

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Gosport Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Approximately five square blocks in the center of the Town of Gosport roughly bounded by Church Street, Walnut Street, Fifth Street, and Third Street not for publication

city or town Gosport vicinity

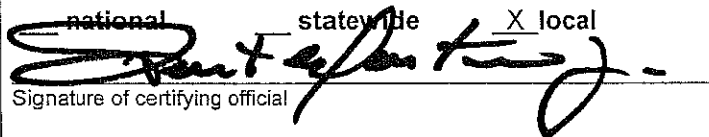
state Indiana code IN county Owen code 119 zip code 47443

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local


9/26/2013
Date

Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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___ national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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___ 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)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
40	20	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
4	2	structure
4	0	object
49	22	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

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

LANDSCAPE: city park

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT: city hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

LANDSCAPE: city park

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT: city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow:

OTHER: vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other: METAL: Cast iron

WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Function (continued)

Roof: METAL: Steel
WOOD: Shake

Summary Paragraph

Comprising approximately seven square blocks in the town of Gosport, Indiana, the Gosport Historic District contains 71 resources. Residential and commercial architecture is predominantly vernacular. Traditional houses types – for example, I-house, central passage, gabled, ell – exhibit an influence of high style architecture in decorative details, such as window trim, vergeboard, and porches. Relatively modest brick commercial buildings display the late nineteenth century storefronts, with central entrances, piers, and large store windows. Only two commercial buildings can be considered high style: the c. 1873 Italianate Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera Hall (resource 41) and the 1909 Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (resource 38).

Narrative Description

The Gosport Historic District was not identified in the 1994 *Owen County Interim Report* as a district although some of its resources were surveyed as scattered sites. It was identified as part of the 2009 Gosport Revitalization Plan prepared by RATIO Architects and corroborated by the Indiana SHPO. The northwest and southeast boundaries of the district as identified in the plan have been expanded slightly to include five additional resources that historical research shows to be closely related to others in the district.

The district comprises approximately seven blocks in the center of the Town of Gosport, Wayne Township, Owen County, Indiana. Rough boundaries are Church Street on the north, Walnut Street on the south, Fifth Street on the west, and Third Street on the east.

The terrain is flat, with a gentle rise to the north beginning at North Street. The character of the district is commercial at its core and residential in the immediately adjacent areas. Streets are laid out in a traditional grid pattern with north-south streets slightly skewed to the northwest. For the most part, blocks are divided by north-south and east-west alleys, with quarter blocks divided into two lots. In the commercial core fronting Main Street, lots are frequently subdivided, so that legal property descriptions are measured portions of the whole, such as "16½ feet by 132 feet." Occasionally, other lots are also subdivided.

Within the district, streets are paved with asphalt and lined with concrete public sidewalks. There are no public tree planting strips between the sidewalks and streets. ; Some streets have curbs others do not. With few exceptions, dwellings are set within 10 to 12 feet of the public sidewalk. In the downtown commercial core, new sewers, streets, sidewalks, and street furniture were installed in 2010.

One resource has been previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the Dr. H. G. Osgood House, a c.1854/1877 gabled-ell/Italianate style house. Three contributing buildings were listed in 1999; these resources are not included in this nominations total resource count.

The Gosport Historic District contains 71 resources. There are 49 contributing resources: 40 buildings, 4 objects, 4 structures, and 1 site. There are 22 noncontributing resources: 20 buildings and 2 structures.

Descriptions for all buildings and related resources follow. A resource inventory concludes Section 7.

Gosport Historic District

Owen, IN

Name of Property

County and State

1 Tom and Hattie Dodd House (c.1922) • 1 E. North Street (C)

2 garage

3 retaining wall

On a slightly elevated lot, this 2-story gable front Craftsman-style house has recently been covered from eave to foundation with red vinyl siding.¹ The brackets under the eaves have been boxed in with vinyl, and all of the windows are vinyl replacements. The foundation and porch walls and columns are red brick. The main entrance features a wood Craftsman-inspired door and sidelights.

A frame garage covered with Dutch lap wood siding located at the northwest corner of the property is connected to North Street by a gravel drive. A pent roof with exposed rafter tails slopes from east to west. A pair of vertical board doors mounted with strap hinges is found on the south side. A retaining wall of concrete block is found along the public sidewalk on Fifth Street, at the rear half of the lot.

4 Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House (c.1870) • 3 E. North St. (C)

5 garage

See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix: Historic Photographs, HP 1.

This I-house with one-story rear ell exhibits Gothic Revival influence in its front central cross gable and scalloped vergeboard. The partial width front porch reflects the later Stick style; it has a solid lintel, triangular braces filled with tracery, scroll-sawn brackets, chamfered square posts with capitals and paneled plinths, and hanging pendants. The foundation is made of hand-struck limestone blocks. Walls are clad in white vinyl. The roof is asphalt. Interior brick chimneys emerge from the roof ridge near the gable end walls. Windows in the main mass are six-over-six double hung wood sash. Three of four window openings on the west gable end and two of four on the east gable end are filled with fixed louvered shutters; no actual windows exist. The front entrance is topped with a transom; the original sidelights are obscured by vinyl siding but still evident on the interior. See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix: Historic Photographs, HP 1.

The rear ell has a full basement with limestone block walls. The same scroll-swan vergeboard on the main mass appears here as well. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash, with the exception of a rear (north) attic window that is six-over-six. Entrances are located in the west and east walls.

The property also includes one noncontributing garage and additional uncounted resources, including a small limestone grind stone and brick barbecue along the rear lot line; the rubble limestone remains of a wood shed at the northeast corner; limestone curbing along North Street; a limestone cistern in the west lawn; and what is thought to be a piece of limestone curbing standing upright in the west lawn along Fifth Street.

previously listed Dr. Horace G. and Hattie Osgood House (c.1854/1877) • 11 E. North St. (C)

See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix 1: Historic Photographs, HP 1. See also NRHP Site Plan in Appendix 2.

This immaculately maintained, Italianate-influenced, two-story gabled ell house with one-and-one-half story rear ell has the fenestration of an I-house, with a central hall flanked by pairs of first and second story windows. Hand-struck limestone blocks make up the foundation. Siding is narrow wood clapboard painted yellow. Simple corner boards have chaste capitals. A plain frieze wraps the house. The roof is asphalt. Louvered roundels appear in the front and side gables at attic level. Windows are four-over-four double hung wood sash with filleted pediment hoods. Two mock openings on the west side are filled with fixed louvered shutters. There are no openings on the east gable end wall. A front porch spans the front ell. Square columns are connected by arches with ornate scroll-sawn spandrels, pendants, and brackets. The paneled wood entrance door with single arched light is surrounded by five-pane sidelights and a transom, all slightly curved to mimic the window in the door.

In 1860, Dr. Horace G. and Hattie Osgood purchased this property, adding the adjacent lot in 1863. In 1877, the main mass of the house was built and the rear ell remodeled to match it.

The rear ell dates to about 1850 and is believed to be the original portion of the existing house. When the main mass was built, the exterior of the ell was refinished to make the siding, corner boards, frieze, dormer windows, and east porch consistent with the new construction. Attached to the north side of the ell is a one-story, gable-roofed office dating to about 1860. A modern two-bay garage is attached to its east side, and a one-story shed with bargeboard siding dating to the 1920s is attached to its north side.

The property has additional historic uncounted resources, including a carriage barn, privy, framed well head, remains of a limestone building foundation, well, pump, and cistern, limestone public walk, limestone private steps, and a pair of turned limestone planters.

The small poplar barn has a vehicle and horse storage at ground level and a hay loft above. The foundation is limestone rubble, siding is vertically hung poplar boards with a trace of faded red paint, and the roof is vintage corrugated metal. A sliding track with door is found on the west end of the north wall. Small square wall openings are covered with

¹ A historic photo on file in the Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum in Gosport shows wood shakes on the upper wall and clapboard on the lower walls.

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Name of Property

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wood doors with wrought iron strap hinges. The only actual window—a single paned fixed wood sash—is found in the south wall, with a paneled wood door to its left.

The outhouse is located near the barn's southwest corner. Siding is wood painted yellow with white trim to match the house. The door consists of vertical boards. The gable roof is asphalt.

The well head is found near North Street at the house's southeast corner. The base is made of concrete block with tooled mortar joints. Framing is wood painted yellow. The hipped roof is covered in wood shakes.

In the east yard is a wall made of limestone block with a limestone cap that serves as the backdrop for a small landscaped area. This is the remains of the foundation of a Baptist Church built c.1853 and demolished in the 1950s.

The cistern, well, and pump are located just off the east porch. The cistern and well are covered with a concrete slab on which is mounted a steel pump with rotary hand crank.

A limestone slab sidewalk with short sidewalls connects the public sidewalk along North Street with the front porch. Three limestone steps ascend to the porch; they are flanked by turned limestone planters.

6 Willoughby-Stouder House (1913) • 122 N. Fourth St. (C)

This west-facing, gable front bungalow has a foundation of rock face concrete block, walls covered with blue vinyl, and an asphalt roof. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash with aluminum storms. Columns of rock face block frame the full-width front porch enclosed with aluminum frame windows. A rear extension on the house appears to be the original kitchen; a later addition used as an office by Dr. Stouder is located on the south.

7 House (1998) • 123 N. Third St. (NC)

This is a brick ranch style house.

8 Jennings-Brown House (c.1898) • 123 N. Third St. (NC)

The original style of this two-story, rectangular plan house with several rear additions and covered with vinyl siding is indeterminate. Facing south, the main mass features four symmetrically placed one-over-one upper floor windows. On the first floor, identical windows appear below the outermost windows, with an entrance located far right of center. On the east gable end wall is a one-story bay. A porch with foundation of rock face concrete block, concrete floor, and columns of concrete block cast like brick wraps the south (front) and east side. Along the public sidewalk on Third Street is a two-story ell with gable end walls facing north and south. On its north wall is a one-story extension with a pent roof; attached to it is another one-story addition set back slightly from the public sidewalk.

9 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (1881) • 125 N. Third St. (C)

10 limestone private walk

11 limestone newel

12 limestone newel

13 limestone newel

14 limestone newel

15 limestone retaining wall

See Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2.

This diminutive Italianate brick cottage consists of a one-story rectangular main mass fronting North Street with a rear ell fronting Third Street. Under the ell is a full basement. The foundation is rock-faced limestone block. Walls are brick. Limestone quoins appear at the corners. The low-pitched asphalt-covered roof is cross-hipped. A plain wood frieze has paired scroll-sawn brackets. All windows are four-over-four double hung wood sash with limestone sills.

The front fenestration reflects the interior central hall plan, with a central entrance, a pair of windows on the east, and a rectangular bay with paired two-over-two double hung wood sash windows. The use of carved limestone ornament at the entrance and windows reflects the profession and skill of the builder and original owner-occupant Clayton L. Dyer. Chamfered square columns with square plinths and capitals frame the entrance. The columns are further decorated with scallops, panels, and dentils and incised flowers in the plinths. The arched entrance hood has relief panels with incised floral insets, a carved keystone with floral cap, and a tiered cornice. The paneled wood door has an arched single light and a large rectangular transom.

The bay window is framed with similar chamfered square columns, but these lack any additional ornamentation. They rest on a limestone base whose sides are incised with an elongated oval panel. The lintel has incised scrollwork above each window. A bracketed wood frieze and flat roof with copper half-round gutter tops the bay window. The two east front windows have projecting flared limestone hoods incised with deep vertical lines, brackets with relief squares, and a plain cornice. All other windows on the house have flush, smooth-faced, pediment hoods with rectangular plinths and cap.

On the west side of the ell is an Italianate-inspired wood porch with square posts with chaste capitals, solid curved lintels with a scalloped edge and a small hanging pendant, and scrolled brackets between the posts and the roofline. The

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brackets are a larger version of those under the eaves. An entrance is centrally located in the west wall, with a window to the right. On the north side of the ell is a below-grade entrance to the basement framed by a limestone wall. Limestone steps descend to an entrance. A window is located to the left of the entrance, with another directly above in the first floor wall. The entire entrance is covered by a non-historic flat roof supported by three attenuated posts. The recess formed by the ell's east wall and the north wall of the main mass is a wood-framed and -sided historic addition. It appears on the 1895 Sanborn map.

This property includes counted limestone resources of note: a dry stone retaining wall along the public sidewalk on North Street, two large carved newel posts near the corner of Third and North Streets and two small posts at the along Third Street, and a private walk leading from the corner of Third and North to the south and west entrances.

16 Brighton Poultry House (c.1889) • 19 N. Third St. (C)

See Photo 5 of 14.

This former hatchery and poultry house is a one-story gable front building with a foundation of poured concrete topped with concrete block. Walls are covered with asphalt siding, and the roof is also asphalt. Wall openings consist of windows and doors; all are non-functional, being filled, covered, or obstructed. Accessed by a single concrete step, the main entrance—a paneled wood door with covered light or lights—is located slightly right of center in the front (east) wall and flanked with window openings. Additional entrances and a single window are found in the north and south walls.

17 WPA privy (c.1935) • N. Third St. (NC)

This WPA-era privy has tongue and groove board walls and a door with strap hinges made from a single sheet of plywood. The pent roof is covered with corrugated metal. The stools and vent pipe are missing.

Owner Frank Nichols relocated the privy to this site within the past few years. It sits over a former hide curing pit.

18 concrete slab/vacant lot (c.1900) • N. Third St. (NC)

Measuring about six feet by eight feet, this poured slab marks the location of a wood frame building that had various uses ranging from an ice house, shoemaker's shop, and store.

19 garage (NC)

This non-historic two-bay garage is rectangular in form. It has a poured concrete foundation, asphalt roof, vinyl siding, and paneled wood doors.

20 Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (c.1881) • 17 N. Third St. (C)

See Photo 5 of 14.

Rectangular in plan with a steeply pitched, metal-clad gable roof with overhanging eaves, the frame livery barn has a foundation of cut limestone block. The building faces Third Street. The lower front wall is covered with horizontal wood boards. The upper gable wall and all other walls are board and batten. Centered in the front wall is a carriage entrance consisting of paired doors of vertical boards on strap hinges. To its right are a service entrance with paneled door with a single large light and one fixed window. Sheltering both is a canopy covered in wood shake. A loft opening in the upper gable is covered with wood. On the south wall is a metal stove pipe. All exterior walls are painted brown, with the exception of the unpainted north wall.

21 George D. and Mary Dunagan House (c.1879) • 126 E. North St. (C)

This single story central passage house with rear ell features a partial width front porch with Queen Anne-style turned columns, beaded spindles, and scroll swan brackets. The house's foundation is obscured by concrete parging, walls are sided with aluminum, and windows are vinyl replacements, and the roof is asphalt. Later additions are found on the rear and east side.

22 Express News • 146 E. North St. (NC)

This is a non-historic gable-front prefabricated metal building on a poured concrete pad. It was built by Clarence Lambert, owner of the adjacent hardware store (resource 36) in the 1960s or 1970s. The building has been recently remodeled it into a printing shop.

23 Gosport Ice House (c.1905) • no address (C)

Built of layers of poured concrete, the rectangular ice house is located behind the Gosport Feed Store, at the southwest corner of intersecting alleys. The foundation is poured concrete. Vertical boards fill each gable, in which is cut one opening, now filled. The roof is asphalt. Rafter tails are exposed. What appears to be the primary loading and unloading entrance is centrally located in the west wall. It consists of paired hinged doors of board and batten construction with

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wrought iron strap hinges. Above is a band of three fixed transoms of eight lights each. A second entrance is located in the north wall; wood doors are recent replacements. In the east wall is a third entrance filled with a board and batten door sized only for people.

24 Gosport Feed Store (c.1870/c.1950) • 18 N. Fourth St. (NC)

See Photo 13 of 14 and HP 3.

The Gosport Feed Store consists of two conjoined buildings: a one-story gambrel roof building with large shed on the west elevation and a one-story rectangular block building. All walls and the roof are clad in new corrugated white metal with red metal accents. The front façade of the block building has a red brick veneer. All windows are vinyl replacements.

The building was completely remodeled into a restaurant and large meeting/auction hall in 2011.

25 Nazarene Church (1952) • 19 N. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 3 of 14.

Rectangular in plan with a gable front, this church is constructed of brown glazed clay tile block. When the clay was still wet, the surface was dragged with a tool or machine to leave a ragged appearance. The foundation is concrete block, and the roof is asphalt. Narrow rectangular louvered vents with a limestone lintel are found in the gables. Pilasters with limestone caps appear on the building's side and rear walls. Between the pilasters are windows. Two tall sanctuary windows in the middle of the side walls are anodized replacements. Small, fixed windows with three lights of milky colored glass of various hues are found in the rear wall and on the side walls near the southeast, southwest, and northeast corners. The window at the west end of the north wall and the four windows on the front gable wall consist of three sashes, each with four panes of colored glass. The center sash is fixed, and the two outer sashes are casements. All windows have limestone lintels and sills.

The main (east) façade features an elevated central entrance in a projecting rectangular tower. A flight of concrete steps connects the paired steel entrance doors with the public sidewalk. The tower is minimally decorated. Limestone quoins surround the entrance, above which is a limestone block that reads NAZARENE CHURCH. Over this block are two narrow, fixed, eight-pane windows of streaky opal sheet glass. Between and slightly above these windows is a cross of limestone block. In the wall of the church building on either side of the tower are two three-part casement windows, one above the other.

26 Fox-Hart-Hoadley House c.1900/1936 • 14 N. Fifth St. (C)

27 garage

This T-plan, one-and-one-half-story house is a frame house that received its brick veneer and bungalow-style front porch in 1936. The cross-gabled roof is asphalt. Exterior walls and porch columns and walls are buff-colored brick. All windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash. A bay is centered on the lower front wall, with a windowless upper cross gable projecting above the porch roof. The bay has entrances in the cutaway corners and a single large window in the front wall. Entrance doors are paneled wood with a single large light and transom and Craftsman-influenced storm doors. The footprint of the elevated porch, with its limestone-capped walls, columns, and newels, mimics that of the house's front wall. Entrance is gained through one of two sets of stairs flanking a curved center wall. At the rear of the house, along the north-south alley, is a rectangular, gable-front garage made of glazed tile brick. The foundation is concrete block. The roof is asphalt. A small window and entrance are found in the west wall. The garage door is aluminum.

28 Smith-Fox House (c.1850) • 15 N. Fifth St. (C)

See Photo 12 of 14, HP 4, and HP 5.

Fronting Fifth Street, this I-house has an ell extending along North Street and sits very close to the public sidewalks along both streets. A small, one-story square bay with hipped roof on the north front wall is likely a later addition. The house's foundation is limestone block, walls are clad with vinyl, and the roof is asphalt. Elongated first floor windows are one-over-one wood. Shorter second floor windows are two-over-two. A single interior end chimney remains on the south end. The house exhibits Greek Revival influence in its central two-story pedimented entrance with dentil molding, classical wood pilasters against the front wall, sidelights, and original wood panels along the upper entrance. Turned posts are Queen Anne in style. Elevated slightly above the public sidewalk, the porch is accessed by three limestone slab steps, the bottom of which has a wrought iron boot jack. The first- and second-story entrances feature a paneled wood door with a single large light and four-light rectangular sidelights extending only the length of the door's window.

29 Gosport Post Office (1950) • 11 N. Fourth St. (NC)

Constructed of limestone block with a limestone block veneer on the front facade, the one-story, rectangular plan post office has a pitched roof with a front and rear facing gables filled with vinyl siding. The ribbed metal roof is blue. The building appears to have originally had a flat roof. Another significant alteration is the abandonment of the original 45-degree recessed entry with a pair of doors in favor of one brought out nearly flush with the front wall. Flanked by sidelights,

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the glass entrance door has an aluminum frame. The walls of the original entrance also have a veneer of limestone block; the door on the right has been filled, while the door on the left leads to the office interior. The post office's north wall has two one-over-one double hung windows. Two smaller and higher window openings on the south wall are filled with glass block. The front wall has a large plate glass window north of the door, and another window wrapping the southeast corner. All window sills are limestone.

30 I. O. O. F. Owen Lodge No. 146 (1891) • 19 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

This two-story, four-bay brick commercial building has two first floor spaces. The upper façade is divided into four bays by recessed panels. Below the corbelled cornice is another panel stretching between end walls; a limestone block painted white in the center of this panel reads IOOF Owen Lodge 1891-1901. Upper floor windows are reduced in size with vinyl infill. Sills are limestone and arched lintels are brick. On the first floor, cast iron storefront piers are evident, but display windows have been severely altered. The west space has four small fixed windows, while the east unit has no windows. Infill is vinyl. Both entrance doors are insulated steel, with the west door having sidelights. The building's west wall is within a few feet of the north-south alley. Upper windows are reduced in size. Lower windows are original size but vinyl replacements. Near the northwest corner is the original entrance to the second floor lodge hall. The paired doors are replacements. To its left is a second, relatively recent entrance of paired steel doors. Attached to the rear of the building and extending across the rear of the building to the east (resource 31) is a large prefabricated addition.

31 Commercial Building (c.1901) • 21 E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

Though Sanborn maps indicate this building was constructed with two units, it now consists of a single unit with a recessed central entrance with aluminum framed door, sidelights and transom. The entire storefront has been altered with brick and wood infill. A single fixed window is located to the left of the entrance. A full-length, shingled wood canopy overhangs the sidewalk. A photograph from the 1920s shows this building with a 45-degree-angle recessed central entrance with an entrance to each unit located in the angle's sides.

Attached to the rear of the building and extending across the rear of the building to the west (resource 30) is a large prefabricated addition.

32 Commercial Building/west part of 23 E. Main St. (c.1896) • [no address] E. Main St. (C)

33 Commercial Building (c.1893/c.1896) • 23 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

These two buildings today are identified by a single address and occupied by a single business, the Gosport Diner. There are two separate storefronts. The storefront on the east is easily identified by the corbelled cornice projecting above the shared canopy. Despite alterations, the original storefronts are evident. Seven brick piers—five with a coating of painted stucco—and four brick bulkheads frame display windows that have been reduced in size and infilled. Entrances have also been reduced in size and original doors replaced by anodized security doors. A notable vintage feature of the east building is a pair of two pendant-style metal light fixtures, one on either side of the entrance.

