamp and Mendenhall, followed closely by the construction of stores owned by a list of citizens who figure prominently in the history of Salem: Jonathon Lyon, and Christopher Harrison. A list of early industrialists including C.W. Mobley, John DePauw, Lee W. Sinclair and Wm Lindley were also developers of buildings in the commercial downtown.

Salem's most prominent citizen of the latter part of the nineteenth century was undoubtedly Lee. W. Sinclair, Owner of the largest Woolen Mill in southern Indiana, he had established other mills in Chicago and New York. The mill developed a kind of cloth which was sold to Levi's Company. Some contemporary advertisements refer to the business as the "Salem jean factory." Sinclair's massive three story factory, located on the same parcel as the current Armory, burned in 1883. Sinclair also founded the State Bank of Salem in 1879 and developed a row of buildings on the northeast side of the square. His own house, called a "flat," occupied the space between the limestone bank and a department store. Photographs of these buildings document the urbane and refined vision that Sinclair brought to Salem. As late as the 1890's the Sinclair home remained on the square, in a tight row of buildings, its site reminiscent of larger cities. All of these have been demolished to make way for a one story modern bank building. Sinclair's fascination for the French Lick, West Baden area of Orange County inspired the creation of a grand resort. Taking advantage of the recently connected rail lines, Sinclair bought controlling interest in the West Baden Spring Hotel in 1888. A devastating fire in 1901, allowed him to rebuild the Hotel in its current configuration. Architect, Harrison Albright [Bundy, p.5] and engineer Moses Shrum collaborated in its construction. Today a single building on the square are associated with the Sinclair name: the Sinclair Batt Building at 57 Public Square. This building, built in 1883, still features the Sinclair name on the parapet and was used as a clothing and department store in the early twentieth century. In the 1920's it became one of the few auto show rooms on the square.

The Salem town square is also rich in anecdotal history and legend regarding the visit of Morgan's Raiders on July 10, 1863. Prior to that incident, Washington County residents flirted

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with southern sympathy [Goodspeed p. 797]. In 1861, an assembly of citizens passed a resolution indicating that there were divided sentiments about the southern secession. The group action documents Salem's hesitancy about taking up arms against its "southern brothers." The hesitancy dissolved after the Raiders rode into town two years later. During the incident the wooden railroad bridge over Brock Creek was burned and the Berkey Store robbed and looted. Reputedly the thieves hid the stolen money under a porch at 203 East Poplar before they occupied Persise Hotel as their headquarters (now the Dollar General Store). The Berkey Store and the house on Poplar Street still stand and are contributing structures. The south wall of the old Persise Hotel remains, but its character is entirely obscured by a 1960's renovation and mural. The limestone banks associated with the first wooden railroad trestle are still evident, but the bridge itself was resurfaced with concrete in the 1940's and the structural components date from the 1920's.

Government

Many important political leaders in Indiana find their roots in Salem, including John Hay, James Whitcomb, Cyrus Dunham, John DePauw, John I. Morrison, Judges Parke and Harrison. Several of these men were members of the convention which drafted the first state constitution. Many sons of Salem went on to contribute at the state and federal level. This linkage served to give Salem influence beyond its size and population. The homes of John Hay, the Washington County Courthouse and The Washington County Jail and Sheriff's residence are all located within the district and have been individually listed on the National Register.

Salem was once called the "Athens of the West," [Stevens, p. 158] a designation usually attributed to the number of reputed academies and seminaries within the town. John I. Morrison was the principal architect of this nomination. Associated with the Hay-Morrison House (79) as the principal of a grammar school located there, he later created the Salem Female Institute and the Washington County Seminary. He was joined by Barnabus Hobbs, a renowned educator and Dr. Benjamin Trueblood, who lectured nationally on world peace. Salem's progressive institutions of learning attracted students from all over Indiana and made Salem a notable center in the early years of the state. Perhaps because of Salem's established presence in state government, Salem was a candidate the first state university later awarded to Bloomington Indiana. Both Benjamin Parke and John DePauw were members of the committee on education in 1816, convened prior to the selection of the site. Washington County's representation in both state houses was direct, while Monroe County had to seek a voice through non-native officials. Histories claim that the only persistent influence of David Maxwell at Corydon, secured location of the new university in Bloomington [Clark p.21].

