

FINAL

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 Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number 089-142-76000

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Clark St, the alley east of Main St, Hack Ct, & Court St N/A not for publication

city or town Crown Point N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46037

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.)

Jnc
Signature of certifying official/Title
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

1-28-04
Date

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)

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

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
30	12	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	4	objects
30	16	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
 GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility
 GOVERNMENT: Post Office
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 EDUCATION: Library
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
 DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
 EDUCATION: Library
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
 LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire
 LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival
 19th & 20th c. AMER.: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK
 walls: BRICK
 STONE: Limestone
 roof: ASPHALT
 other: STONE
 WOOD

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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

Period of Significance

1873-1940

Significant Dates

1873

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cochran, J.D. (Chicago)

Beers & Beers (Chicago)

Kendrick, Charles

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:

Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic
Name of Property

Lake _____ IN _____
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	469650	4585090	3	16	469400	4584700
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	469650	4584700	4	16	469390	4585080
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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 Carol Ann Schweikert
organization _____ date 09-25-2003
street & number 307 N. 10th Street telephone 317/776-1239
city or town Noblesville state IN zip code 46060

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 Erica Taylor, HLEI
street & number 563 S. Lake St. telephone 219/938-2200
city or town Gary state IN zip code 46403-3010

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 6 Page 1

Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
name of property
Lake County, Indiana
county and State

Historic Functions:

Commerce/Trade:	Professional
Commerce/Trade:	Financial institution
Commerce/Trade:	Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade:	Department store
Commerce/Trade:	Restaurant
Recreation and Culture:	Theater
Recreation and Culture:	Music Facility
Recreation and Culture:	Auditorium
Recreation and Culture:	Sports facility
Industry/Processing/Extraction:	Communications facility
Health Care	Clinic

Current Functions:

Commerce/Trade:	Restaurant
Vacant/not in use	

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 2

Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
name of property
Lake County, Indiana
county and State

DESCRIPTION

The Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District lies in the heart of Crown Point with the Lake County Courthouse at its center. The district is roughly bounded by Clark Street, the alley east of Main Street, Hack Court and Court Street. These boundaries encompass much of the original commercial district as laid out in the original plat of Crown Point. There are 30 contributing buildings in the district and 12 non-contributing. There are also four non-contributing objects which are historical markers added since the end of the period of significance. The district also includes two properties previously listed on the National Register, the Lake County Courthouse and the Lake County Sheriff's residence and jail.

Much of the architectural fabric reflects the late 1800s, the period when many, more permanent, commercial buildings were being built, replacing earlier wood-frame buildings. The Victorian styles including Italianate, Second Empire and Romanesque are prevalent. Early 19th century styles are less commonly found. The streets run primarily in a north-south and east-west grid pattern with the only deviation being Joliet which runs slightly northwest/southeast. Modern, concrete sidewalks are found throughout the district and likely replaced the early brick sidewalks. Benches, period-style light fixtures and small street trees dot the district while the courthouse lot is well-landscaped. Modern conveniences such as dumpsters are hidden along the alleys.

Clark Street - North Side

- 104 c. 1880; 1-story structure with non-historic materials on the front facade and a post-modern 2nd story. Non-contributing.
- 106 c. 1908; 2-story brick building with decorative brickwork and egg and dart molding on the cornice. The 1st floor has been altered using stone. Contributing.

West Joliet Street - South Side

- 103 c. 1873; Tall, narrow 3-bay, 3-story brick building. The 1st floor storefront has been joined to the 1st floor of 105. The tall narrow windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors have segmental arches, ornate limestone window hoods and limestone sills. The 2nd story windows have been replaced. The 3rd floor windows are original with four over four sashes. The roofline details include an Italianate cornice with modillions between the large end brackets. Contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
name of property
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county and State

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- 105 c. 1873; 4-bay wide, 2-story brick Italianate building. The 1st floor has been covered with wood siding and joined to the 1st floor of 103. The 2nd floor has 4-over-4 segmental arch windows with limestone window sills and identical limestone window hoods as 103. The Italianate cornice consists of dentils with sets of paired brackets. An arched doorway to the 2nd floor is located between 105 and 107 with "Cheshire Hall" engraved above the door. Contributing.
- 107 c. 1873; IOOF Building. 3-story brick Italianate building with "IOOF" engraved in limestone above the 3rd floor. The windows are tall and narrow with round arches on the 2nd floor and segmental on the 3rd floor. The middle 3rd floor opening has a sign "IOOF No. 185." The Italianate cornice has large end brackets, a row of modillions and a diamond design in the frieze. The 1st floor has been altered with large display windows. Contributing.
- 109 c. 1935; 2-story, brick, commercial building with the original facade covered with vertical wood and aluminum sidings. Non-contributing.
- 111 c. 1924; Minas Building. Beige brick, 2-story, commercial structure. The facade has horizontal limestone insets with engraved diamond shapes and a limestone block with "Minas" engraved in the center peak. The stepped roofline has limestone caps. There are two Chicago-style windows on the 2nd floor. The original 1st floor has been altered with aluminum siding and newer entrances and display windows. Contributing.
- 113 c. 1890; Red brick, 3-story, vernacular building. The 1st floor has been altered with an overhang and enlarged sign block. The 2nd and 3rd stories have 3 bays with three openings in the center bay and one in the side bays. The windows have limestone sills and headers. The raised parapet has smaller brick-filled openings. Near the top of these openings is a decorative brick band with bricks turned at a 45 degree angle. Contributing.
- 115 c. 1915; 2-story, beige brick, commercial building. The first floor has been altered with aqua tiles and a large teal awning. The 2nd floor has 3 evenly spaced windows. The facade has two limestone bands, one along the window sill line and one over the lintels. The roofline is accented with rows of stair stepped bricks and limestone blocks. Contributing.
- 117 c. 1900; 2-story building altered with a stuccoed facade and original 2nd floor windows modified with triangular arches. Non-contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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Hack Court - North Side

