

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 Bankers Row Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northwest side of Eel River Ave. from Market to Third (S.R. 17) N/A not for publication
city or town Logansport N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Cass code 017 zip code 46947

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] 7/26/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 20, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 20, 1.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling, SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, 19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsman

foundation: STONE: Limestone, walls: BRICK, WOOD: Shingle, roof: ASPHALT, other: STONE, METAL

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1875 - c. 1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Bankers Row Historic District
Name of Property

Cass IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 9.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	553320	4511550
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

16	553160	4511200
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

16	553380	4511500
Zone	Easting	Northing

4

16	553120	4511260
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 Camille B. Fife
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date 8/28/98
street & number 556 W. CR 1175 N. telephone 812-696-2415
city or town Farmersburg state IN zip code 47850

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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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Bankers Row Historic District
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**Narrative Description**

Bankers Row Historic District is a linear collection of notable historic buildings, located along the northeast side of Eel River Avenue in downtown Logansport, Indiana. The homes face the street and have Eel River at their backs. The land along which they are located is a raised, low bluff along the river, elevated above most flood levels. The buildings form a streetscape, slightly set back from the avenue, with a comfortable rhythm, only interrupted by empty lots in a few cases. The homogeneity of the district is noteworthy, with most buildings falling within the period of 1890 - 1900. A few earlier and later buildings are present, but none younger than 1920. All of the buildings contribute to the district. The neighborhood consists of one family homes as well as rental properties, with streetscape amenities such as historically sensitive lights. The district marks the northwest boundary of the old downtown. Bankers Row Historic District appears today much as it did during the period of significance. The boundary of Eel River Avenue also separates the district, for the most part from the balance of downtown Logansport, which consists of a more heterogeneous mix of commercial, rental and some residential buildings. Bankers Row is the only fully residential, upscale section remaining in the downtown area.

Resources within the Bankers Row Historic District*** House Names from Cass County Interim Report**

1. 72 Eel River Avenue; Gabled Ell; c.1880/1900; (C)
This one-story ell plan house has a cast block foundation, aluminum siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Sanborn insurance maps indicate that as early as 1885, a building of this configuration and size was located here. It is likely that a new foundation was inserted under the building at a later date. However, the siding, roof and one/over/one light windows are likely indications of later renovations. The present porch has plain wood posts, and elliptically arched lintels. There is a small yard with a black wrought iron fence and gates.
2. 76 Eel River Avenue; Bungalow; c. 1910; (C)
This one and a half story brick house has a concrete parged foundation, gabled roof with a front gabled porch with brick piers and concrete steps. There is a central entry and flanking windows, all three with transoms. A brick chimney is visible on the south side.

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3. 80 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1895; (C)
A two and a half story brick house with a dressed, rock-face stone foundation. The brick is set in a stretcher bond. It has a combination hipped and cross-gabled roof, with slate shingles in the gable ends. There are decorative chimneys with corbeled bases. The roof line has a decorative cornice, which is polychromed and contains evenly spaced dentils. There are wide returns at the eaves of the front gables. The building has plain stone window heads. Most windows are one/over/one light double hung on the first floor, however the attic contains a tripartite Palladian window. The window at right on the ground floor is oversized, tripartite, with an elliptical arch stone head. There is decorative carved work on the left and right ends and a raised roll molding overtop. The vertical stiles between the lights are scroll cut with fluting. A decorative veranda on the south and east facades contains a turret and a pediment at the front entry. Spindle work, round posts with capitals and an openwork rail, all polychromed, complete the porch ornamentation. The front, double leaf oak door is carved, with a single upper light and a transom.
4. 94 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1890; (C)
A two and a half story brick house built with an irregular plan, and a stone foundation. There is a high-pitched hipped and cross-gabled combination roof with its slate shingles overlaid by crumbling asphalt. The house has a wide decorative cornice and a front, gabled bay, mitred at the corners with scroll work brackets and a pedimented gable end within which are medallions and fishscale shingles. There is a lunette, round arch attic window. The main windows of the house have large, rock-face stone heads and dressed stone sills with one/over/one lights. There are two porches with open work, lattice, turned posts and pierced infill in the shed roof end. All porch foundations are of modern concrete block. The north porch has original double leaf wood doors with single upper lights and transom, the south porch door is boarded up.
5. 98 Eel River Avenue; Italianate; c. 1875; (C)
This two story, common bond brick house has an irregular plan typical of this style with a low hipped roof, wide eaves and double scrolled brackets in the cornice. The windows are one/over/one light with elliptical arched openings and wide brick lintels with scrolled stone labels, keystones and dressed stone sills with decorative brackets.