34 Bank of Gosport (1867/c.1900) • 31 E. Main St. and 7-11 N. Fourth St. (C)

35 Commercial Building/rear part of bank of Gosport (c.1891) • 7 N. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14, HP 7, and HP 8.

This Italian Renaissance Revival style brick building consists of two parts. The main mass is one story over a raised basement. At the rear is an original, integrated single story unit with an entrance at ground level. The main mass and rear unit will be described separately.

The main mass has a foundation of smooth cut limestone block, above which is a limestone water table. East basement windows are slightly arched, one-over-one double hung wood sash; narrow wells make the below-grade lower sash visible. Two openings are found in the south basement wall. One has been filled with limestone block in which is inserted a cast iron coal chute. The other is a deeply recessed entrance at the bottom of several steps.

First floor windows are rectangular one-over-one double hung wood sash, but the upper sashes are filled or obscured with wood panels painted red. Windows have pedimented limestone hoods incised with decorative scrolls resting on plinths and limestone sills.

The south and east walls intersect at a 45-degree angle. The recessed entrance is located here, accessed by a flight of 11 limestone steps ascending from the public sidewalk. The entrance is framed by square, engaged limestone columns with inset panels in which are located a central carved roundel. The columns have square plinths resting on limestone walls projecting from the basement walls and chaste capitals. A plain frieze is topped by a pediment with raking cornice and tympanum incised with scrolls. Spanning the columns is an arch order with square columns, a decorative carved keystone and incised spandrels. The paired wood doors have carved lower panels, a single, large, rectangular light

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topped by pediments carved into the wood, and original brass hardware. Above the entrance, the wall corners are accentuated by limestone quoins. On the wall face between the quoins is an oval plaque with a bulldog holding a money bag in its mouth.

A new hipped asphalt roof projects above the corbelled cornice that features a dogtooth course above a raised panel with brickwork crosses.

Resource 35, the rear storefront with an address of 7 N. Fourth St., faces east. It has a central entrance flanked by replacement one-over-one vinyl sash windows. The door transom and upper sashes are obscured with the same red panels found on the Bank of Gosport. Window hoods are three-tier brick archivolt, and sills are limestone. The entrance opening has been reduced in width and the original door replaced with an insulated steel door. Three rectangular vents with wood grills are located above the entrance and windows. The cornice has three courses: a top stretcher, middle dogtooth, and bottom header with every other brick projecting from the wall surface.

36 McClure's Service Hardware (c.1950) • 125 E. Main St. (NC)

37 relocated coal shed (NC)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 9.

Rectangular in plan, this gable front commercial building is made of concrete block with a smooth stucco finish on the rear and two side walls. The front wall is veneered with red brick. The original flat roof was altered to a pitched asphalt roof, with the resulting gable on the front filled with vinyl siding. The building was built in two phases, with a rear addition clearly demarcated by the changing roofline. Side walls are buttressed by pilasters between which are windows filled with glass block. The central main entrance is recessed into the front wall. Deeply set display windows of three panes each flank the entrance. Sills are limestone.

The property includes a relocated gable front frame coal shed adorned with salvaged architectural pieces such as the Eastlake front door and front porch. Walls are unpainted clapboard. A single window in the east wall is two-over-two wood sash. A single west window is a two-over-two fixed sash. A pair of solid paneled wood doors is found in the rear wall.

38 Gosport Banking Company (1909) • 141 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

This small Neoclassical brick building has a limestone façade of ashlar limestone. The foundation is brick. Located right of center, the slightly projecting entrance features a classical pediment, tympanum with dentil course and roundel, architrave with BANK and two wreaths carved in relief, and a pair of Ionic columns framing a recessed door with transom of triangular panes. Left of the entrance and recessed into the wall is a bay window with wood sash; the transom repeats the triangular panes over the entry. The architrave, its dentil course, and horizontal cornice of the pediment are carried across the face of the building. The upper front façade features a panel with three eyebrow windows and a cornice with dentil course. One of the dentils is missing. The east wall is covered with cementitious stucco. Two arched window openings are filled with wood panels. The rear (north) wall has a window and door opening, both of which are reduced in size and infilled. The east wall is unpainted brick.

39 Graham Building (1909) • 145 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

This one-story brick building with brick foundation has a front façade laid in stretcher bond. The display window and entry door are replacements; the entrance has been reduced in size and filled with wood. A limestone lintel divides the upper and lower wall. The upper wall features a decorative panel surrounded by a header course, an inner dogtooth course on the top and bottom, and in the middle, a single row of basket weave bond. The cornice is stretchers laid in corbel bond. On the rear, a commercial kitchen addition is under construction.

40 Lyon Building (1909) • 147 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

Constructed of brick with a glazed brick veneer of stretcher bond on the façade, this two-story building features a corbelled cornice, oriel, and original storefront. Oriel windows are replacements. Centrally located paired paneled wood doors with one-over-one lights are flanked by single pane display windows with wood sashes and bulkheads. Transoms over the windows and entrance consist of paired panes. Carriage style brass lights appear on either side of the entrance. The east wall is unpainted brick. Three upper windows, two first floor windows, and a first floor entrance are original size but replacements. Window sills are limestone. The west wall is also unpainted brick, with a single second story window. On the north (rear) wall is a wood deck. Windows and doors are replacements.

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41 Knights of Pythias Building/Opera House (c.1873) • 151 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12.

Italianate in style, this two-story, seven-bay brick building with limestone foundation is the stateliest in downtown Gosport. Each bay is defined by a panel consisting of an arched window framed by pilasters on the second story and limestone piers on the first. The wide overhanging cornice is bracketed. On the upper story, tall, attenuated windows are replacements, with one-over-one wood sashes and arches filled with wood painted black. All windows appear to have cloudy one-piece fiberglass panels on the outside. Unpainted limestone hoods have pendants and a keystone that supports a short brick pilaster. All other limestone elements on the front facade are painted black. Pilaster bases are limestone. Limestone sills sit directly on a limestone cornice. On the lower story, four display windows consists of a wood bulkhead topped by four rectangular panes of glass in a two-over-two pattern, a semi-circular, two-pane transom, and a projecting curved limestone lintel with relief carved mock keystone and incised linear ornament. Square piers have chamfered corners and chaste square capitals and plinths. There appears to have been three original entrances; all three have lintels identical to those of the display windows. The central entrance, flush with the front wall, now consists of a pair of fixed door-like panels, each with paneled bulkhead, one-over-one lights, and wood frames. A copper light fixture with eight glass panels and curved bracket with Neoclassical motifs—acroterion, anthemion, acanthus leaves—is mounted on the left pilaster. The west entrance, also flush with the front wall, consists of two narrow single-light wood frame doors. The 45 degree recessed east entrance appears to be the original configuration, with one-over-one angled side windows with paneled bulkheads and a wood frame door with paneled kick plate, single large light, and brass hardware.

The building's windowless west wall is brick covered with unpainted stucco. Original upper floor windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash; the upper two panes are curved to form an arch. Stuccoed sills are presumed to be limestone. The entrance to the second floor lodge hall is found near the south corner. These are paired paneled wood doors, painted green, with eight lights each and a six-light rectangular transom over both. The lintel and threshold are limestone. On the north (rear) wall are three concrete block, shed-roof additions. An original window opening has been infilled. The original flat sloping roof has been adapted to a pitched roof evident from the rear but not seen from the building's front or sides.

42 Campbell Building (c.1900) • 153 E. Main St. (C)

43 Campbell-Moore Building (c.1902) • 155 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 13, and HP 15.

These nearly identical buildings were erected within a few years of each other. A telltale seam is seen in the upper façade. The side, rear walls, and foundation of both are believed to be brick. Constructed of rock face limestone, the combined six-bay façade features five piers of rock face block.

The original west half of the building (resource 42) has two narrow piers framing the entrance and one wide pier at the east corner. The west corner is supported by the limestone pier of the east half of the building (resource 43). The east half has wide piers framing the entrance and a narrow pier at the east corner. The four bays containing display windows are identical in configuration, with paneled limestone bulkheads with flower-filled roundel, wood framed windows and two-pane rectangular transoms. The windows in the building's west half are slightly narrower than those in the east half. Both entrances have been modified. The west entrance has been brought out flush with the wall face, reduced in size, and infilled with vinyl, and the door itself has been replaced with a solid steel door. This alteration led to the loss of the elevated interior display area. The original 45-degree recessed east entrance, with single light wood door, wood-framed side windows, and elevated interior display area survives, but the transom is filled. An aluminum security door and windows have been added to form a vestibule. At the top of the front façade, the stepped parapet is finished with limestone coping. The roof of the west half has been altered from flat to pitched. The roof ridge runs parallel to the street, with vinyl used to fill in the intersection of the framing and parapet. The roof is dual-pitched at the rear, extending to the original north (rear) wall. At the rear of the building's east half is a concrete block garage addition.

44 Commercial Building/west part of VFW Post 7850 (c.1900) • 157 E. Main St. (C)

45 Commercial Building/VFW Post 7850 (c.1840/c.1900) • 159 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 6 of 14, HP 14, and HP 15.

These conjoined buildings were constructed many years apart. The older east half features a corbelled cornice, a flat panel on the upper façade, and limestone storefront piers and cornice. The four square piers have square plinths and capitals and faces with carved oval panels with a center roundel. The display windows have been infilled with brick and small rectangular fixed windows. The entrance is also altered from the original by being brought out flush with the wall. The door is solid steel and the transom has been filled. The long east wall has a single entry door near the middle. On the front half of this wall is a restored advertising mural for Cash Grocery (referring to the payment method and not an owner named Cash) and Washburn-Crosby's Gold Medal Flour. The building's west half is similar but not identical. The corbelled cornice extends across the upper façade, which lacks the panel, and the storefront piers are cast iron rather than limestone. The display windows have been infilled with brick and two small fixed windows. The central entrance retains its

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45-degree configuration, with its original one-over-one side windows and beaded board ceiling. The door is replacement steel, and the transom is filled.

46 Gosport Town Park (1908/1942) • [no address] E. Main Street (C)

See Photo 7 of 14.

Established as public space in the original plat of Gosport, the Gosport Town Park is a grassy parcel one-quarter of a block in size. The park is bound on the north and east by a public sidewalk and on the west and south by an alley. Concrete sidewalks lead from the northwest and northeast corners to the octagonal band shell. The structure has a pyramidal roof with bellcast eaves. The ceiling is beaded board. Six columns of concrete block molded to resemble cobblestones hold up the roof; two metal poles substitute for the remaining columns. The bandstand itself is open, with lower walls of rock face concrete block capped with concrete slabs. The floor is poured concrete. A recently constructed elevated concrete platform extends the floor surface to the north and provides stair access on the east and west sides and an ADA ramp at the northwest corner. At the Park's northwest and northeast corners are two contributing turned limestone planters on square bases. Layers of paint indicate the age of these historic objects. Centrally located along Main Street is a brass fire bell mounted to a concrete or limestone block base. It was retired for use and located here in 1959. A sidewalk constructed in 2010 encircles the bell and connects to the public sidewalk along Main Street. Six new limestone benches are scattered throughout the front half of the park. At the rear are two horseshoe courts.

The park contains objects not counted as resources but shown on the site map. Two concrete planters at the northwest and northeast corners placed by the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to beautify the park (and perhaps as a thorn in the side of the tavern next door). The former town fire bell along Main Street has a copper plaque that reads: "Gosport Fire Bell, retired from use, 1959. J. V. Wampler, Chairman, Gosport Town Council". In addition, the park includes three limestone benches and two horseshoe courts.

47 Gosport Tavern (1835) • 130 E. Main Street (C)

48 Commercial Building/west part of Gosport Tavern (c.1900) • [no address] E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 12 of 14.

Built of frame construction, the Gosport Tavern today consists of two conjoined buildings. The primary streetfront entrance is in the east part, which consists of an original building with a later rear extension. The foundation is limestone. The ridge of the gable roof is centered over this part, with the west plane extending over the west unit. Vintage standing seam sheet metal covers the original building, or roughly the front two-thirds of the roof. Corrugated sheet metal covers the rear one-third. The c.1920 facade of the east part has a false parapet front of brick veneer featuring a corbelled cornice with limestone cap, full height brick piers framing the outer corners and central entrance, and a soldier course above the display windows and entrance. Window openings are filled with wood panels and aluminum double-hung sash oriented horizontally. The entrance is also reduced in size, infilled, and the original door has been replaced with a solid steel door. A projecting wood sign hangs from a metal pole affixed to the west pier.

This west section of the Gosport Tavern has a front wall covered with aluminum siding; a central solid steel door appears to be non-functional. The east wall is covered with white vinyl. The west wall is covered on the front two-thirds by wood siding painted green and on the rear one-third by white vinyl. The rear wall is covered with white vinyl.

49 House (c.1896) • 132 E. Main St. (C)

Facing east, this one-story gabled ell house is covered with white aluminum siding. The foundation is concrete block, and the roof is asphalt. A screened porch is located at the southeast corner. A second porch at the southwest corner has been enclosed and an addition constructed along the rear; consequently, the original side gabled roof of the house's main mass now resembles a catslide. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood. On the front elevation, the cross gable is decorated with plain, narrow bargeboard and a wood grille.

50 Value Market (1971/1990) • 118 E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 11 of 14, 12 of 14, HP 16, and HP 17.

The Value Market features brick walls of varying elevation, large display windows, and a corner double entrance topped with limestone arches. Windows are shielded by structural bellcast red metal awnings, above which is a frieze with dentilled cornice. A blank portion of the west wall has pilasters recalling those on the east part of the Gosport Tavern (resource 47). At the southwest corner is a large loading bay.

51 House (c.1900) • 6 S. Fourth St. (C)

This rectangular plan, side-gabled, single story house with rear ell has a foundation of yellow rock face block, exterior walls clad in white vinyl, and an asphalt roof. The chimney emerges from the roof ridge slightly right of center. A full-width front 20th century enclosed porch is the dominant feature of the front façade. The porch entrance door is left of center. The door itself is a solid steel replacement. Porch windows to the right of the entrance are paired four-light wood casements. Porch

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windows to the left of the entrance are one-over-one double hung wood sash. House windows are vinyl replacements, with several wood double hung sash remaining from the period of construction.

52 Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (1923) • 5 S. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 10 of 14.

Facing east, this two-story rectangular building has front and rear parapets, creating the illusion of a tall second story. The cornice is capped with limestone. The foundation and exterior walls are brick. The corrugated, wire-cut, multi-colored bricks were manufactured by the Poston Company in Martinsville. All walls are laid in stretcher bond, with alternating headers and stretchers in every sixth row in the blank west (rear) wall. Soldier courses wrap the east and south walls below the first and above the second story one-over-one double hung wood sash windows and at ground level. The front façade features a 45-degree recessed central entrance with paired paneled wood doors with two lights and flanked by identical sidelights. This entrance, which leads to first floor units, is surrounded by decorative colored brickwork: header and soldier courses frame an overhead basket weave panel and upper corner blocks laid in a herringbone pattern with cut brick center squares laid on point. A second entrance with recessed, paired, solid paneled wood doors with two-light transom of pebbled glass is found at the southeast corner; it leads to the second floor lodge hall. Above this entrance is a relief carved limestone panel with the Masonic emblem, name of the lodge, and the date of construction. This panel is framed by a single row of stretchers that have been cut to shorten them. Located on an east-west alley, the south façade is the secondary façade. Entrances are found near the east and west walls. The east entrance door is solid steel; the west entrance door is the original paneled wood door with single light and vinyl clad aluminum storm. To the right of this entrance is a double hung wood window. Because it faced a vacant lot on Main Street when the lodge hall was built, the north façade features decorative brickwork. The upper and lower soldier course continues from the front façade, and a square panel defined by a soldier course of green brick outlined by two rows of red headers is located at center.

53 Hale-Stierwalt House (1897) • 9 S. Fourth St. (C)

54 relocated iron fence (NC)

See Photo 10 of 14 and HP 18.

This one-story, roughly T-plan Queen Anne cottage has a brick foundation, walls clad in asbestos siding, and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. Overhanging eaves have exposed rafter tails and soffits of beaded board. A large one and one-half story rectangular wing is found on the rear. Windows are double-hung wood. The leg of the "T" on the front façade features cut-away corners with windows in the wall planes. A porch in the north leg shelters two entrances, one in the south and one in the west wall. The porch has turned posts with scroll-sawn brackets supporting a spandrel of beaded spindles.

The iron fence with single loop uprights and paired rails located along the public sidewalk on the north lawn is architectural salvage relocated to this site. Wyatt Holsapple acquired it from the Gosport Feed Store. He does not know where it originated.

55 Morehead-Wampler House (c.1892) • 10 S. Fourth St. (C)

This house has been altered many times, so that it is scarcely possible to identify the original building. Today it has a prominent gable front that extends beyond the original side walls. Additions are found on the north, east, and south sides. A front (east) porch has a hipped roof and brick columns. The front first floor wall appears to be original, with an entrance located west of center and tall one-over-one replacement windows. The original fenestration may have been that of a double pen, with a second front door to the right of the existing one.

56 Campbell-Spoonamore House (c.1897) • 14 S. Fourth St. (C)

57 garage (NC)

This one and one-half story vernacular cottage has an irregular plan with a cross gabled asphalt roof. Covered with a concrete parge coat, the foundation is most likely brick. Siding is asbestos cement. The main mass of the house is side-gabled, with a front gabled ell with cutaway corners located left of center. The corners are decorated with scroll sawn brackets, turned spindles and pendants. All vergeboards are plain. A screened full-width front porch partially hides the two entrances, one in the south cutaway corner and the other in the west wall facing the street. At rear are at least two one-story additions. All windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash, with the exception of paired fixed sash attic windows in the gables.

The modern garage is a gable front rectangular building consisting of single bay. The foundation is concrete block, siding is vinyl, and the garage door is steel. The garage was built by owner Bud Spoonamore about 1960 as workspace for furniture repair.²

² Shirley Burke, interview with Mike Dean, August 4, 2011.

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58 Gosport Park Shelter (2007) • no address (NC)

Designed by Gosport native Craig Brighton, the brick shelter consists of an open cruciform structure with central gabled roof intersected on the east and west by a hipped roof. Each corner is supported by and enclosed storage area. The floor is concrete.

59 Gosport Town Hall (1956) • 13 S. Third St. (NC)

See Photo 7 of 14.

Constructed of concrete block, this former flat-roofed service garage has been converted into a municipal building with gable roof. The gable end walls are covered with vinyl siding. Paired pilasters buttress the side walls. The north (front) wall has a central pilaster, with an aluminum framed entry door located right of center. A metal awning sheltering the door extends to the northwest corner, where a concrete post is topped with a siren. In the south (rear) wall is a service door downsized slightly from its original size, a center pilaster, and an infilled window. The east wall has a central entrance door and two infilled windows. The west wall has three windows, the outer two of which are filled. A paved parking lot extends from Third Street across the front of the park shelter and to a north-south alley.

60 Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House (c.1895) • 130 E. South St. (C)

61 garage (NC)

See Photo 8 of 14 and HP 19.

This north-facing, two-story T-plan has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and brackets or false rafters at the intersection of the roof and outside corners of the north leg of the T. The house has a brick foundation, Dutch-lap wood siding, and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. The first floor portion of the T's north leg has cutaway corners. A two-story rear portion grew from the original one-story extension. All windows in the T-plan portion are downsized vinyl replacements, with those on the first floor reduced by nearly one-third; infill is painted wood panels. A front porch wraps the north leg of the T, intersecting with the east and west legs at the outside corners. The porch roof features cross gables with imbrication at the outside corners. Between the turned posts with scroll sawn and beaded spindle brackets are spandrels of turned spindles. The porch floor is concrete. An entrance is located in the north wall of the T's west and east legs. The east door is a replacement; the west door may be original. Originally a single story, the boxlike rear portion of the house is now two stories in height.

Built in 2005, a wide rectangular plan garage covered with vinyl siding is located off the southwest corner of the house.

62 Criss-Dittemore House (c.1862) • 126 E. South St. (C)

See Photo 8 of 14.

This central passage, Gothic Revival-influenced house consists of a one and one-half story gable end main mass with one-story rear ell. The ell has a twentieth-century addition on the east side and a late-nineteenth century addition on the southwest corner that has been converted into a garage. The foundation is limestone; siding is vinyl, and the roof is asphalt. All original windows are two-over-two double hung wood sash. The first floor of the façade features a central entrance and four rectangular windows. The entrance has a paneled wood door with single light, transom window, and attenuated sidelights of four panes and solid wood lower panel. The central gable contains a doorway flanked by smaller three-light sidelights. Paired windows are found in the upper end gable walls. The Eastlake lower porch has turned posts with scroll sawn brackets and spandrels with cut spindrels and quatrefoils, and turned pendants. The upper porch balustrade dates to 2010. Vergeboard on the front intersecting gable, side gables, and rear eave features scroll sawn scallops, turned pendants, and circles with interior crosses. The west wall of the rear ell has a central gable in which is located an entry with single-light wood door and three-pane transom. Flanked by windows, the entry is sheltered by a nearly flat-roofed, bracketed hood adorned with scroll sawn spandrels and corner pendants. The garage has a single paneled wood door with windows and a single window in the north wall. A concrete driveway leads from South Street to the garage and meets the east wall of the house's main mass and rear ell.

63 Fred and Aline Shumaker House (c.1920) • 118 S. Fourth St. (C)

64 garage (C)

This rectangular plan bungalow has a foundation made of molded concrete block resembling cobblestones. Walls clad in asbestos siding, and a brown asphalt gabled roof. Brackets under the eaves have been boxed in. A dormer with a band of three windows is found on the north elevation. A full-width, screened front porch has walls and piers of cobblestone-type block and a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Original wood double-hung windows have multiple lights in the upper sash and a single light in the lower sash. A wood accessibility ramp has been built onto the porch. At the rear is an elevated stoop covered with an aluminum canopy.