114 c. 1930; 2-story brown brick building with a large 1st floor display window, two doors and a set of swinging garage doors. The 1st floor remains largely unaltered. The 2nd floor has 3 stationary multi-pane windows. Attached to the west facade is a small one-story brick garage with front office. Contributing.

Hack Court - South Side

111 c. 1925; 2-story brown brick building with 4 display windows. At the east end of the building is a modern garage door in an original opening. The 2nd floor has two small 1 over 1 windows. "Everett" is engraved in a limestone block in center of building near the roof. The 1st floor remains largely unaltered. Contributing.

South Court Street - West Side

103- c. 1895; 2-story brick commercial building with decorative brickwork near the roofline. The 1st
105 floor has two storefronts and a center doorway accesses the 2nd floor. The first floor has been altered with a shallow overhang along the east and north facades. Contributing.

107 c. 1895; 2-story brick vernacular building. The 1st floor has been covered with vertical wood siding while the 2nd floor is painted brick. The 2nd floor is largely intact with decorative brickwork, original openings and pediments. Contributing.

North Court Street - West Side

19 c. 1914; motion picture theater. The facade has been altered over time and now has vertical wood siding and fake stucco panels at the street level. The panels are also used on the upper facade, creating a grid-like appearance over the marquee. "Crown" and a crown are mounted on this grid. Bands of gold rectangular motifs run along the roofline and marquee levels. Vertical neon lights in strips of three run between these bands on each side of the white grid. The ticket booth projects out from the white facade under the marquee. Two entrances are recessed in the facade on either side of the ticket booth. Contributing.

21 c. 1900; 1-story heavily altered commercial building with stepped facade. Non-contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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105 c. 1930; The deep 2½ story brick building has a Colonial Revival style facade with three gabled dormers. The dormer windows have gothic arch window panes. The deep cornice is enriched with mutule blocks. The 2nd floor windows have round arches in brick and individual cast iron balconies. The 1st floor windows have flat brick lintels with limestone keystones. The front door is deeply recessed and slightly off-center. The entry is arched in brick. Within the brick arch is a wood arch supported by two Tuscan columns. Contributing.

South Main Street - West Side

99 1878/1907/1928; Romanesque Revival courthouse; Constructed of brick and limestone, the courthouse has a raised basement, central clock tower and two- and one-story wings. The wide eaves have large brackets and decorative cornice. The tall narrow windows have round arches. Listed on the National Register.

209- c. 1929; 2-story, brown brick building. 209 store front was altered with beige cobblestone and
211 arched openings. 211 storefront retains much of original fabric and configuration. The 2nd floor windows have three and four over one sashes. The middle three windows have decorative brick arches. The limestone horizontal roof line is broken in three places by diamond shaped brick patterns forming small gable shapes above the roofline. Contributing.

213 c. 1920; Masonic Temple. 2-story brick and limestone building with a raised limestone basement. The facade of the building is divided into three bays with windows in all but the central 1st floor bay where the entrance is found. The front steps, flanked by brick and stone walls, lead to a large portico with balcony. The portico has 6 Ionic columns with smooth round shafts supporting the balcony. "Masonic Temple" is engraved in the limestone cornice of the portico. This limestone cornice is topped by the brick parapet surrounding the balcony. The double entry is capped by a triangular limestone pediment with the Masonic emblem engraved in the triangle. Engaged columns are found on each side of the door. The paired windows are framed with limestone. The roof parapet is brick with a limestone band. Contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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223 1908; Crown Point Carnegie Library. This 1-story T-plan building with raised basement is constructed of brick and limestone in Neoclassical style. The front facade is dominated by a portico leading to the double entryway. This portico has a triangular pediment supported by brick and limestone columns. The doorway is capped by a second triangular pediment in limestone. "Public Library" is engraved in the limestone over the door with decorative scroll work engraved within the pediment. On either side of the door are engaged pilasters formed with brick shafts and limestone caps and bases. The eaves of the building and sides of the pediment are accented with modillions, egg and dart and dentil moldings. Below the eaves is a second accent band of brickwork and egg and dart molding.

The front facade curves out at the inside corners of the portico. The main floor windows have carved limestone lintels capped by half-circle windows with limestone arches. On each side of the window are pilaster elements formed with brick shafts and limestone capitals and bases. These pilaster features are used again with the windows on the north and south facades and at the front corners of the building. A second entrance is located on the south side of the building.

