

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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: Roughly bounded by State and Water Streets on the north and south, respectively, and Prince and West Streets on the east and west, respectively.City or town: Princeton State: IN County: GibsonNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ____ B x C ____ D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☒

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>61</u>	<u>17</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	objects
<u>66</u>	<u>23</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: post office
EDUCATION: library
RELIGION: religious facility
RECREATION/CULTURE: theater

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Name of Property

Gibson County, IN

County and State

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

GOVERNMENT: post office

EDUCATION: library

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Beaux Arts

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

Summary Paragraph

The Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District is the historic commercial and political center of Princeton and Gibson County. The courthouse, constructed in 1884, and public square are at the center of the district around which are late 19th and early 20th century commercial and public buildings extending about a block in each direction. These include three churches, the city's Carnegie Library (1904), and post office (1911). Architectural styles range from Italianate to Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical to Art Deco to span one hundred years of growth during the period of significance.

Narrative Description

Princeton received the distinction of being made the county seat of government for Gibson County in 1814. Its prime location for road and railroad transportation networks in southwest Indiana allowed the town to grow considerably, particularly in the second half of the 19th century into the first half of the 20th century. The courthouse, centered on the square in the center of the district, as well as the number of large two-story commercial buildings fronting the square, reflect the city's early prosperity with fine examples of Italianate, Romanesque, and Neoclassical architecture. The courthouse square is a "Shelbyville" type square, with streets intersecting at the corners.

The public square, around which the city's historic commercial core is organized, features a lawn bounded by concrete sidewalks and a number of monuments. Angled parking is around the square, facing the courthouse and commercial buildings. Early 21st century streetscaping has added modern brick and concrete walks, lighting and signals, and landscaping in most of the blocks surrounding the square. While most of the streets in the district are minor two-way paved streets, Highway 64 overlays Broadway Street, which runs east/west through the district on the south side of the square. It carries considerably more traffic than the other streets and therefore has more limited parking due to its wider travel lanes.

Development of commercial buildings during the late 19th century and early 20th century extended in each direction from the square and integrated with many of the city's large public buildings just off the square. These include three large brick churches built between 1894 and 1925, the Carnegie Library built in 1904, the impressive United States Post Office constructed in 1912-1913, and the Princeton Armory building constructed in 1928. The district demonstrates sustained growth during the middle part of the 20th century with the construction of a few large buildings reflecting simpler lines of mid-century architecture. Two notable buildings of this period include the Princeton Theater, 1948, and the Gibson County Annex/former bank, 1965.

While demolition of historic buildings near the square have created minor losses to the historic fabric, now mostly occupied by parking lots, the district retains a significant concentration of historic buildings unified by their use, form, materials, and period of construction. Few non-historic buildings have been constructed in the district, though some have been altered through

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

late 20th century remodeling campaigns that render them non-contributing. Examples of non-contributing buildings include 113 Broadway (photo 14, built 2013) and buildings at State and Main (photo 05; one is totally obscured, two others to the west are severely altered).

A complete list of resources follows:

West Emerson Street, south side

225 W. Emerson Street. Akron Plan/First Methodist Episcopal Church, Romanesque Revival, 1894. Contributing. Photo 01

The cross-gabled brick church has a raised basement with rusticated capstone, northwest corner entry tower, and a rectory attached to the southwest corner. The building features large full-round arched windows composed of stained art glass in its gabled parapet walls which are capped with stone. A cupola with a double-hipped roof, steeply-pitched in the center, is centered on the cross gables and is covered with metal.

The front façade (north) features a broad gabled parapet with the entry tower on the west and a projecting, three-sided bay with cutaway corners on the east. Three short wood windows are in the basement of the gabled section and in the projecting bay. The windows have rusticated stone sills and lintels. The projecting bay features a 1/1 windows composed of art glass in its cutaway walls. They have rusticated stone sills and brick hoods. The bay has a tall frieze board and steeply-pitched hipped roof. The gabled parapet section features a large, full-round arched window composed of stained art glass. The window is composed of several individual windows and sashes and include a row of five full-round arched sashes at the bottom (the outer two form 1/1 windows), a large round window in the center depicting a dove, and twelve smaller round windows encircling the large window. The large window's arch is composed of three courses of soldier brick. Two belt courses of rusticated brick extend from the bottom of the arch across the façade and continue onto the projecting bay to the east. A row of five full-round arches are in the top of the gable wall. They have a rusticated stone sill and are composed of three blind arches and two full-round attic vents. A belt course of rusticated brick extends from each side of the row of arches.

The corner tower dominates the façade and features a raised entry fronted with a wide set of concrete steps with brick walls. A cornerstone is located in the tower's northwest corner west of the entry. The entry is composed of a pair of modern glass doors with a historic, full-round arched transom composed of art glass. The entry is slightly recessed and a belt course of rusticated stone wraps the tower at the bottom of the arch, which is composed of two courses of soldier brick. A belt course of rusticated stone wraps the top of the first story, above which the tower steps in on the second story/tall belfry level. The belfry features a full-round arched opening on all four walls of the tower. The opening has a rusticated stone sill and is further divided by a stone Doric column that supports a pair of brick arches above which the larger arch is filled in with brick and a small roundel (a Coducci arch). The top of the tower features a row of five short, blind, full-round arches with a rusticated stone sill. A wood cornice with corbels is above the row. Square brick pinnacles rise from each corner of the tower and are capped by

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

steeply-pitched hipped roofs covered with metal. The tower roof has a double hip, the lower part covers the cornice while the upper part is steeply-pitched and rises to form the steeple which is surmounted by a metal cross. The steeple roof is also covered with metal. The church tower seems to have taken some design inspiration from the courthouse roof. The interior is laid out in the Akron plan (auditorium style).

The first Methodist church was constructed in Princeton in 1838 by a congregation that was first organized in 1815. The congregation constructed a new brick building in the mid-1800s which was lost in the massive 1893 fire that consumed much of the commercial center of town. The congregation built the present building in 1894 and had a cornerstone laying ceremony in early November of that year. The church reached a membership of about 160 in the early 1900s.¹

West State Street, north side going east

230 W. State Street. Commercial Building, Italianate, c. 1900. Contributing
Left side of photo 02

218 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1894. Contributing
Middle of photo 02

216 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1894. Contributing
Right side of photo 02

206 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Non-contributing
Left side of photo 03. The façade of this building has been obscured with c. 1970 wall system.

130 W. State Street. Brownlee Building, Renaissance Revival, 1866. Contributing
Left side of photo 04

The two-story, corner brick building features a cut limestone second story façade above its modified, c. 1960, west storefront. The second story is covered with metal over its east storefront. The storefront is covered with wood display windows framed in metal. The entry is recessed, off centered to the west, and features a historic wood door with full window and transom. A metal canopy, c. 1960, extends across the top of the storefront, continuing over the storefront to the east, just below the transoms which are also covered with wood. A carved stone cornice extends across the top of the transom area. Three 1/1 vinyl windows are on the front façade, and one is located on the corner, facing west, as the stone treatment wraps the southwest corner. The windows feature a sill course and pairs of carved, stylistic corbels. A belt course of rusticated stone intersects the center of the window and a second rusticated beltcourse forms a lintel at the top of the window. A carved, segmental-arched stone hood tops each window. A thin beltcourse of rusticated stone is at the top of the second story, above which is a tall parapet wall. The parapet is also capped with stone.

¹ Stormont, pgs. 154-155

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

This building was constructed in 1866 and is thought to be the oldest building in the district. It featured the Brownlee-Kerr Dry Goods Company on the first story and carpet sales on the second floor.

122/124 W. State Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Right side of photo 04

The two-and-a-half story, red brick and terra cotta building features two bays with the west bay slightly narrower than the east bay. Each bay has a modern storefront with metal and glass windows; however, they appear to be in their original configuration and rest on a black granite base. The storefronts are flanked by cast iron, fluted pilasters and topped by a steel lintel decorated with rosettes. The store entries are recessed and fabric canopies covers the transoms.