A garage made of smooth-faced concrete block is located at the property's northeast corner. It has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles, six-light fixed sash wood windows and an entrance door in the west wall, and paired auto

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doors made of vertical boards. A rectangular concrete slab behind the garage is what remains of a corn crib that was removed after complaints by neighbors about mice.

65 Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (1920) • 122 S. Fourth St. (C)

66 garage (C)

67 garage (NC)

This rectangular plan bungalow has a foundation of concrete block molded to resemble cobblestones. Siding is aluminum. Original windows are 30/1 double hung wood sash. The roof is asphalt, with brackets boxed in with aluminum under the eaves at the front gable and on the north dormer. A brick bungalow porch closed in by windows extends the full width of the house. The central entrance is reached by a flight of three concrete steps with brick side walls. Rectangular bays are found on the house's north and south elevations. At the house's southeast corner is a filled in porch. Concrete corner piers and the concrete floor are evident. An entrance is located at ground level in the center of the east (rear) wall. A cistern with concrete slab and a concrete cover is located off the southeast corner.

There are two garages. The original rectangular, tile block garage with open eaves is located at the southeast corner of the lot. A large door on a sliding track opens to the north-south alley. In the north and south walls is a single fixed light window. An entrance door is found in the north wall near the west corner. The second garage was built c.1970. It has a modern garage door facing the alley, vinyl siding, and an entrance door in the south wall near the west corner.

68 Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House (1858) • 126 S. Fourth St. (C)

69 iron fence (C)

See Photo 9 of 14 and HP 20.

This I-house has an integral north ell. Instead of being centrally located, the main entrance is south of center, with two south window openings on the first and second stories and three first- and second-story openings on the north. Obscured by a concrete skim coat, the foundation is believed to be brick, as brick peeks through in various spots. Exterior walls are clad in vinyl. Original windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash. The main entrance consists of a paneled wood door with single light and three-light transom. The roof is asphalt.

On the rear (east) elevation of the main mass, an original two-story, full width open porch has been enclosed. A new roof covers the porch's pent roof and the rear plane of the house's roof. On the rear (east) elevation of the ell there are two additions: a one-story room addition and a single bay garage with an east entrance.

The most striking feature of the house is the Italianate-style front porch, which spans the entrance and one window on each side; its bays correspond to these openings. Round arches are formed by curved lintels heavily ornamented with openwork tracery between the chamfered square posts. The posts are topped with molded capitals at the spring line of the arches and decorated between post and roofline with ornate scrolled brackets. In the center of the arches are hanging pendants.

Along the public sidewalk is a vintage cast iron fence with round newels, three rails, and rod-like pales. Filigree work is found beneath the top rail. A central gate is topped with similar ornament.

In the south lawn near the public sidewalk is a shaped limestone block formerly used as a carriage stone. On the north side of the house, between the south edge of a concrete driveway cut and the public sidewalk is, is a narrow limestone curb. Neither is included in the resource count.

70 Brown-Brighton House (1911/1986) • 130 S. Fourth St. (NC)

71 garage (NC)

See Photo 9 of 14.

This house consists of a rectangular main mass with a north ell. The foundation is obscured by a veneer of red brick. The roof is cross-hipped. Original windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash; vinyl replacements are identical. At the northeast corner of the house, original wood siding remains exposed. At the southeast corner is a large two-bay garage addition. A vintage detached garage is located at the northeast corner of the property, just off the north-south alley. It has a replacement steel garage door and vinyl siding.

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INVENTORY

Resource #	Address	Name/Description	Rtg.
1	1 W. North St.	Tom and Hattie Dodd House	C
2		garage	C
3		concrete retaining wall	<i>structure</i> C
4	3 E. North St.	Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House	C
5		garage	NC
	11 E. North St.	Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood House	<i>previously listed</i>
		carriage barn	<i>previously listed</i>
		privy	<i>previously listed</i>
6	122 N. Fourth St.	Willoughby-Stouder House	C
7	123 E. North St.	house	NC
8	123 N. Third St.	Jennings-Brown House	NC
9	125 N. Third St.	Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House	C
10		limestone private walk	<i>structure</i> C
11		limestone newel	<i>object</i> C
12		limestone newel	<i>object</i> C
13		limestone newel	<i>object</i> C
14		limestone newel	<i>object</i> C
15		limestone retaining wall	<i>structure</i> C
16	19 N. Third St.	Brighton Poultry House	C
17	[no address] N. Third St.	relocated WPA privy	NC
18	[no address] N. Third St.	concrete slab	<i>structure</i> NC
19	[no address] N. Third St.	garage	NC
20	17 N. Third St.	Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable	C
21	126 E. North St.	George D. and Mary Dunagan House	C
22	18 E. North St.	Express News	NC
23	no address	Gosport Ice House	C
24	18 N. Fourth St.	Gosport Feed Store	NC
25	19 N. Fourth St.	Nazarene Church	C
26	14 N. Fifth St.	Fox-Hart-Hoadley House	C
27		garage	C
28	15 N. Fifth St.	Smith-Fox House	C
29	11 N. Fourth St.	Gosport Post Office	NC
30	19 E. Main St.	IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146	C
31	21 E. Main St.	commercial building	NC
32	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of 23 E. Main St.	C
33	23 E. Main St.	commercial building	C
34	31 E. Main St.	Bank of Gosport	C
35	7 N. Fourth St.	commercial building/rear part of Bank of Gosport	C
36	125 E. Main St.	McClure's Service Hardware	NC
37		relocated coal shed	NC
38	141 E. Main St.	Gosport Banking Company	C
39	145 E. Main St.	Graham Building	C
40	147 E. Main St.	Lyon Building	C
41	151 E. Main St.	Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House	C
42	153 E. Main St.	Campbell Building	C
43	155 E. Main St.	Campbell-Moore Building	C
44	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of VFW Post 7850	C
45	159 E. Main St.	commercial building/VFW Post 7850	C
46	[no address] E. Main St.	Gosport Town Park	<i>site</i> C
		band shell	
		planter (2)	
		fire house bell	
		horseshoe court (2)	
		limestone bench (6)	
47	130 E. Main St.	Gosport Tavern	C

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Resource #	Address	Name/Description	Rtg.
48	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of Gosport Tavern	NC
49	132 E. Main St.	house	C
50	118 E. Main St.	Value Market	NC
51	6 S. Fourth St.	house	C
52	5 S. Fourth St.	Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92	C
53	9 S. Fourth St.	Hale-Stierwalt House	C
54		relocated iron fence <i>structure</i>	NC
55	10 S. Fourth St.	Morehead-Wampler House	C
56	14 S. Fourth St.	Campbell-Spoonamore House	C
57		garage	NC
58	no address	Gosport Park Shelter	NC
59	15 S. Third St.	Gosport Town Hall	NC
60	130 E. South St.	Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House	C
61		garage	NC
62	126 E. South St.	Criss-Dittemore House	C
63	118 S. Fourth St.	Fred and Aline Shumaker House	C
64		garage	C
65	122 S. Fourth St.	Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House	C
66		garage	C
67		garage	NC
68	126 S. Fourth St.	Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House	C
69		iron fence <i>structure</i>	C
70	130 S. Fourth St.	Brown-Brighton House	NC
71		garage	NC

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1835-1952

Significant Dates

1891

1909

1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carter, George

Cramer, Ira

Cramer, Julian

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is marked by the opening date of 1835, the date of construction of the east half of the Gosport Tavern (resource 47), the oldest building in the district. The closing date of 1952 marks the construction of the Nazarene Church, the last contributing resource to have been built in the district.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Gosport Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criteria A and C. The district represents the founding, development, and maturity of a typical Indiana small town. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a variety of types of commercial and residential architecture ranging from nineteenth-century vernacular forms and stylistic influence through early- and mid-twentieth century bungalows and Neoclassicism. The period of significance is 1835-1952.

The Gosport Historic District is not identified in the *Owen County Interim Report* (1994). However, it was identified as part of the 2009 Gosport Revitalization Plan prepared by RATIO Architects and corroborated by the Indiana SHPO. The northwest and southeast boundaries were expanded slightly to include five additional resources that historical research showed to be closely related to others in the district. The Gosport Historic District is one of three identified districts in the county—one of two with a commercial component. The other districts are the Spencer Courthouse Square Commercial District and the residential Hillside Historic District in Spencer.

Significant Dates (continued)

1946

Architects and Builders (continued)

Cramer, Leonard
Cramer, Julian
Dyer, Clayton L.
Goss, Edgar
Goss, Robert

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Areas of Significance

Architecture

The Gosport Historic District is significant for its collection of typical Midwest small town buildings representing various special functions. Private residences are intermixed with public and commercial buildings, the construction of which spans more than a 130-year period between mid-nineteenth-century vernacular and mid-twentieth-century functional styles. The district is predominantly characterized by post-railroad vernacular forms with minimal high-style decorative influences. Vernacular house forms reflect the Tidewater South and Upland South heritage of the earliest settlers, with central passage and I-houses among the earliest extant examples. Gabled-ell and T-plan forms are also found in the district. Commercial buildings range in style from Italianate to Neoclassical and include functional unstyled buildings constructed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The introduction to Gosport in 1853 of the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago railroad made possible the transport of construction materials manufactured at distant mills, especially pre-cut dimensional lumber and high styled wood ornamentation. The manufacture and popularity of these items was the result of an explosion in the invention and perfection of wood- and metal-working machinery in the latter half of the nineteenth century in America. Especially important for the construction industry was the development of and later improvements in the band saw, which cut lumber, and scroll saw, which cut the delicate ornamental gingerbread elements popular in the Victorian era.

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Built about 1850, the Smith-Fox House, an I-house with Greek Revival details located at 15 N. Fifth St. (resource 28; Photo 3 of 14, HP 4, and HP 5) is the district's oldest documented residential property. With origins traced to traditional types of British folk houses, the I-house—two rooms wide, one-room deep, with a central hall and stair—was often chosen by affluent local gentry, with elaborate additions of porches, chimneys, and extensions.³ The Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House at 126 S. Fourth St. (resource 68; Photo 9 of 14 and HP 20), built in 1858, is another I-house, as is the c.1870 Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House at 3 E. North St. (resource 4; Photo 3 of 14 and HP 1). Both feature elaborate Italianate-style porches with scroll-sawn ornament.⁴

Related to the I-house is the central passage house. It is two rooms wide and one room deep with a center hall. There are two examples in the district: the c.1879 George D. and Mary Dunagan House located at 126 E. North St. (resource 21) and the Criss-Dittemore House, built c.1862, at 126 E. South St. (resource 62; Photo 8 of 14.) The Criss-Dittemore House exhibits Gothic Revival influence in its steeply pitched central gable and decorative vergeboard and later Eastlake influences in its elaborate porch. Originating in England, the Gothic Revival style was popularized in the United States by the pattern books of Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing, who championed it as best suited for rural settings. Although the Picturesque movement spanned the years 1840-1880, its popularity was in decline by 1865.⁵ With its irregular forms, varied wall surfaces, intricate scrollwork, and spindlework, Queen Anne was a dominant style of domestic building in America from about 1880-1900. In Gosport, the style is best represented by the Hale-Stierwalt House (1897) located at 9 S. Fourth St. (resource 53; Photo 10 of 14 and HP 18).

Other post-railroad vernacular examples from the period 1860-1880 include the Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House, a gabled ell built c.1854/1877, at 11 E. North St.; Photo 3 of 14 and HP 1) and the T-plan Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House at 130 E. South St. (resource 60; Photo 8 of 14 and HP 19), built c.1860. The Osgood House, despite being built in several phases, has the regularity of fenestration seen in the vernacular I-house, with a central opening (door on the first story, window on the second) flanked by pairs of windows on both stories. It also exhibits subtle high style influences. The Greek Revival style is seen in the complex main entry composition, with its full side and upper lights, the corner boards with simple capitals, and wide frieze band at the cornice. The Italianate style, in particular the informal, rural model of the Picturesque movement, is reflected in the subtly pedimented window hoods and the ornate, bracketed porch supports with arched openings. Archaeological investigation in Greece in the early nineteenth century inspired an interest in classical inspired architecture that was spread by carpenter's guides and pattern books. Greek Revival was the dominant style in American architecture from about 1830 to 1860. The largest concentrations of extant examples are in areas that saw a large population growth during this period, including the state of Indiana.⁶ The Italianate style originated in England, with the earliest American houses built in the late 1830s. Popularized by pattern books, especially those by Andrew Jackson Downing, the style dominated American houses built between 1850 and 1880.⁷ The most significant example of the Italianate style in a domestic building is the Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (1881) at 125 N. Third St. (resource 9; Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2), but even this is a traditional hall-and-parlor form with applied Italianate ornament reflecting the builder's profession as a stone mason.

The hall-and-parlor vernacular house is thought to be a precursor to the central passage. It is a two-room house but lacks a central passageway; the entrance typically is located slightly off center. The hall is a large multipurpose room while the parlor is a more private and smaller room. Other examples of the hall-and-parlor in the Gosport Historic District include the c.1900 house located at 6 S. Fourth St. (resource 51) and the extensively remodeled Morehead-Wampler House (c.1910) at 10 S. Fourth St. (resource 55).

Because the Gosport Historic District was well-developed by 1900, with few residential building sites available, the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles, especially the popular Colonial Revival and Tudor revival styles, are unknown. The first truly twentieth century houses to be constructed are examples of the Craftsman style. The first, a bungalow, was the Willoughby-Stouder House (1913) at 122 N. Fourth St. (resource 6). The house was built on a lot separated from a larger parcel, a gift from parents to their newly married daughter. Two other bungalows followed seven years later: the Fred and Aline Shumaker House (c.1920) at 118 S. Fourth St. (resource 63) and the Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (1920) at 122 S. Fourth St. (resource 65). The Craftsman style drew upon the English Arts and Crafts movement. Features in popular magazines familiarized Americans with the style. The one-story Craftsman house quickly became the most fashionable and affordable smaller house in the country.⁸

³Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1992): 96-97.

⁴Three of the six I-houses in Gosport are found in the Gosport Historic District, with a fourth having been demolished since the *Owen County Interim Report* was published in 1994.

⁵McAlester, 200.

⁶McAlester, 182.

⁷McAlester, 212.

⁸McAlester, 454.

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The predominance of vernacular architecture is also seen in the commercial buildings found in the Gosport Historic District. There are only two that are today clearly influenced by high styles: the Italianate Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (c.1873) at 151 E. Main St. (resource 41; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12) and the Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (1909) at 141 E. Main St. (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10). The Knights of Pythias building, with its arched openings and limestone ornament reflects an optimism that its builder and the community must have felt in the years following the Civil War. In its original configuration, the 1867 Bank of Gosport (resource 34; Photo 2 of 14, HP 7, and HP 8)—it was damaged by fire in 1891—was influenced by the Italian Renaissance Revival style. By selecting the Neoclassical style, the founders of the new Gosport Banking Company (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10) conveyed a confidence in the strength and solidity of the new enterprise. The style was popularized by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago and quickly became a dominant force in American architecture. A year after the new bank opened, the Neoclassical Owen County Courthouse in Spencer was completed.

The remaining commercial buildings on Gosport's Main Street are relatively modest in comparison, the product of local designers and builders who relied on experience, an understanding of the needs of shopkeepers, and a familiarity with basic building materials in developing functional and sturdy buildings that have withstood the passing years. The oldest commercial building is the 1835 east section of the Gosport Tavern at 130 E. Main St. (resource 47; Photo 12 of 14). This wood framed, gable-front building is rectangular in plan and has been in constant use for 178 years. Two other wood frame, gable-front commercial buildings are the 1889 Brighton Poultry House at 19 N. Third St. (resource 13; Photo 5 of 14) and the 1881 Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable at 17N. Third St. (resource 20; Photo 5 of 14).

Brick buildings were constructed as early as the 1840s and 1850s. The oldest existing brick commercial building is the east half of VFW Post 7850 (c.1840) at 159 E. Main St. (resource 45; Photo 6 of 14, HP 14, and HP 15). The next to be erected, in 1856, was a three-story hardware building at the northeast corner of Main and Third St. It was destroyed by fire in 1946.

Fires in 1891, 1909, 1919, 1946—significant dates listed on the nomination form—and 1970 were a major factor in redesigning Main Street. Conflagrations in 1891 and 1909 resulted in the replacement of early frame buildings with new brick buildings. Central, 45-degree recessed entrances were framed by brick piers supporting large storefront display windows. Upper stories had tall windows, corbelled cornices, and other relatively simple ornamentation, such as inset panels and decorative brickwork. Only two of the new buildings were two-stories in height. And only two utilized cast iron piers and lintels that had become popular in the late-nineteenth century. These are the 1891 IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146 at 19 E. Main St. (resource 30; Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6) and the c.1902 west half of VFW Post 7850 (resource 44; Photo 6 of 14, HP 15). The c.1840 east half (resource 45) was probably remodeled slightly earlier, with large display windows framed by carved limestone piers (HP 14) very similar to those seen in the 1881 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (resource 9; Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2).

Brick was locally produced using traditional methods but also was purchased from factories at Martinsville and transported by train and wagon to Gosport. Thus, the brick used in these commercial buildings is of several varieties: soft, orange brick burned in beehive kilns; oversized manufactured brick used in foundations and side walls, and hard, tinted, wire-cut face brick. Local limestone was also used as lintels, sills, cornice caps, decorative elements such as columns and plaques, and wall veneer. The Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10) and the buildings at 153 and 155 E. Main St. (resources 38 and 39; Photo 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 13, and HP 15) are excellent examples of the use of local limestone.

Rebuilding of Main Street as a result of fires occurred again in 1919, 1946, and 1970. An entire two-story business block occupying the southwest corner of Fourth and Main St. just outside the district boundary entailed a loss exceeding \$75,000. For a time, the fire threatened the entire business district. Loss of the block, which housed the Masonic lodge on the second floor, forced the Masons to erect a new building at 5 S. Fourth St. (resource 52). Loss of the three-story hardware building at the northeast corner of Third and Main St. in 1946 led to the construction of the current functional building at 125 E. Main St. (resource 36) made of concrete block. At 118 E. Main St., Value Market (resource 50; Photo 11 of 14, 12 of 14, HP 16, and HP 17) replaces a nineteenth-century business block and other smaller buildings that burned in 1970. Built as a low, functional building in 1971 and remodeled to its present appearance in the early 1990s, the market's reddish-brown brick, arched window openings, and limestone trim evokes the historic buildings that formerly stood on this site.

A third functional building, the current Gosport Town Hall at 15 S. Third St. (resource 59; Photo 7 of 14), built of concrete block in 1956, is a repurposed automobile garage. The addition of its gable roof in recent years has significantly changed its 1950s character and is therefore designated as a noncontributing resource. The Nazarene Church (resource 25) is the latest building to be erected in the district that retains its original character. Its date of construction, 1952, marks the close of the district's period of significance. The remodeling of the market in the early 1990s and the completion of the park shelter in 2002 mark the most recent construction activity in the Gosport Historic District, with the exception of

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remodeling of historic structures. An example of current remodeling is the extensive rehabilitation of the Morehead-Wampler House (resource 55), which has been turned back into a single family home after years as a multi-family rental.

Commerce

Gosport was and remains second only to the Owen County seat of Spencer for longevity and impact of its commercial enterprises in the county. Though Spencer had double advantages of earlier settlement and county seat status, Gosport had its own economic niche as a river and railroad town that served a large portion of northeastern Owen County and neighboring Morgan County. For a time, from 1853 to 1869, Gosport had a distinct commercial and industrial advantage over Spencer because it had direct rail access while Spencer had none. When the Indianapolis and Vincennes railroad reached Spencer in 1869, Gosport began to experience a slight drain in population and commerce. Throughout its history, Gosport based its livelihood on serving a geographic area by access to the river and railroads, and exploitation of agricultural and natural resources.

From its founding in 1829, Gosport's commercial businesses sprung up along a one and one-half block stretch of Main Street roughly between Third and Fourth St. Other buildings of a quasi-commercial use lined the west side of Fourth St. north of Main; these include the extant Brighton Poultry House (resource 13; Photo 5 of 14) and the Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (resource 20; Photo 5 of 14). Over the years, important representative businesses have included the Gosport newspaper, which operated under various names; banks, dry goods, and grocery stores; drugstores; millinery and clothing stores; hardware stores; and eateries ranging from confectionery and ice cream parlors to restaurants and taverns. Recreational establishments included a movie theater on the site of the current post office, pool halls, and an opera house on the second floor of the Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 41; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12). The Masons and Independent Order of Oddfellows also had lodges in the downtown commercial area. Agricultural-based businesses included Havens Brothers and Bright poultry houses, Brewer's feed store, and the town feed mill.

Architects/Builders

George Carter (1889-1974)

Carter was an independent local stone mason and builder known to have built his own limestone house at 118 W. North Street, Gosport, and the Gosport Post Office (resource 29). In addition, John King, who assisted with this nomination, helped Carter build another house at nearby Lake Hollybrook in the 1950s.⁹ Carter also laid the Baptist Church cornerstone, although he did not build the church.¹⁰

Ira Cramer (1877-1952)

Julian Cramer (1905-1986)

Leonard Cramer (1907-1976)

Ralph Cramer (1909- 1976)

The Cramers of Martinsville were a family of well known traditional and highly skilled masons, with the younger generations learning the trade alongside the older generations. They built Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (resource 52) in 1923. Archibald Cramer, the patriarch, settled in Morgan County in 1839. He was a farmer, stonemason, and preacher. His great-grandson Ira, father of eight children, was also a mason and preacher. Three of his five sons—those listed above—were engaged in the construction trade their whole lives, leaving behind an extensive collection of houses, commercial, and other buildings with their unique imprint in Morgan County and vicinity, as well as outside of Indiana. Among the most notable Indiana examples are the Grassyfork Office and Display Room and surrounding landscape (NRHP 2012), attributed to Julian, Leonard, and Ralph, and the Nashville House and other buildings in Nashville (attributed to Leonard). The large family lived frugally and struggled during the Depression when construction work dwindled; these experiences, together with an eccentricity exhibited most powerfully in Julian, resulted in buildings of unique creativity demonstrating handiwork ranging from ironwork, brick and stone mosaics, highly textured stucco and plaster, the use of recycled and odd materials, and unusual natural landscape features such as rock formations, which Julian termed "accretions."¹¹

⁹ John King, interview with author, April 29, 2011.