When a new library was built behind and joined to the Carnegie library, the interior of the older building was remodeled for community use. Today the original library houses offices. The new building is only partially visible from the street due to the mature trees. A cast iron fence runs along the front grounds and sides. Contributing.

North Main Street - West Side

101 c. 1891; Allman block. 3-story Romanesque Revival building in brick and rough-faced limestone. The windows have limestone window sills and flared brick arches on the 2nd floor. The 3rd floor arches are more elaborate in brick and limestone. The deep parapet along both street facades is embellished with extensive corbelling in brick and stone. The main corner has a bartizan formed in the brick. The roofline is accented with a large pyramidal cap at the corner and smaller ones along the sides. The 1st floor has been remodeled with vertical wood siding, plywood and stone. Contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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-
- 103- c. 1925; 2-story white brick building with black brick accents. The first floor remains intact
105 with original brick facade and two display windows. The 2nd floor has 2 pairs of Chicago-
style windows with limestone sills. The stepped roofline is capped by limestone blocks.
Contributing.
- 107 c. 1916/1950; 1- and 2-story brown brick building with large stationary 2nd floor windows and
asphalt roof overhangs. Non-contributing.
- 109- 1896; 2-story Victorian building with decorative brickwork. The recessed entrance is flanked
111 by two thin cast iron columns. The 2nd floor has three slightly arched windows centered in the
facade. A name plate near top is engraved with the initials, "M.G." and "A.K." and "1896".
Contributing.
- 113 c. 1926; 2-story, 2 section vernacular brick and stucco building. Originally built with 2
storefronts, the 1st floor has been altered to a single storefront with newer brick. The 2nd floor
retains its original division into two sections, divided by raised brick. Both sections have tall
narrow one over one windows and decorative window arches. Contributing.

South Main Street - East side

- 100 1897; 2-story, Victorian building with angled corner. The 1st floor has been covered with
imitation stone. The 2nd floor windows are tall and narrow. A decorative limestone band runs
along the window sill line of both the 1st and 2nd floors. Stepped brickwork is found along the
roofline and within the Main Street window bays. Contributing.
- 102 c. 1885; 2-story brick building with imitation stone on the 1st floor. The Italianate cornice has
brackets, dentils and floral carvings. The 1st floor storefront has two display windows and a
central recessed doorway. The three 2nd floor windows have carved limestone window hoods.
Contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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county and State

-
- 104- c. 1882/1970; This two story block is actually two buildings shown by the facade treatments of
106 limestone on one and brick on the other. The exterior facades have been covered and the interiors joined together. "1882" engraved in a limestone block near the base of the brick building references the original construction date. Non-contributing.
- 108 c. 1912; 2-story building with decorative brick patterns and limestone accents. Soldier rows of brick with limestone corners creates a decorative horizontal band over the windows. The first floor sign board has been enlarged. Near roofline is a course of stair-stepped bricks beneath a limestone band. The roofline is angled to a central peak. Contributing.
- 110 c. 1878/1970. 2-story, front gable, brick construction with newer brick on the front facade. Non-contributing.
- 112 1883; 2-story, Italianate building with "W. Cole 1883" engraved in a 2nd floor window arch. The Italianate cornice has decorative curvilinear designs engraved between brackets. The 2nd floor windows have a decorative limestone band connecting each window hood. The first floor has been altered with larger display windows and sign board. Contributing.
- 114 c. 1910; 2-story with original facade obscured by a mixture of horizontal, diagonal and vertical wood siding. Non-contributing.
- 116- c. 1878/1881; Originally one building and part of the building at 120 South Main. The first
118 floor facade has been altered and the 2nd floor obscured by a grid of round metal circles. Non-contributing.
- 120 c. 1881. 2-story brick Italianate. The 1st floor is covered with vertical wood siding. The original 2nd floor windows have been replaced by shorter multi-pane casement windows. The original decorative limestone arches and bracketed parapet with the date remain intact. The original facade was wider extending both north and south of this section from 118-128. Contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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- 126- c. 1881/1965. Modern limestone facade with altered openings. Non-contributing.
128
- 132- c. 1878; Wide, 2-story, Victorian building with 2 storefronts. The facade is divided into three
136 sections defined by brick and stone column features that connect to a bracketed cornice. The central section is narrow with one window and capped by a pointed arch with a limestone date block. Both the flanking sections have sets of three windows. The windows are one-over-one with a limestone arch and a second segmented brick and limestone arch. The limestone arches extend into a limestone band across the facade. The 1st floor has been altered with new materials and large display windows. Contributing.
- 138 c. 1922; People's State Bank. Neoclassical bank building. Three-story limestone building with three bays on the front facade defined by 3-story engaged fluted columns and pilasters. The central bay has a single 1st floor doorway, and windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The stone blocks around the 2nd floor window are engraved with an egg-shaped medallion and floral sprays and ribbons. In the side bays on the 2nd floor are round floral carvings that are also found along the side of the building. The entablature at the top of the building, includes a sign plate with "People's State Bank" engraved. Engaged fluted Corinthian columns are found by the doorway, corners of the building and along the south facade. Contributing.
- 210 c. 1910; 2-story, vernacular brick building. Limestone is used for a decorative band and window sills and lintels. The roofline has simple decorative brickwork. The first floor has been covered with vertical wood siding. Contributing.
- 212 c. 1915/1960; 1-story, beige brick building with limestone foundation and accent blocks. Four display windows with one central entrance. Non-contributing.