The second story features a wide segmental arched opening in each bay. The openings feature a terra cotta sill and molded brick jambs and arches with short haunches. Each opening is composed of four modern 1/1 metal windows with transoms and three transoms, covered with metal, that fill the arch. The windows in the west bay are narrower than those in the east bay. A band of terra cotta trim, forming a cornice, extends across the façade at the base of the arches. Three thin, round columns of molded brick extend up from the terra cotta cornice to the parapet. These feature drop finials of terra cotta and are wrapped with a tall terra cotta frieze at the top of the second story. Small square terra cotta blocks compose spandrels, filling up to a thin sill course for rows of 1/1 full-round arched clerestory windows. There are five in the west bay and six in the east bay and are divided by molded brick columns with stylized, crocketed capitals of terra cotta. The clerestory windows have molded brick arches which are trimmed with terra cotta. The large terra cotta entablature features a canted frieze of large rosettes topped with rows of dentils and cornice. The brick parapet wall is divided into square panels in which each features a terra cotta rosette centered in the panel. The round columns of molded brick that extend up from flanking the second story are capped with fluted terra cotta piers in the parapet. The middle column of brick extends high into a shaped gabled parapet of terra cotta blocks trimmed with a terra cotta cornice. The brick column features bands of terra cotta and a stylized capital and finial of terra cotta.

This building was another that was built after the 1893 fire and featured a billiards hall in its west storefront and a tailor shop in its east storefront. A boot & shoe store located in the west storefront in the early 1900s and by 1914, a moving picture theatre was located in the east storefront. The second story providing a meeting hall for Princeton's Ben Hur fraternal chapter in the early 1900s and by 1914 was the Knights of Pythias Hall.²

118 W. State Street. Beatty Building, Neoclassical, c. 1910. Contributing

116 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1910/2000. Non-contributing
This building was substantially rebuilt in 2000.

114 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Contributing

² 1914 Princeton City Directory; 1914 Sanborn Map

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

112 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900/2000. Non-contributing
An upper story was removed from this building.

108/110 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900/2000. Non-contributing
This building was completely remodeled in 2000.

100/106 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900/1970. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 05. A 1970s façade now obscures the front of this commercial block.

East State Street, north side going east

112 E. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1920. Contributing

122 E. State Street. United Presbyterian Church, Akron Plan/Romanesque Revival, 1897/c. 1950.
Contributing. Photo 06

The brick building features a broad gabled parapet flanked by towers on its front façade. The facades are composed of brick banding to give the impression of rustication. The building has 1/1 windows composed of stained art glass with stone sills and brick hoods. While the main roof is covered with asphalt shingles, the two tower roofs are covered with patterned slates.

The broad gabled section features five 1/1 art glass windows. The middle three are flanked by brick buttresses that taper to the ground. A broad, but short, full-round arched window with stone sill is above the middle three windows. The arch is composed of five courses of header brick. Rising high above the windows is a wide arch that creates a slightly recessed bay for the first story. Small stone blocks terminate the bottom of the arch. Three narrow attic windows, filled in with wood, are at the top of the gable. They have stone sills and brick hoods. Six recessed belt courses are at the top of the gable wall which is capped with metal. A metal finial surmounts the gabled parapet. The west tower is octagonal and has a 1/1 art glass window in each wall except for two walls that feature wood doors with transoms composed of art glass. Clerestory windows, covered with wood, are at the top of the tower's walls. A tall corbel table is at the top of the tower. The tower roof, covered with slates, is steeply pitched and surmounted by a metal finial.

The east tower forms the corner entry for the building. It is square and features a raised first story with an open vestibule. A broad full-round arch composed of six courses of header brick creates the opening to the vestibule. The arch features a thin keystone and its east side rests on a carved cornerstone. Five-panel wood doors lead into the sanctuary in the back and west side walls of the vestibule. A narrow window composed of art glass is west of the vestibule entry. The tower features two windows composed of art glass divided into diamond-shaped panes in the second story. These are in a bay recessed into the façade and flanked by pilasters of brick. The west pilaster is capped by a metal pediment at the top of the second story. The east pilaster continues up above the belfry cornice and is capped by a hipped roof covered with slates. Both pilasters carry brick rustication from the first story, but it is absent from the second story bay and belfry. The belfry features two openings filled with wood with louvers in the center. The tower is

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

capped by a simple metal cornice and tall hipped roof covered with slates. The tower and east pilaster are surmounted by a metal finial. The interior reflects the influence of the Akron Plan (auditorium layout).

The first United Presbyterian Church in Princeton was founded in 1858. The congregation constructed their first building on the southeast corner of Prince and Broadway Streets prior to building the present building at Prince and State Streets in 1897. The building was dedicated during a Sunday service in April 1898.³

East State Street, south side going west

127 E. State Street. Saxe Health Home, Prairie Style, 1921. Contributing

Middle of photo 28

Garage, c. 1925. Contributing

The two-story building has a tall wall of brick, capped with stone, composing its first story and stucco on its second story. The house has 6/6 wood windows with stone sills. The second story windows are trimmed with brick. The house has wide-overhanging eaves and a low-pitched hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles.

The front façade is divided into three sections. The west section features a pair of Prairie Style windows centered in the first story and an 8/8 window centered in the second story. The middle section is slightly recessed and features a porch with balcony above. A low wall of brick is on the west half of the porch. A Prairie Style wood entry door is in the west half of the porch's back wall. An 8/8 window is east of the door. The porch has a metal awning extending across the top of its front wall. The second story features three windows, two that are 6/6 and one, the west window, is filled with glass block. The east section features an enclosed porch with a balcony above. The porch has a large window centered in the front wall that is composed of glass block. An 8/8 window is centered in the second story wall.

The building was constructed by Dr. Mary Saxe and her brother, Dr. Anthony Saxe, for both medical offices and as Mary's residence. Mary Saxe came to Princeton in 1916 and opened a chiropractic office on Broadway Street, then moved to this location in 1921. She practiced chiropractic medicine in Princeton for forty-seven years.⁴

123 E. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1952. Contributing

The one-story, side-gabled brick building features a front façade of random-coursed limestone ashlar and a full-width porch. The porch is supported by a row of metal posts and supports a simple metal awning. There are seven metal and glass doors with transoms in the façade. The roof, which has a slight saltbox shape, is covered with asphalt shingles.

³ "Dedicated to the Lord" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 7 April 1898. Pg. 3. Cols. 1-2

⁴ "Rites Saturday for Dr. Mary Saxe, 77" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 26 Jan 1962. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-2

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

A realtor and builder named Flack & Hayden operated out of this building during the late 1940s-1950s and regularly advertised that they were located in the oldest house in town. Tax records indicate a construction date of 1850, though the company likely significantly altered the building to create multiple business rooms by about 1952.

West State Street, south side going west

215 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1920. Non-contributing
Application of Dryvit-type material to the façade has made this building non-contributing.

217 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1920. Non-contributing

223 W. State Street. Commercial Building, c. 1920. Non-contributing

Broadway Street, north side going east

230/232 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1895/1950. Contributing
Left side of photo 07

226 W. Broadway. Lagow Building, c. 1920. Contributing
Middle of photo 07

The two-story, brown-colored brick building features two storefronts divided by a cast iron pilaster. Each storefront has a brick wall and large display window with a deeply recessed entry in the outside corner. The entries have wood doors with full windows and transoms. A metal awning extends across the top of the storefronts. The transoms are covered with metal.

The second story is recessed between corner pilasters. The second story features three windows: a short, middle window divided into two panes of leaded art glass flanked by 1/1 replacement windows. The windows have stone sills and brick lintels. The middle window features a stone table supported by carved brackets. Three brick panels, enframed by brick, are above the windows. The parapet juts out over courses of corbeling. The parapet features a gabled section flanked by the pilasters that extend from the second story. The parapet is capped with stone. A building name block carved with LAGOW is centered in the parapet wall.

The building was constructed by Augustus Wise Lagow to house his piano sales business in the early 1920s. He and his wife, Anna, lived in the second story apartment.⁵

222 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, Italianate, c. 1900. Contributing
Right side of photo 07

⁵ 1930 Princeton City Directory

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property
West Broadway Street, south side going east

Gibson County, IN
County and State

333 W. Broadway. Byrne Brothers Garage, 1923. Contributing
Photo 10

The one-story, brown-colored brick building has a broad front façade with a canopy that extends over the west two-thirds. The east third is a display room built partially under the canopy. The showroom features brick walls and large display windows. A garage bay is centered on the façade. The west third of the façade features two wood doors with windows in their top half and transoms in the west end of the façade. A pair of 2/1 Craftsman style windows is east of the doors. There are three brick panels, enframed with projecting brick with corner blocks, above the canopy. The building has a shaped parapet capped with stone and a building stone carved with BYRNE-BROS 1923.

