

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Culver Commercial Historic District

other names/site number 099-143-52001-026

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet

N/A not for publication

city or town Culver

N/A vicinity

state IN code IN county Marshall code 099 zip code 46563

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia R. Killeen
Signature of certifying official/Title

11-20-95
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

Culver Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	6	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
14	6	Total

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

Historic Resources of the Culver-Lake Maxinkuckee Area

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/department store
RECREATION/movie theater
SOCIAL/meeting hall
GOVERNMENT/post office
FUNERARY/funeral home
EDUCATION/library
SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/restaurant
GOVERNMENT/post office
EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE
COLONIAL REVIVAL
ARTS AND CRAFTS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
CONCRETE
roof OTHER
other WOOD
METAL

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation criteria with checkboxes and fields for recording numbers.

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1900-1935

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barnes, James I., Company
Ottshall, Milo

Primary location of additional data:

- Location criteria with checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Culver Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Marshall, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.6

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

		5	4	8	3	2	0	4	5	6	2	7	6	0
Zone	Easting							Northing						

3

Zone	Easting							Northing						

2

Zone	Easting							Northing						

4

Zone	Easting							Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant, for

organization Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver date March 6, 1995

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

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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Culver Commercial Historic District

The area roughly bounded by Washington Street, the north-south alley east of Main Street, Madison Street, and Ohio Street.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

The Culver Commercial Historic District is located in the town of Culver in Union Township in the southwest part of Marshall County. The town is situated on the northwest side of Lake Maxinkuckee, the second largest, natural, inland lake in Indiana. The center of Culver is near the northwest point of the lake. The town extends south and east along the waterfront. Culver Military Academy is on the north side of the lake near the east shore. Along the east, south, and west shores are houses of the resort community of Lake Maxinkuckee. The surrounding area is mainly farmland.

Sanborn maps for Culver, dating from 1906, 1914, and 1924, show that the main commercial area has historically been concentrated in the two blocks on the Main Street between Washington and Madison. The earliest commercial buildings were small, wood frame structures. After the turn of the 20th century, these were gradually replaced by larger, wood frame, or brick structures. One of the oldest extant buildings is the north half of the Osborn Block (right in photo 2), which appears in a 1901 photograph of Main Street. Also visible in the 1901 photograph is the two-story wood frame building located at 108 S. Main Street (left in photo 6). The Menser Building at 116-20 N. Main Street, a two-story, brick building which originally housed a meat market and bakery, was built in 1903.

The south half of the Osborn Block had been constructed by 1906, the year the Sanborn Company first mapped the town of Culver. Also appearing on this map is a two-story, brick building, which was remodeled c.1920 for the Easterday Funeral Home, at 108 N. Main Street (right in photo 8); and a two-story, brick building, also remodeled c.1920, at 103 S. Main Street (right in photo 2).

By 1914, the two-story, wood frame buildings at 117 S. Main Street (left in photo 2), and 110 S. Main Street (second from right in photo 6) had been constructed. The 1924 Sanborn map shows the Knights of Pythias Building at 110-12 N. Main Street, which dates from c.1915 (center in photo 8). This building replaced two earlier wood frame commercial buildings. The Carnegie Library at 107-11 N. Main Street, completed in 1916 (right in photo 4), replaced a wood frame dwelling. The concrete block building at 115 S. Main Street, built c.1920 (second from left in photo 2), replaced a one-story, wood frame, commercial building.

The c.1935 service station on the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson Streets (photo 3) was constructed on the site of a wood frame dwelling which had earlier served as a boarding house. The one story, brick, commercial building located at 114 N. Main Street (left in photo 10), was built on a vacant lot about 1930. Two wood frame houses were removed to make way for the 1935 U.S. Post Office on W. Jefferson Street (photo 1).