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
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county and State

-
- 220 1926; Lake County Criminal Court. This two story building with raised basement is brick and limestone construction. The parapet is composed of alternating piers and limestone balusters. "Lake County Criminal Court" is engraved in a limestone block in the center of the parapet. The cornice is carved modillions and dentils. First and second floor windows on either side of the central entrance are unified by limestone enframingent with recessed limestone panels between floors. Window sashes, in groupings of three and two casements, all have transoms divided into four lights. The double doorway is recessed beneath a 1½ story limestone arch. The arch has egg and dart and rope trim. The door frame within the arch is cast iron with a semi-circular window, pediment and urn. The raised basement is constructed of limestone on the main facade and brick on the sides. A limestone block on the south end of the building is engraved "Erected in 1926". There are cast iron light fixtures along the alley facade. Contributing.
- 232 1882; Lake County Sheriff's Residence; Second Empire; 2-story brick construction with 3-story tower and wide bracketed eaves. A one-story front porch was added after original construction. The second floor contains windows with two over two sashes and segmental arches. This building also includes the jail at 213 South East Street. The jail is constructed of brick and extends from the back of the Sheriff's residence to East Street. The jail was built in sections as space was needed between the 1890s and 1934. When the jail was extended to East Street, a separate entrance off East Street was included as a primary facade with decorative accents including limestone brackets. Listed in the National Register.

South East Street - West Side

- 211 c. 1940. 2-story brick industrial building with brick smokestack. The bricks are textured and the windows are small one over one. Contributing with non-contributing brick garage.

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Section 8 Page 11

Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
name of property
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county and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Point Courthouse Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C. As a whole, the district embodies the history of Crown Point from the original plat defining the courthouse square through its growth and development into the 1900s. The period of significance from 1873 to 1940 spans the primary construction period for the existing structures with several significant buildings highlighted including the Cheshire Block (1873), Courthouse (1878, 1908, and 1928), the Sheriff's residence and jail (1882) and the Lake County Criminal Court building (1926). The district's buildings represent prominent citizens, significant events and everyday life in Crown Point. The buildings also showcase several architectural styles and reflect a variety of time periods, styles, uses, construction methods and materials that together showcase the long, vibrant history this city has had.

The Crown Point Courthouse Historic District is located at the heart of Crown Point, in Center Township in Lake County and centered around the architectural gem, the Lake County Courthouse. The district is composed primarily of three north/south streets, Court, Main and East and four east/west streets, Clark, Parry Court, Joliet and Hack Court. The district includes lots in the original plat of Crown Point and three additions, Central Addition, Robinson's Reserve and Luther's Addition. For twenty to thirty years after the railroads began service to Crown Point, there was a building boom. Some of these buildings survive, while others, mainly the wood frame buildings, have been replaced. The existing buildings show a fairly consistent construction period from the 1870s through the 1920s showing a continual investment in the city over more than fifty years.

CRITERION A: COMMERCE, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Settlement of the Crown Point area dates back to the 1830s when Solon Robinson and his wife staked their claim and became Crown Point's first settlers. In 1837, Lake was designated a separate county from Porter by the State Legislature. Liverpool briefly served as the first county seat before "Crown Point House" was named. The name was later shortened to Crown Point. Robinson donated the land for the first courthouse and the public square and built the first courthouse, a log structure. A second, larger, county courthouse was built of frame construction on the north side of Clark Street in 1850. The boundaries of the Crown Point Courthouse Historic District encompass much of the original "public square" area as recorded in the original plat of Crown Point which

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Crown Point Courthouse Historic District
name of property
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extended from Court Street to East Street and from Joliet Road (now Street) to what is now Clark Street.

From all historical accounts, Crown Point grew quickly in the mid to late 1800s, due to some extent on the coming of the railroads in 1865. The Chicago, St. Louis & Pittsburg Railroad connected Crown Point with Chicago with both passenger and freight trains. The Michigan-Central Railroad gave Crown Point daily mail Service. This town which was at one time isolated for as much as six months a year due to winter snows, was now connected with a major city. With the arrival of the railroad, Crown Point's population grew as did the value of its real estate. Census figures for Center Township show the population doubled from 1850 to 1870. By 1880, the population in Center Township had grown to nearly 3,000. Between 1860 and 1880, (two censuses when Crown Point is enumerated separately), the city's population quadrupled while the township grew only fifty percent. This dramatic increase in Crown Point's population demonstrates the impact the railroads had and the desirability of Crown Point as the county seat serviced by the railroads. Even more significant than the population increase is the dramatic rise in real estate values for Center Township property. In 1850, real estate was valued at \$134,275. However, by 1870 those figures increased to \$1,197,291. In 1860, when Crown Point and Center Township were enumerated separately, Crown Point's real estate was significantly more than the township's. These dramatic increases in real estate value, can be attributed to an increase in value due to the railroads and Crown Point's appeal, but also to investment through development and construction by residents.