The Byrne brothers owned the Princeton Transfer Company, taxi service that had various lines that ran throughout southwest Indiana. Their new building, constructed in 1923, was located a few blocks east of the Southern Railroad passenger depot and west of the traction company and road the state had designated Highway 10 (later U.S. 41) in 1919. Highway 10 stretched north-south along the west side of the state connecting all of the major cities from Evansville, north. By 1932, Broadway Street had been designated State Highway 64 east/west across the south part of the state from New Albany to Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

313 W. Broadway. Knights of Columbus Hall, c. 1970. Non-contributing

301 W. Broadway. Princeton Theater, Art Moderne, 1948. Contributing
William McClure, contractor. Photo 11

The large brick building is faced with black and white porcelain enamel steel panels. The first story is covered in black panels while the second story is mostly white panels with six vertical ribbons of black panels above which are black octagons. The parapet also features a band of black panels. The façade is symmetrically arranged with a slightly recessed, wide entry bay composed of two pairs of glass doors with transoms and wide display windows with transoms. Windows composed of glass block flank the entry bay; two wider windows are to the outside and narrower windows are to the inside. The theater features a large marquee with semicircular front in red and black. The marquee has attraction boards facing east and west; these are capped by metal letters forming the word PRINCETON rising above the marquee. The center of the marquee features a tall column of black panels that have neon lights and a large P enframed in a diamond.

The Princeton Theater opened to the public in July 1948. The original theater was built in 1929 on State Street but had been destroyed by fire in 1946. The new building was called ultra-modern and a “dream theater” on opening day, July 21, 1948, showing *The Moose Hangs High* with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.⁶

231 W. Broadway. German American Bank, c. 2015. Non-contributing

⁶ “New Modern Theater Opens Today” *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 21 July 1948. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-5

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

123/125/127 W. Broadway. Kendle Building, Neoclassical, c. 1910. Contributing
Photo 12 and the middle of photo 22

The two-story brick building is situated on the southeast corner of Broadway and Hart Streets. The building is divided into four bays with the corner bay (west end of the façade) wider and taller than the other three bays. Each bay has a storefront flanked with fluted cast iron pilasters. The corner features a cast iron column. Each storefront varies slightly in materials, but each features an entry door and transom on the west end, and wood walls topped by large display windows and transoms. Only the easternmost storefront varies from this configuration. It has a deeply recessed entry between display windows with transoms. The windows are set on brick walls. A wood stairway door with transom is between the two easternmost storefronts. The pilasters carry a stone lintel that extends across the top of the first story.

Brick quoining flanks each bay on the second story. A group of three 1/1 replacement windows is centered in each bay except the corner bay which features a wide 1/1 replacement window and a projecting four-sided bay at the corner. The bay is flanked by brick pilasters and features a 1/1 replacement window with stone flat arch lintel. The second story windows have a stone sill course and a stone belt course, interrupted by pilasters flanking each bay in the parapet, forms the top of the second story wall. The parapet is capped with stone.

The Kendle Building was constructed c. 1910 and featured several shops on Broadway Street with offices on the second story. These included the Public Drug Store on the corner, J. D. Bass who operated a barber shop, and H. E. Wolf & Company Clothing Store near the east end. The second story included offices for several lawyers including T. W. Cullen, J. B. Gamble, Luther Benson, and Twineham & Sumner. J. A. Sprowl, who was the justice of the peace, also had his office on the second story as did W. T. Dorsey, a dentist.⁷

121 W. Broadway. Gibson County Perpetual Building & Loan Association
Art Deco, c. 1926. Contributing
Right side of photo 13

The one-story building has a white glazed terra cotta façade with green glazed trim. The façade is formed by three pilasters of white terra cotta that form a recessed entry on the east half and wide display window on the west half. The entry has a narrow display window in the west recessed wall and niche in the east recessed wall. The entry is composed of a glass door. The full-width transom is composed of prism glass. A band of green terra cotta tile is centered in the pilasters and runs over the top of the transom, enframing most of the storefront. A white glazed terra cotta cornice is at the top of the first story and forms the bottom of the parapet wall. The parapet features two green glazed cartouches and is capped by green coping.

119 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1910. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 13

⁷ 1914 Princeton City Directory

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

115 W. Broadway. Sprowl Building, Neoclassical, c. 1894/1920-1921. Contributing
Middle of photo 13, right side of photo 14

The two-story, auburn-colored brick building features a wide, deeply recessed modern storefront on the first story. Brick pilasters flank the storefront and feature small brick quoins that extend to and carry over the top of the second story. The storefront has a low brick wall with center entry at the front of the façade. The recessed wall is wood with a pair of aluminum storefront doors flanked by short display windows. A wood valance is at the front of the façade. The second story a row of wood windows with transoms on a stone sill course. A group of three windows is in the middle and is flanked by brick pilasters with stone capitals. Pairs of windows are at the outside edges of the façade. A row of star-shaped anchors extends across the top of the second story. A row of small star-shaped anchors is at the bottom of the parapet wall. The parapet features a carved stone cornice and features a building name and date block carved with SPROWL and 1920.

The building opened for business as a lady's garment store in April 1921. At that time, George Sprowl, the owner, transferred the property valued at \$15,000 to Sprowl Brothers, the legal business entity.⁸ Sprowls purchased the building, then known as the Gray Block, in 1919 and constructed a new façade and storeroom for their business.

113 W. Broadway. Johnson Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1895/2013. Non-contributing
Second from right side of photo 14. The façade was substantially remodeled in 2013.

111 W. Broadway. The Peoples' National Bank, Romanesque Revival, 1893. Contributing
Shopbell & Chambers, architects⁹
Second from left side of photo 14

The tall two-story red brick building features molded brick and rusticated stone trim. The building has one storefront flanked by modern brick pilasters capped by historic carved stone capitals. The storefront, a modern recreation, features wood display windows and transoms with a wood entry door with full window and transom on its west side. A recessed door with transom leads to a stairway on the east side. An iron beam decorated with rosettes tops the storefront. A brick frieze is above the storefront and has a building stone carved with THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL BANK.

The second story has three tall full-round arched 1/1 wood windows with transoms. The windows have a stone sill course that extends across the façade. A carved stone spandrel is between the window and transom. The middle window is flanked by pairs of molded brick that form thin columns. The outer windows have brick pilasters. The pilasters and columns spring from carved stone bases and are capped by stylized, carved stone capitals. The brick arches are composed of Roman brick with molded brick trim on the bottom and carved stone band on top. The transoms are filled with wood. A brick frieze is at the top of the second story and features six clerestory windows filled with wood. The frieze has a belt course of rusticated stone at the

⁸ "Opening Near" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 8 April 1921. Pg. 1. Col. 7

⁹ *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 16 June 1892. Pg. 4. Col. 3

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

top and bottom. The parapet, rebuilt with newer brick, is capped with stone. The pilasters that extend from the first story rise above the parapet and are also capped with stone.

The People's National Bank was established in August 1874 by several businessmen and professionals in the community. It had been organized the year prior under the name the People's Bank but achieved a twenty-year charter giving it status as a national bank. The building was constructed between 1892 and 1893, opening in March of 1893. It cost \$15,000 to construct.¹⁰

109 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Contributing
Left side of photo 14

105 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, Craftsman, c. 1915. Contributing
Right of center in photo 15

101 W. Broadway. Commercial Building, Queen Anne, c. 1905. Contributing
Center of photo 15

East Broadway Street, south side, going east

105 E. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 16

107 E. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Non-contributing
Second from right side of photo 16 (note historic advertising painting on alley wall)

111 E. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1955. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 16

117 E. Broadway. Commercial Building, c. 1910. Contributing
Left side of photo 16

129 E. Broadway. United States Post Office, Beaux Arts, 1911. Contributing
James Knox Taylor, supervising architect
Photo 17

The large, one-story brick and stone building has a raised stone basement and stone quoining that frames its brick bays. Most of the windows are in pairs of narrow 1/1 wood windows with stone surrounds that feature scroll keystones. Carved stone trim forms the bottom of an entablature that has a brick frieze and overhanging stone cornice. A carved stone parapet tops the walls and forms a solid balustrade of piers and carved panels. The front façade is symmetrically arranged with a set of stone steps that lead to a wide middle bay that projects slightly and is composed of stone. The bay is flanked by narrower brick bays each with a pair of windows.