¹⁰ Lyle Brighton, interview with author, July 19, 2011.

¹¹ Joanne Raetz Stuttgart, National Register of Historic Places nomination for Grassyfork Fisheries Farm No. 1, 2010. Also, Bob Cramer, letter to 'Ced' [last name unknown], March 2 and 4, 1992. Copy in possession of author. Bob Cramer writes that Ira, Julian, Leonard, and Ralph also built the Masonic building in nearby Spencer. A complete list of all buildings known to have been built by or attributed to Julian Cramer and/or Cramer family members can be found in the Grassyfork nomination. Additional buildings continue to be identified.

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Clayton L. Dyer (1850-1914)

Born in 1850 to Elijah and Polly (McGinnis) Dyer, Clayton L. Dyer was a stone cutter, carver, and mason, who is believed to have built his own house (resource 9) in 1881. Clayton appears to have learned the stone trade from his father, who was a marble dealer from approximately 1863-1880.¹² It is unknown how or where Elijah learned the trade. Clayton Dyer's name is found on several grave markers in the Gosport and Van Buskirk family cemeteries.¹³

Edgar Goss (1872-1945)

Robert Goss (1872-1940)

Cousins Ed and Bob Goss were widely known carpenters, masons, and contractors in the Gosport area. "They were wonderful masons and carpenters," remembers John King. "They did whatever work was necessary. They did this work all their lives." Both men never married. They lived together at the east end of North Street, at the bottom of Mars Hill. Ed died in his garden in 1945. In 1940, Bob died of a stroke from which he never gained consciousness.¹⁴ According to Lyle Brighton, the Gosses "just picked up the trade."¹⁵ A notable example of their work is the American Foursquare Gregory-Hoadley House (c.1910) located on 3965 N. County Line Rd.¹⁶

Other buildings attributed to the Goss cousins are as follows:

- Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (resource 65)
- Fred and Aline Shumaker House (resource 63)
- Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1)
- veneer on the Fox-Hart-Hoadley House (resource 26)
- 440 S. Fourth St., Gosport

In addition, Lyle Brighton says the Gosses laid the brick on Frank Whitaker's barbershop that stood east of the tavern and is now the westernmost part of Value Market (resource 50).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Landscape Evaluation

The general layout and configuration of the town of Gosport reflects the influence of the United States Land Ordinance of 1785, which established the basis for the survey and sale of public land. The act created a methodology for a systematic survey of land based on a grid system of equally spaced east-west and north-south division lines, resulting in a generally uniform parceling of land with property lines oriented to the cardinal points of the compass and city blocks and individual parcels of land being fairly uniform in size or incrementally so. In Gosport, north-south streets between Sixth and First Street, including those within the Gosport Historic District, are skewed very slightly to the northwest, with east-west streets throughout the town also skewed to create square blocks and right-angle intersections. The regularity of the lot size is offset by the individual landowner's preference for architectural style and detailing in their house construction.

The Town of Gosport and Owen County

The town of Gosport is located on White River in Wayne Township, in the southeastern part of Owen County in south-central Indiana. Settlers to the area that would become Owen County began to arrive in 1817 and 1818, among them those who would plan and populate the town of Gosport. The county itself was organized in 1818, although Wayne township was not included within the boundaries until 1821-22. Gosport gained population and commercial success as a result of its location on White River. The pork curing, packing, and shipping industry engaged several entrepreneurs, including Ephraim Goss, after whom the town was named, and Abner Alexander. The two men instigated a survey of 36 acres which they then purchased, platted as the town, and recorded June 1829. Gosport was laid out on a sloping tract of

¹² Elijah's occupation varies from census to census. In 1850, he is a farmer. In 1860, he is a silver smith. Tax assessment lists for 1863-1866 record income as a "retail dealer" and from "monumental stone." The 1870 census identifies him as a marble dealer, while the 1880 census identifies him as a watch maker and jeweler.

¹³ Patsy Powell, ed., *Focus on Sweet Owen* (Spencer, IN: Owen County Preservations, Inc., 1995): 100.

¹⁴ Obituary of Ed Goss, *Gosport Reporter*, August 16, 1945. Obituary of Bob Goss, *Gosport Reporter*, October [day unknown], 1940.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Mrs. Hattie Dodd Dies." *Owen County Leader*, February 2, 1950. Copy on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

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land in sections 31 and 32, Township 11 North, Range 10 West. The original plat included 16 blocks and 112 lots, with Adams, Market, and Jackson Streets (later changed to numbered streets) running in a north-south direction and North, Main, and South Streets in an east-west direction. The town was bounded on the east by White River, with a bluff donated by the founders for use by the public. The town site was located on this bluff and the high ground to the west and north, bringing it well above the flood plain. The Gosport Historic District is contained within the original plat.¹⁷

The land on which Gosport is situated, along with most of Owen County, is graced with dramatic topography, the result of underlying old limestone strata which was uplifted in geologic time and slowly eroded to its present conformation. Across White River on the south is Monroe County, and south of it is Lawrence County; the two counties are home to the state's famed Oolitic limestone quarries, which provided much of the nation's supply of fine-grained building stone. Oolitic limestone, used for architectural details on Gosport commercial buildings, was available at the Hoadley family quarry across White River at Stinesville in Monroe County, just a few miles from Gosport. Nearby beds of Keokuk limestone provided very durable stone for Gosport foundation walls, cellar walls, and other rough rubble masonry. In addition, St. Louis limestone was quarried at Spencer, a distance of 10 miles. Known as "Spencer stone," it also appears in foundations throughout Gosport. The poorer quality Kaskaskia limestone was used primarily for road material in Owen County. Chester sandstone, which was durable for buildings, was also quarried in the county, along with other extractable materials.

Gosport's earliest industries were based on the abundant natural resources in the area. The rich alluvial bottom lands of White River were highly productive for agriculture. The river also provided water power for flour and saw mills before the active use of steam-powered engines. Timber was harvested in large quantities, and both building and finish lumber such as that produced at the J. L. Rumbarger mill, were popular products. Underlain with limestone, the rolling blue grass hills of Wayne Township were perfect for raising cattle, horses, and pigs. The latter were instrumental in Gosport's early financial success. Other natural resources in the township included some coal (in the southwest) and vast amounts of clays for brick, pottery, and tile manufacturing. In 1884, a positive future for the growth of fruit trees was predicted, and pure spring waters were said to be found in almost every quarter section. Wells within the town of Gosport, such as that found on the Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood property, were renowned for their cool, sweet water.

Due to its river access, Gosport became a prominent regional livestock market in its early years. Salt and sugar curing of pork and its packing and shipping was the primary industry from about 1830-1855. Perhaps because the industry was concentrated in the hands of only a few individuals, the town was slow to grow until after 1853, when the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago railroad (later the Monon line) was completed through the village. Incorporated in 1865, Gosport was the first town in the county to host passenger and freight travel, and it quickly became a prime trade town in the area. A second railroad, the Indianapolis and Vincennes, was completed in 1869. Gosport Junction, a crossing of the two railroad lines just northeast of the town, became an important commercial and industrial hub. The railroads quickly surpassed river traffic because they were more reliable, faster, and could operate during all seasons of the year. From 1869 to the early 1920s, 12 daily passenger trains passed through Gosport on the two lines. By the mid-1890s, a large industrial district soon developed near the railroads east of downtown and along White River. By 1890, there was a flour mill, saw mill, bell factory, and hub and spoke factory. There were also seven hotels to serve travelers and salesman who were required to stay overnight.

Another important transportation system was the network of roads linking communities both near and far. As roads improved and traffic increased, river crossings were upgraded from ferries to bridges. In 1871, a covered bridge was built over White River between Gosport and Mt. Tabor in Monroe County made the crossing easier, although a ferry continued to operate. In 1895, it was joined by a new iron truss bridge. Though the railroads and roads drained people and business activity to the Owen County seat of Spencer, Gosport continued to prosper. By the 1920s, however, Gosport's fortune began a downturn. Construction of the new State Road 67 bypassing Gosport began in 1929 and was completed in 1936. Although road construction provided jobs during the first year of the Depression, the increasing popularity of the automobile made it easy for residents to do business elsewhere and for visitors to slip by. And though passenger trains continued to run through Gosport into the 1950s, they no longer stopped after 1945. By the time the covered bridge was burned by vandals in 1955, White River was a barrier to the town rather than a lifeline.¹⁸

The commercial core of Gosport as it appears today began to develop in the mid-1830s. The earliest buildings were frame construction and include the east part of the Gosport Tavern (resource 47; Photo 12 of 14), built in 1835. The town's peak commercial growth occurred between 1850 and 1930, a period marked by the building and rebuilding of its commercial core due to fires on July 18, 1891; January 20, 1909, and November 30, 1919. Subsequent fires on January 24, 1946, and January 7, 1970, also led to rebuilding, but the motivation was less confidence in a prospering town than an attempt to invigorate and sustain the community against a slow decline that had begun in the 1920s and 1930s.

¹⁷ The following brief history of Gosport and Owen County is adapted from the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House (resource 5) prepared by Camille B. Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc., 1998, and from a walking tour brochure titled "Historical Points of Interest, Gosport, Indiana" prepared by the Fortnightly Club in 1979.

¹⁸ *Owen County, Indiana—A History*, 98-99.

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Consolidation of Owen County schools in 1966 led to the closure of Gosport High School, a center of community life. The elementary classes were spared, however, and a new Gosport Elementary School was built in 1971. The 1970s brought other changes—both significant and symbolic—with the demolition of the Monon railroad station in 1976 and the closing of longtime businesses, including Moore's Variety Store (resource 43) after 57 years. Yet the decade inspired optimism as well. The 1970 fire that destroyed nearly a quarter of a block at the southeast corner of Main and Third Streets launched a creative redevelopment strategy. A small group of residents established the Gosport Development Corporation and sold shares to finance the construction of a grocery store to serve the community.

In the early 1990s, community leader John King, new property owner John McFarlane, the Gosport Business Association, and the Gosport Development Corporation plotted a revitalization strategy that resulted in the partial restoration of the Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 41; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12) and façade facelifts on several buildings. In the late 2000s, the availability of Community Focus Fund grants through the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs, made further revitalization possible. The Gosport Revitalization Plan was prepared by RATIO Architects, Inc., in 2008-2009. In 2010-2011, grants and other funding led to installation of the town's first storm water system, new downtown streets, sidewalks, and street furniture. Other infrastructure and façade improvement projects are planned.

In regards to infrastructure, Gosport has had electricity since 1898 or 1899; a privately owned light plant was built in 1897, but it was another year or more before town officials accepted service and agreed to pay for it. By 1929, it was a holding of Wabash Valley Electric Company.¹⁹ A town water system was completed in 1926, three years after citizens petitioned for one to the town board.²⁰ In 1909, the town boasted "miles of cement walks."²¹ In 1924, concrete sidewalks and curbs in the commercial area were installed, according to several deeds that noted assessments that were due.²² By 1931, a writer for the local paper boasted that Gosport had a "city water system, concrete sidewalks, curbs, and ditches, and macadam streets."²³

Other Observations of Note

While transportation is not included in this nomination as an area of significance, it should be noted that there are a number of transportation-related resources in the Gosport Historic District that reflect the transition from the horse and buggy to automobile as a means of travel. The Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (10; Photo 5 of 14) and the carriage barn behind the Dr. H. G. and Hattie Osgood House are excellent representations of the former. Hart was a commercial liveryman, renting horses, wagon, and buggies for others to use. His business also boarded horses for overnight visitors and travelers. The livery barn has horse stalls on either side of a center aisle and a hay loft overhead. Dr. Osgood's carriage barn reflects his upper-middle class lifestyle and his profession. His practice as a physician required him to travel throughout and minister to patients in several counties. A third resource associated with horse and buggy travel is the carriage stone (HP 20) on the south lawn of the Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House (resource 68).

As the horse and buggy gave way to the automobile, garages began to appear in rear yards. At first they were just large enough to accommodate a family's sole automobile. Some garages, such as the wood frame building at the Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1), appear to have been rather quickly built and reflect a status clearly secondary to the house. Other garages, such as the 1950 glazed tile block model at the Fox-Hart-Hoadley House (resource 26), reflect the garage's increasing importance within the domestic sphere. By the last quarter of the twentieth century, the attached garage has literally become a part of the house itself. The Brown-Brighton House (resource 70; Photo 9 of 14) at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Street is a good example. The original 1911, single bay garage on the north-south alley has been replaced by a large two-bay attached garage at the house's southeast corner.

Another observation of note is how the Gosport Historic District has been impacted by a pattern of clustering family members in close proximity to each other. This is particularly evident at the district's southern boundary, where several interrelated families built houses. Three children of Thomas and Sarah (Robinson) Criss, who lived at 126 E. South St. (resource 62; Photo 8 of 14), built their own houses near that of their parents. Three of Sarah's sisters also lived nearby in houses of their own. After sister Eliza Grimsley's death, her house at 126 S. Fourth St. (resource 68) was sold to Evander and Jesse Runyan, who had the house next door at 130 S. Fourth St. (resource 70) built for their daughter and her family. It is this clustering that redefined and expanded the southern boundary of the Gosport Historic District.

¹⁹ "Electric Light Plant Installed Here in 1897", *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929.

²⁰ Notes on Gosport by Bill Marley Dictated to Mary Edith Marley, December 1993. On file in Owen County Public Library, Spencer.

²¹ *Owen County, Indiana—A History*, 97.

²² However, in 1909, the *Gosport Reporter* boasted that the town had "miles of cement walks". See *Owen County—A History*, 97.

²³ Rebecca Willoughby. "Early History of Gosport, Indiana." *Spencer Evening World*, June 29, 1931.

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.33
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>528775</u>	<u>4355722</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>529069</u>	<u>4355407</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>529065</u>	<u>4355730</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>528870</u>	<u>4355386</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Gosport Historic District
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the southwest corner of Main and Third Street, thence south along the west side of Third Street to the north side of the east-west alley south of South Street; thence west along north side of said alley to the west side of the intersecting north-south alley; thence south along the west side of said alley to Walnut Street; thence west along the north side of Walnut Street to Fourth Street; thence north along the east side of Fourth Street to a point on axis with the south property line of 9 S. Fourth Street; thence west along said property line to the north-south alley west of Fourth Street; thence north along east side of said alley to the intersecting east-west alley; thence east along south side of said alley to a point on axis with the rear (west) wall of 5 S. Fourth Street; thence north along said wall to the north wall of 5 S. Fourth Street; thence east along said north wall to Fourth Street; thence north along west side of Fourth Street, crossing Main Street; thence west along north side of Main Street to the north-south alley west of Fourth Street; thence north along east side of said alley, crossing the intersecting east-west alley; thence west along north side of said alley to the north-south alley west of Fifth Street; thence north along east side of said alley to Church Street; thence east along south side of Church Street, crossing Fourth Street; thence south along east side of Fourth Street to the north property line of 122 N. Fourth Street; thence east along an axis of said property line and the north property line of 123 N. Third Street, crossing Third Street; thence east along north property line of 125 N. Third Street to east property line of said property; thence south along said property line to North Street; thence west along the north side of North Street, crossing Third Street; thence south along the west side of Third Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are identified in the 2009 Gosport Revitalization Plan prepared by RATIO Architects, corroborated by the Indiana SHPO, and enclose all resources in the Gosport Historic District identified in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Raetz Stuttgen for
organization Gosport Business Association date December 22, 2011
street & number 759 E. Washington St. telephone 765-349-1537
city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151
e-mail jstuttgen@comcast.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Gosport Historic District
Name of Property

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Gosport Historic District

City or Vicinity: Gosport

County: Owen State: IN

Photographer: Joanne Raetz Stuttgen

Date Photographed: December 11, 2011, unless otherwise noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 14 North side of Main St. looking north from Fourth St.
- 2 of 14 North side of Main St. looking west from Fourth St.
- 3 of 14 Nazarene Church (resource 25), Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood House (previously listed), Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House (resource 4), and Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1). Looking west along North St. from Fourth St.
- 4 of 14 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (resource 9) looking north from the southeast corner of North and Third St.
- 5 of 14 West side of Third Street looking north from Main St.
- 6 of 14 North side of Main Street looking west from Third St.
- 7 of 14 Gosport Town Park (resource 46) and Gosport Town Hall (resource 59) looking east-southeast from the corner of Main St. and north-south alley west of Third St.
- 8 of 14 Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House (resource 60) and Criss-Dittemore House (resource 62) looking east-southeast from the corner of South St. and north-south alley west of Third St.
- 9 of 14 East side of Fourth St. looking north from Walnut St.
- 10 of 14 Hale-Stierwalt House (resource 53) and Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (resource 52) looking west from the east side of Fourth St. near the north boundary of 14 S. Fourth St.
- 11 of 14 Value Market (resource 50) and the south side of Main St., looking east-southeast from the northwest corner of Main and Fourth St.
- 12 of 14 East and west parts of Gosport Tavern (resources 44 and 45) and the south side of Main St. looking west-southwest from the northeast property boundary of the Tavern. Photo taken October 4, 2010.
- 13 of 14 Smith-Fox House (resource 28), looking west from across Fourth St.
- 14 of 14 Gosport Feed Store (resource 24) and rear of McClure's Service Hardware (resource 36), looking southeast from northwest corner of North and Fourth St.

Gosport Historic District
Name of Property

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Property Owner:

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

name John King, Vice President, Gosport Business Association
street & number P. O. Box 504 telephone 812-879-4677
city or town Gosport state IN zip code 47433

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

APPENDIX 1: HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SELECTED PROPERTIES

1 Tom and Hattie Dodd House (c.1922) • 1 E. North Street (C)

Married in 1904, Tom Dodd, an agent for the Monon Railroad, and his wife, Hattie, a granddaughter to Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood (11 E. North St., previously listed on NRHP), lived in Linden and Indianapolis before returning to Gosport in 1920. They purchased the E. E. Montgomery house at the northwest corner of North Fifth Street.¹ A year later the house burned to the ground. The existing house was built by local contractors Bob and Ed Goss about 1922. The cousins were known for their excellent skills, especially with brick and mortar.

The Dodds' son Richard sold the house to Bert and Victoria Wampler in 1952.² The Wampers sold it in 1954 to Ray and Pauline Smith, the parents of local historian Sue Trotman, who assisted with this nomination.

4 Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House (c.1870) • 3 E. North St. (C)

Based on the property abstract in the possession of owners Ned and Rosemary Smith, this house appears to have been built between 1870 and 1871 for Cyrus C. and Mary H. Spillman, who recorded a mortgage of \$3500 with Asahel H. Pettit on April 1, 1870. After Cyrus died on March 27, 1872, Pettit foreclosed and acquired the property at sheriff's sale in 1874. The Spillmans filed suit to recover the property on the grounds that Pettit failed to identify the Spillmans' daughter Emma as one of the defendants. This attempt failed. After a quick succession of transfers between Pettit family members and others, the house was sold in October 1882 to Jacob L. Rumbarger.³ The Rumbargers lived here for approximately two years but continued to own the property until 1892.⁴ In 1937, the house was purchased by Raymond and Evaline Smith, Ned Smith's parents, from Fred and Aline Shumaker, who had converted the residence into a rooming house known as Shumaker Flats. The Smiths returned the house to a single family residence, and Evaline operated an antique store in the east first floor room, west bedroom, and attic over the one-story ell.

The house is the only known resource in Indiana associated with **Jacob Leathers Rumbarger** (1836-1929), one of America's pre-eminent lumbermen.

Though they owned the house until 1892, Rumbarger and his wife lived here only from October 1882 to 1884. Despite their brief occupancy, the house is significant because it is the only known resource in Indiana associated with Rumbarger. It represents the period in which Rumbarger resided at Gosport and accumulated the experience and wealth that was the foundation for his lifelong career in the lumber industry.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1836, Jacob Leathers Rumbarger, one of America's preeminent lumbermen of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, settled in Decatur County, Indiana, in 1860, where he established a small saw mill. In 1869, he leased a tract of land from David V. Buskirk in Beanblossom Township, Monroe County, a few miles north of Stinesville and two miles from Gosport, where he established a sawmill.⁵ He moved his family there in 1871. About 1880, he moved the mill to Owen County, to a new location north of Gosport at the intersection of two rail lines and just south of the wagon bridge.⁶ On August 1, 1882, a boiler explosion destroyed the mill; the loss was estimated at

¹ "A Bit About the Dodd Branch of the Osgood Heritage", written memoirs of Richard R. Dodd, February 1, 1992, copy on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport. Also, interview with Sue Trotman, museum director, by Patsy Powell, February 15, 2011.

² Deed Record 111: 170. Hereinafter, Deed Record will be abbreviated as DR.

³ DR 39: 587.

⁴ The deed for its transfer to William and Mary E. Bicknell on December 15, 1892, identifies Rumbarger as a resident of Putnam County, Indiana. DR 50: 430. Volumes 12, 13, and 14 of *Wallace's American Trotting Register* for 1893 and 1895 seem to place J. L. Rumbarger in Greencastle.

⁵ Monroe County Miscellaneous Record 1: 49-50.