In 1868 Crown Point was incorporated and divided into 3 wards with trustees and a marshal. The growth and development of Crown Point encouraged the construction of sidewalks in 1868. Because of the heavy traffic, sidewalks around the courthouse square were twice as wide as the other city sidewalks.

The continued growth of Crown Point and Lake County necessitated the construction of a third, much larger courthouse in 1878. Designed by J.D. Cochran, the two-story brick building with center clock tower was located in the heart of the district. Additions were made to the courthouse in 1907 with two 2-story wings designed by Beers & Beers, and again in 1928 with two 1-story wings. In 1882, a sheriff's residence and small jail were constructed. Several additional sections of jail cells were added between the 1890s and 1934 when the last section was completed to East Street.

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The Courthouse Historic District remained the center for all Lake County government activity from 1837 through 1974. Activities associated with the county courts, taxes, property transfers, wills, estate settlements, etc. occurred here and brought citizens not only from Crown Point, but from all over Lake County to downtown. Hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, liverys, etc. were just a few of the services the city needed to provide people coming to the courthouse and they are more commonly found on Crown Point's early Sanborn maps than on those from the surrounding communities.

By 1884, eleven railroads served the area including the Nickel Plate, the Great Eastern, and the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. During the 1890s, government officials paved the streets around the courthouse square with cedar blocks and the sidewalks with stone. The cedar blocks did not last long and in 1904, the streets were re-paved with bricks. Besides the addition of paved sidewalks and streets, improvements to the city included electricity in 1891 and telephone service in 1896. Crown Point was becoming a "modern" city with all the conveniences its residents could want.

With these improvements and increased population and activity, the businesses and services in the downtown business district continued to expand. In the 1860s, the town had a variety of commercial establishments including a clothing store, bakeries, dry goods, hardware stores, groceries, drug stores, milliner shops, shoe shops, tailors, wagon shops, harness shops, hotels, a restaurant and saloons. In the 1880s, specialty shops became more common. In addition to the basic dry goods, groceries, agricultural and hardware stores, businesses in 1884 included meat shops, printing/newspaper offices, cigar and tobacco shops, a jewelry store and even a sewing machine dealer. Sanborn maps from 1892-1921 show many of these same types of businesses in multiple locations around the square.

Other Lake County communities contained a variety of offerings for residents at various times, but those commercial areas were generally smaller and contained fewer types and fewer multiples. Lowell for example was located primarily on one north/south street and two east/west streets with basic necessities of grocery, hardware, furniture, etc. but few multiple merchants and only a few "specialty shops." Hobart was larger than Lowell with more commercial buildings, but only one bank and again, few "specialty shops." Most communities had one or two banks at the turn of the century while Crown Point had three. Crown Point also appears to have had more fraternal organizations

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than other Lake County communities and its Masonic Lodge seems to be one of the more elaborate halls in Lake County. Overall, Sanborn maps show that neighboring communities had smaller commercial districts and therefore fewer businesses and services.

The construction contributions of several prominent Crown Point businessmen remain visible fixtures in the downtown business district today. Amos Allman constructed the Allman Block at North Main Street in 1891 on the spot where one of the first brick commercial buildings, The Register, was built. Amos Allman served as county recorder for eight years and after retirement focused on the abstract and real estate business. He opened the county's first abstract office which was housed in the Allman Block for many years. His sons Walter and Claude continued the abstract office after their father's death in 1897. Walter himself became a prominent businessman, serving as senior partner of the abstract firm, Allman Brothers and vice-president of Commercial Bank which was also located on the square.

W.N Hartuppee, H.C. Griesel and J.D. Clark are responsible for the construction of the large Italianate building at 132-136 South Main Street. All three had established businesses in Crown Point and are considered part of the railroad growth of Crown Point, growth that came out of the arrival of the railroads. Griesel had a furniture store on Main Street in the 1870s. Clark was partnered in a grocery store and Hartuppee had a hardware store. This building housed Griesel's furniture store, Hartuppee's hardware, and later, a clothing store, dry goods and a barber.

J. Griesel, Conrad Hoereth and the First National Bank of Crown Point were partners in the construction of the building at 118-128 South Main Street. Griesel opened a furniture store in Crown Point in 1853 while Hoereth was in the harness shop business. Their third partner, the First National Bank was organized and opened in 1874 by several local businessmen and was the first bank in Lake County. The bank remained at 128 South Main Street well into the 20th century. Today, only the storefront at 120 remains intact and housed a drug store, harness shop and saloon as well as the post office on the 2nd floor in 1899.

The Minas family had a long successful history in Lake County business. Edward Minas built a successful business in Hammond while two brothers located in Crown Point. In the 1870s, the Minas brothers were in business in a frame building on the south side of the square. In 1884 John H.

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Minas ran a harness shop on the south side. In 1909 John still had his harness shop while William Minas owned a tea company. The success of their business ventures led them to construct this large brick commercial building on the south side of the district in the 1920s.