Citizens also point to a perceived attempt on the part of early city fathers to become the cultural center of southern Indiana. While no one can point to a specific economic cause that

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contributed to Salem's apparent interest in more sophisticated architecture, citizen's speculate that it was an expression of community pride and aspiration, the model being a mixture of Aristotle's educational model and Pericles' city on the hill. As you approach Salem from the north, the Romanesque tower of the courthouse and the town's skyline are dramatically visible.

Early links to New Albany, bolstered the population of Salem with citizens who were sophisticated and active in state affairs. Citizens like John DePauw and Christopher Harrison came from New Albany and held prominent roles in the development of early Salem. Located on the Ohio River, New Albany was an early center of activity in both politics and commerce. Another early developer, Jonathon Lyons was a wealthy merchant from Madison, Indiana before his decision to settle in Salem.

Commerce

Salem displays an excellent selection of late nineteenth century commercial buildings, which are commendable in their current state of preservation. The height and massing of these buildings on the square retain a historic ambiance, with attached building walls and consecutive storefronts lining the sidewalk. The quality of materials and craftsmanship in Salem commercial architecture reflects its citizens involvement in the construction industry, an influence which reached beyond the county seat.

The heyday of Salem's commercial architecture may also be attributed to the efforts of several families active in development at the time. The Shrums, Persise, Lyons and Sinclairs were either directly (by ownership or craftsmanship, or indirectly, through financial backing) responsible for much of construction on the square built during the period of significance. This group of citizens, influential in banking, industry and commerce achieved the momentum necessary to construct within a thirty year period, the significant buildings on the square. Several of these influential buildings are demolished, including the Sinclair buildings on the northeast side of the square. However, in their time they may have served as a guide or example for other contemporary development. Lee W. Sinclair, principal among the leading citizens of his time, was a businessman and banker who presided over the construction of the West Baden Springs Hotel in 1902. This striking and monumental structure is considered one of the most important historic buildings in Indiana, and is also associated with the Guy Shrum, who was the construction manager [Gatsos, p. 14].

Three generations of the Shrum family, whose professional work is found in buildings in Washington D.C. as well as San Francisco, helped lend to Salem the atmosphere of a larger more sophisticated town. Owner of a brick yard, the scion of the family, Alfred Shrum came to Salem from Virginia. He had worked as a mason on construction of the east wing of the White House. Through the years, Alfred worked on the Sinclair Woolen Mill, the Washington County

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Courthouse, the Lyon Block, the streets and sidewalks of Salem, and his own Second Empire style home on Hackberry. Guy, his son, was involved in construction in San Francisco after the fire and the Omaha Nebraska Courthouse as well as assisting in the construction of West Baden Hotel [Gatsos, p.14]. His brother, Ambrose Shrum built the Salem Carnegie Library. Today, Robert Shrum still operates a building supply and hardware store within the district at 309 South Water.

Commercial limestone quarrying in South Central Indiana became an important industry after 1870. Prior to that time, stone construction was more common on the relatively affluent east coast, and made use of the darker brownstone and granites available there [Batchelor, p. 7]. The first major Midwestern structure to use Indiana limestone was the U.S. Customs House and Courthouse at Louisville. The Midwestern commercial market explosion in 1870 is attributable to a change in attitudes towards construction materials partially caused by the Chicago fire. At the same time, the popularity Richardsonian Romanesque style with institutional builders caused new projects to be willingly funded by aspiring governmental bodies. The popularity of stone increased. The Chicago Exposition of 1892, also sparked enthusiasm for an institutional Beaux Arts style, creating a favorable environment for the lighter colored oolitic stone available in Indiana. This change was stylistic, but several technological changes also enhanced the limestone market. Preeminent among these was the linkage of the Ohio Valley to major urban centers via the New Albany and Salem Railroads (later the Chicago, Louisville and Indianapolis or Monon). Quarries opened along the railroad right of way in order to access the necessary building stone for embankments and bridge work required along the line. In addition stone extraction methods were improved with steam tools and later electric power. Although Salem participated in the early heyday of the limestone industry, local circumstances prevented its evolution to major component of the local economy.