⁶ Charles R. Mason. *Memoirs of My Boyhood Days in My Old Home Town, Gosport, Indiana*. (Reprinted by Owen County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1994): 1. As he did in Monroe County, Rumbarger leased land in Owen County for the new mill; see Owen County Miscellaneous Record 2: 113. On January 1, 1899, the Gosport bi-weekly newspaper, *The People*, reported that son Frank T. is at home during vacation from attending college at Greencastle. In his own biography, son John J., born in 1855, says the family moved to Gosport when he was 15 [1880]. "John J. Rumbarger" in *American Lumbermen: The Personal History and Public*

\$9,000.⁷ Perhaps Rumbarger intended to rebuild his sawmill, as he bought the house at 3 E. North St. that October. In late 1884, Rumbarger left Gosport for Dobbin, Grant County, West Virginia, where he organized the J. L. Rumbarger Company, a sawmill operation managed by him and his three sons.⁸ In 1889, J. L. Rumbarger resided in nearby Maryland; the 1890 directory of Cumberland, MD, lists his residence as 15 Smallwood.⁹ The family-owned company accepted non-family board members in 1897. By early 1898, the headquarters of the operation had moved to Philadelphia, and the Rumbargers were maneuvered out. The company was sold in 1897 or 1898, and the family organized the Rumbarger Lumber Co. to deal in wholesale lumber.¹⁰

Rumbarger appears to have had various residences after he left Gosport in 1884. In 1892, the year he sold the Gosport house, he was a resident of Putnam County, Indiana.¹¹ Several issues of Wallace's American Trotting Register identify him as the Greencastle, Indiana, owner of trotting horses; other entries identify Rumbarger Livestock Co., Indianapolis, as owner. Rumbarger's cousin George, whom the federal census identifies as a farmer, and George's wife, Nancy, were residents of Greencastle during this period; both died in the 1920s and are buried in Greencastle.

In a 1922 article written in honor of the 64th wedding anniversary of J. L. and Margaret Rumbarger, it is reported that J. L. Rumbarger Company [was] out of business and J. L. retired—he retired in 1907—“although his sons Frank T., John J. and Robert R continue active in the business, the first two at Philadelphia in the wholesale line.” In the same article, J. L. is identified as among the first American lumbermen to adopt the band saw in place of the circular saw. An obituary for Rumbarger states that he was the first man in America to manufacture Quarter Sawn Oak.¹² A follow-up article reports that Rumbarger introduced the first band saw in West Virginia and expands upon the claim that he was the first to produce quarter sawn oak, which was sawn at the Gosport mill:

The Rumbarger sawmill was on Beanblossom Creek, near Gosport, Indiana, when the first quarter sawn oak was made. This was in 1871, and although the product was well known in England, it had never been attempted in this country. Besides some waste of raw material, quarter sawing took time, and its sawing art was little understood in this country.

It was at this time that officials of providence, R. I., turned the drawing of plans for their city hall over to an English architect. The result was a specification for quartered oak, unobtainable in this country. Eventually J. L. Slocum & Son, Providence wholesalers, got the Rumbarger mill on Beanblossom Creek to accept the order and the material was duly delivered. A panel of this material was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition, by which time it had grown fairly popular and was widely manufactured.¹³

Further evidence that Rumbarger's mill near Gosport produced the first quarter sawn oak in America is found in two letters, copies of which are on file in the Ten O'clock Treaty Line Museum in Gosport. The first, written by Jacob Leathers Rumbarger to his son John L. Rumbarger in 1909, says that the first load of quarter sawn oak was sold in 1872, with others following in 1873 and 1874. The oak was used in the Providence, Rhode Island, town hall, the first building in the United States to feature it. Rumbarger writes that the sawyer was James M. Jones, his brother-in-law.¹⁴ In the second letter dated January 2, 1908,

and Business Achievements of One Hundred Eminent Lumbermen of the United States (Chicago: The American Lumberman, 1906): 350.

⁷ "Horrible Accident, Misfortunes Come Not Singly," *Martinsville Republican*, August 3, 1882, 5. Also Rose McIlveen, "Boiler explosion at Gosport caused loss of life." *Bloomington Herald Times*, no date. (Article in "Looking back" column with information taken from the *Bloomington Republican Progress*, August 9, 1882.) In the *History of Clay and Owen Counties, Indiana* published in 1884, author Charles Blanchard writes: "J. L. Rumbarger operates a large saw mill, and is proprietor of one of the most extensive lumber yards in the state, his sales aggregating over \$200,000 annually. He ships lumber and timber to all parts of the United States, the principal points being Boston, Baltimore and Denver. He runs a planing mill also, and has a number of saw mills in different states." It seems that Blanchard wrote this well before the book's publication date.

⁸ *American Lumbermen*: 350.

⁹ Obituary of John J. Rumbarger, father of J. L. Rumbarger, posted on www.genforum.com by descendant Gordon Kelly Marshall.

¹⁰ Barbara Rasmussen. *Absentee Landowning and Exploitation in West Virginia, 1760-1920*. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1994): 103-06.

¹¹ The deed recording the 1892 house sale identifies him "of Putnam County, Indiana."

¹² "Son of Founder of DuBois Dead in Philadelphia." *The DuBois Courier*. March 11, 1929.

¹³ Rumbarger First in U. S. to Quarter Saw Timber." *The DuBois Courier*. March 29, 1929.

¹⁴ J. L. Rumbarger, letter to John L. Rumbarger, January 6, 1909. Copy on file in Ten O'Clock Line Museum, Gosport.

James P. Hatch, a former Beanblossom mill worker residing at Gosport, writes to John L. Rumbarger, that the first "quartered sawn oak" was produced in 1872.¹⁵

Jacob Leathers Rumbarger achieved other "pioneering distinctions." He is credited with introducing commercially such woods as cherry, birch, and hemlock to Philadelphia and east coast markets and was known as the 'cherry[wood] king' of eastern lumbering.¹⁶

Jacob Leathers Rumbarger died in Philadelphia, the city of his residence, on March 7, 1929. Margaret Rumbarger died in Philadelphia in 1924.

previously listed Dr. Horace G. and Hattie Osgood House (c.1845/1877) • 11 E. North St. (C)

A prominent citizen of Gosport and one of the area's longest-serving physicians, Dr. Horace G. Osgood was born in Massachusetts in 1833. He was well-educated in public and private schools, later entering the field of medicine by studying with physicians and taking courses at the Cincinnati Medical College. In June 1856, he came to Bloomington, Indiana, and from there came to Gosport and entered into medical practice with a Dr. Young, who soon departed. In 1859, Dr. Osgood married Hattie Lyons of New Albany, Indiana. In February 1863, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Fifth Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, serving until being discharged in 1864.

The Osgoods had four children, of which three daughters survived past infancy. Hattie Osgood died in 1890, and by 1893 Dr. Osgood had deeded the property to his three daughters, although he continued to live and work here until his own death in 1918. Daughter Eliza "Bessie" Strain lived in the house until her death in December 1950 at the age of 84. Subsequent owners were Francis B. "Pat" and Mina Jane Ahlmeyer (1950-2002) and their daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Jerry Quick (2002-present).¹⁷

Pat Ahlmeyer was an educator and school superintendent in Owen and Monroe Counties for 44 years. Mina Jane was a public school art teacher and taught private lessons in the house. She was also an artist.

6 Willoughby-Stouder House (1913) • 122 N. Fourth St. (C)

This bungalow appears to have been built in 1913 for Dr. George E. and Lydia (Bailey) Willoughby.¹⁸ In 1922, widower Willoughby married Bess Van Buskirk, who lived here with him and his daughter, Rebecca. In 1936, following the death of Bess's father, James Isaac "Ike" Van Buskirk, they acquired and moved into the Van Buskirk family home at the northeast corner of North and Sixth Street. This bungalow then became a rental property. From about 1936-1946 or 1955, it was occupied by the Dr. Charles E. and Mary Stouder family. Dr. Stouder had an office in the rear room; presumably, Dr. Willoughby did as well. In 1972, after nearly 60 years of family ownership, Rebecca Willoughby Keaton sold the property.¹⁹

8 Jennings-Brown House (c.1898) • 123 N. Third St. (NC)

The Sanborn maps of 1895 and 1902 seem to distinguish two different houses on this site. An earlier building, "the home residence of Jacob Massey, deceased", one of Owen County's earliest pioneer settlers, stood here in 1898. Massey's daughter, Julia A. Jennings, owned the property from 1898-1919.²⁰ Jim Zoellner, who is buying the house on contract, reports that the foundation is "stacked stone block", there are 12" x 12" hand hewed beams supporting the house, and the walls are lath and plaster.²¹ If the two houses on the 1895 and 1902 Sanborn maps are not one and the same, it is possible that Julia Jennings built a new house, or extensively remodeled her father's house, using the pre-existing foundation and joists.

¹⁵ James P. Hatch, letter to John L. Rumbarger, January 2, 1908. Copy on file in Ten O'Clock Line Museum, Gosport.

¹⁶ "Rumbarger First in U. S. to Quarter Saw Timber" and John J. Rumbarger. *Profits, Power, and Prohibition: Alcohol Reform and the Industrializing of America, 1800-1930*. (Albany: State University of New York, 1989): xx.

¹⁷ Information about the house and Dr. Osgood is derived from the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the property prepared by Camille B. Fife of The Westerly Group, Inc., dated July 18, 1998. NRHP listing occurred in 1999.

¹⁸ DR 73:447.

¹⁹ DR 122: 86. Also, Patsy Powell, childhood friend of Ann Stouder, interview by author, August 6, 2011, and Mike Clark, "Know Your Neighbors: Dr. C. E. Stouder," *The [Ellettsville] Journal*, [no month or date], 1961; clipping on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

²⁰ On December 16, 1898, the heirs of Jacob Massey sold the property to Charles W. Buskirk. The deed identifies it as Jacob Massey's home residence. DR 56: 346. Days later, Buskirk transferred the property to Julia A. Jennings, Massey's daughter.

²¹ Jim Zoellner, interview by author, July 12, 2011.

Jennings's heir, Naomi E. Lipscomb, sold the property to James C. Brown in 1919.²² Brown transferred it to Lucie S. Brown, the wife of his son William L. Brown, in 1920.²³ The Browns lived here until 1946. Since then the house has had many different owners and occupants.

9 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (1881) • 125 N. Third St. (C)

This Italianate cottage is believed to have been built by Clayton L. Dyer, a stone cutter, carver, and mason, in 1881. Born in 1850 to Elijah and Polly (McGinnis) Dyer, Clayton appears to have learned the stone trade from his father, who was a marble dealer from approximately 1863-1880.²⁴ It is unknown how or where Elijah learned the trade. The property may have been the location of the Dyer stone yard, as it was owned by Elijah prior to February 24, 1881, when two adjacent lots were transferred to Clayton. The lot on the north had improvements valued at \$300. The lot on the south, the west half of which is the house site, was valued at only \$30.²⁵

Clayton Dyer's name is found on several grave markers in the Gosport and Van Buskirk family cemeteries.²⁶

The house remained in the Dyer family until Clayton's widow, Frances, passed away. It was owned by James Van Buskirk from 1925-1940. The house had several owners over the next 60 years, with Hazel Neibel being a longtime owner-occupant (about 1943 to 1975).²⁷ In 1999, the house was acquired by Owen County Preservations, Inc. (OCP), which received a \$55,000 loan from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, now Indiana Landmarks, for restoration work that included the construction of the frame addition at the northeast corner in which plumbing, heating, etc., was installed.²⁸ The porch on the rear ell was also added. Work was completed by Golden Hands Construction of Bloomington owned by Chris Sturbaum in the summer of 2001.²⁹ OCP sold the house to Laura Bullock in December 2001. She has since sold it. The property is now vacant and in foreclosure.

13 Brighton Poultry House (c.1889) • 19 N. Third St. (C)

William J. Brighton, his mother, and three brothers, John, Thad, and Mike, came to Gosport in 1889 from Worthington and established a poultry business. This building is believed to have been erected about 1889. With the death of his brothers, Mike became sole owner about 1918, later being joined by his son, Roger "Rab" Brighton. The business was renamed M. Brighton & Son.

According to Gosport resident Lyle Brighton, the business diversified through the 1940s. While continuing to deal in eggs and live and prepared and frozen poultry, the Brightons also collected scrap iron, cured hides, and dealt in ginseng and furs.³⁰ Rab closed the poultry house in the 1960s to concentrate on the Brighton orchard business.³¹

17 Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (c.1881) • 17 N. Third St. (C)

Benjamin F. Hart (1828-1910) established a livery stable at this location in October 1881 and operated it with two sons, Thomas and Alexander, until his death. A native of Kentucky, Hart moved to Hendricks County, Indiana, with his parents in 1841. He moved to Gosport in 1849 and farmed and traded stock

²² DR 80: 260.

²³ DR 82: 312.

²⁴ Elijah's occupation varies from census to census. In 1850, he is a farmer. In 1860, he is a silver smith. Tax assessment lists for 1863-1866 record income as a "retail dealer" and from "monumental stone." The 1870 census identifies him as a marble dealer, while the 1880 census identifies him as a watch maker and jeweler.

²⁵ DR 40: 38. According to the 1880 census, neither Elijah nor Clayton lived in the immediate vicinity.

²⁶ Patsy Powell, ed., *Focus on Sweet Owen* (Spencer, IN: Owen County Preservations, Inc., 1995): 100.

²⁷ Sue Trotman, interview with Jason Kinney, June 28, 2011.

²⁸ "Owen County Preservations Receives State Grant, Loan For Projects," *Owen Leader*, August 12, 1999.

²⁹ "Porch on Gosport House Is Replicated in Washington, D. C; Restored Home Now For Sale," *Spencer Evening World*, August 28, 2001.

³⁰ Lyle Brighton, interview with Jason Kinney, March 30, 2011.

³¹ Lyle Brighton, interview with John King and Jason Kinney, April 17, 2011. Also, obituary for John Douglas Brighton, clipping dated April 30, 1958, on file at Owen County Public Library, Spencer; "Brighton & Son", *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929; *Owen County— a History* (Spencer, IN: Owen County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1994: 99. The deed record for the Brightons' acquisition of this property is not altogether clear.

until 1860 when he opened his first livery stable. He operated and sold three different livery stables before this one.³² Hart is also associated with resources 21 and 23.

Roger "Rab" Brighton later used the Hart livery stable as an apple house for Brighton Orchards. It closed in 1964.³³

18 George D. and Mary Dunagan House (c.1879) • 126 E. North St. (C)

This property was sold to Mary E. Dunagan, the wife of George D. Dunagan, on July 24, 1880. The deed specifies that "said lot [had] one dwelling erected thereon."³⁴

Born in Gosport in 1849, George Dunagan was a wagon and buggy maker in practice with his brothers Oath and James. His father, James L. Dunagan, was a blacksmith who came to Gosport in 1830. George married Mary E. Buskirk on October 5, 1873. He died in 1912. Mary then moved to Indianapolis to live with her daughter. Mary died in 1939.³⁵ The house has long been a rental property.

20 Gosport Ice House (c.1905) • no address (C)

According to Sanborn maps, the ice house was built between 1902 and 1910. Ice was cut from White River, stored in straw inside the ice house and remained frozen well into the summer months. In the 1930s, ice storage was moved to the adjacent feed mill. The little building was then used for a variety of uses. For many years, the ice house was part of the Gosport Hardware and Lumber property (resource 33). Since 2009 it has been owned by the Ten O'Clock Line Treaty Museum.³⁶

21 Gosport Feed Store (c.1870/c.1950) • 18 N. Fourth St. (NC)

This building has housed an agriculture-based commercial business for more than 100 years. In 1902, Haven Bros. of Ladoga, Indiana, purchased Benjamin F. Hart's brick residence and converted it into a poultry and egg business.³⁷ The 1895 Sanborn map identifies the building as a two-story brick dwelling with cracked walls. Prior to the building's recent remodeling, a section of original brick wall was visible on the building's south side.

Haven Bros. moved into the Gosport market in 1901 by buying the J. E. Hodgson poultry business. Everett V. Gregory came from Ladoga to be the local manager. Lyle Brighton, whose family operated a competing business, recalls that Haven Bros. bought and sold chickens and eggs. This building also included a cream station and an ice house. Havens Bros. sold out to the Gosport Farmer's Supply Company, which sold to Ray Beach in 1957.³⁸ A fire about 1950 severely damaged the building, but it was rebuilt and continued to operate as a feed-related store until 2005.³⁹

22 Nazarene Church (1952) • 19 N. Fourth St. (C)

The Nazarene Church was organized in 1951.⁴⁰ Gosport resident Lyle Brighton remembers that "a very strict Nazarene" from Indianapolis bought a large farm north of Gosport. He was dissatisfied with local churches, so he established his own. Construction of the building was funded in large part with his own money. He was the self-appointed minister, but later another minister was brought in. The founder left

³² Charles Blanchard, ed., *Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana: Historical and Biographical* (Chicago: F. A. Battey, 1884): 892. Hart may have first leased the property. His wife, [Sarah] Jane, acquired the property from Carey J. Slack for \$500 on May 4, 1885; see DR 42: 472.

³³ *Owen County, Indiana: A History*, 99.

³⁴ DR 37: 544. The grantor was Jane Wampler, who acquired the apparently vacant property a year earlier. The deed for this transaction does not indicate the existence of a dwelling; see DR 36: 228.

³⁵ "George D. Dunagan," *Journal of Owen County History and Genealogy*, Summer 1999, 56. Also, obituary of George D. Dunagan, *Gosport Reporter*, April 15, 1912.

³⁶ Sue Trotman, director of the Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Treaty Museum, interview with Jason Kinney, February 22, 2011.

³⁷ The Hart family lived here from 1885-1902; DR 43: 265 and DR 60: 274. Also, Obituary of Alexander "Eck" Hart, August 4, 1934, *Democrat Leader*. Prior to this time, the house was owned by Dr. Caleb L. and Anna Ritter (1880-1885). Precisely when the house was built is unknown, but it appears to have been well before the Ritters' time.

³⁸ DR 113: 106.

³⁹ Benjamin F. Hart bought the Dr. Caleb L. and Ann (Osgood) residence in October 1885; see DR 43: 265. The Ritters bought the property in 1880; the \$1365 value indicates that the house already occupied the lot. Sources for this history include the obituary for Alexander "Eck" Hart, *Gosport Reporter*, August 9, 1934; "Haven Bros.," *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929; "Notes on Gosport by Bill Marley Dictated to Mary Edith Marley", December 1993. Copy in Gosport file, Owen County Public Library, Spencer; and Lyle Brighton, interview with author, August 4, 2011. The 1920 federal census identifies George W. and Abraham Havens of Ladoga as wholesale shippers of poultry.

⁴⁰ *Owen County, Indiana—A History*: 102.

Gosport for Spencer and built another Nazarene church. Prior to the Nazarene Church, this site was occupied by James L. Dunagan's blacksmith shop as far back as 1895 or before.⁴¹

In 1997, the church was sold to the Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum. It has served as the museum since that time.⁴²

23 Fox-Hart-Hoadley House c.1900/1936 • 14 N. Fifth St. (C)

In 1894, two adjoining lots were sold by Dr. John W. and Mary Smith to their daughter, Notie M. Fox. She and her husband, Dr. Henry A. Fox, built the house about 1895 and lived here until the death of Dr. Smith in 1903. (See resource 25 below.) The property was sold by Notie M. Fox to Benjamin F. Hart on February 5, 1903, for \$1200.⁴³ Hart was a liveryman (see resource 17). Hart's wife Amanda daughter had died in recent years, and it appears the widower sought a new home for himself and three single adult children who resided with him. From 1926-1935 the house was owned by Alice Devore, a widow.⁴⁴ She sold it to Erskine W. Hoadley, who had the brick veneer applied in 1936 by cousins Bob and Ed Goss. In 1941, the Hoadley and Everett Gregory families switched houses; the Gregory house just south of Gosport was built by Bob and Ed Goss. When the Gregorys sold the house to Ray and Levada Beach, the rear yard was filled with apple and mulberry trees, black and red raspberry bushes, and other fruit-bearing plants. The Beaches built the vintage detached garage in 1950. The "new" garage was built in 1996.

From 1970-1989, this house was the parsonage for the neighboring Nazarene Church (resource 22).

25 Smith-Fox House (c.1850) • 15 N. Fifth St. (C)

This house is believed to have been built about 1850 by Jesse I. Alexander, who acquired the property for \$150 in June 1849.⁴⁵ He sold it for \$1200 to Dr. John W. Smith on August 28, 1855.⁴⁶ Following his death in 1903, the house went to his daughter and son-in-law, Notie Smith Fox and Dr. Henry A. Fox. In 1936, their son, Herman, sold the house to Drs. Jay W. and Julia S. Thom, who owned it until 1944. After this, the house had several different owners. Long a rental property, the house became run down and went into foreclosure in 2010. The current owners, Kenneth and Maxine Barnes, have plans to restore it.

Dr. John W. Smith (1830-1903) settled in Gosport in 1854 and married his first wife, Malinda O. Bell, in October 1855. They had one son, Homer D. Smith, born in 1857. Malinda died January 10, 1858. Dr. Smith's second wife was Mary Eliza Davis, whom he married June 20, 1859. At her death it was written, "Mrs. Smith took abode with her husband in Gosport, immediately after marriage, and here they have resided continuously since, in the same house to the hour of her death [in March 1899]."⁴⁷

Dr. Henry A. Fox (1863-1917) came to Gosport in August 1892 and entered into practice with Dr. Smith. Fox married Smith's daughter, Notie, in 1894.

Drs. Jay W. and Julia S. Thom are the parents of Indiana author James Alexander Thom, who was born in this house in 1933 and lived here until age 10.

Note: The original Smith-Fox property encompassed at least three adjacent town lots.

26 Gosport Post Office (1950) • 11 N. Fourth St. (NC)

George Carter built this in 1950 as a speculation building. It originally consisted of two separate units, each with its own entrance. Its first use was as a storage building. In 1954-1955, it served as a dwelling for Larry and Peggy Snodgrass. The post office was dedicated in 1956.⁴⁸

27 I. O. O. F. Owen Lodge No. 146 (1891) • 19 E. Main St. (C)

⁴¹ Lyle Brighton, interview with author, August 4, 2011. A blacksmith shop appears on the earliest Sanborn map (1895).

⁴² "OCHGS to Welcome Featured Speaker Sue Trotman, Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum Curator," *Spencer Evening World*, July 13, 2012.

⁴³ DR 61: 8. See also obituary of Alexander "Eck" Hart, *Democrat Leader*, August 9, 1934.

⁴⁴ DR 89:130 and DR 97: 587.

⁴⁵ DR 10: 449.

⁴⁶ DR 15: 207-08.

⁴⁷ "In Memoriam". Funeral card for Mary Eliza Davis Smith dated March 29, 1899. Copy on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

⁴⁸ Sue Trotman, interview with author, April 29, 1911.