While People's State Bank closed in 1933, its Neoclassical edifice remains largely intact on a major intersection in downtown Crown Point. This institution was incorporated in Crown Point in 1904 by three local businessmen. It had 33 shareholders at the time and was located in the Allman Building first and later moved to 106 South Main Street. In 1919, the bank leased this property for 99 years and built the existing Neoclassical structure. The bank constructed this large high-style structure obviously intending to remain for many years. However, like many banks during the Depression, People's State Bank was closed and the fixtures sold in 1933. The contribution of these and many other Crown Point businessmen helped establish this area as an active commercial district. Many of the buildings they constructed remain today and showcase Crown Point's long, vibrant history.

The buildings in this district also housed entertainment and cultural activities. Cheshire Hall located on the 2nd floor at 103-107 West Joliet was constructed in 1873 with every convenience for lectures, revivals, dramas, concerts etc. Over the years, speakers included Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Benjamin F. Taylor. Cheshire Hall was called Music Hall in the early 1920s and also served as an opera theater. The arched entrance for the music hall remains intact with "Cheshire Hall" engraved in the arch. This block of three buildings is the oldest in the district. Other types of leisure and entertainment activities found in the district include lodge halls in several buildings around the square, club rooms, a bowling alley on South Main Street, and motion picture venues on South Main Street and North Court Street. While other communities had entertainment venues, Crown Point seems to have offered a greater variety of activities.

The library was yet another important addition to the Crown Point's downtown in 1908 filling a void in the community. The McClure Library Association formed in 1857 and located at 106 S. Main Street, was a forerunner to the library. However, after the books were moved to the public school building in 1885, this collection fell into disuse and the community was without a library for twenty years. In 1906, the newly formed Crown Point Library Board purchased land on South Main Street and chose Charles E. Kendrick of Fort Wayne as building architect. Andrew Carnegie promised \$12,000 for construction if the community would commit to provide annual maintenance. The Carnegie Library

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was constructed in 1907 and formally opened in February, 1908. The collection of 1,500 volumes grew to 4,068 by 1914 and to 6,200 by 1920. The wrought iron fence was added in the 1950s. The Carnegie Library housed the Crown Point Library until 1973 when the new facility at the rear of the library was completed. The interior of the Carnegie Library was remodeled into meeting rooms, renamed the Carnegie Center, and opened for public use in 1974. Today the Carnegie Center houses library offices. For 96 years, three sides of this building have remained relatively unchanged. While slightly visible, the rear addition does not have a significant adverse affect on the original structure. Lake County has several Carnegie Libraries still in existence and at least one remains used as a library. Crown Point's library, however, is one of the most architecturally elaborate in the county.

This area with its unique architectural character was alive with activity of all types, government, business and leisure, throughout the period of significance. It was the center for everyday life in Crown Point and Lake County throughout the period of significance.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

Construction on the existing buildings began in the 1870s and continued through the remainder of the 19th century and well into the 20th century. It isn't until the 1930s and 1940s that construction dropped significantly, likely due to the Depression and World War II. Individual blocks or half-blocks would exhibit a building boom with several buildings built within a few years. For example, 103 South Court Street north to 7 North Court Street were all built in the 1890s. Since the end of the period of significance only a few buildings have been constructed with most activity in the district in the form of alterations to existing buildings. The existing buildings represent a variety of styles, sizes, uses, materials, and construction dates. They show the growth of Crown Point from a newly settled town through its development as a railroad hub to its incorporation as a city in 1911. In addition to the courthouse and sheriff's residence and jail, there are several architecturally significant buildings within the district:

220 S. Main Street - Lake County Criminal Court - Colonial Revival/Neoclassical

213 S. Main Street - Masonic Lodge - Neoclassical

138 South Main Street - People's State Bank - Neoclassical

223 S. Main Street - Carnegie Library - Neoclassical

101 N. Main Street - Allman Block - Romanesque Revival

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While most of the district's buildings are vernacular, stylistic elements are common on buildings throughout the district. Italianate brackets and window hoods are found on 103, 105 and 107 West Joliet, 120 South Main Street, 132-136 South Main Street and 114 South Main Street. In addition, simple decorative elements incorporated in the construction are numerous particularly patterned brick and limestone. Decorative brickwork is found at 210 South Main Street, 112 South Main Street, 103-05 North Main Street, 103-05 and 107 South Court Street and 111 and 113 West Joliet. Rusticated limestone block is found at 101 North Main Street and 113 West Joliet Street. Limestone block is used for decorative bands, window sills, arches and moldings on every block. Section 7 describes many of these architectural features as well as others found on buildings throughout the district. The vernacular buildings in the district do not lack for architectural ornamentation and detailing.

In comparison to other Lake County communities, Crown Point has one of the largest commercial areas and widest range of architectural styles. Whiting, for example, developed much later than Crown Point and while its commercial district contains a significant number of post-1900 buildings, there are few constructed before 1900. Other communities have a variety of styles, but smaller commercial areas. Like Crown Point, these communities have many vernacular buildings with architectural detailing while high-style structures are found only sporadically.