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The main window in the front bay, second floor (a double window) has similar detailing. On the first floor, the main window is a tripartite bay with ornate wood lintels and a bracketed cornice. The main doors in the two front bays have transoms and segmental (or elliptical) arched heads. There is a brick porch and side verandah.

6. 102 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1900; (C)
A two and a half story brick house with a rock-face stone foundation, irregular plan, roof with cross gables and a cornice with dentils. The front gable end has a tripartite window with decorative heads with dentils, flat window openings, one/over/ one lights and modern storm windows. The porch is much later than the house, possibly built in the 1920s. The main door has colonial revival pilasters with side surrounds and lunette window. There is a side entry with wrought iron posts, plastic shed roof and a modern door.
7. 110 Eel River Avenue; Wiggs House*; Queen Anne; c. 1885; (C)
This two and a half story brick house has a rock-face stone foundation with a dressed stone water table course. The brick is a stretcher bond. It has a hipped roof with front and side cross gables and a high pitched tower on the southeast corner. There is a decorative cornice and frieze with a course of red terra cotta at the line of the window heads. The windows on the north bay have round arched heads with corbeled, radiating brick surrounds; other windows have segmental arch openings with vermiculated stone surrounds. The front face of the building has lost its porch and has a central entry with a modern full light door. The ground floor north bay has a tripartite, round arched window. Lunette attic windows in the gable end of the bay add interest. There is a rectangle panel of decorative red terra cotta inset in the wall of the tower bay.
8. 118 Eel River Avenue; Fines-Campbell House*; Queen Anne; 1878/1894; (C)
This attractive two and a half story brick house has a rock-faced stone foundation and a dressed stone water table course. It is built in a cross plan with a high combination pyramid and gabled roof. The rear tower was added in a remodeling of 1894. The cross-gabled roof is jerkin-headed at the north and south gables; there is a crocket in the point of the pyramid. The gable ends have stick-type infill and scroll work, with three, flat-headed attic windows, the center window having the greatest height. The mitred corners of the front bay are

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decorated with pendants and scrolled applicade. All the windows are flat, one/over/one light, with radiating brick voussoirs at the heads. A dressed stone course serves as the sills. Below the second floor sills there is a course of saw-tooth brick and above the heads on the first floor is a course of dentils. The front veranda is supported by plain, fluted columns and has a wood floor. The pediment in the front entry is decorated with raised, floral motifs and there are rows of dentils as friezes in the cornice and above the lintel. The main door is a double leaf oak with upper lights and panels. The Tower bay in the rear contains a decorative cornice and rooftop crocket. It has a rubble stone foundation with a dressed stone water table.

9. 124 Eel River Avenue; Italianate; c. 1880; (C)
This graceful home is a two and a half story brick, irregular plan building with a low, hipped roof and a wide cornice with ornate fluted and scrolled brackets. Most of the trim on the house is in limestone, including brackets, window hoods and foundation. The latter is of dressed stone, painted, with a dressed water table. The windows on the house have high round arches with ornate hoods keystones, bullets and slight scrolled brackets at the ends. The windows are one/over/one light, double hung with flat stone sills, except for two round windows on the second floor, north and south sides. The double leaf, wood main door contains round arch, single lights. The segmental arch opening is highlighted by radiating voussoirs. The entry in the side at the rear of the porch has a segmental arch, two rows of radiating bricks and a transom. The door has a single upper light and a wood storm. The veranda across the north part of the front and side is supported by fluted columns above a lattice stone rail, with rock-face piers. The porch roof is new above the old lintel with curved sides and scrolled brackets. There is a pedimented entry roof also adorned with scroll work. The property has a wrought iron fence and gates. Stone steps lead to the front porch and two large sycamores provide shade to the front yard and street.
10. 128 Eel River Avenue; Gilman House*; Italianate/Greek Revival; c. 1880; (C)
A two and a half story, cross plan house with wide, decorative returns at the eaves and a medium-high gable roof. The central bay contains a single attic window, double windows on the second floor and a protruding bay with three windows on the ground floor. All windows have segmental stone heads with keystones, extended labels and wings

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as well as dressed stone sills. Most windows are one/over/one light double hung. The side porch on the southwest has fluted columns with Doric capitals and paneled piers, turned balustrade and a painted, dressed stone foundation. There is a replacement porch on the north side and a modern carport. A c. 1920 brick garage has been built on the rear of the north side.