¹⁰ Stormont, pg. 337

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

The entry bay, flanked by wide pilasters, features three openings: the middle entry, flanked by a group of three windows. The entry features a metal and glass door flanked by pilasters and capped by an arched pediment. A row of three panels, flanked by narrow pilasters, rises above the pediment. The row is topped by three windows: a wide window divided into three panes flanked by windows of a single pane. The entry opening is trimmed at the top by a carved swag-like feature with scroll key. The groups of windows flanking the entry feature 6/6 and 2/2 wood windows in lieu of an entry door and pediment. The wide stone bay is topped by a stone entablature. The words UNITED STATES POST OFFICE are carved in the center of the frieze. Rows of dentils support the cornice which is capped with a stone balustrade of carved balusters between carved piers.

Construction of the building began in 1912 and it opened to the public in May 1913. The building was described as a beautiful federal building, centrally located in the city, constructed at a cost of \$49,500.¹¹ The building features enclosed inspection walkways as part of the original design for postal inspectors to view workers on the floor below. The Princeton postmaster at the time of construction was Henry Tichenor and construction of the building was by August Ohm & Son of Terre Haute. It was reported that the consensus was that the Federal Post Office determined that Princeton was in need of a large facility to accommodate the city's future growth.¹² The building still serves as a U. S. Post Office.

201 E. Broadway. Broadway Christian Church, Neoclassical, 1925-26. Contributing
J. W. Gaddis, architect (Vincennes); W. Toelle, contractor
Photo 18

The two-story brown brick building features a stone base, white glazed terra cotta trim, and a raised basement. The building has a combination of rectangular and full-round arched stained art glass windows. The building features an entablature trimmed with terra cotta and a brick frieze. The shaped brick parapet is capped with terra cotta.

The front (north) façade is divided into three sections: a wide middle section and corner sections that project slightly on the façade. The corner sections are nearly identical except that a raised entry is located in the west corner. The corner sections are flanked by wide terra cotta pilasters that feature stone bases and terra cotta, Ionic capitals. The west bay has a cornerstone, and pair of modern glass doors with a historic transom composed of art glass. A brick panel is above the transom and a full-round arched art glass window is above the panel. The assembly of doors, transom, panel, and arched window are enframed in a broad band of terra cotta trim with a key at the top. The east corner section matches the west except that the doors are replaced by a large art glass window. The corner sections feature their own stepped parapet with a terra cotta cross centered in the gable portion.

The wide middle section of the façade features four bays of windows in the basement, first, and second story. The short basement windows have stone lintels. A sill course of terra cotta extends

¹¹ Stormont, Pg. 327

¹² "Princeton's New Federal Building is Today Open to the Public" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 16 May 1913. Pg. 1. Cols. 3-4

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

beneath the first story windows which are rectangular art glass sashes. The second story has full-round arched windows composed of art glass with terra cotta sills and arches with keys. The parapet of the middle section features a broad pediment formed by terra cotta trim. An attic louver with segmental arch is centered in the pediment wall. The louver has a terra cotta arch with key. The pediment is topped with a terra cotta finial. The parapet wall of the middle section rises above the pediment and steps up in the center. It is also capped with terra cotta.

The Christian Church was organized in Princeton on April 7, 1889. The congregation met in a building known as Temperance Hall on West State Street until Jessup's Hall, located at Main and Broadway Streets, was used by the congregation. The congregation purchased the former Cumberland Presbyterian building on the southeast corner of Main and Broadway Streets in 1910 for \$6000. The congregation had a membership of about 275 during the 1910s. The building was damaged by a tornado in March 1925 after which time the congregation decided to raze the building and construct a new church.¹³ The cornerstone was laid on October 18, 1925 and the building was dedicated on May 28, 1926. The new building's style was called Romanesque in design, but probably more aptly is categorized as Neoclassical.

203 E. Broadway. Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 1961. Contributing

North West Street, east side

128 N. West Street. Pole Building, c. 2000. Non-contributing

South Hart Street, west side going north

129 S. Hart Street. Armory, Italian Renaissance Revival, 1928. Contributing

Photo 19

The one-story brick building has a raised concrete basement topped by a course of soldier brick. The building has full-round arched windows enframed with brick and stone sills. The front (east) façade is symmetrical with a center entry raised and recessed under a wide, full-round arched opening. The entry is composed of a glass door and side-lites. The arch is filled in with wood at the face of the façade. It is carried by a stone table supported by carved capitals. The arch is composed of a course of soldier brick between courses of header brick. Three carved stone blocks are in the arch. There are three full-round arched openings enframed with brick with stone sills that flank the entry. Only the two immediately flanking the entry have 1/1 vinyl windows. The other four are covered with wood. A carved stone block is above each arch. A belt course composed of two courses of brick extends across the façade at the base of the window arches. A cornice composed of a round arch corbel arcade extends across the full width of the façade. The arches spring from small stone corbels.

¹³ "Broadway Christians to Erect New Church" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 22 May 1925. Pg. 1. Cols. 6-7

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

The state of Indiana financed construction of nineteen armory buildings in the late 1920s. Princeton was the beneficiary of one of these buildings when their armory was built on South Hart Street and opened to the public in 1928. The state contracted with Ostrom Realty & Construction Company for design and construction of the buildings which were financed through state bonds and cost over \$2 million to construct. The building included a public pool and meeting location for the American Legion and was the official home for Battery D 139th Field Artillery. The facility acted as a community center and during the late 1920s and early 1930s, hosted Chataqua programs and other classes. The building became the home to the Princeton Boys Club, who had met in the building, in 1970.

123 S. Hart Street. George Prince & Mary Kidd House, Queen Anne, c. 1894. Contributing
Right side of photo 19

107 S. Hart Street. Princeton Daily Clarion Building, c. 2015. Non-contributing

North Hart Street, west side going north

101 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, c. 1970. Non-contributing

107/109 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Left side of photo 20

111 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 20

113 N. Hart Street. Embree Building, Romanesque Revival, 1894. Contributing
Attributed to Clifford Shopbell, architect.
Middle of photo 20

The two-story red brick building features molded red brick and rusticated limestone trim. The building has a single storefront flanked by rusticated brick pilasters capped with stone. The wood storefront is divided into four bays of wood display windows with transoms and a wood entry door with transom is in the south bay. A sign board is above the storefront.

The second story is divided into three bays (the middle is wider than the flanking bays) by molded brick columns that extend above the parapet and have stone finials. The middle two are taller and flank a terra cotta panel carved with EMBREE. The columns flank modern 1/1 wood windows with stone sills. The wide middle window has two fixed sashes. The flanking windows have 1/1 windows topped with shorter 1/1 windows. A tall, rusticated stone belt course, broken by the brick columns, extends across the top of the windows. Short transom windows with stone sills and rusticated stone lintels are between the columns in the upper part of the bays. A row of brick dentils topped with a belt course of stone is at the top of the second story. The parapet features rows of molded brick columns topped with a stone cap. The building name is positioned at the top of the middle bay; a semicircular panel of brick capped with stone rises above the name block.

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

115 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Third from right side of photo 20

117 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 20

121 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1894. Contributing
Right side of photo 20

127 N. Hart Street. Former Devin Building/Murphy Store, c. 1894/1956. Non-contributing

201 N. Hart Street. Ward Building, Italianate, 1893. Contributing
George L. Mesker & Co. (Evansville) Cast Metal Storefront. Photo 03

The two-story brick building is situated on the northwest corner of State and Hart Streets with a cutaway corner that faces the intersection and public square. The building's storefront wraps the corner from south-facing to east-facing with a second storefront in a one-story section in the north end of the east façade. The storefront has brick walls, and its display and transom windows are covered with wood. The corner entry features a glass door with side-lites, and transoms covered with wood. Each bay of the storefront is flanked by cast iron pilasters. The south façade has three small windows with stone sills and lintels that have been filled with brick. A former doorway is at the west end of the south façade and is also filled in with brick.