A fire on July 7, 1891, destroyed the buildings on the north side of Main Street between the north-south alley west of Fourth Street and the Bank of Gosport (resource 31, which lost its third floor housing I. O. O. F. Owen Lodge No. 146. The I. O. O. F. responded by purchasing three vacant lots just east of the alley in August and erecting this two-story building, on the second floor of which they located their lodge hall.⁴⁹ The I. O. O. F. occupied the second floor until 1932 when it was sold to Oda [Truax] Hoadley.

The two first floor units were leased out by the I. O. O. F. until being sold in 1904 to Oda's father, James Truax, whom the 1910 federal census identifies as an undertaker in business with his 27-year-old son, Lotes.⁵⁰ James's wife, Lou H. [Hester L.]. The first floor remained in the Truax family until 1944 when it was sold to Gaylord "Happy" and Georgia Kaylor, who operated a restaurant in the east unit. Kaylor acquired the second floor from Oda Hoadley in 1945, and the entire building was once again under single ownership.

In 1948 and 1949, Kaylor sold the two first floor units and the second floor and built a new restaurant on State Road 67.⁵¹ The second floor was sold to James and Betty Franklin, who operated a pool hall and restaurant for many years. Following them, were several similar businesses.⁵² The west first floor unit was sold to Charles "App" Wampler, who had rented it since 1910.⁵³ From 1910-2002, App and later his son, Dick, published the *Gosport Reporter* here. App acquired the second floor in 1961.⁵⁴ The east unit was sold to Wendell and Ruth Williams, who operated a jewelry and watch repair business here until 1975.⁵⁵ Since that time, the east unit has been occupied by Gosport Auto Supply (see resource 28).

Since 2008, the west first floor unit and the second floor have been under the same ownership. Both are vacant.

28 Commercial Building (c.1901) • 21 E. Main St. (NC)

This building appears to have been erected by Alice E. Howard, who acquired the property from the I. O. O. F. between 1896 and 1901. Howard is identified as a merchant in the 1900 census.⁵⁶ She sold the building in 1904, and it sold several times in relatively short order. From 1917-1939, it was owned by James and/or Bertha Hancock, James's wife and widow. During this period, Ed Burton and his son-in-law Pid Dunn had a grocery in the east unit from 1926-1936, and Fred Fox had a barbershop in the other. From 1939-1978, the building was owned by Lou C. Holtzman or her sons Earl and Paul.⁵⁷ Paul Holtzman had purchased the grocery business from Burton and Dunn in 1936. He removed the building's brick party wall, erected steel columns and expanded the store into both units. It has essentially remained a single unit since that time.⁵⁸ In 1978, John King purchased the building and remodeled it for a pharmacy. In 1979, the building was sold to Frank Nichols, who established an auto parts and repair business. Nichols sold the building and business to Larry Laczowski, the present owner, in 1983.⁵⁹

29 Commercial Building/west part of 23 E. Main St. (c.1896) • [no address] E. Main St. (C)

30 Commercial Building (c.1893/c.1896) • 23 E. Main St. (C)

In 2012, these conjoined buildings are occupied by the Gosport Diner and under single ownership. The older of the two parts of the building is today's east storefront. It was constructed c.1893 for Isaac and Samuel Bing, clothing manufacturers of Cincinnati, Ohio.⁶⁰ Sanborn maps from 1895 and 1902 identify

⁴⁹ Two lots were purchased for \$275 each from Abner Morehead, widower and legal successor of Elizabeth J. Morehead; DR 49: 242. The third lot was acquired from Edward C. and Lottie T. Mooney for \$150; DR 49: 241. The building may have been under construction in late 1891, but was probably not finished until 1892.

⁵⁰ DR 62: 274. The 1900 census identifies Truax as a farmer residing in Wayne Township.

⁵¹ John King, interview with author, September 23, 2011.

⁵² *Ibid.*, also DR 109: 441.

⁵³ John King, September 23, 2011; also DR 109: 582.

⁵⁴ DR 115: 447. The date of deed is August 26, 1961, but it was not recorded until July 23, 1964.

⁵⁵ John King, September 23, 2011; also DR 110: 82.

⁵⁶ Howard acquired part of the entire parcel from the I. O. O. F. in November 1896; DR 54: 104. In August 1901, she acquired an additional eight feet "to include one half of the east wall of the I. O. O. F. building for building purposes only"; DR 59: 193. In 1900, according to the federal census, Alice was single and residing in the Gosport home with her parents, John and Caroline Howard.

⁵⁷ Lou C. Holtzman purchased the building from Bertha Hancock, widow, on November 8, 1939; DR 102: 54. Her son Earl and his wife, Theresa, transferred it to his brother Paul and his wife, Exie, in 1950; DR 110: 329.

⁵⁸ John King and Ned Smith, interview with author, September 26, 2011.

⁵⁹ Mike Dean, email to John King with results of title search, September 16, 2011.

⁶⁰ The Bing brothers bought the property from James R. Moody on April 8, 1893; DR 51: 60. Samuel Bing sold the building to the Gosport trustees on February 16, 1909.

the occupant as a grocery and harness shop, respectively. In 1909, Samuel Bing, the surviving partner, sold the building to the Trustees of the Town of Gosport. The building served as the Town Hall from 1909-1974. Since that time it has been occupied by various different retail businesses.

The west storefront was built c.1896 by William Hoadley, Jr., who is identified as a stonecutter in the 1900 census.⁶¹ His father opened the Hoadley limestone quarry at Stinesville. Sold in 1898, the building went through a succession of brief periods of ownership by several individuals. From about 1928-1945, it was owned by Harry Burton, who operated a tax business.⁶² Herschel Goss owned it from 1946-1981.⁶³ The unit has no strong associations with any particular business.

31 Bank of Gosport (1867/c.1900) • 31 E. Main St. and 7-11 N. Fourth St. (C)

32 Commercial Building/rear part of Bank of Gosport (c.1891) • 7 N. Fourth St. (C)

The Bank of Gosport was established in 1867 by A. H. Pettit and William A. Montgomery. This building was constructed the same year a cost of \$9,000. In 1884, it was described as the finest bank building in Owen County, with a capital stock of \$75,000.⁶⁴ At that time, it was two full stories in height and had a full basement. About 1877, the I.O.O.F. lodge located to the second floor.⁶⁵ On July 18, 1891, a fire that destroyed the commercial buildings on the north side of Main between Fourth and Fifth Streets also destroyed the second floor.⁶⁶ The bank building was then remodeled to its current configuration.

In 1929, the renamed Olde Gosport State Bank merged with Gosport State Bank (resource 35). On May 9, 1945, it was acquired by the Owen County State Bank located in Spencer. A new Gosport branch bank was completed in 1970. The historic building was sold to Josephine Wampler and became an antique shop. From 1971-1999, the building was owned by John King, who operated his insurance agency here. For several years, the basement room was used by the Lions Club and called the "Lion's Den."⁶⁷

33 McClure's Service Hardware (c.1950) • 125 E. Main St. (NC)

34 relocated coal shed (NC)

An 1853 three-story brick building housing the Gosport Hardware and Lumber Company was destroyed by fire on January 24, 1946.⁶⁸ A few years before, Clarence "Grove" Lambert had established a small hardware store in the downtown business district. In March 1946, he purchased the vacant lot and the former bank building at 141 E. Main St. (resource 35), in which he located his store until the existing hardware store could be completed. Lambert remained in business until 1976, when he sold out to Ross Trotman. Trotman sold to Donny Hall in 1986, and Hall sold to the present owner, John McClure, in 2002.⁶⁹

The coal shed was moved to this site from the property north of 122 N. Fourth St. (resource 6).

35 Gosport Banking Company (1909) • 141 E. Main St. (C)

The Gosport Banking Company was organized in 1902 by the Beem-Peden interest of Spencer bankers, and A. H. Wampler and John A. Welch of Gosport. Welch was president. A few years later, the Beem and Peden interest was absorbed by local stockholders.⁷⁰ Following a January 20, 1909, that destroyed the tin shop of Josephus S. Davis located on this site, the existing bank building was erected.⁷¹

The Gosport Banking Company was renamed Gosport State Bank in 1922. It merged with the Bank of Gosport (resource 31) in 1929, and the building ceased to be used as a bank.⁷² It was sold in

⁶¹ Hoadley acquired the property for \$65 on October 8, 1895.

⁶² DR 90: 431 and DR 108: 147.

⁶³ DR 108: 558 and DR 140: 102.

⁶⁴ Blanchard: 714. Also, "The Olde Gosport State Bank," *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929.

⁶⁵ *Counties of Clay and Owen. Indiana*, 715.

⁶⁶ "Gosport Has A Fire Loss," *Bloomington Daily Telephone*, July 21, 1891.

⁶⁷ *Focus on Sweet Owen*, 106.

⁶⁸ "Gosport Hardware Company Store Destroyed by Fire," *Gosport Reporter*, January 24, 1946.

⁶⁹ Sue Trotman, interview with author, September 6, 2011. Winfield S. "Uncle Wes" Alexander sold the three-story building to Cloverdale Hardware and Lumber Company in 1920; DR 83:90.

⁷⁰ "Gosport State Bank", *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929.

⁷¹ "A Disastrous Fire," *Gosport Reporter*, January 22, 1909. Josephus and Ella Davis sold the property to the Gosport Banking Company on March 26, 1909; DR 68: 328.

⁷² *Focus on Sweet Owen*, 103.

1930.⁷³ From 1946-1947, Clarence E. Lambert operated a hardware store here until his new store was built (see resource 33). In the years that followed, many different businesses came and went.

36 Graham Building (1909) • 145 E. Main St. (C)

Erected in 1909 by barber Edward F. Graham, this building replaces Graham's previous barbershop destroyed by fire on January 20, 1909.⁷⁴ Graham had practiced his trade for nearly 45 years when he sold the building in 1933.⁷⁵ From 1947-1977, the building was a rental owned by sisters Mamie and/or Paulina "Piney" Brewer.⁷⁶ After this period, many owners came and went. The building has been owned since 2000 by Alyssa Rice, proprietor of NATE's Candy Jar.

37 Lyon Building (1909) • 147 E. Main St. (C)

A fire on January 20, 1909, destroyed a building on this site occupied by Belle (Davis) Lyon's millinery shop and owned by her father, John Davis.⁷⁷ The existing building is believed to have been erected in 1909. John's widow, Martha, and their other children sold it to Belle and her husband, William H., on February 5, 1912.⁷⁸ The Lyons resided in the rear of the building. Belle died in 1928. William continued to operate a combination gift, women's clothing, and jewelry store until his own death in 1938, after which the building was sold. Various owners operated a series of restaurants through the 1960s and again from about 1980-1990.⁷⁹ Today the storefront is vacant. The rest of the building is a residence.

A June 13, 1929, article in the *Gosport Reporter* says that William H. Lyon, proprietor of Lyon's Gift Shop and one of the oldest businessmen in Gosport, engaged in business in Gosport for the first time in 1880. This business was a jewelry store. In 1890 he and Belle moved away. They returned in 1900, and Belle opened a millinery and jewelry store with William clerking in the Burkett hardware store until the business was established.

38 Knights of Pythias Building/Opera House (c.1873) • 149 E. Main St. (C)

The exact date of construction for this building is unknown, but it was between 1871 and 1874. On April 2, 1871, Joseph E. Goss sold the lot for \$2,000 to William P. Hale. On September 3, 1874, Hale sold the property on which stood a "double-wide brick structure with limestone façade" to Fitch Dewey of Adrian, Lewanee County, Michigan, for \$13,300. Seven months later, on April 12, 1875, Dewey sold it to Hamilton Hays, a Gosport dry goods merchant, reserving the right to insert joists and timbers into the east wall in order to erect a building on the remaining portion of the lot.⁸⁰

Following Hamilton's death in 1890, the building was sold to James Isaac "Ike" Buskirk, who operated a hardware store here until the early 1930s. The Buskirk sisters sold the building in 1944 to the Indianapolis Tent and Awning Company, which manufactured tarpaulins, among other things. Managed by Mortimer King, the business had a sewing shop in the first floor east unit, later expanding into the west unit and upstairs. The firm closed its Indianapolis plant in 1968 and moved all production to Gosport. In 1982, this building was vacated for another facility on the north side of town and remained vacant until 1990 when it was sold to John and Avia McFarlane, who began an extensive restoration in 1992. McFarlane was a documentary filmmaker who had attended Indiana University.⁸¹ His enthusiasm and vision encouraged John King and other Gosport business leaders to restore downtown facades.

⁷³ DR 93: 388.

⁷⁴ "A Disastrous Fire." Edward F. Graham acquired the property from his father, John W. Graham, who acquired it for \$400 from Elizabeth J. Cash in 1901; DR 58: 507.

⁷⁵ "Ed Graham in M. E. Hospital," *Gosport Reporter*, September 6, 1929. Graham sold to James Soth on July 8, 1933; DR 96: 86.

⁷⁶ See DR 109: 337; DR 34: 609; and DR 131: 406.

⁷⁷ "A Disastrous Fire."

⁷⁸ DR 72: 269.

⁷⁹ John King and Sue Trotman, interview with author, August 26, 2011.

⁸⁰ Goss to Hale: DR 27: 450. Hale to Dewey DR 32: 370. Dewey to Hamilton DR 33: 79. Why would Fitch Dewey, a resident of Michigan invest in a building in Gosport? In 1874, Dewey was the owner and president of Dewey Stave Company, the largest manufacturer of barrel staves and hoops in the United States, with factories in communities in both Ohio and Michigan. Perhaps he intended to establish a factory in Gosport but never did so, nonetheless reserving the possibility of erecting a building in the business district at some point in the future. See Charles Sumner Van Tassel, *Men of Northwestern Ohio* (Bowling Green, Ohio: C.S. Van Tassel, 1898) : 92-93.

⁸¹ "History of Gosport Mfg. Co., 1944-1994." Copy in Gosport file, Owen County Public Library, Spencer. Also, "Opera House restoration underway," *Owen Leader*, March 12, 1992.

It is unknown when the Knights of Pythias took occupancy of the second floor, but they were there in January 1909 when the Gosport newspaper identified the building as the "K. of P. building."⁸² Many social and recreational events took place on the upper floor, from which the building derives the name "Opera House."

39 Campbell Building (c.1900) • 153 E. Main St. (C)

40 Campbell-Moore Building (c.1902) • 155 E. Main St. (C)

The west section of these conjoined buildings appears to have been built in 1900 by Tilghman "Grant" Campbell, a grocer. (See also resource 53.) The property was inherited by his wife, Alice, who had the east unit built in late 1904 or 1905.⁸³

The west section housed a grocery from 1900 to 1971 as follows: Grant Campbell, 1900-1904, James S. Brasier, 1904-1946; Ike and Marguerite Young, 1946-1971. Campbell established his grocery in a frame building on this site in 1885. Brasier clerked for Campbell from 1897 to 1904. Ike Young clerked for Brasier from about 1926 to 1948. After Young closed the store in 1971, the building had a variety of short-term occupants.⁸⁴

Built about two years later, the east section housed Moore's Variety Store from 1920-1979. Alan Moore opened the store in 1920. His brother Sam ran the store and bought it in 1932. Sam's son, Bob, bought the building in 1947; he ran the business with his wife, Irene, until closing it in 1979. In 1982, Bob sold the business and building on contract to Bill and Carmelita Tuttle but received it back a few years later. The store finally closed in the mid-1980s.⁸⁵ Bob and Irene Moore sold the building to its present owner, Don Hall, in 1993.

The two sections have been under single ownership since the mid- to late-1970s when Bob Moore bought 153 E. Main St., broke a hole through the party wall, and expanded his dime store to occupy it.⁸⁶

41 west part of VFW Post 7850 (c.1900) • 157 E. Main St. (C)

42 Commercial Building/VFW Post 7850 (c.1840/c.1900) • 159 E. Main St. (C)

The east half of these conjoined buildings was said in 1929 to be the oldest brick commercial building and the second oldest commercial building in Gosport.⁸⁷ If this is true, it would have been built between 1840 and 1853. In 1870, the property was sold for \$2,000 by Lewis M. and Malinda Hays to Malinda's brother James A. Alexander, who had been a merchant since at least 1850, according to the federal censuses. Alexander may have been a business partner with Lewis's brother, Benjamin F. Hays; the two are recorded in the 1860 census as sharing a dwelling.⁸⁸

In 1895, the east half was sold by Mary Alexander to Edward C. Mooney, a grocer.⁸⁹ Eight years earlier, in 1887, Mooney had purchased a frame building occupying the site of the west half.⁹⁰ According to Sanborn maps, Mooney replaced the frame building with the existing west unit sometime between 1895 and 1902. It is presumed that the east unit received its the limestone piers at the same time. In 1920, he sold the two units to Daniel V. Smith, who died in 1927. In 1929, the west unit was occupied by

⁸² "A Disastrous Fire", newspaper not identified, January 22, 1909. A fire on January 20, 1909, destroyed several frame buildings east of the Opera House, which was "thought to be doomed."

⁸³ Henry C. and Lucinda Black sold the property for \$600 to Grant Campbell on November 9, 1899. DR 57: 300. Alice Campbell acquired a two-foot strip of land and the "privilege" to erect a brick building against the west wall of a one-story building (the west part of the VFW [resource 40] from Edward C. and Hazel Mooney on August 4, 1904; DR 62: 535.

⁸⁴ "Brasier's Grocery," *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929. Also, *Owen County, Indiana: A History*, 99; "Half Century in Present Location," *Gosport Reporter*, March 6, 1947; "Brasier Observes 83rd Birthday," *Gosport Reporter*, October 21, 1948; John King and Sue Trotman, interview with author, August 26, 2011.

⁸⁵ John King and Sue Trotman, interview with author, August 26, 2011. Also, "Sam Moore Buys Ten-Cent Store; Now Open," *Gosport Reporter*, October 6, 1932. Robert J. Moore bought the property from Herschel V. and Jessie D. Davis on February 13, 1947; DR 109: 110. The east unit appears to have been a rental property from the time it was built in 1904 until 1947.

⁸⁶ Don Hall, interview with author, December 21, 2011.

⁸⁷ "Oldest Brick Business Building in Gosport," *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929. Sue Trotman writes that the VFW building was built sometime in the 1830s and that it is the oldest brick business building existing in Gosport; "The History of My Town Gosport, Indiana" (second printing, September 25, 2009), 9.

⁸⁸ DR 28: 382. A condition of the transaction between the Hayses and Alexander was "that malt or spirituous liquors shall never be sold or kept for sale on said premises."

⁸⁹ DR 52: 527.

⁹⁰ DR 44: 224.

F. E. "Buster" Swain's pool hall, and the east unit was occupied by a feed store operated by sisters Paulina "Piney" and Mamie Brewer.⁹¹ In 1987, the VFW purchased both units from the Brewer estate.

43 Gosport Town Park (1908/1942) • E. Main Street (C)

Ephraim Goss and Abner Alexander, Gosport's first settlers, gave a quarter block to be used as a wagon yard. As this use faded, the area was improved for the purpose of recreation and entertainment. The bandstand was constructed over the town well in 1908 for the use of the community band. In 1942, the addition of a front platform nearly doubled the structure's size and nicely accommodated the school band, which numbered around 40 musicians. Otis "Tis" Spicer, a manufacturer of concrete block, is thought to have built the addition.⁹² Materials and labor were paid for by the contributions of citizens. The park itself has been the setting for many social activities in Gosport: band concerts, dances, movies, and since 1969, the four-day Lazy Days festival held in August.⁹³

In 2003, the bandstand was updated with a handicapped landing, ramp and rail, and two sets of rear steps. A section of the front sidewalk was also replaced.⁹⁴ In 2012, as part of a downtown infrastructure improvement program, the public sidewalk along Main Street was replaced, along with the sidewalk that circles the fire bell.

The original 1908 bandstand is attributed to it is "Spicer, who is known to have built the bandstand's 1942 addition. Otis "Tis" R. Spicer (1885-1945) is believed to have built the band stand. The following description of Otis R. Spicer's concrete business is from the June 13, 1929, issue of the *Gosport Reporter*.

From a shovel and a trowel has grown the present fine business of Otis R. Spicer, manufacturer of cement products, and cement construction contractor. Mr. Spicer began his activities in his present business in 1907, manufacturing cement building blocks with a crude hand machine. By dint of hard work and business acumen he was able to make prosperity to shine upon his efforts to an extent that made possible for him to keep abreast of the rapidly changing times. Today the Otis R. Spicer plant, located on the site of the old M. E. Church, South, on North Fifth Street, is equipped with electrically driven power machinery for virtually every need of the industry. Spicer began his cement work with an open air plant in the back yard of his parents' home. In 1920, he purchased the church property, used it about two years, then tore it away and erected his present plant building, which not only houses the plant, but also the two trucks which are necessary to his business."

A year earlier, in 1928, Spicer experienced such an increase in demand for his products, especially from the Bloomington market, that he added machinery. His output was over 1,000 blocks per day.⁹⁵

In 1944, Spicer entered into a partnership with Harman Sam Hancock. At that time, the company was manufacturing concrete blocks and burial vaults. Hancock became sole owner upon Spicer's death in 1945.

Gosport resident Lyle Brighton says of Spicer, "Anything of block he probably built."

44 Gosport Tavern (1835) • 130 E. Main Street (C)

45 Commercial Building/west part of Gosport Tavern (c.1900) • no address (NC)

Long believed be the oldest commercial building in Gosport, this east section of these two conjoined buildings appears to have been erected by Dr. Curtis Grubb Hussey in 1835.⁹⁶ The building originated as

⁹¹ "Swain's Pool Hall" and "Oldest Brick Business Building in Gosport," *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929. Piney bought the east unit in 1933; DR 95: 478. She bought the west unit in 1934; DR 97: 84.

⁹² Sue Trotman, interview with author, April 29, 1911, and *Owen County, Indiana—A History*, 97.

⁹³ Patsy Powell and Vivian Zollinger, eds., *Focus on Sweet Owen* (Spencer, IN: Owen County Preservations, Inc.), 98. Also, written summary of research by Sue Trotman, copy on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum.