11. 136 Eel River Avenue; Italianate/ Italian Villa; c.1875; (C)
A stately two and a half story brick house, with a stretcher bond. The building has an ell plan with a rear extension and an enclosed front porch (a modern replacement for the original which wrapped around the south side). The three-story tower is square, with a flat roof and parapet cap, below which are round arched windows set into recessed panels on the south and east sides. Other windows on the house have segmental arches. All have ornate window hoods with keystones and labels with sawtooth ends. The sills on the third floor tower are elongated dressed stone which run the width of the recessed panel. On the other floors, they are comprised of a dressed stone sill with modified brackets. The bay window, front, has a flat roof, wooden, round arched window heads with keystones and above, a cornice with scrolled brackets and decorative molding. The pilasters between the windows have a rope molding in the center. The building has a coursed, rock-faced foundation with a dressed water table course. The main door within the porch is a double leaf of oak with single upper lights and segmental arch. The property has a wrought iron fence and posts around the front yard.

12. 142 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1890; (C)
This is a two story, irregular plan brick house with a combination pyramid and cross gabled roof. It has interlocking asphalt shingles with extensive paneled and shingled woodwork in the gable ends, along with a tripartite attic window containing an ornate surround. The cornice around the house is also ornate, with brackets at the ends, decorative molding and dentils. On the north side there is an enclosed wood frame sun porch with tripartite windows and some ornamental wood trim, more modest than the rest of the house. The front bay contains an oriel window on the second floor with carved and fluted pilasters. Below this is a segmental arched tripartite window with a curved head, polychromed floral squares inserted and a

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keystone. The rock-face stone foundation is topped with a course of dressed stone as a water table. The first floor of the porch is of brick, with a concrete foundation. A wrought-iron fence with ornamental posts encloses the front yard.

13. 200 Eel River Avenue; American Four-Square/Prairie; c. 1890/1905; (C)
This two and a half story brick, rectangular plan building has a one story front, enclosed sun porch which was added c. 1905, along with a verandah, the configuration of which is retained in the present raised, concrete walk which now serves as the main entry to the property. It has a hipped roof with wide eaves and a plain frieze, with a hipped roof dormer in the front. The sun porch has a brick foundation, walls and piers, with decorative brackets and multi-paned fixed windows. The rest of the windows are one/over/one light double hung, with dressed stone heads on the second floor and rock-faced stone heads on the first floor. The main door, within the sun porch is recessed and has a transom and side lights. The building presently houses the Modern Woodmen of America, district office.
14. 204 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1900; (C)
A two and a half story brick, rectangular plan house with an irregular plan roof. It has medium-wide eaves with narrow, evenly spaced brackets. The windows are one/over/one lights with rock-faced stone heads and sills. There is a rock-face stone water course at the basement ceiling line. The open front porch is square with a wide lintel and decorative cornice supported by four fluted columns with capitals with egg & dart molding and roundels, all on a brick wall with rock-face stone coping.
15. 208 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne/Colonial Revival; c.1900; (C)
This brick home is two and a half stories high with a rectangular plan and a cross-gabled roof with wide eaves with decorative cornice and dentils at the roof line. There are returns at the eaves, fishscale shingles and a Palladian window in the gable ends. The windows have rock-face stone lintels and narrower sills. The first floor side entry on the north contains a transom with three lights. The front enclosed brick porch was added later (perhaps c. 1920) and has multi-paned windows, concrete floor and steps and a wide wood cornice. The main front door inside the porch has a wide decorative wood surround with fluted pilasters and projecting cornice.