The second story also features a cutaway corner with a modern 1/1 wood window with stone sill and lintel. The cutaway corners feature open brick coursing, and the cutaway wall is topped by a metal cornice with a pair of brackets on each corner. The brackets flank the name WARD in raised letters. This is the only part of the building's cornice that is extant. The south façade features a shaped stone belt course at the bottom of the second story and six modern 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and lintels. Four windows are grouped into pairs with a pilaster of brick between. The east façade features three modern 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and lintels above the east-facing bay of the corner storefront. Four narrow 1/1 modern wood windows with stone sills and lintels are above the north storefront bay. The middle two windows are paired tightly together and are flanked by brick pilasters.

The Ward Building was reconstructed by Seth Ward first as a saddle and harness shop after the 1893 fire destroyed the original Ward Building at this location, which housed the People's National Bank. His losses from the fire were estimated at \$25,000. The new building would later house a drugstore and wallpaper store.

213 N. Hart Street. Commercial Building, c. 1894/1960. Contributing

215/219 N. Hart Street. Office Building, c. 1965. Contributing

225 N. Hart Street. Gibson County Bank/Gibson County Courthouse Annex, 1965. Contributing
Bohlen & Burns, architects (Indianapolis)

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 21

The one-story limestone building features rusticated, random-coursed ashlar on its south half and smooth stone on its north half. Raised planters composed of rusticated ashlar extend from the entry near the center of the building to the north corner. The planters and building parapet are capped with stone. The south end of the façade, with ashlar, projects slightly. The entry, in the center of the building, is north of the projecting section. It features a pair of glass doors and transom flanked by a row of three windows and transoms in metal frames. A metal canopy extends across the top of the entry. Metal letters spell GIBSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX NORTH on the north end of the façade.

Gibson County Bank built this facility after leaving their location north of the public square. The new facilities offered off-street parking and three drive-up windows. The bank traced its origins to the founding of Citizens State Bank in Hazelton in 1903. The bank relocated to Princeton in 1939 and purchased the People's American National Bank. The bank hired Indianapolis architects Bohlen & Burns in 1964 and construction, costing over \$300,000, began later that year.¹⁴ The building became the Gibson County Government Annex about 1998.

South Hart Street, east side going south

108 S. Hart Street. Doctor's Office, Neoclassical, c. 1894. Contributing
Right side of photo 22

124 S. Hart Street. Carnegie Library, Neoclassical, 1904. Contributing
Harris & Shopbell, architects; Bean & Davis, contractors

Photo 23

The large brick building features a raised basement topped with stone and modern 1/1 metal windows with stone sills and brick hoods with keystone. The building has wide corner pilasters and an entablature with stone architrave and brick frieze. The hipped roof is covered with red clay tiles. An annex on the back of the building is composed of a one-story connector and two-story mass similar in scale to the original building.

The front façade features a large, gable-front portico with wide steps and brick porch walls topped with stone. The portico features four large Doric columns with a stone entablature that supports a brick pediment. The frieze is carved with PUBLIC LIBRARY. The pediment is trimmed with a copper cornice. The portico fronts a projecting section that features a deeply recessed entry composed of a pair of metal doors and transom window centered in the back wall. The entry is flanked by small metal windows with brick hoods and keystones. The projecting section is flanked by two metal basement windows and two large 1/1 metal windows with brick hoods and keystones on the first story.

Princeton's Carnegie Library opened to the public between 1904 and 1905. The original library, established in 1881, was destroyed by fire in 1886 and then replaced with a two-story brick

¹⁴ "Gibson Bank Ready to Move" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 28 May 1965. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-4

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

building constructed by the Princeton Library Association on the east side of the square in 1887. In 1903, the library association approached Andrew Carnegie to fund a new building. Carnegie donated \$15,000 to construct the building, which was designed by Harris & Shopbell, architects of Evansville. Construction was completed by Bean & Davis of Princeton for just over \$11,000. The library opened on June 8, 1905.¹⁵

South Main Street, west side going north

113 S. Main. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Contributing
Left side of photo 15

105 S. Main. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 15

Gibson County Courthouse Square/North Main Street, west side, 1884. Contributing (site)
Letters A through J correspond to the district map.

101 N. Main. Gibson County Courthouse, Italianate/Renaissance Revival, 1884. Contributing
Photos 08-09

McDonald Brothers (Louisville, KY), architects; Joseph Miller (Washington, IN) contractor
The three-story brick and stone Gibson County Courthouse is positioned at the center of the public square with wider east and west facades. The building has a raised base of rusticated limestone and the upper two stories are divided by a tall stone entablature. Each façade features a two-story, projecting entry bay and the building features towers on each corner. The entry bays and towers have rusticated stone that continues from the raised basement, covering the first story, to the entablature between the first and second story. Stone quoining is on the towers' second story. The entry bays feature porticos on the second story with brick and stone-banded pilasters fronted with brick pilasters with stone Corinthian capitals.

A tall stone entablature is at the top of the second story and features a cornice with rows of dentils and modillions. A balustrade wall of pressed metal tops the cornice above which rise the corner towers and brick and stone-banded chimneys. The towers have full-round arched clerestory windows in the top of their walls and are topped with pyramidal roofs. The tall, central tower rises high above the hipped roof and features a steeply pitched hipped roof. The tower has an open belfry with a large, full-round arch with keys flanked by pairs of Ionic pilasters. Gables with a clock are on each wall of the tower above the belfry.

The building has short segmental-arched windows in the raised basement and 1/1 windows with segmental-arched transoms with stone sills and carved keystones on the first story. The second story features bays of 1/1 windows with transoms and a full-round arched spandrel of carved terra cotta. The bays are divided by brick pilasters with carved stone capitals. These support full-

¹⁵ Stormont, Pg. 330

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

round arches in which the windows and spandrels are recessed. The broader, east and west entries feature stone walls that flanked a wide set of steps that lead to the first story. The entry is composed of glass doors, side-lites, and transoms in a full-round arch composed of brick and stone keys. These are flanked by black-colored granite Corinthian columns.

The sale of newly platted town lots provided funds to construct the first courthouse and jail on the square in 1814. In 1841, the county commissioners began to make plans for a new courthouse which was finished in 1843. That building was replaced with the present building in 1883-1884. The cornerstone was laid on June 17, 1884, and was witnessed by several thousand people with participation by the Masons and other fraternal lodges.¹⁶ Joseph Miller of Washington, Indiana, was awarded the contract for construction of the building based on a design provided by McDonald Brothers, architects from Louisville, Kentucky. The cost of the building was \$188,661.

58th Indiana Regiment Monument, 1865. Contributing (object, A)

C. Rule & Colman (Cincinnati, OH), sculptors.

Foreground of photo 08

The monument was thought to be the first memorial to an Indiana regiment engaged in the Civil War. It was dedicated on July 4, 1865, prior to the full discharge of the regiment. The eagle that surmounts the shaft is made of Italian marble and the cost of the monument was \$5000.¹⁷

Gibson County Soldiers & Sailors Monument, 1912. Contributing (object, B)

Rudolph Schwartz, sculptor.

Foreground of photo 09

The tall monument, located on the southwest corner of the square, is composed of carved red granite and features a stone base of three steps on which a granite pedestal rises. The pedestal is surrounded on each corner by bronze soldiers. The pedestal is topped by a cornice above which rises a tall granite obelisk that is banded with carved blocks denoting battles of the Civil War. The obelisk is surmounted by a stone capital carved with eagles on which a bronze soldier holding a flag is set. The monument, costing about \$25,000, was dedicated on November 12, 1912.

Ten Commandments Monument, c. 2000. Non-contributing (object, C)

Gazebo, c. 2000. Non-contributing (structure, D)

Judge William Prince Centennial Monument, 1914 (General John Gibson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution). Contributing (object, E)

Fallen Officer Monument, c. 2000. Non-contributing (object, F)

¹⁶ Tartt, Pgs. 87-88

¹⁷ "Monument of the 58th Indiana Regiment" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 31 May 1894. Pg. 1. Cols. 4-5

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Soldiers & Patriots of the American Revolution in Gibson Co. Monument (General John Gibson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution) 1977. Non-contributing (object, G)

Service Mothers Monument to World Wars I & II, 1948. Contributing (object, H)

This monument was originally located at Lafayette Park then moved to the public square.