⁹⁴ "Bandstand Refurbished And Ready For Lazy Days Festival." *Spencer Evening World*, July 16, 2003.

⁹⁵ "Adds Machinery," *Gosport Reporter*, May 11, 1928.

⁹⁶ Hussey acquired Lots 3 and 4 in Block 10 in Gosport in 1835; see DR 4: 358. He transferred the east half of the same lots in 1839 to Jacob B. Hale; See DR 6: 304. The tavern buildings sits on the north half of the east half of Lot 3. Hussey again transferred the ownership of the same property to Brice Miller in 1865; see DR 21: 520. The 1870 federal census identifies Miller's son as a merchant.

a general mercantile store; after 1854, it may have been the office for Hussey's pork curing, packing, and shipping business.

James Lawson, a saloon keeper, owned the building from 1891 to 1903. According to Sanborn maps, it was during this period that the house at the rear of the property (resource 46) was built. Lawson sold the tavern building to brothers Daniel V. and James W. Smith, who operated a grocery and meat market.⁹⁷ In 1911, Daniel departed the business.⁹⁸ About 1933, James's son, Lawrence "Hunky" Smith, converted the grocery into a tavern and restaurant.⁹⁹ It has remained a tavern and restaurant until the present day.

In 1949, an itinerant artist named C. H. Kelley painted murals on the tavern walls in exchange for room and board. Though faded and in need of repair, the murals are a significant example of art from the period. Kelly also painted murals in a restaurant in nearby Spencer, in the El Patio Motel on SR 67 between Gosport and Spencer, and at a tavern in Cloverdale. Only those in the Gosport Tavern and Spencer restaurant still exist.¹⁰⁰

A parcel 18'W x 132'D was removed from the west side of Lots 3 and 4 Block 10 in 1866; the west section of the Gosport tavern could have been built prior or after this time. The first convincing evidence of the building's existence is its appearance on the 1902 Sanborn map; it is identified as an office, with a passage in the wall shared by the tavern on the east. On the 1910 map, the two buildings appear as a single building, with no shared wall. On the 1928 map, the buildings are distinctly two separate buildings, each a store. On the 1935, they are also two separate buildings, with a saloon on the east and an office on the west.

Dr. Curtis Grubb Hussey (1802-1893) established a mercantile business in the Gosport Tavern building (resource 44) in 1835. This building is the only known extant resource associated with Hussey's life in Indiana during which time he accumulated sufficient capital to make his nationally significant industrial pursuits possible.

Born in Maryland in 1802, Hussey moved with his family to Ohio in 1813. About 1820 he completed a course of study with a physician at Mount Pleasant, Ohio, and relocated to Morgan County, Indiana. Within a few years, he had established several mercantile stores in the areas he served as a doctor, including Gosport. In 1833, it is believed, he took over the pork curing, packing, and shipping business of Gosport's founder, Ephraim Goss, who had died. Goss's son Joseph E. Goss was Hussey's partner. In 1839, Hussey married and relocated back to Mount Pleasant, Ohio, leaving the operation of his Gosport businesses to Goss. The mercantile business was discontinued in 1854.

In 1843, Hussey prospected for copper in what would become the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and organized the Pittsburgh and Boston Mining Company. In 1845, he opened the Cliff Mine at Eagle River, the first successful copper mine in North America. In 1849-1850, Hussey organized with Thomas Marshall Howe the C. G. Hussey and Company, later Pittsburgh Copper and Brass Rolling Mills, the first operation of its kind to produce rolled copper. In 1859, Hussey and Howe established Hussey, Howe and Company to produce crucible cast steel "by the direct process" in large quantities and of highest quality. Hussey is recognized as the pioneer of the copper and steel industries of Pittsburgh. In 1883, Homestead Steel Works, which Hussey and his son Christopher Curtis Hussey co-founded with four others, was taken over by Andrew Carnegie to become Carnegie Steel.¹⁰¹

46 House (c.1896) • 132 E. Main St. (C)

According to Sanborn maps, this house, located on the same lot as the tavern (resource 44) was built between 1895 and 1902, during the ownership of James Lawson. The house and tavern remain on the same lot today. The house appears to have been a rental property for decades. On a 1900-1910 map drawn by Col. Bert Wampler in 1936, this house is identified as the home of Mollie Marion.¹⁰²

⁹⁷ DR 48: 464 and 61: 25.

⁹⁸ DR 71: 576.

⁹⁹ Lyle Brighton, interview with John King and Jason Kinney, April 17, 2011.

¹⁰⁰ Larry Incollingo, "Hobo painter's work adds décor to bar in Gosport," [Bloomington] *Herald Telephone*, April 30, 1982. Information about the Cloverdale mural comes from Martha Fox of Bloomington, who is researching the murals; interview with author, October 28, 2011.

¹⁰¹ Dr. Thomas Cushing, ed., *A Genealogical and Biographical History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. Reprint of Part II by Genealogical.com, 2007: 254-258. Also, "Ancestors and Allied Families of Curtis G. Hussey Dr. at www.drwilliams.org. Also, Samuel W. Durant, *History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1876), 179. Also, obituary of Joseph E. Goss, *Owen County Journal*, March 23, 1880.

¹⁰² The map is on display in the Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

47 Value Market (1971/1990) • 118 E. Main St. (NC)

A fire on January 7, 1970 destroyed the buildings between Frank Whitaker's barbershop west to Fourth Street.¹⁰³ Sections of the east wall and south portion of the Dittmore store remain and appear above the existing building (see HP 15 and HP 16). The Gosport Development Corporation was formed by community leaders following the fire; it sold \$500 shares of stock to residents, applied for and received a Small Business Association loan, and built a grocery store to fill the space. The Corporation owned the building but leased the store operations to an IGA owner/operator. In 1994, inspired by John McFarlane, who was restoring the Knights of Pythias Lodge/ Opera House (resource 38), the front and west facades of the grocery store were redesigned by Craig Brighton and remodeled to resemble the buildings destroyed by the fire.¹⁰⁴

Craig Brighton (1956-) is the son of Lyle Brighton, who assisted with this nomination. Brighton is a building designer with architectural engineering degrees from ITT Technical Institute and Southern Illinois University. Drawing inspiration from historic photographs, he designed the façade on Value Market (resource 34) to resemble buildings that had been destroyed and severely damaged by fire. Elsewhere in Gosport, he designed the Gosport Dental Clinic at 10 E. Main St. and designed and built a gazebo at the corner of Ninth and Main St., on the former Gosport School property, and a house at the corner of Eighth and Main St. In Spencer, he has been involved with a lot of residential design and construction and a few projects on the Owen County Courthouse Square, including the "Bank Mall," a barbershop, and renovation of the old fire station. Brighton is currently Director of Habitat for Humanity of Hendricks County.¹⁰⁵

48 House (c.1900) • 6 S. Fourth St. (C)

The lot on which this house sits was separated from the larger lot in 1898 when Sarah E. Bailey sold it to her nephew Wiley W. Whitaker, who owned quite a bit of real estate in Gosport.¹⁰⁶ The house appears for the first time on the 1902 Sanborn map. The earliest occupants are unknown, but later the house was home to Wiley's son Paul and his wife, Leona. Leona's father, Tom Miller, also lived there. The house has long been a rental property.¹⁰⁷

49 Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (1923) • 5 S. Fourth St. (C)

Built by father Ira and sons Julian, Ralph, and Leonard Cramer, Martinsville contractors, the Gosport Masonic Lodge was dedicated on June 17, 1924.¹⁰⁸ Brick for the existing building was manufactured in Martinsville and brought to the site by the Masons themselves, who saved the cost of delivery by making many trips with their own trucks.¹⁰⁹ The Gosport Masonic chapter was established in 1849 and chartered in 1850. This building was the fifth to be used as a meeting hall. The first was located at the corner of Main and Third Street. The second was in a brick building on the west side of Ninth Street. The third was in a room over the Methodist Church on Eighth Street. The fourth lodge at Main and Fifth Street was on the upper floor of a massive commercial block housing the Bee Hive Store. Built by the Masons in 1870, this commercial block was destroyed by fire on November 30, 1919.

The Gosport Masonic Lodge closed and was sold into private hands in 2012. Up until this time, the Gosport organization was the 92nd oldest in the state of Indiana.¹¹⁰ Membership was transferred to the Spencer lodge.

50 Hale-Stierwalt House (1897) • 9 S. Fourth St. (C)

This house was built in 1897 for Philip W. and Pernina Hale, who acquired the property on which the house now sits from Hattie N. Hays. Hays retained an approximate 12' x 54' parcel which is now the north

¹⁰³ "Fire Hits Gosport Wednesday Night," *Gosport Reporter*, January 7, 1970.

¹⁰⁴ John King, interview with author, August 26, 2011.

¹⁰⁵ Craig Brighton, interview with author, December 5, 2011.

¹⁰⁶ DR 56: 130.

¹⁰⁷ Sue Trotman, interview with author, August 26, 2011.

¹⁰⁸ Bob Cramer, letter to Ced [last name unknown], March 2 and 4, 1992. Copy in possession of author.

¹⁰⁹ Lyle Brighton, personal interview with author, July 1, 2011.

¹¹⁰ Record books of Gosport Masonic Lodge #92. Also, Jay Lane Thompson, interview with author, November 17, 2010.

lawn.¹¹¹ The parcels were recombined into a single lot in 1918 when John and Ora Stierwalt acquired the property from the Hales' heirs. The house remained in the Stierwalt family through three generations, finally being sold in 1969.

Philip W. Hale was the longtime proprietor of the Gosport Hotel.¹¹²

52 Morehead-Wampler House (c.1892) • 10 S. Fourth St. (C)

This building is said to have originated as a two-room house that may have been built about 1892 for Abner Morehead, who remained owner until 1901.¹¹³ In 1919, it was purchased by John W. and Molly E. Wampler. About 1920, according to the Wampplers' grandson Jay Lane Thompson, the house was significantly altered. The house was moved to face the east-west alley. A house located at 118 S. Fourth St. (see resource 60) was moved and attached to it. The center of the combined structures received a second story. An apartment on the south side was created for the Wampplers' son, James Vernon "Bun" Wampler, after he married Mary Lemon in 1924. A front porch was added about the same time.

John and Molly Wampler's daughter Zelema Thompson moved her family into the house in 1941 to care for her parents. John Wampler died in 1943, and Molly died in 1953. Zelema then inherited the house. She added bathrooms, modern furnaces on both sides of the house, a modern kitchen, and new hardwood floors, rewired the house, lowered the ceilings from 13 to 9 feet, and added a rear porch to the south apartment.

About 1968, John Wampler's grandson, Dick Wampler (son of Austin Wampler), bought the house from Zelema. Betty Thompson Wampler inherited the house when Dick died in 1991. Betty Wampler sold the house to its current owner in 2001. All told, the Wampler family owned the house for 82 years.

According to the federal censuses, John Wampler had various professions, including manager of a truck line in 1920 and salesman in a grocery store in 1930.¹¹⁴ Dick Wampler took over the *Gosport Reporter* newspaper from his father, Austin, and also ran a commercial printing business. "Bun" Wampler established the Gosport Nursing Home in 1950 and served on the Gosport Town Board.¹¹⁵

53 Campbell-Spoonamore House (c.1897) • 14 S. Fourth St. (C)

Tilghman G. "Grant" and Alice (Criss) Campbell acquired this lot from Abner Morehead, the adjacent property owner in 1897.¹¹⁶ Alice was the daughter of Thomas T. and Sarah Criss (see resource 59), who had this house built for the couple. Grant Campbell's grocery store was located at 153 E. Main St. (resource 39). Following the deaths of Grant in 1904 and Alice in 1918, the house was transferred to Joe Cooper, a druggist. In 1928, Cooper remodeled the house, adding a basement sufficient to house a new furnace and fuel storage tank, adding one room and completely remodeling four rooms, removing a south porch, and converting a portion of the existing dining room into a bathroom.¹¹⁷

Charles "Bud" and Edith Spoonamore were owner/occupants from 1956-2001.

55 Gosport Park Shelter (2007) • no address (NC)

The lot on which the shelter stands had long been vacant when Alyssa Rice directed a committee of residents in planning and collecting funds for a community shelter. An electrical fire on June 4, 2007, just four days before the shelter's scheduled completion, forced the rebuilding of the structure.¹¹⁸ The dedication and ribbon cutting was held October 7, 2007. The ceremony program reads: "We dedicate this shelter to those who have made Gosport their home. It is for you that this legacy will live on forever."

56 Gosport Town Hall (1956) • 13 S. Third St. (NC)

¹¹¹ DR 55:147. Philip W. Hale's will gives all of his possession and real estate to Pernina, "including our home on Fourth Street in Town of Gosport, being part of Lot Two (2), Block Fifteen (15)." The will is located in the Hale surname file at Owen County Public Library, Spencer.

¹¹² Obituary of Pernina Hale, *Gosport Recorder*, December 2, 1915.

¹¹³ In the 1880 census, Morehead is a 62-year-old married saloon keeper living at approximately this location. On July 1, 1892, he acquired the property; DR 50: 181. Morehead sold the property in early 1901; DR 58: 531. A veteran of the Civil War, Morehead was nearly blind; www.accessgenealogy.com.

¹¹⁴ 1920 and 1930 Federal Census.

¹¹⁵ Jay Lane Thompson, interview with Patsy Powell, 1990s. Written summary in Wampler family file at Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

¹¹⁶ DR 83: 529.

¹¹⁷ *Gosport Reporter*, September 14, 1928.

¹¹⁸ "Town's Insurance Policy Covers Shelter House Destroyed by Fire." *Spencer Evening News*, June 19, 2007.

Bill Snodgrass constructed this building as an auto repair shop in 1956.¹¹⁹ After he died in 1960, the property went to his daughter Vera Anderson, whose husband, Everett, continued the auto repair business until the building was sold to the Town of Gosport in 1974.

57 Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House (c.1895) • 130 E. South St. (C)

Joseph Mullen acquired this property for \$450 in December 1875. In the 1880 census, he appears to be living about two blocks north of this site. By 1900, however, he is living in this house with his wife Hester; daughter Katie Whitaker; son-in-law Wiley Whitaker, and two-year-old granddaughter Hester. In 1903, Wiley was found dead in the rear barn; the inquest report says "death by self strangulation." After Joseph's death in 1916 and Hester Mullen's death in 1922, Katie acquired the property. She sold it in 1924 to William W. Hart, teacher, principal, and later superintendent of the Gosport School. William Hart died in 1948. A succession of owners followed.

Historic photograph HP 19 (see Appendix) in the possession of Gosport resident Joe Whitaker, grandson of Wiley and Katie Whitaker, shows the original roof with clipped gables. He wonders if a fire may have resulted in the current gable roof. According to Sanborn maps, the second story of the rear portion of the house was built and the barn was removed between 1910 and 1928.

Joseph Mullen came to Gosport from Ohio in 1965 and secured work as a drayman with Thomas T. Criss, who resided at 126 E. South St. (resource 59). He worked with Criss for 39 years. Joseph married Hester Robinson, the sister of Thomas's wife, Sarah, on October 7, 1875.¹²⁰ Wiley W. Whitaker inherited extensive real estate holdings when his father, Eli Dudley Whitaker, died in 1900. Following Wiley's early death, Katie supported herself and her three children by managing these properties. Joe Whitaker's father was Sam Whitaker, Wiley and Katie's youngest child.¹²¹

In addition to being the sister of Sarah Robinson Criss (resource 59), Hester Mullen was the sister to Pernina Robinson Hale (resource 50) and Eliza Robinson Goss Wampler Grimsley (resource 65).

59 Criss-Dittemore House (c.1862) • 126 E. South St. (C)

This house appears to have been built about 1862 by Thomas T. Criss (alternate early spelling is Crist), who paid his father \$600 for the property on January 29, 1862.¹²² Thomas T. Criss (1840-1922) was a farmer and drayman.¹²³ Thomas's wife, Sarah Robinson Criss, was the sister of Hester Mullen (resource 57), Pernina Hale (resource 50), and Eliza Robinson Wampler Goss Grimsley (resource 65), Thomas and Sarah Criss are the parents of Alice Criss Campbell (resource 53) and Charles Criss (resource 62). This house remained in the Criss family until 1935 when daughter Emma Criss Batterson sold it to Erskine Hoadley. From 1946-2005, the Bert C. and Hattie Dittemore family—first the parents and then daughter Bernice—were owners.¹²⁴ The current owners have recently completed extensive exterior improvements.

60 Fred and Aline Shumaker House (c.1920) • 118 S. Fourth St. (C)

This house was built in 1920 by Fred and Aline Shumaker. A house previously standing on this lot owned and occupied by Aline's widowed mother, Emma Tindolph, was moved and added to the Morehead-Wampler House at 10 S. Fourth St. (resource 52). A local story about Aline is that she put a note in a bottle and placed it in White River. Fred Shumaker of Worthington found the bottle and came to Gosport to find Aline. They courted and were married on October 14, 1908. They made their home in Worthington until relocating to Gosport, presumably in late 1920. After Fred's death in 1949, Aline sold the house. It has had a number of owners since that time.¹²⁵

¹¹⁹ Sue Trotman and John King, interview with author, April 29, 1911.

¹²⁰ Obituary for Joseph Mullen, newspaper not identified, no date. Clipping found in Mullen/Mullin surname file at Owen County Public Library, Spencer.

¹²¹ Joe Whitaker, interview with author, August 5, 2011.

¹²² DR 19: 143. The legal description of this property is the west half of Lots 3 and 4, Block 9, of the original plat of Gosport. Originally, these lots were oriented east and west. Today they are oriented north and south. It is unknown when the orientation was changed.

¹²³ D. W. Pate Cooksey, *Crist/Criss Family History*, p. 72. Copy located in the Owen County Public Library, Spencer, Indiana.

¹²⁴ Bernice Dittemore believed the house to have been built in 1839, with remodeling occurring in 1859; historic homes tour guide prepared by Owen County Preservations, Inc., 1990s.

¹²⁵ Mike Dean, email to author, August 11, 2011.

62 Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (1920) • 122 S. Fourth St. (C)

This bungalow was built in 1920 for Charles and Carrie Criss.¹²⁶ It replaced an earlier house that appears on Sanborn maps. A druggist with stores at Lyons and Gosport at different times, Charles was the son of Thomas T. and Sarah Criss (see resource 59). Thomas had the house built by Gosport contractors and cousins Bob and Ed Goss as a gift to his son. After Charles's early death in 1923, Carrie sold the house to Harry R. and Lora Burton, who lived here until 1948. Harry was a bus driver and taxi driver. A series of owners followed, including the Charles Wiley Spoonamore family (1965-1995), the longest period of ownership in the house's history.

65 Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House (1858) • 126 S. Fourth St. (C)

This house was built in 1858 for James and Angeline Grimsley.¹²⁷ The 1860 federal census identifies James as a merchant; he was engaged in the pork curing, packing, and shipping business with his father-in-law, Joseph E. Goss.¹²⁸ In 1907, the house was transferred to Evander and Jessie Runyan.¹²⁹ Evander or "Van" and his son-in-law, Reuben "Reuby" Brown, were proprietors of Runyan and Brown Dry Goods store on Main Street from 1907-1933.¹³⁰ The Runyan and Brown families lived together in the house until 1911, when Van Runyan had the house at 130 S. Fourth St. (resource 67) built for the Brown family. Gosport resident Lyle Brighton, age 93, says "there was getting to be too many kids in the house, so he built the little house."¹³¹ In 1926, following the death of Van Runyan, his widow, Flossie, and the Browns exchanged houses.¹³² In 1970, Flossie Brown transferred the "big house" to her daughter, Josephine Owens, and son-in-law, Conrad Dale Owens.¹³³ The Owenses died in 1993 and 1998, respectively. Altogether, the house remained in the Runyan family for 91 years, from 1907-1998.

67 Brown-Brighton House (1911/1986) • 130 S. Fourth St. (NC)

This "little house" was built in 1911 by Van Runyan for the family of Reuby and Flossie (Runyan) Brown. A rear sidewalk connects the two houses. The Browns sold the house to Margaret W. Dorsett in 1936; in turn, it was transferred to Robert A. and Josephine Jean (Dorsett) Wampler in 1941. Lyle Brighton, the current owner, bought it from the Wampers in 1954. Brighton had the brick veneer added in 1986.

¹²⁶ The Crisses acquired the property for \$500 from Josie Van Buskirk on April 22, 1920; DR 81: 545.

¹²⁷ Historic homes tour guide prepared by Owen County Preservations, Inc., 1990s. James Grimsley acquired the property from his father-in-law, Joseph E. Goss, in 1858; DR 17: 172.

¹²⁸ The 1850 census identifies Grimsley as a tailor. In 1870, he is a "Pork p. & Grocer." In 1880, he is a lawyer. The 1864 tax assessment list accessed on ancestry.com on July 18, 2011, identifies him as an insurance agent. In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, Grimsley organized Company B, 21st Indiana Regiment, afterward First Heavy Artillery. He rose to the position of Major and was engaged for the duration of the war. His experiences are recorded in *Civil War Letters of Major James Grimsley, Company B, 21st Indiana Regiment, First Heavy Artillery* (Gosport: Fortnightly Club, Gosport History Museum, 1995).

¹²⁹ DR 66: 374.

¹³⁰ *Focus on Sweet Owen*, 104, and "R. W. Brown & Company", *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929.

¹³¹ Lyle Brighton, interview with author, July 1, 2011. Brighton has owned and occupied the "little house" since 1954.

¹³² *Ibid.* See also DR 89: 176-178.

¹³³ DR 119: 391.