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16. 210 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne; c. 1895; (C)
A rectangular plan house, two and a half story, brick, with a combination hipped and cross-gabled roof with medium wide eaves and a hipped roof dormer on the front. The front gable end contains fishscale shingles, a double window, a wide lintel with dentils and a projecting cornice overtopped by an applicade lunette with an exaggerated keystone. The side gable is similar. The building has one/over/one light windows for the most part, with stone lintels and sills. There is an ornamental oval window to the left of the main entry with four keystones. The oversize window on the north bay of the ground floor has a single light below, and stained glass in the transom. There is a front, gabled porch with ornate brackets atop brick columns. The stoop and coping is of dressed stone. The main door is wood with a single upper light.
17. 218 Eel River Avenue; Queen Anne/Italianate; C. 1880; (C)
A combination hipped and cross-gabled roof on this house identify it with the Queen Anne style which is so prevalent on Bankers Row. An ornate bracketed and decorated cornice provide some of the Italianate influence. Above, on the front gable is a screened, round arch opening to a small attic door. The gable has a double molding above with a keystone surmounted by a small copper spire. The windows on the front facade have segmental arch openings, with rock-face heads with small labels. The oversize window on the ground floor also has a segmental arched opening with an interesting stone head, combining rock-face stone with projecting carved rolls as decorations. The window is tripartite with two fluted pilasters separating the lights, and a three-part transom with stained and art glass. Other details include a marker on the north side of the house which memorializes the level reached by the 1913 flood and, on the second floor, a stained glass window which pictures the family dog. The front doorway within the open porch has a transom and stained glass. The door itself has a single upper light. There is a side front window off the porch which is also ornamented with stained glass. The open porch has stone capitals and coping above walls of alternating dressed and rock-face stone courses.

A double garage at the rear, south side is shared by nos 210 and 218. It probably dates to about 1920.

18. 222 Eel River Avenue; American Four Square/Queen Anne; c. 1900; (C)

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A two-story rectangle plan house with a hipped roof, medium wide eaves, cross gable on the south side and a gabled dormer at front. The south wing has mitred corners and small brackets with two small square windows in the gable end. Three square windows trace the interior stair on the south wall. The front facade has a double window at right and a single, one/over/one light window at right on the second floor. The main entry off of the porch has a multilight door at left and an oversize window at the right, both with transoms. There is a small garage at rear of cast stone block.

19. 226-228 Eel River Avenue; Gable Front; c. 1920; (C)
This two and a half story brick building is one of the more modest in Bankers Row. It is a duplex, with a high, front gable with a jerkin head roof. There are shingles in the front gable and a small, double attic window. Two second floor windows with flat heads are above the open porch which runs the width of the building. The ground floor has two main doors in the center, with multi-paned lights and wide flat heads. Multi-paned windows flank the doors, left and right. The porch has rug-finish brick walls and piers below a wide lintel.

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Statement of Significance

Summary:

Bankers Row Historic District meets National Register Criteria C. It is significant for the quality of its architecture, representing, as it does, some excellent examples of architectural styles which were popular in the town of Logansport during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, especially the Queen Anne and Italianate. It also gains significance for its association with the growth and development of turn-of-the-century Logansport, a lively river town in north central Indiana that enjoyed commercial success, first because of its connection in 1840 with the Wabash & Erie Canal, and second, in the 1850s, through the advent of railroad transport through the town. The wealth which was generated by these two propitious undertakings sustained the commercial (including banking) interests of the town well into the twentieth century. The district was given the name "Bankers Row" by local residents during the last decade, because of its association, early in the century, with men in that field of endeavor.

Statement of Significance

In the first quarter of the nineteenth century, when the Indiana wilderness was a maze of forests, with few trails save those worn by native Americans, water transport was a boon to settlement. Although only the flattest or lightest of boats could engage the small internal waterways, they still formed the basis for early development - until they were usurped by canals, roads and rails. Further, even the smallest stream could be harnessed to turn a mill wheel, thus river power became fuel for industry. Strategically located at the juncture of two rivers, the Wabash and the Eel, Logansport was richly blessed with water.

When the first settlers in the area established the town in 1828, they laid it out on the rich peninsular flat between the two rivers, where satisfactory drainage could be established. Unfortunately this was also within a zone which would prove prone to flooding. Bankers Row Historic District, located along the Eel River, just north of the spot where it joins the Wabash River, was at the heart of this peninsula. At least one home has a marker which verifies the high water mark of a famous flood. Some areas in Logansport were flooded seven times in the past.