Korea & Vietnam War Memorial, c. 1970. Non-contributing (object, I)

Desert Shield-Desert Storm Monument, 1991. Non-contributing (object, J)

South Main Street, east side going north

116 S. Main Street. Commercial Building, c. 1930. Contributing
Right side of photo 24

110 S. Main Street. Clarion News Building, Art Deco, 1923. Contributing
Clifford Shopbell & Company, architects; Bean & Davis, contractors
Left side of photo 24

The one-story brick building features stone trim and a deeply recessed, raised entry off-centered to the north. The entry features a pair of wood doors with full windows. A stone lintel is across the top of the recessed entry and a panel of herringbone brick is above the lintel. A pair of 1/1 modern windows is north of the entry and feature a stone sill course and stone lintel. The south half of the façade features a large storefront bay with three metal windows; the remaining portion of the storefront is covered with metal. The storefront is flanked by brick pilasters with stone belts at sill height.

The building features a tall brick parapet trimmed with stone at the top and bottom. A row of brick dentils is capped with stone at the top of the parapet. Four stone ribs extend up from the pilasters flanking the storefront-entry-corners of the building to the top of the parapet. A large building stone carved with CLARION NEWS is centered in the parapet above the storefront. A modern 1/1 window with stone lintel is in the parapet above the recessed entry in a slightly recessed bay flanked by brick pilasters that carry stone ribs. These rise to form pilasters that flank a brick gabled parapet capped with stone. A diamond-shaped stone is centered in the gable. A clerestory window is in the parapet above the pair of windows north of the entry.

The Princeton Clarion-News constructed this building in 1923. The newspaper was founded by William Kurtz in 1846 and had operated from various locations including two locations on Broadway Street prior to construction of this building.¹⁸

North Main Street, east side going north

102 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, c. 1950. Contributing

¹⁸ "Clarion News History" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 08 Oct 1923. Pg. 6. Cols. 1-5

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Right side of photo 25

The two-story corner building has walls composed of rusticated, random-course limestone ashlar. The building has metal windows composed of a short awning sash at the bottom and large single pane sash at the top. The parapet is capped with stone. The front (west) façade features a cutaway corner entry on its southwest corner. A round metal column supports the overhanging second story at the corner. A glass entry door and side-lite are in the cutaway wall. Stone ashlar planters capped with stone extend along the front façade. The first story features two pairs of windows with short awning sashes, described previously. The second story features two windows with short awning sashes.

Gibson Electric Company operated from the building during the 1940s-1950s. During the mid-1960s, the Selective Service Office had a branch location at this building.

106/108 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, c. 1920. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 25

110 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, c. 1905. Contributing
Right side of photo 26

112 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, Italianate, c. 1887. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 26

114 N. Main Street. Commercial Building/Public Library, 1887. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 26

116 N. Main Street. Rippy Building, Italianate, 1893. Contributing
Left side of photo 26

The two-story brick building has a single storefront and 1/1 modern wood windows with stone sills and brick and stone segmental arches. The storefront has a recessed entry with a wood door with full window and wood transom. It is flanked by large metal windows above wood walls. The storefront is enframed by metal that forms pilasters on the corners and rise above to cover the transom area. A carved stone table supported by brick dentils and corbels at the corners extends across the bottom of the second story. The second story features three 1/1 modern wood windows with segmental arches. The parapet features pilasters that rise from corbeling on the corners. The pilasters have two bands of stone at the bottom and are capped with stone at the top of the parapet. A stone sill course extends between the pilasters forming a sill for clerestory windows. A middle pair of wood clerestory windows are divided by a wood pilaster and feature a segmental arch with stone shoulder blocks. The pair of windows is flanked by short segmental-arched attic vents with stone sills. Two date stones carved with 18 and 93 are above the clerestory windows.

118 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, Italianate, c. 1893. Contributing

124 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, c. 1900. Contributing

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

126 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, 1917. Contributing

Photo 27

The two-story brick building is divided into three bays with modern, c. 1960, storefront materials of metal and glass and metal display windows and doors. A metal canopy extends across the top of the storefronts and the transom area is covered with metal. The middle and south storefront were combined into one. The corner storefront has an entry door facing north. The second story features rows of three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills in each bay. Each bay features a brick panel enframed with brick. The middle bay has a date stone carved with 1917. The other panels feature a carved stone vent. The parapet features wide corbels flanking each bay.

Most of this building was occupied by Horace Hitch's Variety Store after its construction. Hitch also had a meat market at 124 North Main Street. A bakery operated by F. L. Forthoffer was located at the north corner of the building. The second story included offices for G. L. Bridenhager, an attorney, and C. A. Shubart, a photographer.¹⁹

214 N. Main Street. Commercial Building, Craftsman, c. 1915. Contributing

North Prince Street, west side

115 N. Prince Street. J. W. Dickson Horseshoe Shop, c. 1903. Contributing

Left side of photo 28

The one-story brick building has rows of segmental-arched 1/1 vinyl windows with stone sills. The front (east) façade features a deeply recessed entry with a segmental-arched opening and three steps. The recessed area has small 1/1 replacement windows in its side walls and a modern metal entry door in its back wall. Segmental-arched windows flank the entry. The façade features a stepped parapet with a projecting frieze composed of two courses of brick dentils. A wide middle section steps up and projects from the center of the façade. It has several projecting courses of brick and a course of dentils at the top. The parapet is capped with metal.

This building was constructed as a horseshoeing shop by John W. Dickson about 1903 when he moved to this location north of Princeton's Fire Department. Dickson continued to operate his horseshoeing business from this location until 1939. Among his accomplishments were shoeing well-known racehorses.²⁰

¹⁹ 1923 Princeton City Directory

²⁰ "Dickson, who Shod Famed Racehorses, to Move After 36 Years in One Site" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 24 March 1939. Pg. 1. Cols. 2-3

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ 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

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Name of Property

Gibson County, IN

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1865-1965

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

McDonald Brothers

Taylor, James Knox

Gaddis, J. W.

Toelle, W.

Harris & Shopbell

Shopbell, Clifford

C. Rule & Colman

Schwartz, Rudolph

Miller, Joseph

Bean & Davis

McClure, William "Bill"

Shopbell & Chambers

Bohlen & Burns

August Ohm & Son

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance spans one hundred years, beginning with the erection of the 58th Regiment Monument on the public square in 1865 (foreground of photo 08) and concluding with construction of the Gibson County Bank, now county annex, on North Hart Street in 1965 (photo 21).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places using criterion A under two areas of significance. Commerce played a significant role in the development of the district and maintained significance into the middle part of the 20th century. Thanks to its rail connections, Princeton thrived as a trade center. The town quickly became, and remained, the county's main commercial center. The other area of significance under criterion A is Politics/Government. As the county seat of Gibson County, the courthouse was established in Princeton on a traditional square and post offices have served the historic district through today.

The Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District also qualifies for the National Register under criterion C/architecture. The district exhibits examples of late 19th century American architecture styles including Italianate and a substantial number of Romanesque Revival style buildings including the present county courthouse (1884, photos 08-09). By the early part of the 20th century, several prominent Neoclassical buildings were constructed followed by modern, mid-20th century style buildings, such as Princeton's Art Moderne theater (1948, photo 11). A few buildings retain cast iron and pressed metal elements; a few still have foundry plates from Mesker, the famous cast iron maker in nearby Evansville.

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

ARCHITECTURE

Italianate Style

The Italianate style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to communities and created a building boom during the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years. The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling informal Italian farmhouses, but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style. The first Italianate house was constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. The style was popularized by house pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing during the middle part of the 1800s, but its popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne Style in the last decades of the 19th century. By the mid-1800s, flat-roofed Italianate buildings, resembling Italian palazzi, were the dominant form of commercial building in the U. S. Many featured cast iron storefronts, which builders soon adopted for other styles of commercial blocks.