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There are two vacant areas in the historic district. The one on the southeast corner of Main and Jefferson Street contained a two-story, wood frame commercial building which housed J. Saine & Son, a dry goods store. This was torn down in 1932 to make way for a service station which was later demolished itself. The second vacant area is on the northeast corner of Main and Jefferson Streets. This was the location of two one story, wood frame buildings, built c.1910 and demolished in 1990. The south building was Rector's Pharmacy, a long-time Culver business.

Three of the noncontributing buildings in the district replaced earlier buildings of note. The one-story brick building at 105 W. Washington Street, built c.1950, was constructed on the site of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The bank located on the northwest corner of Main and Jefferson Streets (left in photo 4) was originally the State Exchange Bank, located on this corner by 1914. The Culver Hardware Store on the northeast corner of Main and Madison Streets is on the site of an earlier hardware store, the O.T. Goss Store. The Goss Store, comprised of two, two story, wood frame buildings, was at this location by 1906.

Outside the historic district boundaries, on East Jefferson Street between Main Street and the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, there were transportation-related and industrial buildings. Among these were liverys (replaced later by garages), the Ferrier Lumber Company, the Dillon and Medbourn Grain Elevator, John Osborn's cement block factory, warehouses, and the Medbourn Ice House. Most of these structures are now gone, replaced by a condominium complex. Two automobile garages remain on the south side and one on the north side of Jefferson Street, east of Main Street (photo 7).

A secondary commercial area was located on Toner Avenue (now Lake Shore Drive) across from the railroad depot. The 1924 Sanborn map shows this area with a movie theater, several stores, a dance hall, and a garage. Some of these buildings are now gone and the remainder have been altered.

The areas surrounding the Main Street commercial district on the north, west and south sides were, and continue to be, mainly residential. Houses date from c.1890 to c.1940. Among styles represented are Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Craftsman. Vernacular types include gable-front, T-plan, and American four-square.

Within the Culver Commercial Historic District, buildings are generally simple brick or wood frame structures, one to two stories in height. The Italianate style is seen in the Osborn Block (right in photo 2), and in the building at 108 S. Main Street (left in photo 6). Several buildings show the influence of the Arts and Crafts style in the early 20th

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century. Among these are the Easterday Funeral Home (right in photo 8), and the building at 101 S. Main Street. The Carnegie Library (right in photo 4) and the U.S. Post Office (photo 1) are outstanding local examples of the Colonial Revival style. The scale, materials, detailing, and style of the buildings are typical of many small towns in northern Indiana.

The historic district generally has a good integrity. Most intrusions are located on the edges of the district, except for the bank building at 101 S. Main Street (left in photo 4), which is in the center. Other than the bank, intrusions are the buildings at 105 W. Washington Street, 105 E. Washington Street, 120 S. Main Street (right in photo 6), and a concrete block garage at the rear of 120 S. Main Street, all of which were constructed after the period of significance. The building at 115 S. Main Street, built c.1920, is counted as noncontributing because of alterations.

Among contributing commercial buildings, upper stories are generally intact, and store fronts have been altered. Additional descriptive information is included below under individual buildings.

U.S. Post Office, southeast corner of Jefferson and Ohio Streets, Colonial Revival, 1935 (photo 1). The post office is a one-story, brick building with a hip roof and rectangular plan. The entry is in the center bay of the five bay principal (north) facade. Original doors have been replaced with aluminum and glass doors, but the classical door surround remains. This consists of pilasters on each side of the opening, which support a frieze and pediment. Windows are wood, with multi-light, double hung sash. Window sills are stone. There are stone keystones in the brick lintels above the openings, and decorative stone panels above. At the front corners of the building are brick quoins. The interior of the building has a high degree of integrity. The principal decorative feature is a mural entitled, "Arrival of the Mail in Culver." It was painted in 1938 by Jessie Hull Mayer, an Indianapolis artist, as part of the Public Works of Art Project.