The architecture of several buildings in the district is notable and their contribution to the district significant enough to warrant individual attention. This group of significant buildings together with many other contributing buildings form an architecturally significant district which showcases the long history of Crown Point.

103-107 West Joliet. (photo 16) In 1873, William Cheshire, J.H. Abrams, William Krimbill and J.H. Prier constructed an Italianate block of brick buildings on West Joliet, 103, 105 and 107. The buildings included four storerooms, Masonic and Odd Fellows Halls as well as Cheshire Hall located on the 2nd floor of 105. The oldest extant buildings in the district, these three buildings were constructed in the Italianate style and exhibit several significant characteristics including the wide bracketed entablature.

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101 North Main Street/Allman Block. (photos 12, 13) Constructed by Amos Allman in 1891, this 3-story brick building is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival commercial architecture with its rusticated stone, decorative brickwork and pyramidal roof caps.

132-136 South Main. (photo 10) This large 2-story Victorian-style commercial building has rusticated limestone, decorative arches over the windows and bracketed cornice.

Minas Block/111 West Joliet Street. This large beige brick commercial building on the south side of the district was constructed in 1924 by the Minas family. Their name is engraved in a limestone block in the center of the building. The building is a simple 1920s commercial style.

120 South Main Street. This building was constructed by J. Griesel, Conrad Hoereth and the First National Bank of Crown Point in 1881. Historically, the building spanned 118-128 South Main Street and contained 3-4 storefronts. Over the years portions of the original facade were obscured by renovations, so only the small section at 120 South Main Street remains visible.

138 South Main Street/People's State Bank. (photo 9) The People State Bank Building is a 2-story Neoclassical style structure with many architectural features representative of the style including fluted pilasters, symmetrically placed openings and clean straight lines.

19 N. Court Street/Motion Picture Theater. (photo 19) Constructed around 1914, this theater was first known as Palace Theater. The name changed to Crown Theater in the 1940s. The theater replaced an earlier motion picture venue at 124 South Main Street. While the name has changed, its use has not continuing to operate as a downtown movie theater at a time when most downtown theaters have closed.

223 South Main Street/Carnegie Library. (photos 5, 6) The Carnegie Library built in 1908, is an excellent example of early 19th century Neoclassical architecture. Typical architectural details include full-height entry porch, pediments, wide frieze, and eaves accented with modillions and detail moldings. Three of the four facades remain largely intact.

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213 South Main Street/The Masonic Lodge. (photo 7) The Masons have a long history in Crown Point dating back to the 1850s when their hall was located on the 2nd floor of the Register Building which sat where the Allman block now does. In the 1870s, they re-located to 103 W. Joliet and in the 1890s to the Allman Block. Around 1919, they constructed this hall which continues to serve the Lake County Masons. The building includes many architectural elements of the Neoclassical style and remains, on the exterior, almost exactly as it was built more than eighty years ago. Two properties in the district have been previously listed on the National Register, the Lake County Courthouse, listed in 1974 and the Lake County Sheriff's Residence and jails, listed in 1988. Both buildings exhibit many distinctive characteristics of their respective styles and retain a high-degree of original fabric. While Masonic organization are found in several neighboring communities, few have halls with the high-style architecture of Crown Point's.

Within the district's boundaries are historical markers with information on the history of Crown Point. These markers are located by the Carnegie Library, 105 North Court Street, Lake County Sheriff's House and Jail, and the Lake County Courthouse. The markers were a local project to provide visitors to the square with some historical information on the Crown Point area. While informative and helpful to the public, the markers are not contributing to the district since they fall outside the period of significance.

Over the years, the Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District has undergone many changes. Frame commercial buildings were replaced with more substantial masonry ones. The types of businesses have changed as have the activities bringing people downtown. The courthouse square has seen the construction of three courthouses and the loss of its status as a county governmental center when the county offices relocated north of the square. Through all the changes and development, the basic core of this city has remained the same with the historic Lake County Courthouse at the center of the square surrounded on four sides by commercial buildings. The four sides of the square have endured as a commercial district with the majority of the buildings contributing to the district and many historic features and architectural details intact.

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Website: www.crownpoint.net

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Boundary Description

Begin at the northwest corner of the property at 113 N. Main Street and move east to the west side of Main Street. Turn south and run to the south side of Clark Street. Turn east and run to the west side of the alley behind the west side of South Main Street. Running with the alley across Parry Court to the north side of Joliet Street. Turn west and run along the north side of Joliet Street to the east side of Main Street. Turn southwest and run to the southwest corner of Main and Joliet. Turn south and run along the west side of Main Street to the southwest corner of Main and Hack Court. Run east along Hack Court to the alley behind 210 South Main Street. Turn south and run along the west side of the alley to the north side of 220 South Main Street. Run east, parallel to this facade and 211 South East Street to the west side of East Street. Run south along the west side of East Street to the southeast corner of the property at 213 S. East Street/232 S. Main. Turning west and run along the property line, to the east side of Main.