James Needham opened the Salem quarry in 1866 [Batchelor, p. 10]. By 1879 the owners were recorded as E. Zink and Sons. Its established market was the sale of commercial rough cut stone and lime. Salem was the only location in Indiana which burned oolitic stone, considered by most too valuable to use for the production of mortar, plaster, leather and paper. By the turn of the century, commercial quarrying for stone building material failed in Salem, because of the increased expense of transferring goods to the east and west railroad lines. The quarry remained open only for lime production for several years thereafter. The Washington County Courthouse, the Salem Hospital, the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, and Cincinnati Courthouse all are constructed with locally quarried limestone

Construction of the New Albany and Salem Railroad gives testimony to Salem's stature within Indiana at the time and an expectation of its status in the future. The railroad was organized in Salem in 1846, and was completed five years later. It was the first attempt to link the Ohio River with the Great Lakes by rail. Well into the twentieth century it was known as the

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Monon line. Several other competing lines were completed by 1900, including the Baltimore and Ohio which created direct routes to the Eastern trading centers. The economic benefit of the railroad line in Salem was most obvious during and after the Civil War.

Social History

As is characteristic of most small towns in the Midwest, the grandest nineteenth century public spaces were either associated with churches, governmental units, opera houses or fraternal organizations. Typically early smaller town retail environments manifested themselves in a streetscape of two stories, including retail on the first floor and mixed office uses above. But lodge buildings usually added a third story reserved for ceremonial space, and in many cases this room was among the most impressive in town. At least four buildings associated with fraternal orders remain on the square: The I.O.O.F. Building, the Knights of Pythias Building, The Lanning Building and the Redman's Building. This exemplifies the local importance of these organizations during their heyday from approximately 1870 through 1920.

In 1896, during what W.S. Harwood has called the "golden age of masonry," 5.5 million American men were members of a fraternal group. This figure represents nearly a quarter of the adult men in the United States. DeToqueville's perceptive comment elucidates the peculiar attraction for citizens of the new republic: "In a nation devoid of established hierarchies and traditional protection, the independent feeble citizens sought protection through association." Reasons for masonry's popularity in this country were many and symptomatic: a renewed interest in ritual caused by a secularizing environment, the desire to build business associations and extend friendships, and the desire to preserve local values in an increasingly anonymous world. But the more wide ranging societal causes for masonry's popularity include ongoing urbanization in the United States and the rapid technological changes occurring after 1870. During the nineteenth century, secret fraternities represented rebellion against an "economically rationalized world" [Dumenil, p. xii]. Evenings of elaborate costumes, sacred rituals, ceremonial brotherhood, and secret communications created a sense of community which was the antithesis of what was perceived as the immoral commercial world outside the doors of the lodge hall. Charity, orderliness and restraint (defined as moderation in behavior) were considered key fraternal values and these were contrasted with the personal selfishness encouraged by the market economy.

The nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings created as monuments to this movement are omnipresent in small towns all over Indiana. The structures themselves were expressive and evangelical -intended to inspire in men the desire to join the organization. Called "temples," the buildings were frequently secular in appearance, similar to the libraries and courthouses designed for the public during this era, but massive in scale. As Lynn Dumenil

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notes, "The effect desired was monumental. Descriptions of the buildings emphasized the massive quality equating size and bulk with evidence of the permanence and stability of masonry itself" [Dumenil, p.18]

The history of fraternal societies in Salem dates from 1817, only a few years after John DePauw platted the town square. At that time, Melchizidek Lodge no. 43 met in the loft of Colonel Clark's Inn on South Main Street [Stevens, p.365]. Several years later, in 1823, William Rodman constructed a three story building on the south west corner of the square where the Knights of Pythias Building now stands [Smith, p.75]. In 1825, 1826 and 1827 the Rodman Building was referred to as "Mason's Hall," after Salem Lodge # 21. Several other buildings were either expressly built for or converted to the use of fraternal organizations, these compose a list of virtually the most prominent buildings on the square.