The town they founded enjoyed a varied and pleasant topography, with 150 to

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200 foot high bluffs, part of the ancient glacial spillway, in the northwest portion of the town. The Eel River was the source of the city's water, with a water works located on the river, (at least by the 1870s) upstream, at about Eighth Street. The hill district lies at about 750 - 800 feet above seal level, while the lower ground, near the juncture of the rivers is at an altitude of 576 feet. The town also enjoyed abundant natural resources, including a rich local topsoil of well-drained silt loams, available limestone, sand, marl and gravel as well as the previously mentioned water power. In addition, in the early part of the nineteenth century, when settlement was occurring, the area was heavily timbered with native hardwoods, including Beech, Oak, Ash, Elm, Walnut and Hickory.¹

Treaties with the Miami and Potawatomie Indians, concluded in 1826, had made the land around Logansport available for settlement by white Americans. Alexander Chamberlain had purchased land even before the treaties were completed and by 1826 he had erected a log building and tavern.² Two years later, in 1828, General John Tipton, formerly Indian agent at Fort Wayne, transferred to Logansport, where the agency remained for many years. The same year, Chauncey Carter surveyed the original plat of the town, with 111 lots between the rivers and extending east to Fifth Street. The site of Bankers Row would have been within this area, but the lots were not laid out until they were subdivided as James Chaney's Addition (not later than 1875). The Original Plat of the town of Logansport was recorded in September, 1828.³ The town was named after the English name of a Shawnee Chief, Captain Logan, who lost his life in November, 1812, as a tribute to his fidelity to the American cause. The suffix was added as an acknowledgment of the town's potential as a river "port".⁴

Logansport is located in Cass County, Eel Township. The area which it now encompasses was part of Tippecanoe County, then for a short while, it was part of neighboring Carroll County, where the original town plat was

¹Richard J. Houk, *The Geography of Logansport, Indiana*, MA Thesis, Dept of Geology & Geography, IU, Oct. 1942, pp. 1-9.

² Jehu Powell, *History of Cass county, Indiana*, Evansville, IN: Unigraphic, 1972, Reprint, orig. Pub. Lewis Pub. Co., 1913, p. 322.

³ Ibid., pp. 322-323.

⁴ Ibid., p. 324.

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recorded. By December of 1829, Logansport and Eel Township were recognized as part of the newly-formed Cass County. Township boundaries were revised several times and their present delineations were determined in by the 1840s. The final boundaries of the county were not set by the legislature until 1852. The County was named for Lewis Cass who was the governor of the Michigan Territory at the time. In August of 1829, Logansport had been chosen the County seat, a distinction which it retains to this day.⁵

Two boons to county development arrived in Logansport within a few years of each other. The first occurred in 1837-1838 with the completion of the Michigan Road through the town.⁶ This was one of the first major transportation arteries in the northern part of the state, traveling from Indianapolis to the south and going north to Lake Michigan, where access to eastern markets was afforded via the Great Lakes waterways.

The Wabash & Erie Canal was completed through Logansport by 1840, its presence providing the second boon to early development. The route of the canal followed present day Erie Street to Market Street where it turned north along Fifth Street to the Eel River, crossing via an aqueduct and continuing out of the town in a northwesterly direction. Eventually the Wabash & Erie would become the longest of the canals built in the mid west during the first half of the nineteenth century. The northern section of the canal, built first, lasted until about 1876, when it was abandoned. Nonetheless, during its first years, towns like Logansport became focal points for industrial and agricultural interests who used the waterway as a major artery for trade. During this era, quarries for local limestone opened along the canal route and stone for construction of some of the town's buildings, including the 1841 county courthouse, was transported via canal boats.⁷

While Logansport was still enjoying the prosperity of a nineteenth century river town, the first railroad came through the town. Eventually eight divisions of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Wabash mainline would be headquartered there. Extensive locomotive and car repair shops thrived in

⁵Robeson, Samuel A., *Cass County Interim Report*, Indianapolis, IN: Indiana, DNR, DHPA, 1984, p. xvi.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

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the town. Approximately 2000 men were employed in the shops and another 2000 persons worked in jobs connected with railroad passenger and freight services. Logansport enjoyed an era of peak prosperity between 1856, when the town's first railroad reached across the state to Eastern markets, and the late 1920s, when prosperity began to decline. Cass County population reached 38,333 during this era, almost the same as it enjoyed in 1990.⁸ Bankers Row, like many other areas of the town, benefitted from this prosperity and its history of distinguished citizen-residents can be traced to the early part of the twentieth century, during the peak of prosperity.