The 1906 Sanborn map shows the Culver Post Office on the east side of Main Street between Washington and Jefferson Street in a frame building on the site of the present Knights of Pythias building. The 1914 and 1924 Sanborn maps show the post office in the first floor rear of the State Exchange Bank building. This building, which was located on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Main Streets has also been removed. The present post office was constructed in 1935. It was built by James I. Barnes Company of Culver at a cost of \$37,466.45

Osborn Block (south), 113-111 S. Main Street, Italianate, c.1905 (right in photo 2). This building and the one to the north comprise the Osborn Block. This building is a two-story, brick structure. The principal (east) facade is faced in concrete block, and is four bays wide. There are two storefronts. The south storefront has been covered with wood shingles. The north storefront is an intact, c.1920 bronze storefront made by the Kawneer Manufacturing Company of Niles Michigan. The transom has been covered. The floor in the storefront area is colored tile arranged to spell out "Mitchell & Stabenow." Windows in the second story of the building are double hung, wood windows, with one light in each sash. Window openings are flat-arched. Sills and lintels are stone. Extending across the top of this building and the north building of the Osborn Block is a decorative, pressed metal cornice. At the second level, between the two buildings is a stone tablet with "OSBORN BLOCK."

The Osborn Block housed a number of important Culver businesses. In the south building, the south room was a grocery store in the early 1910s. In the late 1910s and 20s, it was the location of the Home Theater, a movie house. Today, it is the Cafe Max. In the 1920s, the telephone exchange was located on the second floor. The Mitchell & Stabenow Clothing Store, located in the north room from at least the 1910s, was an early and longtime tenant. In recent years, Andy's Culver Clothiers was located here. Today, Fisher and Company Clothiers is here. For many years while Mitchell & Stabenow were here, H.L. Werner, a jeweler, was located in the room above.

Osborn Block (north), 109-107 S. Main Street, Italianate, c.1900 (right in photo 2). The north building of the Osborn Block is a two-story brick structure with a four-bay principal (east facade). The two store fronts have been altered. Second story windows have segmental arch openings with brick lintels and stone sills. Windows are wood. Sash are double hung with one light in each sash. A pressed metal cornice extends across the top of this building and the one to the south.

Charles Medbourn had a grocery store in the south room of this building by the early 1910s. By 1914, a dry goods store was located here. From the time the building was constructed or soon after, Thomas Slattery had the Culver City Drug Store in the north room. The drug store, which was famous for its chocolate sodas, was here until the 1970s. Today, the offices of the *Culver Citizen* occupy this space.

Service Station, southwest corner Main and Jefferson Streets, Vernacular, c.1935 (photo 3). This is a one-story, concrete block building, influenced by the Moderne style. The main (east) part of the building has a one-bay garage on the south, and a room with a corner entrance on the north. Above the entrance and extending around the building is an

overhang with a rounded edge. This simple line is echoed at the top of the building with concrete banding. A rear addition, rectangular in plan, contains more garage space. Original garage doors, as well as windows, have been replaced.

A service station was constructed on this corner in 1926 by a Mr. Hand, and leased by the Standard Oil Company. R.R. and Howard Mikesell were the first managers. The present building is similar in form and style to other Depression-era stations in Indiana.

Culver City-Union Township Carnegie Library, 107-111 N. Main Street, Colonial Revival, 1916 (right in photo 4). The library is a one-story, brick building with a raised basement. The roof is hipped. The entrance, reached by a set of concrete and brick steps, is in the center of the principal (east) facade, which is seven bays wide. The original door has been replaced, but the elaborate stone surround - columns supporting a Doric frieze and broken pediment with a cartouche in the shape of an open book - is intact. There is a cross gable above the entry. Windows are multi-light, wood casement windows with transoms. There are modillions under the eaves. On the lawn in front of the building is a World War Memorial consisting of a boulder with two bronze plaques. One plaque reads "In Honor of Those Who Served/World War I," the other "In Honor of Those Who Served/World War II."

The general contractor for the building was Milo Ottshall of Akron. Zola Moss was the first librarian. Officers of the first library board were Dr. E.E. Parker, president, Dr. N.S. Norris, vice-president, and Mrs. W.O. Osborn, secretary.