Built in 1897, The Odd Fellows Building is a three story Italianate brick structure at the corner of East Market which was designed by G.E. Hopkins. Few buildings on the square are architect designed, most are attributed to contractors. The third floor of this building has housed Salem I.O.O.F. Lodge #67 continuously since construction. The organization was founded in 1849. The Odd Fellows occupied space in a building on this site before construction of the present building. The second floor of the existing building is still used for ceremonial purposes. The third floor remains in its original configuration as the main ceremonial room with elevated aisles and seating to the outside framed by a dais at either end. The imposing 14' high ceilings, covered by pressed tin and the large window openings with full sets of wooden shutters express the pageantry which took place there. Dark rooms off the ceremonial space still hold artifacts and gowns.

Another building, built in 1909, specifically for fraternal use is The Redman's Building (Photo no. 3). It features a carved limestone panel with an Indian head and the name, "Tokape Tribe No. 116 I.O.R.M." (Improved Order of Redmen) centered on the parapet. The Knight's of Pythias Building, was renamed after it was purchased by the order in 1910. Today most of these large buildings are underused on their second and third floors, although the first floors are occupied by retail and service businesses.

Ironically, because of Salem's established reputation as a cultural center within the surrounding counties, there are no historic school buildings included in the district other than the Salem grammar school known as the Hay-Morrison House (listed on the National Register 10-26-71). This historic house and school is now part of the John Hay Center, a complex including a relocated pioneer village and a research facility called the Stevens Memorial Museum. In 1897, Marmaduke Hobbs founded the Old Settler's Association, in order to begin the task of preserving Salem's history. The effort to build the museum was the culmination of many decades of respect for local history and a desire to give it a distinctive place within the

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community. The museum, located on East Market, is within the district, built from the bricks taken from the demolished Etzler Opera House.

However, Salem's election to retain a compact community has allowed the continued use and relocation of many institutional buildings within the proposed district. Some, the post office, library, and armory were replaced in the first part of the twentieth century and represent eras of development after most of the construction on the square was completed. The Armory constructed in 1929 and the Salem Post Office in 1932 are architecturally significant but represent later replacements to the original site of these services. The Salem Post Office is significant as part of the federal program which built new central and branch post offices throughout the United States. Constructed in 1935, it preceded the formation of the W.P.A.

Unlike most municipalities in Indiana that received Carnegie Libraries, Salem enjoyed a long-standing tradition of lending books. The Salem Library Association was organized in 1818 and its first collection was housed in the courthouse. This facility of 200 volumes remained in service until 1830. In 1855, 375 books were donated to the county by William McClure of New Harmony, as part of a program for the "mental improvement and instruction of the workman." In the same decade, another philanthropist donated money for township libraries, of which Salem was a beneficiary. A local philanthropic group called the Fort Nightly Club solicited Carnegie donations in 1900 [Salem, Indiana Through One Hundred Seventy-Five Years, p.31]. For \$13,755, local builder, Ambrose Shrum, erected the building. The Salem Carnegie Library is one of a total of 164 public library buildings funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in Indiana. Indiana ranked first among all states in both the number of communities receiving buildings and the number of buildings received. Built before 1908, a milestone in Carnegie's philanthropic vision, the Salem Library reflects the more elaborate floor plans, finer materials and architectural detail than libraries built after. During the period before 1908, local communities were permitted complete control of architectural design. In Carnegie's opinion this resulted in extravagant buildings which were ill-suited to library uses, a condition which was corrected at the suggestion of John Bertram, Carnegie's private secretary. The library construction program lasted from 1886 through 1917, terminated by the cost of materials during World War I.

There are five different religious denominations represented within the district. The churches associated with them vary in architectural significance, having been modified through the years to incorporate expansion and reconstruction. The oldest church structure in the district is the Gothic Salem Presbyterian Church which dates from 1842. The Salem Baptist Church (1900) is individually listed on the National Register (3-21-85), but serves as a replacement to an earlier church located in the district on South High Street just north of Small.

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In 1828 the Methodist Church built their first sanctuary at High and Market. The first floor brick walls of this structure still remain although it was largely destroyed by a fire in 1901. In 1893 a new Romanesque church was built at 200 East Market which was demolished in 1962 in order to build the present structure. Although the church is not architecturally significant, it is notable for the contribution of its prominent members the DePauw family, whose endowment established DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

The Salem Church of Christ established its first church in 1902 on the site of the old Catholic Church at High between Hackberry and Mulberry. The current structure was built in 1946 after a fire. A limestone addition was made in the 1960's.