Although the first few years of the canal were slow, by 1842, when the eastern portion had been connected via the Maumee canal in Ohio, to Lake Erie, warehouses and commercial businesses began to bloom along the canal and in the business district which surrounded it. New residents arrived and began commercial ventures which soon prospered, with the town a focal point for regional agriculture and industry. Mills, a tannery, cooperage, spoke, handle and wood works, several foundries, wagon and carriage factories, pump factories, granite works, breweries and many others all burst forth.⁹ This economic activity spurred many other service businesses, including banks.

The first bank in Logansport was a private enterprise, founded by James Warren c. 1837. These early ventures were informal affairs - some combined with brokerage and insurance activities. Most did not have the capital or the stamina to survive the turbulent times. During the 1850s, the Hoosier Bank and the Wabash Valley Bank operated, but both were eventually closed. Two others, Tippecanoe Bank and the People's Bank also operated for about a decade and then disbanded. In 1856, the Logansport Branch of the State Bank of Indiana opened, with James Chaney as one of its stockholders and later, its president and manager. (Mr. Chaney was the developer of Chaney's addition, within which Bankers Row is located.) This bank had an honorable history and when a national banking system emerged in 1865, its business was taken over by the Logansport National Bank, Logansport and Cass County's first national bank. Many of the same directors were involved, including James Chaney. Two residents of Bankers Row were identified with this bank, which, after 1883 was reorganized as the First

⁸Ibid., pp. xvi-xvii and *Logansport/ Cass County, Indiana, A Community Resume*, Logansport, IN: PSI Energy, 3/1995.

⁹ Powell, pp. 335-339.

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National Bank. Francis M. Harwood, a director of the bank, according to the censuses of 1900 and 1910, lived at 116 Eel River Avenue and John F. Brookmeyer was also at various times a director, cashier and former president of this bank. (Note: addresses given in this record are correct as of the date of the source referred. Some addresses along Eel River Avenue have since been adjusted.) He and his wife lived at 104 Eel River Avenue, according to the 1910 Census. ¹⁰

The Logansport Banking Company, organized in 1872, later became the State National Bank in 1881. Mr. William H. Snider was a director of the latter bank, and a resident of Bankers Row in 1910, according to the census of that year, at number 136. The ties between banking and commerce were very close during the nineteenth century. Mr. Snider, for example, listed his occupation in 1910 as "retired merchant". (Later the State National Bank was reorganized as the City National Bank.) Mr. Snider was known as "Major Snider", a rank earned during the Civil War, where he distinguished himself in a number of battles. He moved to Cass County in 1867, where he engaged in "the crockery business", in addition to his banking endeavors. ¹¹

The Logansport State Bank opened its doors for business in 1893, with George W. Seybold as its president. The Seybold family were merchants in Logansport, and eventually built a substantial business block on Market Street. Bankers Row residents from this family include George's brother Joseph and his father Abner, both of whom lived at 96 Eel River Road between 1900 (Abner) and 1910 (Joseph).

The residents of the stately houses in Bankers Row also included many well-respected citizens in commerce and industry, including members of the well-known Uhl family, who once owned a dam at 70 Eel River Avenue. ¹²

According to the City Directory of 1892, Miller Uhl, lived at 82 Eel River Avenue. He was the joint proprietor, along with C. E. Holbruner of an extensive wagon and carriage factory which opened in 1883 at the corner of

¹⁰ Powell, pp. 364-368. (And various census & directory references as indicated.)

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 1135-36.

¹² Roberson, p. 60

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Eel River Avenue and E. Market Street.¹³ John Medlund and his family lived at 98 Eel River Avenue, according to the 1910 census and Medlund Brothers, contractors in brick and stone, were also listed at that address in the City Directory of 1901-02. The 1900 census also listed Robert Kreuzberger and John Eckert, at 86 and 224 Eel River Avenue respectively, both liquor merchants.