Commercial Building, 108 S. Main Street, Italianate, c.1900 (left in photo 6). This is a two-story, wood frame building with a four-bay principal (west) facade. The storefront has been altered, and a decorative wood porch added to the front of the building. Second story windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. There are wood lintels above the openings, and decorative wood brackets under the eaves.

Hattie and Perry Wickiser had a furniture store and millinery here by the 1910s. Today, the building houses the Old Towne Restaurant.

Knights of Pythias, Marmont Lodge 231, 110-112 N. Main Street, Tudor Revival, c.1915 (center in photo 8). The K of P Building is a two-story, brick structure with a four-bay principal (west) facade. The northernmost bay has the entry to the second floor lodge rooms. The opening for the entry is recessed, Tudor-arched, and has a decorative stone surround. The window above the entry at the second level is flat-arched but has a

similar decorative stone surround and sill. The window in the opening is wood, double hung, with multi-light sash. The entry bay has a triangular parapet with stone accents and a tablet with the name and number of the lodge. The three south bays of the first floor contain two storefronts which have been altered, with a metal awning above. At the second level, above the store fronts, are paired windows with flat-arched openings. Window sills are stone. Windows are wood, double hung with multi-light sash. Above the second floor windows is stone banding.

Apparently the building to the south, at 108 N. Main Street, was once the Knights of Pythias Building. A c.1910 photo shows it with "K of P Hall" on its pressed metal parapet. This earlier building was later remodeled for the Easterday Funeral Home.

Menser Building, 116-120 N. Main Street, Vernacular, 1903 (left in photo 10). The Menser Building is a two-story, brick building with a four-bay principal (west) facade. There are two storefronts, each with an entry in the center, and a door accessing the stairway to the second floor. The storefronts have been altered. Above the first level is an added pent roof. Second story window openings are segmental-arched and have been blocked down. Windows are wood, double hung. There are added wood balconies at the windows. Between the two middle windows is a stone tablet with the building name and date of construction. A corbeled brick cornice which wraps around the front and north side of the building is the most decorative feature.

The 1906 Sanborn map shows a meat market in the north room, and a bakery in the south. Nathan Rector is known to have rented a room in the building in 1909 when he started his pharmacy. By 1914, there was a grocery store in the north room, and a silent movie theater in the south.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

The Culver Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce, and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The two block area on Main Street has been the principal commercial district for Union Township since the turn of the 20th century. The district contains several good examples of early 20th century architectural styles, including the Italianate style Osborn Block (right in photo 2), the Tudor Revival style Knights of Pythias Building (center in photo 8), and the Colonial Revival style Culver City-Union Township Library (right in photo 4).

The historic district has a clear association with the historic context, "Development of the Culver-Lake Maxinkuckee Resort Community." "Commercial district" is a property type which was defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of the Culver-Lake Maxinkuckee Area." The Culver Commercial Historic District meets registration requirements for this property type. It retains the majority of its buildings from the period of significance. Most of these buildings have not been altered extensively; retain the physical characteristics which identify them as particular styles or types; and retain the features of the function for which they are significant. Although there is a second historic commercial district associated with the resort community, the Culver Commercial Historic District is the only resource which appears to be eligible for listing under the registration requirements established for this property type.

The area in which the commercial district developed was first platted as Union Town by Bayless L. Dickson in 1844. In 1857, Union Town was replatted by Thomas K. Houghton, and the name changed to Marmont. At this time, present street names, including Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Main, were established. Marmont grew slowly until the Vandalia Railroad (later part of the Pennsylvania Railroad system) was constructed along the west side of the lake in 1883, to the east of the Marmont town plat.