The First Christian Church of Salem was originally constructed in 1849 on a tract of land donated by Jonas Berkey just east of his house [Mace, p. 15]. The first renovation took place 30 years later and photographs indicated a simple structure similar to the First Presbyterian Church still standing on High Street. In 1905 the church was again remodeled and expanded to include a Ladies Aid room and Sunday School annex and a new bell tower and vestibule. Further additions occurred in 1925, including a complete redesign of the sanctuary and another large addition was made in 1958. The south wall of the 1905 Sunday School is the only element of the church which is historic. Although the church cannot be considered a contributing building, because of its substantial redesign, the length of its tenure in the community and its dominant long-standing presence on East Walnut confirms its historic importance to the community.

The Salem Democrat is the oldest continuously published paper in Washington County. Founded 1827, the paper was housed on the second floor of the Lyon Block for many years. Today the paper, now owned by Leader Publishing Company, is still published within the district at 117 East Walnut. The painted brick structure it now occupies was built after 1928.

Architectural Significance

As compared with municipalities like nearby county seats Bedford and Brownstown, Salem's commercial buildings are richer in detail. Relatively fewer resources can be characterized as vernacular or functional examples. As documented in the Lawrence County Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, within the Bedford Court House Square Historic District, approximately 58% of the contributing resources are characterized as "commercial vernacular" in style. Similarly in Seymour, the largest town in Jackson County, 62% of its resources in the commercial district are characterized as "functional." By contrast, Salem's only about 14% of collection of the contributing buildings fronting the square can be described as "vernacular."

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Salem, numbering only 1500 citizens in 1880, is unusual in its collection of high style buildings. The Lanning Building, The Knights of Pythian Building, the Guy Neal Building, the Streaker Building, the Dennis Building and its iron front mate the Dr. Murphy Building all exhibit the finer design of larger cities. The Streaker Building with its limestone facade constructed in the Classical Revival style, features quoining, bosses, relief porticoes, and carved garlands on a modestly sized building. The two iron front stores, ordered from George Mesker and Company of Evansville, Indiana, carry on the tradition of heavily patterned facades.

A conscious attempt to sponsor fine craftsmanship in the stone carving trade is most evident in the commercial buildings built during a period from the 1870's through the 90's. Citizen's note that the foliated capitals on each of the columns surrounding the courthouse are individually designed with iconographic references to Indiana forms: farm products, oak leaves, grapes, animals, and professional symbols. The designs are playful and imaginative. Other buildings show the same self conscious creativity. For example, the central arched window hood on the Knight's of Pythias facade contains a single delicately carved child's face. The Lanning building is a tour de force of intaglio stone work. Although one carver has been individually recognized (Collins James Morgan, who sculpted Salem's lion landmark on the square), others are lost in anonymity. A review of the 1880 census indicates that only 2 local residents acknowledged receiving a livelihood in the stone cutting trade. Stone workers may have been itinerant, or orders may have come from mill sites in Lawrence or Monroe County.

In Salem there is a remarkably direct connection between the contemporary town and its historic past: a connection which manifests itself in the names of buildings still standing on the town square. They compose a roster of names associated with the nineteenth century. There is also the exceptional presence of residential structures on the square as for example, Dr. John Bare and Cauble Residences. There are few instances of residential preservation on a town square in a county seat in Indiana. Another remarkable linkage is between the preservation of buildings on its public square and existing residences nearby. Azariah Lanning was a dentist in town and founder of Citizen's State Bank. His handsome residence on East Poplar was located two blocks from the square, where he later constructed a three story building. This pattern is repeated by the Shrum (303 East Hackberry), Berkey (303 East Walnut), Murphy (205 East Market), and Paynter (211 North Main) families.