There are six examples of this style, which represent the oldest architecture in the district. Most of the examples are simple adaptations of the style to two-story commercial buildings with features of the style most prominent in window hoods and cornices. This is true of the Ward Building at 201 N. Hart Street (photo 03), constructed in 1893, that has remnants of a pressed metal cornice typical of the style. The Rippy Building at 116 N. Main Street, also 1893, has brick and stone window hoods, segmental arches, and corbelling typical of the style (left side of photo 26; other examples are seen in the right side of photo 26).

The Gibson County Courthouse (photos 08-09), 1884, which no doubt influenced a great deal of building design around the public square through the rest of the 19th century, is an example of Italianate/Renaissance Revival. The brick courthouse has a raised base of rusticated stone, corner towers, and a variety of segmental and full-round arched windows. The style impacted commercial building design around the square through the use of standard and molded brick and carved stone.

Romanesque Revival Style

The style found in Princeton, of most significant note, is the Romanesque Revival style. The style was made popular by architect Henry H. Richardson, particularly on public buildings located along the east coast. Buildings in the style often have large, rusticated stone blocks or belt courses for their wall construction. Wide arched windows and towers or turrets were also frequently used. While it is not uncommon for small towns to have a few examples of the style, Princeton seems to have a disproportionate number of examples, many with exceptional details. There are twelve examples of Romanesque architecture.

Buildings constructed between about 1893-1895 at 113 N. Hart Street, 111 W. Broadway Street (second from left side of photo 14), and 122/124 W. State Street (right side of photo 04) each feature molded brick and terra cotta. The building at 122/124 W. State Street has an impressive row of 1/1 full-round clerestory windows, similar in design to an arcade, while the building at 111 W. Broadway Street has three tall full-round arched windows flanked by groups of columns on the second story. The style also influenced church architecture during the 1890s in Princeton. Both the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations constructed new buildings about a block from the square in 1894 and 1897, respectively. The Methodist church at 225 W. Emerson (photo 01) features large full-round arched windows of art glass in each of its gabled parapet walls and a tower with an open belfry with arcade-like full-round arched openings. The Presbyterian church at 122 E. State Street (photo 06) also has a broad, gabled parapet wall that is

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

flanked by a corner entry tower and shorter octagonal tower. Both towers feature brick rustication and the entry has a porch with full-round arched opening with a narrow keystone.

Clifford Shopbell, and the architecture firms he associated with in Evansville, was responsible for a number of buildings constructed in the district and many of those that were built to replace buildings lost in the 1893 fire. His Romanesque buildings of molded or pressed brick are some of his most impressive works. Shopbell was a Princeton native who first worked in Indianapolis, then moved to Evansville in 1894. Shopbell produced an array of work throughout much of central and southern Indiana, becoming well-known for his Carnegie Library designs including Princeton's, during the late 1890s and early 1900s.²¹

Neoclassical Style

The Neoclassical style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930s in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward Classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The style coincided with America's political and economic rise, as well as the coming of age of American cities. By the late 1910s and into the 1920s, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling.

There are six examples of Neoclassical design in the district, two of which are large public buildings, built between about 1904 and 1925. The city's Carnegie Library (photo 23), a large brick structure with projecting portico, was constructed in the style in 1904 at 124 S. Hart Street. The portico features Doric columns that support a brick pediment. The Broadway Christian Church was built in 1925 at 201 E. Broadway Street (photo 18). While it bears some interpretation of late Romanesque design, the brick and white-glazed terra cotta building has a front façade with corner tower-like sections trimmed with two-story Ionic pilasters of terra cotta and bays of tall, full-round arched windows, and an entablature of brick and terra cotta. The corner building at 123/125/127 W. Broadway Street (photo 12) also exhibits simple features of the style in brick quoining and a corner turret-like projection on the second story.

Modern Movement

The remaining examples of architecture are from a late period of growth and reflect styles related to the modern development of architecture from the late 1930s into the early 1960s. These are significant because the buildings demonstrate a sustained vitality of the community and in its public spaces. Only a few of these are considered high style modern design, like Art Moderne or Art Deco, but several others exhibit the simple, horizontal, stream-lined approach to commercial construction that began in the 1930s and continued into the 1960s.

The Art Deco style is best exemplified in the former Clarion News Building at 110 S. Main Street, built in 1923 (left side of photo 24). The brick building has stone banding and ribs in the parapet that best identify it with the Art Deco style. This includes the ribs that continue up to flank a brick gable where a diamond-shaped stone is centered high over the entry. The Art Moderne style is best exemplified in the Princeton Theater located at 301 W. Broadway Street

²¹ "Personal Paragraphs" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 24 Aug 1893. Pg. 5. Col. 3

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

(photo 11). The large theater building, constructed in 1948, is clad with black and white porcelain enamel steel panels in horizontal banding and a few vertical features that rise above the building's wide marquee. The Gibson County Courthouse Annex at 225 N. Hart Street (photo 21) was built in 1965 as a bank and demonstrates emerging popularity of the International Style with intersecting boxes of smooth and rusticated limestone and a wide entry composed of glass and aluminum.

Other Styles

A few other notable styles also emerged during the early 20th century in the district. This includes two examples of Renaissance Revival architecture, a commercial building fronted with stone at 130 W. State Street (1866, left side of photo 04) and the Armory Building (129 S. Hart Street, 1928, photo 19), which features a cornice composed of rows of blind full-round arches on a simple, symmetrically designed façade. The district also features the United States Post Office building at 129 E. Broadway Street (photo 17). The large building is an example of Beaux Arts design built in 1911. The grand building has a wide center section of stone flanked by brick sections with stone quoins. The center section has carved garlands around the top of the windows and a stone balustrade that tops the building's entablature. A doctors' office and residence located at 127 E. State Street has horizontal banding, windows, and hipped roof typical of the Prairie Style and was built in 1921 (middle of photo 28).

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District derives much of its significance from the political organization of Gibson County and establishment of the seat for county government in 1814. Near the center of the original plat, a public square was created as a modified example of the Harrisonburg Courthouse Square Plan, with only one alley from surrounding blocks intersecting the square from the east (this narrow alley is seen in the left side of photo 26). It appears that this was the original intended division since lots on the opposite side of the square are divided from quarter sections of the block without a platted alley that may have been vacated later. A courthouse has occupied the square since 1814. As county government services needed to expand, buildings on the north side of the square were utilized and later a bank building, constructed in 1965 at the corner of Emerson and Hart Streets, has been occupied as an annex for county services since 1998 (photo 21). Other lesser, but still important aspects of politics/government present in the district include the establishment of a post office and sequential post office locations until the present building opened in 1913 (photo 17). The construction of an Armory by the state of Indiana in 1928 (photo 19) also demonstrates the role government played in the district. The city also maintained its offices and firehouse in the district north of the post office during the late 1800s-early 1900s, however these buildings are no longer extant.

The origins of Gibson County begin with its separation from Knox County prior to Indiana statehood. In April 1813, both Gibson and Warrick Counties were divided from Knox County, one of the original counties in the Indiana Territory. The first session of the Court of Common Pleas occurred in May 1813 at the home of William Harrington, approximately one-and-a-half

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

miles west of Princeton. At that session, townships were created in the new county, judges were appointed, and other business, such as setting tavern rates, was conducted.²² The following year, in 1814, a group of four commissioners selected the county seat for Gibson County. Commissioners William Prince, Robert Elliott, Abel Westfall, and William Polk selected a section of land which was then purchased. The county agent, Robert Evans, was instructed to lay out the town according to plans and offer lots to be sold to the public. The town was named Princeton.

The sale of lots provided funds to construct the first public buildings, including the first courthouse and jail on the square in 1814. In 1841, county commissioners began to make plans for a new courthouse which was finished in 1843. That building was replaced with the third and present courthouse in 1883-1884 (photos 08-09). The cornerstone was laid on June 17, 1884, and was witnessed by several thousand people with participation by the Masons and other fraternal lodges.²³ Joseph Miller of Washington, Indiana, was awarded the contract for construction of the building based on a design provided by McDonald Brothers, architects from Louisville, Kentucky. The cost of the building was \$188,661.

As with most public squares, Princeton's public square was the center of public activity from its inception. Public observations and celebrations have occurred on the square and over the last one hundred and fifty years, various monuments were placed on the square around the courthouse. These include the first monument placed in 1865 near the southwest corner for the 58th Regiment from Gibson County who participated in the Civil War (foreground of photo 08). Several others followed including the massive Gibson County Soldiers & Sailors Monument on the southeast corner of the square dedicated in 1912 (foreground of photo 09) and Judge William Prince Centennial Monument in 1914.