The existence of the railroad led to the creation or expansion of local industries, and established Marmont as a shipping center for area farmers. Also because of the railroad, there was increased interest in the Lake Maxinkuckee area as a resort. Culver Military Academy was established in 1894. Soon after, the name of the town was changed to Culver. The railroad, the resort community, and Culver Military Academy were all important factors in the growth of the commercial district.

Commercial establishments existed to serve a broad constituency: area farmers, town residents, the cadets and faculty of Culver Military Academy, tourists, and members of the permanent resort community. The commercial district, as it appears today, was developed during the first four decades of the 20th century. The district reflects the character of Culver's main commercial area at the time the U.S. Post Office was constructed in 1935.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

An early picture of the businesses on Main Street comes from a 1905 directory. At this time, there were two bakeries, a bank (the State Exchange Bank), a barber, a drug store (Slattery's), several dry goods stores, a shoe repair shop, a carriage and wagon repair shop, a furniture store and funeral home (Easterday's), several grocery stores, a hardware store, two meat markets, a millinery, and a newspaper (*Culver Citizen*). There were also a boarding house, a post office, a church, and a lodge hall in the two block area on Main between Washington and Madison Streets.

There were two long-time drug stores in the district. The first was Thomas Slattery's Culver City Drug Store, mentioned above. Established shortly after the turn of the 20th century, this was located in the north room of the north building of the Osborn Block (right in photo 2). The second drug store was Rector Pharmacy, started by Nathan Rector in a room of the Menser Building in 1909. The store was later moved down the block to a wood frame building, constructed c.1910, which has been demolished. In 1977, the two drug stores merged under the name of Mr. T's, which is now located on Academy Road in a different part of Culver.

There were a number of movie houses in Culver. At least two were in the historic district. One of the earliest was the silent movie house in the south room of the Menser Building (left in photo 10). The Home Theater, owned by John Osborn, was located in the south room of the south building of the Osborn Block (right in photo 2).

Of the two historic service stations which were located in the district, one remains. This is the station, built c.1935 and leased by the Standard Oil Company, located on the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson Streets (photo 3). In 1932, a Linco Petroleum Company station was built on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Main Streets. This site is now a vacant lot.

Culver has had one bank in its history, the State Exchange Bank, established in 1901. By 1914, a handsome two-story brick building had been built on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Main Streets to house this institution. A new building on the site, constructed in recent years, does not contribute to the character of the district. The bank has changed hands and is now known as the Indiana Federal Bank.

Another business which should be mentioned is the Corner Tavern at 117 S. Main Street. It is housed in a two-story, wood frame building which was either built at this location or moved here about 1910. Apparently, it started as a grocery store, but soon became a tavern. It has been a popular gathering place in Culver since.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

The Culver Commercial Historic District contains the largest concentration of historic commercial buildings in Union Township. Shortly after the railroad was extended through the town, additions were made in the vicinity of the Pennsylvania Depot, and a secondary commercial area developed on Toner Avenue (now Lake Shore Drive). Most of the buildings of this secondary commercial area, which still exists, have been altered, and none were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Possibly the only significant building in Culver which is directly associated with commerce and is not located in the historic district is the Kreuzberger Saloon (54024), an outstanding Italianate style building which dates from 1894. This resource is located at 303 State Street, near the Pennsylvania Depot.

In other parts of Union Township, there were several small market centers. The most important of these were the village of Maxinkuckee, the oldest commercial center in the township; and Burr Oak, Hibbard, and Rutland, which grew along the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad, built through the northern part of the township in 1884.

Building associated with Maxinkuckee which were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory include houses, a school, and a farm. The Allegheny House (50023), an 1855 inn, is the only remaining building in Maxinkuckee related to commerce. In Burr Oak, the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory identified one commercial building, the G.T. Marrows Grocery Store (51006). This has been demolished. No historic commercial buildings were identified in Hibbard or Rutland.