Commercial Styles

The Italianate style predominates in buildings the downtown square and Main Street, and seems to reflect the local preference for elaborate flourishes in craftsmanship. Within a block of the square, the Routh Building, The Knight of Pythias Building, Sinclair Batt Building, Clarke Building, the I.O.O.F. Building, Mobley Building and Berkey Building are all examples of this style. Construction dates range from the 1870's through 1897. The Berkey Building retains the

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finest integrity on its second story, featuring the typical arched window hoods, keystones and bracketed cornices. The finest example of an arcaded storefront is preserved on the Clarke Building. Historic photographs show this limestone arcade continuing across the Mobley Building. A more restrained Italianate style is found on Unit #6 of the Lyon Block. Occupied by Armstrong Hardware for over 70 years, it was in continuous use as a hardware store from 1896 through 1996. This store front contains four original pilasters and large store windows with divided transoms, but the lines are clean and unembellished. Limestone is used sparingly on the storefront of this brick building.

The 1881 Knights of Pythias Building must be classified as Italianate although its Classical Revival details are indisputable. The vermiculated quoining, belt courses, and lack of cornice brackets all give evidence of a classical revival inspiration. The arcaded storefront refers to its Italianate influence. Certainly it is a refined mixture both styles, and one of the distinguished examples of a nineteenth century commercial building in this region. In contrast the Berkey Building can be considered an uncompromised example of the Italianate style and the Lyon Block an early interpretation. This testifies to the range of designs in Salem which may be described under one category.

The single example of the Gothic Revival style in Salem is the c. 1886 Hobbs Building. The dressed limestone building retains its heavily hooded parapet and pointed arch windows. A notable feature of this building is its restrained decoration. The building is a good example of a building style relatively rare in small towns in Indiana.

Perhaps the most unique building on the square, is the Guy Neal Building. Stylistically it refers to Queen Anne, Italianate and Eastlake without the defining characteristics of any. It incorporates an array of dense stone and tin decoration. The parapet wall is punctuated by bosses and finials. Window surrounds include paired and single relief Ionic columns. The building is an outstanding example of a nineteenth century eclectic storefront. Another outstanding building, the c. 1880 Streaker Building, may also be classified as eclectic, representing both Italianate and French Classic influences. Like the Knight of Pythias Building, its limestone facade projects a high style urban image among more straight forward interpretations of the style.

The Dennis Building and the Doctor Murphy Building are good examples of Classical Revival cast iron facades. Because of the centrally located second floor oriels, they appear identical. In fact there are differences in the placement of brackets and the number of columns. Some observable differences may be caused by condition rather than design.

Several buildings of this style are scattered through out the district, in the commercial areas surrounding downtown. The General Auto Store at 108 South High is a good example which exhibits the main characteristics of the style. This one story brick building features a bow

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string truss roof with a stepped parapet and large store front windows. It once housed the Kaiser/Fraser showroom and was called Blue Ribbon Motors. It is a good example of an auto-related building, characteristic of the one room showroom styling. Other examples include the Salem Laundry at 205 West Market, which was originally an Essex/Terraplane dealership, Napa Auto Parts at 210 South Main, and the Graves Body Shop at 201 South Water which was built to be a Chevrolet dealership. The former Glass Motor Company building at 202 North Main is also contributing.

Residential Structures:

The earliest house in the district is also a rare example of a vernacular Greek Revival cottage within the district. Before its recent siding, the house located at 301 South Main was a notable example of this style.

There are two federal style residences in the district. The house located at 313 East Market has historic significance in its linkage to Booth Tarkington's family. The two story frame house has a low hipped roof and smooth facade. Its three bay facade is framed by paired windows with plain lintels. The double leaf front door is recessed. The other example of federal architecture is located at 302 South High and has been heavily modified with siding.

Salem is notable for its outstanding collection of Second Empire residential structures., Four of these, including the Washington County Jail and Sheriff's residence c. 1881 (6-16-80) are located within the district. The era of construction of the several Second Empire residences coincides with the accumulation of banking and construction wealth during what may be defined as Salem's boom years. Alfred Shrum builder of the Second Empire style Shrum House (303 East Hackberry), was contractor for the (1886) Washington Courthouse, the (1881) Washington County Jail and Sheriff's residence, and the Lyon Block (1878). Other outstanding examples of the Second Empire style are the Elliot Home (1880) built by Dr. Murphy and the Persise Home (1882) built by Colonial Redfield. The Persise home is notable for its wooden trompe d'oeil siding which imitates stone and the integrity of its historic environment, including the limestone slab sidewalk which surrounds the site. All are characterized by a mansard roof. A preference for this style complements the taste for high style commercial building in the downtown.