Others with banking interests who resided along the row included Willian H. Porter, a former druggist who lived at 128 Eel River Avenue for fifty years and also served during his long life as a bank president. Mr. Porter was termed one of the "leading pharmacists" of Cass County, in a contemporary history, who, by 1913 had served in that capacity for nearly a quarter of a century. A native of nearby Carroll County, he attended Logansport public and high schools. After working under a local druggist for four years, he established his own pharmacy in 1889.¹⁴

James Barnes, whose father was a former partner with John Medland, contractors who erected many important buildings in Logansport, also resided along Eel River Avenue. Mr. Barnes continued his father's contracting business and was responsible for, among others, the English Lutheran Church, Strecker Bakery building, Elks Temple, and Odd Fellows building, all in Logansport, as well as many buildings in other parts of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio.¹⁵

The buildings which encompass Bankers Row represent a good collection of the popular styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Queen Anne examples, include no. 80, 94, 102, 110, 118, 142, 204, 208, 210, 218 and (to a lesser extent), 222. The quality of the workmanship is quite high in a number of these examples. Nos. 94 and 110, both deteriorated, still retain much of their original brick work. The latter, shows a great variety in the use of materials, an exuberant variation of roof details and some influence of Richardsonian design in the large ground floor window treatment. Nos. 94 and 118 have similarities in the ornate work found in their front-facing gable ends. The latter example also exhibits some

¹³ Powell, p. 338.

¹⁴ Roberson, p.60 & Powell p. 766-767.

¹⁵ Powell, p. 965-66.

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classic revival tendencies in the shape and form of its porch, and still contains roofline interest in its crocket and corbelled chimney. The other predominant style in the district is Italianate - examples being: Nos. 98, 124, 128, 136. Of these, Nos. 124 and 136 provide two interesting variations on the theme. The former is replete with the bracketing, round arched and heavily decorated window hoods that are indicative of the style. It is an excellent example, in good condition, of the height of this statement as demonstrated in Logansport. No. 136 is more chaste in its decorative elements (although the window hoods are very ornate), and it adds the central square tower so prevalent in examples of the Italian Villa mode of this style. Although deteriorated, and lacking its veranda, this building still conveys much of the grandeur of the style. The examples of later styles or forms present in the district include American Four Square (no. 200, with Prairie influences), Bungalow (No. 76), Gabled Ell (no. 72) and Gable Front (No. 226-228). The first of these is a striking building, with interesting early twentieth century additions, in fine condition. The latter three are not as spectacular as other buildings in the district, but still contribute to its qualities, representing the district as it appeared for much of its history.

Overall, the significance of Bankers Row Historic District rests on the unique collection of notable examples of architectural styles in a midwestern community and the story they tell of the town's great commercial/industrial heyday, during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the west side, northwest corner of Eel River Avenue and Market Street, follow the south property line of Number 72 Eel River Avenue west to the west property line, then continue in a northerly direction, along the west property lines (approximately along the river's edge) of all of the properties north of Number 72 until you reach Number 226-228, turn east along the north property line of the latter, to the west curb line of Eel River Avenue, continuing along this street, southward until you come to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The district is compact, and easily identified as a unique row of residential properties along this section of Eel River Avenue. Between the bridge on Market Street and the crossing on Third Street. The only building on the Avenue north of the district is a commercial building, which is not included. A used car lot and modern building on the south have also been excluded. The property comprises the largest part of Cheney's Third Addition, an early subdivision in Logansport. Eel River itself is a good boundary for this district. While there are a few residential buildings on the east side of the street, most are not as high style as those on the west. Further, commercial and institutional buildings are commonly found on the east side, integrating with the downtown business district. The buildings along Bankers Row have been considered a unique entity for quite a while. An elderly resident

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considered a unique entity for quite a while. An elderly resident explained that, although she had grown up in a home on the east side of Eel River, she felt she had "arrived" when she was able to move into one of the grand homes on the west side.

BANKERS ROW HISTORIC DISTRICT
LOGANSPORT, CASS COUNTY, INDIANA
 THE WESTERLY GROUP, INC. JULY, 1998

- 72  HOUSE NUMBERS
-  PHOTOGRAPHS
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