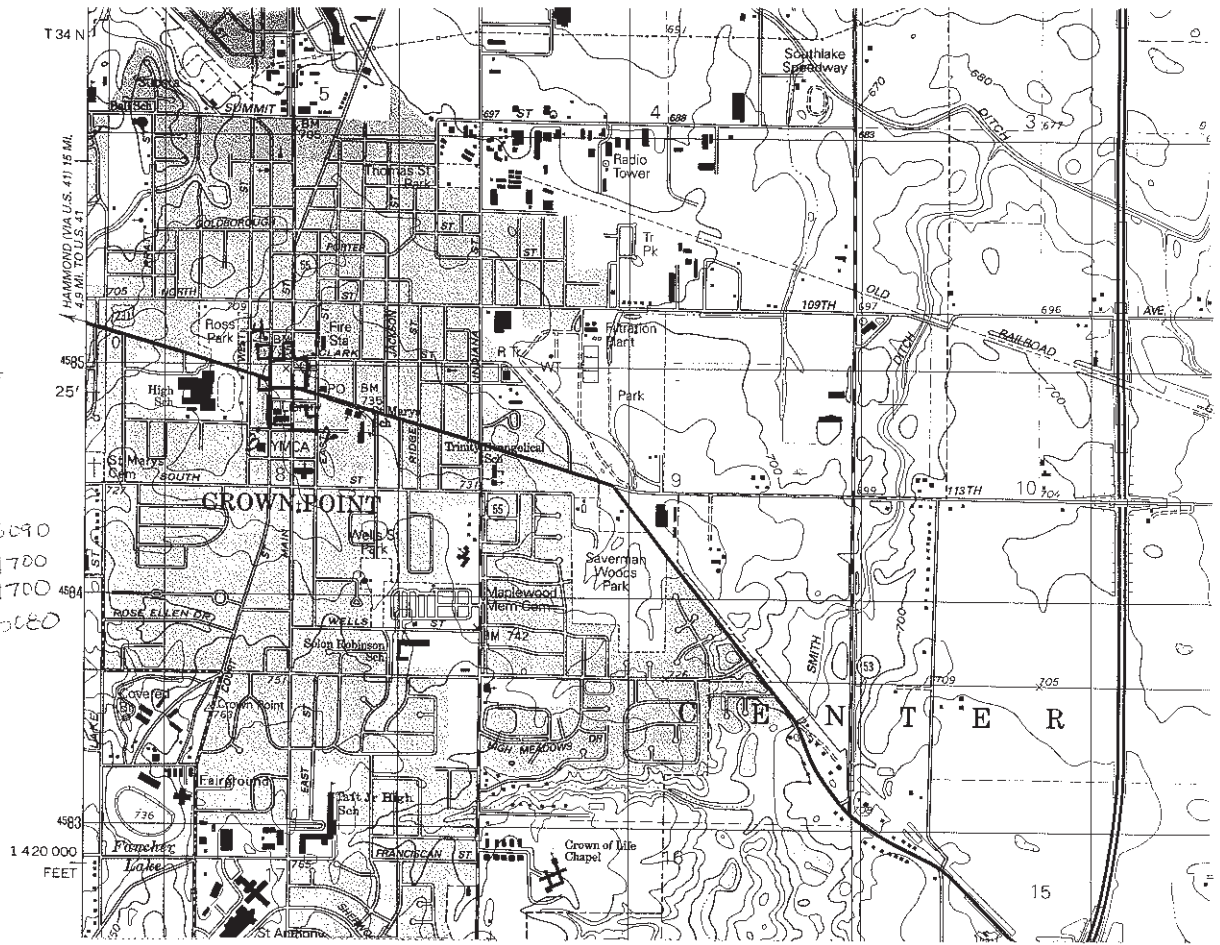
Turn north and run parallel to the properties at 232 and 220 South Main Street. Turn west and run along the southern property line of 223 South East Street to the east side of Court Street. Turn north and run along the east side of South Court Street. Turn west, cross Court and run along the southern property line of 103-05 S. Court Street, then north to the northwest corner of 107 N. Court. At this corner, turn southeast and run to the east side of Court Street. Run along the east side of Court Street next to the courthouse square and turn west at Clark Street. Cross Court Street and run with the southern property line of 19 South Court Street to the southwest corner. Turn north and run with the western property lines of 19, 21 and 105 North Court Street. At the alley on the north side of 105 North Court Street, turn east and run to the west side of N. Court Street. Turn south and run to the north side of Clark Street. Turn east and run to the alley behind N. Main Street. Run north along the east side of the alley to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The district's boundaries encompass a major portion of Crown Point's commercial district surrounding the Lake County Courthouse including much of original plat of the courthouse square. The boundaries reflect the historical layout which the community established with their construction keeping the commercial enterprises clustered around the governmental center and residential properties outside these boundaries. The commercial areas around the courthouse significantly altered through demolition or later construction were not included since they did not contribute to the historic character and feel for the commercial district.

CROWN POINT
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CROWN POINT, LAKE
 COUNTY, INDIANA

- 1. 16 469650 4585090
- 2. 16 469650 4584700
- 3. 16 469400 4584700
- 4. 16 469390 4585080



Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District
 Lake County, Indiana

2003-2004



- District Boundaries
- C Contributing
- NC Non-contributing
- X Historical Markers
- NR National Register
- 1, 2, ... Photographs