This Gothic Revival style is well represented in the district, however they have also suffered the most modification. Three examples with the highest integrity are located at 102, 307 and 311 East Mulberry. The house at 204 North High, although it demonstrates use of one of the most unique decorative barge boards, has suffered a twentieth century brick porch addition enclosed with jalousie windows. The addition completely obscures the primary facade. Another historically significant house at 211 North Main, once owned by the Paynter family, has been

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inappropriately sided. The Paynter family is also associated with commercial buildings at 17 and 47 Public Square.

Although buildings of the vernacular Queen Anne style was extensively built in Indiana, there are relatively few examples in the Salem Downtown Historic District. Notably absent is the Free Classic style, usually a prevalent style in small towns in southern Indiana. The Queen Anne residence at 301 North High displays characteristic irregular massing and a hipped roof. The front facing gable features decorative verge boards and exposed rafters. Timbering and shingling beneath the gable resemble that used on the Lanning House. Another example is located at 205 North High. Both have open porches with scrolled columns.

Although construction of these homes post date the period of significance for Salem's commercial buildings, there are a remarkable number of bungalows in the district. Many are infill structures located on the grounds of larger estates as the land was sold off. The residences at 205 and 209 North Water are modest examples of the genre, both in style and size. Those on 207, 205 and 304 East Walnut and 203 and 207 East Market match the scale of the older neighborhood into which they were introduced and are good examples with high integrity. Common features are stone porches with battered supports and front facing dormers. Other examples are found at 303 East Mulberry and 302 and 305 South High.

Conclusion

Salem is notable in the long standing vitality of its commercial center, a quality which continues even today. The public square still reflects its nineteenth century scale and the historic appearance of its retail environment. Newly planted street trees and appropriate lantern style street lights are examples of recent public efforts to improve the square. The sidewalks are wide and generous, and storefronts retain large glass windows that invite pedestrian traffic. Several rehabilitation projects are evident.

Salem's continuing sense of pride and industry is evident in an article printed in the Democratic Sun in 1896: "The store buildings are mostly constructed of brick, some of them being fitted up elaborately and at great expense, Almost every line of business is represented in town, drygoods, and general merchandising predominating. Salem is essentially a mercantile town, it's business portion being what is called the public square, in the center of which stands the handsome and imposing pile of stones forming the county court house. It is lively and interesting to watch the conflux of farming vehicles on market days. The square is literally packed with young people brought to town for purposes of barter, purchase or sale."

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Many of the buildings that this reporter must have observed as he wrote are still standing and the quality of the building materials and craftsmanship “..fitted up elaborately and at great expense” is evident. That they remain testifies to Salem’s long standing commitment to its sense of community and the linkages of its families. The presence of the John Hay Center has established Salem’s modern role in preserving Washington County history. The continuity of family history in Salem buoys efforts to protect the built environment. Where other communities of modest size neglect to consider historic resources, Salem brings its characteristic earnestness and industry to the task.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the west curb line of North High Street and the south curb line of East Hackberry proceed east across High and along the south curb line of Hackberry to a point intersected by the west curb line of Hayes Street. Proceed south on the west curb line of Hayes crossing Mulberry, Walnut, and Market Street and following the east and south property lines of 311 East Market Street to its intersection with the north line of the CSX Railroad right-of-way. Continue west on said north side of the right-of-way to its intersection with the east bank of Brock Creek. Continue north on the east bank of Brock Creek, crossing Cherry, Poplar, Market and Walnut Streets to its intersection with the east side of Mill Street. Continue north on Mill to its intersection with the south curb line of Mulberry Street. Turn east and continue on the south curb line of Mulberry to the east curb line of Main Street. Turn north and continue to the alley forming the north boundary of 305 North Main turn and continue east to its intersection with an alley running north and south. Turn north and proceed along the rear property line of 306 and 308 North High street to its intersection with the south curb line of Hackberry. Turn east and proceed along said south curb line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