Historically, the economy of Marshall County was based on farming and timbering. Most of the commercial centers existed as processing and shipping centers for agricultural goods and wood, and as market centers for farmers and other residents. Plymouth, the county seat, contained the most important commercial center. This was identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory as the Plymouth Downtown Commercial Historic District (21001-069). Plymouth was laid out at the intersection of the Michigan Road and the Yellow River in 1834. The extension of several major railroads through the town in the late 19th century contributed to development of the commercial district. Growth continued during the first three decades of the 20th century. The district retains much of the historic character, and contains notable examples of a number of architectural styles, including Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Neoclassical.

Other historic commercial centers of Marshall County are Bremen, Bourbon, and Argos. Located in northeastern Marshall County, Bremen was a small settlement which increased in importance after the northern line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was constructed in 1874. Bremen became an important regional market town, and agricultural shipping

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and industrial center. Its historic commercial area was identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (01001-004). The district contains a number of Italianate style buildings dating from the late 19th century, as well as Neoclassical and Arts and Crafts style buildings from the early 20th century.

Laid out along the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad in 1853 in eastern Marshall County, Bourbon was another regional market town. The Bourbon Commercial Historic District (31001-034) was identified in the Indiana Sites and Structures Inventory. As in the Bremen Historic District, a large percentage of the 19th century buildings in the Bourbon district are Italianate in style. One of the most distinguished buildings is the Bourbon Town Hall, a Queen Anne style structure built in 1898 (31034).

The towns of Sidney and Fremont, laid out the Michigan Road in southern Marshall County in the 1850s, were consolidated in 1859 and named Argos. The LaPorte and Plymouth Railroad was extended through Argos in 1868 on its way to Peru. In 1882, the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad was constructed, and Argos' future as a regional market was assured. The Argos Commercial Historic District (41001-021) was identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. As in Bremen and Bourbon, many of the late 19th century structures in Argos are Italianate in style. Other styles which are represented in the district include the Romanesque Revival and Neoclassical.

The Culver Commercial Historic District continues today as a marketplace for area residents, Culver Academy cadets and staff, and members of the resort community. The railroad has been abandoned and the town no longer serves as a marketplace and shipping center for farmers. Recently developed shopping areas on the outskirts of town offer some competition to the Main Street commercial district. Its ability to survive may depend on its historic character, which distinguishes it from other commercial areas. The Culver Antiquarian and Historic Society has initiated this nomination in hopes of preserving the character.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

Carlisle, John C. "Murals completed half-century ago," in Marshall County Life, March 21, 1992.

Corwin, Edwin R. One Township's Yesterdays. Culver: Culver Citizen, 1934.

Evermann, Barton Warren, and Howard Walton Clark. Lake Maxinkuckee: A Physical and Biological Survey. Vol. I and II. Indianapolis: Indiana Department of Conservation, 1920.

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Culver Commercial Historic District

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of Ohio and Jefferson Street; thence east along the north side of Jefferson Street to the southeast corner of said street and the north-south alley east of Ohio Street; thence north, across Jefferson Street, and along the east side of said alley to the south side of Washington Street; thence east along the south side of Washington Street, across Main Street, to the southwest corner of said street and the north-south alley east of Main Street; thence south along the west side of said alley, across Jefferson Street, to the northwest corner of said alley and Madison Street; thence west along the north side of Madison Street, across Main Street, to the northeast corner of a north-south alley west of Main Street; thence north along the east side of said alley to the axis of the south boundary of the property on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Ohio Streets; thence west across said alley, along said boundary to the east side of Ohio Street; thence north along the east side of Ohio Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses the two-block area which has served as the main commercial area of Culver since the turn of the 20th century. The area to the east was historically an industrial area. The areas north, west and south were historically residential. The district was identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory with these boundaries, except that the post office was not included. This building is immediately adjacent to Main Street and has been included in this nomination because of its historic and physical relationship with the commercial district.



CULVER COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Culver, Marshall County, Indiana

- ↑ North
- ▬ District Boundary
- ▨ Noncontributing
- ↖ 2 Photo View
- Not to Scale
- 2/28/95