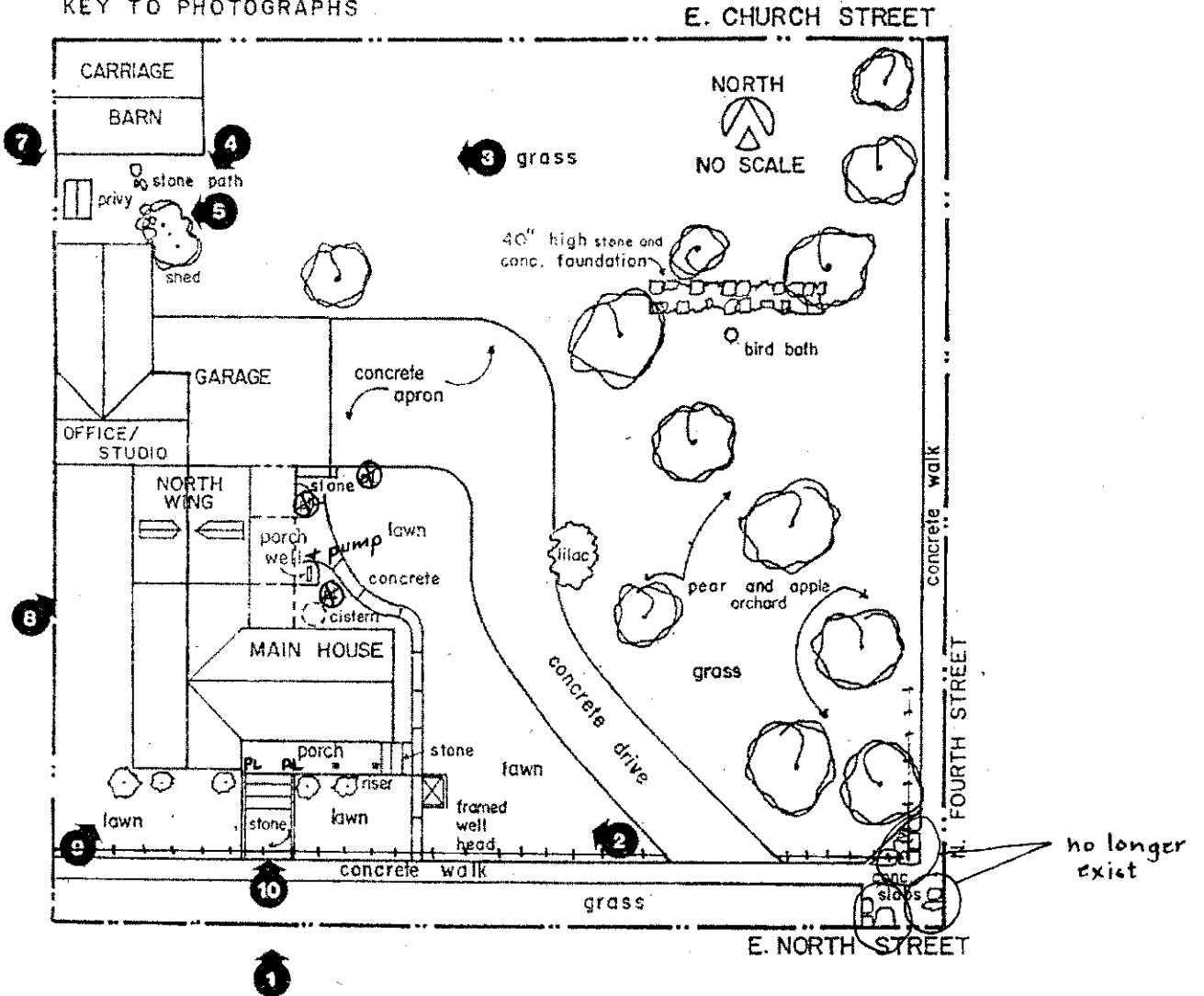
GOSPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT, OWEN COUNTY, INDIANA

APPENDIX 2: NRHP SITE PLAN

DR. H.G. OSGOOD HOUSE
GOSPORT, OWEN COUNTY, INDIANA

6
SITE -- EXISTING CONDITIONS

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS



—|—|—| picket fence

⊗ planter removed

PL planter current location

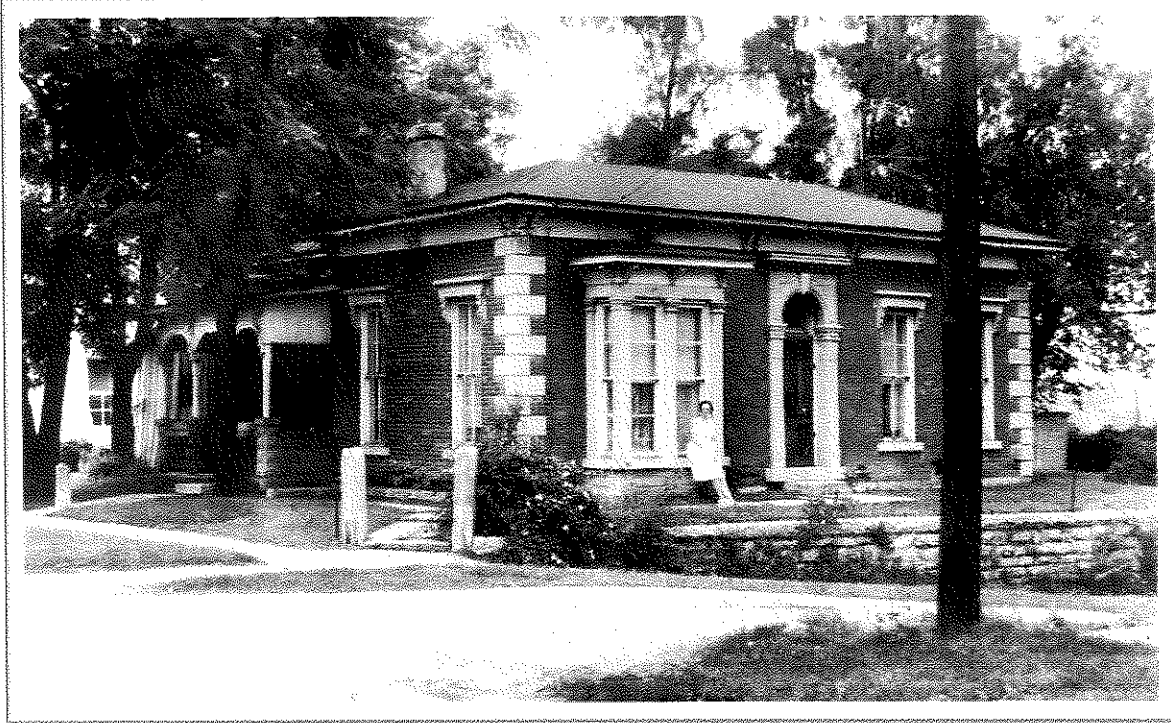
PREPARED BY
THE WESTERLY GROUP INC.

NOTE: Two of three turned limestone planters remain on the property.

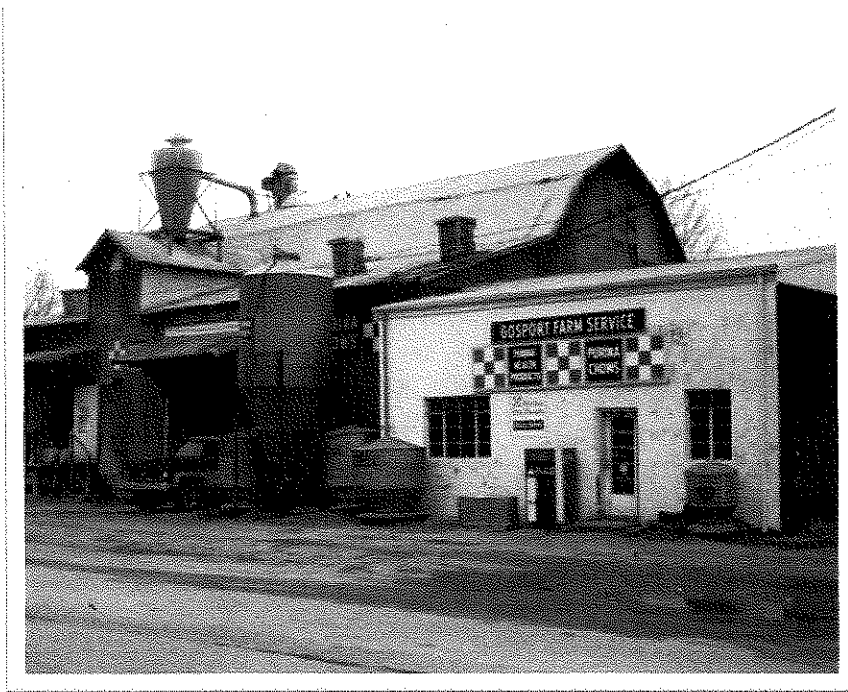
APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



HP 1. Resource 4. The Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House, at left, and Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House (previously listed) at right. Circa 1915.



HP 2. Resource 9. Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House, c. 1943. Hazel Neibel is pictured. Circa 1943.



HP 3. Resource 21. Gosport Feed Store, c. 1980.



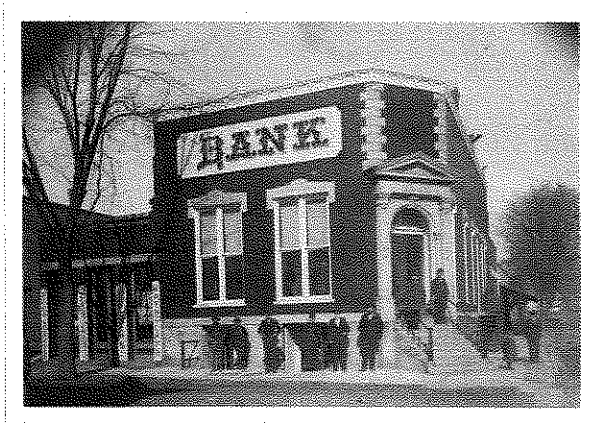
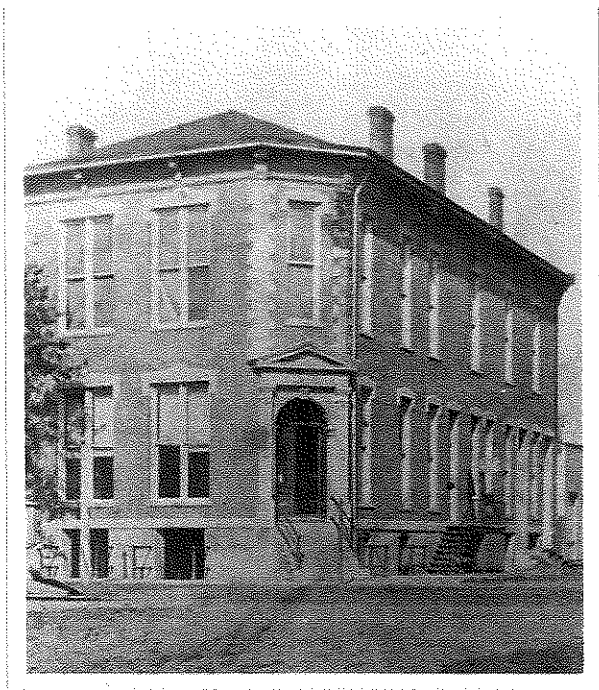
HP 4. Resource 25. Smith-Fox House, c. 1915.



HP 5. Dr. John W. Fox, c. 1895.



HP 6. Resource 27. IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146 at left, c. 1940.



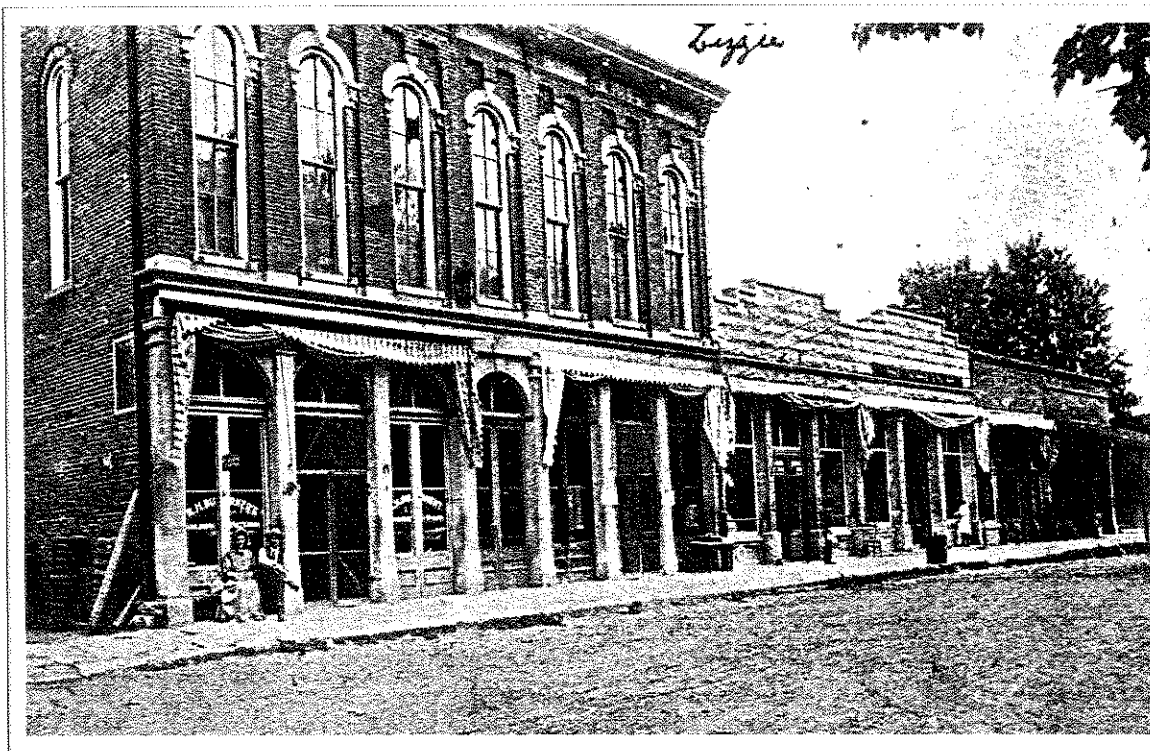
HP 7 and HP 8. Resource 31. Bank of Gosport prior to 1891 fire at left and c.1915 at right.



HP 9. Resource 33. Gosport Hardware, now McClure's Service Hardware. Erskine Hoadley with giant pumpkin. Circa 1950.



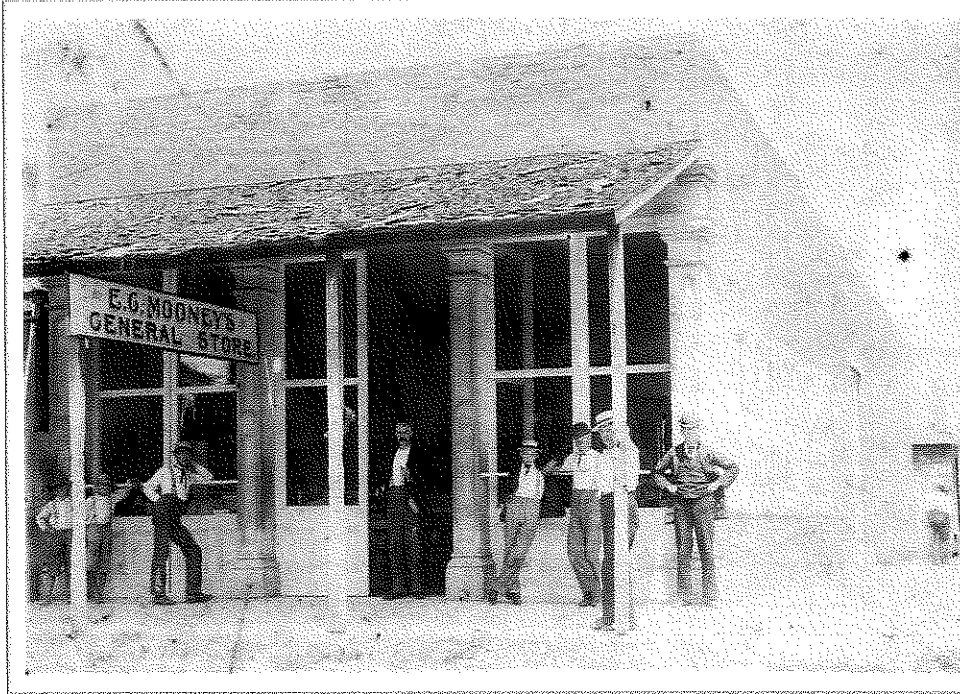
HP 10. Resources 35-42, c.1910: from left to right, Gosport Banking Company, Graham Building, Lyon Building, Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House, Campbell Building. Campbell-Moore Building, west part of VFW Post 7850, east part of VFW Post 7850.



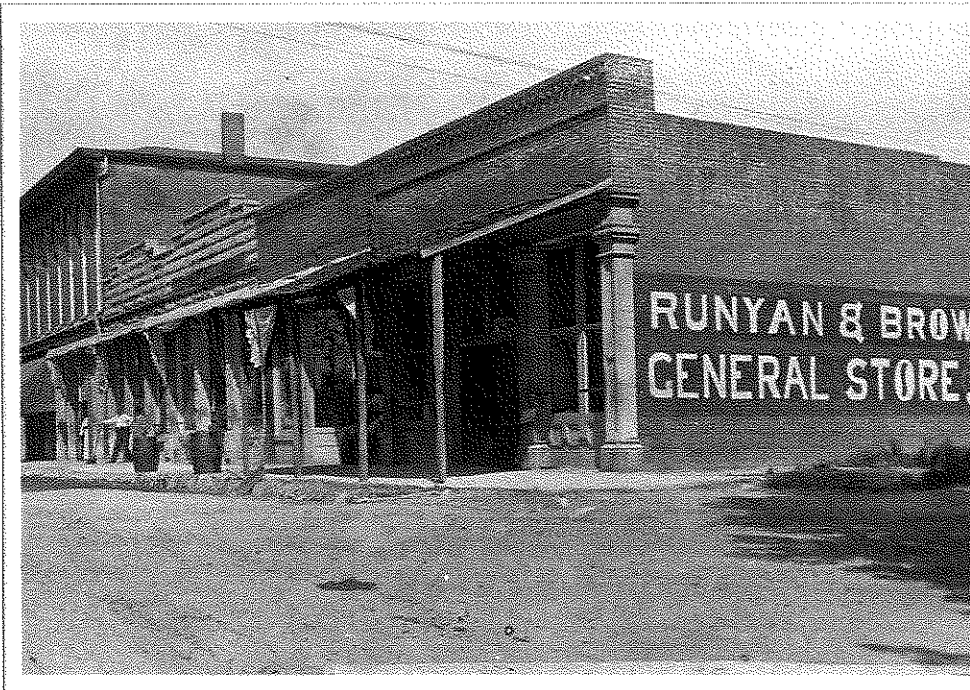
HP 11 and HP 12. Resource 38. Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House. Upper photo c.1915. Lower photo 1992.



HP 13. Resource 39. Grant Campbell's drugstore occupies 153 E. Main St. The matching limestone building at 155 E. Main St. has not yet been built; instead, the site is occupied by a frame meat market. Circa 1900.



HP 14. Resource 42 at 159 E. Main St. (VFW Post 7850). The west part of the VFW has not yet been constructed. Circa 1900.



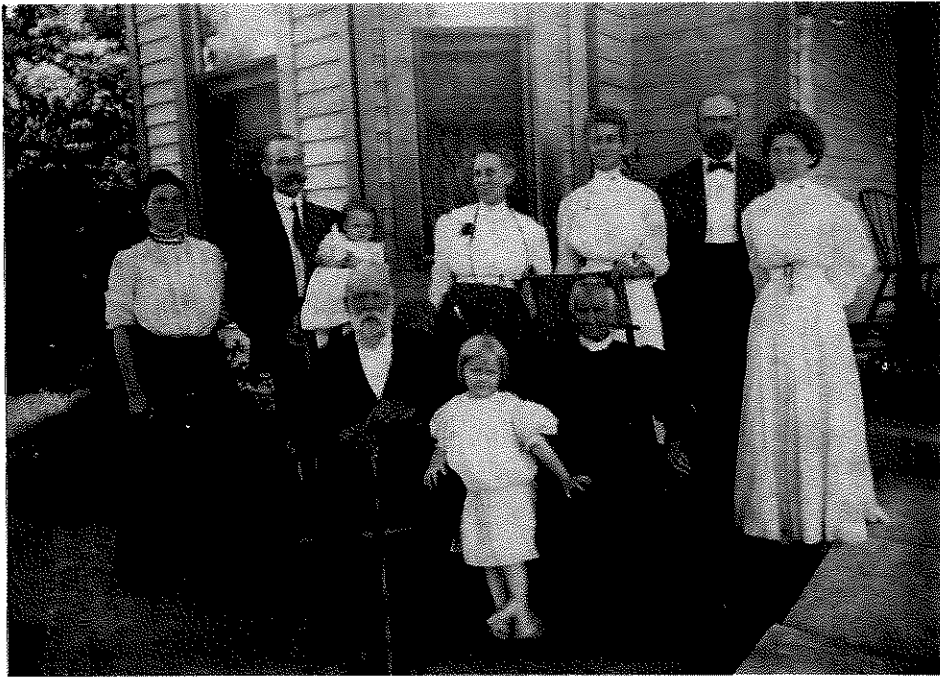
HP 15. North side of Main Street looking west from Third Street. From left to right: Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 38), Campbell and Campbell-Moore buildings (resources 39 and 40), west part of VFW Post 7850 (resource 41), and VFW Post 7850 (resource 42). Circa 1905.



HP 16. Site where Value Market (resource 47) would be built, showing what remains of the east wall and rear portion of the former Dittmore store, 1970.



HP 17. The new grocery store, now Value Market (resource 47), c.1970. The east wall and rear portion of the Dittmore store extend above the grocery.



HP 18. Resource 50. Philip W. and Pernina Hale (seated) pose with family members in front of their house at 9 S. Fourth St., c. 1905.



HP 19. Resource 57. Standing are Hester and Joseph Mullen. Seated at center is Katie Whitaker. To her right is possibly Eliza Grimsley. Children are from left to right: Sam Whitaker, Hester Whitaker, and Paul Whitaker. Circa 1910.



HP 20. Resource 65, the Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House at 126 S. Fourth St. The man is not identified. The carriage stone appears left of the horse. Circa 1905.