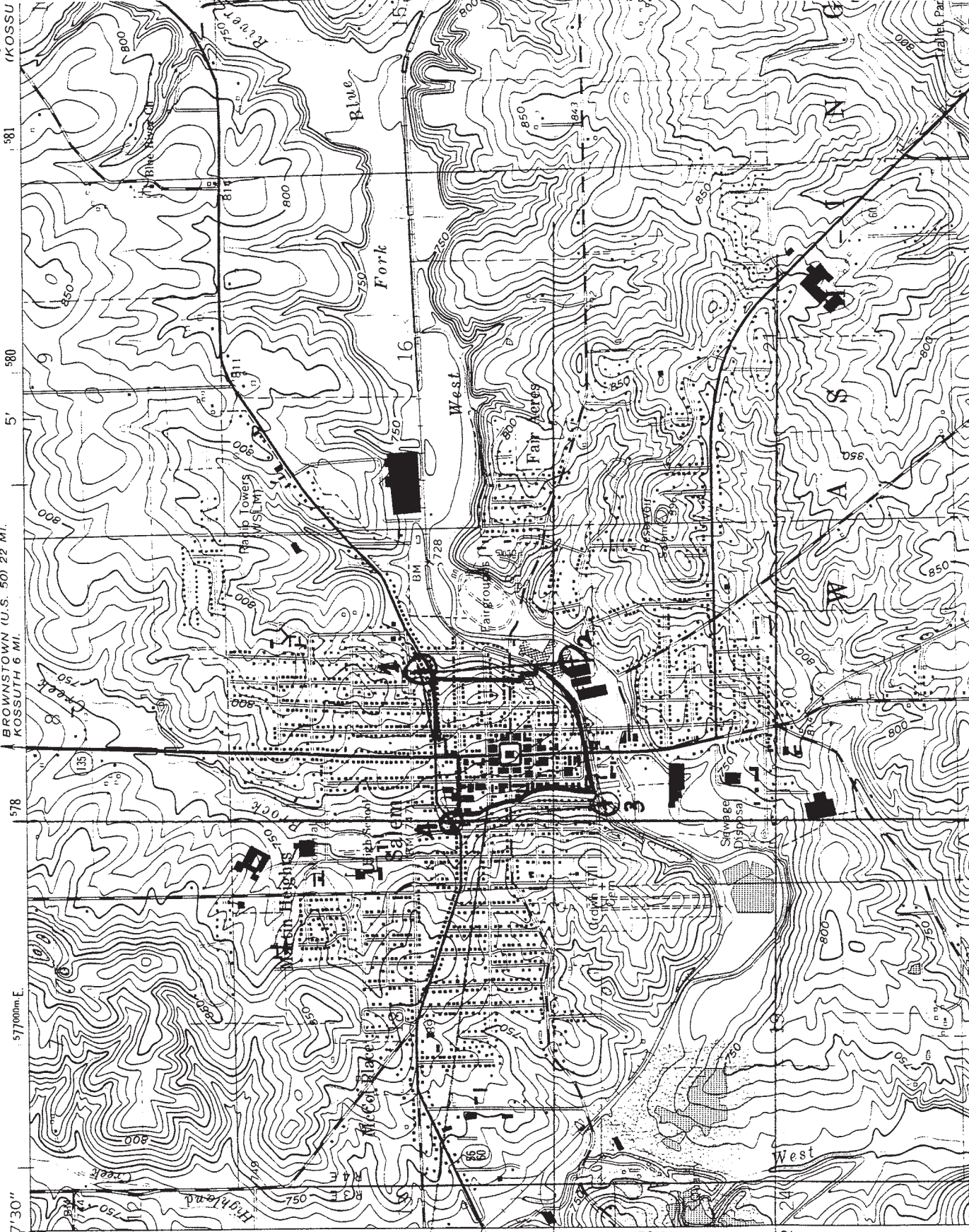
The boundaries of the Salem Downtown Historic District encompass the commercial core of the commercial downtown limited on the west and south by Brock Creek and the CSX Railroad. The built environment beyond these two boundaries changes substantially both in its use and era of construction. To the north and east it encompasses residential development associated with the era of construction which is architecturally significant to downtown. The residential district is justified either by direct connection with a family who contributed to the evolution of the downtown retail environment, or is representative of the appropriate era of construction.

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