Post offices were part of a village's most important infrastructure for development. Post offices were established by the United States as an arm of the federal government in order to maintain regular mail service throughout the country. The first post office established in Princeton occurred in 1816 with John J. Neely, the first postmaster. As was often the case in the 1800s and early 1900s, the location of the post office was in a rented storeroom. In 1887, the post office was located in a building off the northeast corner of the square and by 1895, it had moved to the opposite corner, southeast of the square. In 1907, just prior to construction of the present building, the post office was located in a one-story brick building a block west of the square on the north side of Broadway Street. None of the buildings with these prior locations are extant.

Construction on the present post office (photo 17) began in 1912 and it opened in May 1913. The building was described as a beautiful federal building, centrally located in the city, constructed at a cost of \$49,500.²⁴ Also of note, Princeton's post office was selected as the first postal savings bank in Indiana. The system of postal savings banks was created by President Taft, who visited Princeton in 1908, in response to the Panic of 1907 and numerous bank closures. The system

²² Tartt, Pg. 72

²³ Tartt, Pgs. 87-88

²⁴ Stormont, Pg. 327

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

allowed post offices to accept deposits from the public and place them in designated banks to draw interest. The program operated from 1911-1967. The building features enclosed inspection walkways as part of the original design for postal inspectors to view workers on the floor below. The Princeton postmaster at the time of construction was Henry Tichenor and construction of the building was by August Ohm & Son of Terre Haute. It was reported the consensus was that the Federal Post Office determined that Princeton needed a large facility to accommodate the city's future growth.²⁵

During the late 1920s, Indiana financed the construction of nineteen armory buildings throughout the state. Princeton was the beneficiary of one of these buildings when their armory was built on South Hart Street and opened to the public in 1928 (photo 19). The state contracted with Ostrom Realty & Construction Company for design and construction of the buildings which were financed through state bonds and cost over \$2 million to construct. The building included a public pool and meeting location for the American Legion and was the official home for Battery D 139th Field Artillery. More than 2200 people attended the dedication of the building on October 28, 1928, which included Indiana Governor Jackson, Federal Judge Robert Baltzell, and General Kershner.²⁶ The facility acted as a community center and during the late 1920s and early 1930s, hosted Chataqua programs and other classes. It was also the point of assembly for Memorial Day parades that proceeded north to the public square. The building became the home to the Princeton Boys Club, who had met in the building, in 1970.

Other important institutions of public life that are located in the district include three historic churches and the public library. Each of the three churches have been located on their present site since the 1800s. The Methodist Episcopal Church (photo 01), located on the southeast corner of Emerson and West Streets, was built in 1894-96 and replaced a building constructed in the mid-1800s. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, now United Presbyterian Church (photo 06) located on the northwest corner of State and Prince Streets, was built in 1897. The Christian Church moved to its present location in 1910 on the southeast corner of Prince and Broadway Streets. They built a new building in 1925 (photo 18) to replace an earlier building originally built by the United Presbyterians in the 1880s.

Princeton's Carnegie Library (photo 23) was constructed on South Hart Street, a block south of the public square, between 1904 and 1905 when it opened to the public. The original library, established in 1881, was destroyed by fire in 1886 and then replaced with a two-story brick building constructed by the Princeton Library Association on the east side of the square in 1887. This late 19th century building appears to be a rarity; few Indiana town library associations had the resources to build their own library in the pre-Carnegie era, and fewer still survive today. They often resorted to seeking spaces to rent in upper floors of existing commercial blocks, or a small room in the local high school was pressed into service. The library was on the second story and is extant today and has the words public library still faintly visible on the second story façade. In 1903, the library association approached Andrew Carnegie to fund a new building.

²⁵ "Princeton's New Federal Building is Today Open to the Public" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 16 May 1913. Pg. 1. Cols. 3-4

²⁶ "Armory Thronged for Formal Opening" *Princeton Daily-Clarion* 29 Oct 1928. Pg. 1. Col. 1

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Carnegie donated \$15,000 to construct the building, which was designed by Harris & Shopbell Architects of Evansville. Construction was completed by Bean & Davis of Princeton for just over \$11,000. The library opened on June 8, 1905.²⁷

COMMERCE

The Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District also derives, and maybe principally so, its significance from the vast array of commerce that has been present in the district since construction of the first building around the public square. Commerce grew and changed over time to include a wide variety of goods and services offered in the district. Small log or frame buildings gave way to large masonry buildings surrounding the square and extending in several directions from the square, particularly to the west where the first railroad was constructed in 1851-1852.

The first business house was established in the spring of 1814 by Captain Thomas Chapman who built a two-story log house and hotel south of the southeast corner of the square. It was named the Traveler's Inn and housed workers constructing the first courthouse. He sold it the following year to James Russell who operated it as one of the first licensed taverns in Gibson County. This building was followed by the first store house, also a two-story log structure, built in late 1814 by Willis Osborn west of the southwest corner of the square. Osborn offered general merchandise and is considered the first merchant of Princeton. Several other buildings followed between 1814 and 1816 by which time there were seven taverns/hotels in Princeton.²⁸

After construction of the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad (later the Southern Railroad) in 1851-1852, Princeton's commerce and industry began to expand in earnest. Two-story brick storerooms, such as those operated by Joseph and Alexander Devin and the firm of Lewis & Evans, populated the square in the 1850s. The oldest commercial buildings in the district, however, date to the 1880s, prior to an expansive fire in 1893. The oldest, apparent, commercial buildings in the district are located adjacent to each other, having escaped the 1893 fire, at 112 and 114 North Main Street (right side of photo 26). The two-story brick buildings were built c. 1887 and housed a jewelry store and hardware on the first floors and Knights of Pythias Lodge and Public Library on the second floors. Most of the buildings located on the north, south, and west sides of the public square were destroyed in the 1893 fire; the total losses were estimated at \$500,000.²⁹

The 1893 fire is most responsible for the preponderance of Romanesque Revival buildings surrounding the square. By 1895, the perimeter of the square had been almost entirely populated by two-story brick commercial buildings again. These include buildings at 122/124 and 130 W. State Street (photo 04) that housed a tailor shop and billiards hall (122/124) and a dry goods and carpet store (130). The building at 122/124 also contained a meeting hall on the second floor.

²⁷ Stormont, Pg. 330

²⁸ Stormont, Pg. 323/325

²⁹ Stormont, Pg. 336

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Construction of the Embree Building (middle of photo 20) and Ward Building (photo 03) on North Hart Street were also the result of owners' loss and reconstruction after the fire. The Embree Building (113 N. Hart) was rented to an Evansville company that opened a Boston Store, offering ladies and gentlemen's goods. The Ward Building (201 N. Hart) was reconstructed by Seth Ward for a drugstore and wallpaper shop. People's National Bank also constructed a new building located at 111 W. Broadway Street with offices on the second story. It was previously located on the northwest corner of State and Hart Streets in the Ward Building which was consumed by the 1893 fire.

Additional buildings were constructed during the early 20th century to include a horseshoeing shop at 115 N. Prince Street (c. 1903, left side of photo 28), a large new, two-story building east of the northeast corner of the square (1917, photo 27), and the Lagow Building, constructed c. 1920 at 226 W. Broadway (middle of photo 07). In 1923, the Princeton newspaper the Clarion-News, which was founded by William Kurtz in 1846, constructed a new building at 110 S. Main Street (left side of photo 24). The newspaper had operated from various locations including two locations on Broadway Street prior to construction of the building on South Main Street.³⁰ Its offices remain in the district today at the southwest corner of Broadway and Hart Streets.

A traction company also began to operate through the city by 1904 which boosted commerce from nearby towns. At first, the Evansville & Princeton traction line was routed up West Street on the west edge of the district with a passenger waiting room, freight house, and transformer house tucked into the middle of the block between State and Broadway Streets. It also connected to points north through the Evansville, Princeton, and Indianapolis line and the Union Traction Company. The only extant connection the district has to the importance of transportation networks through Princeton is Byrne Brothers Garage, built in 1923 at 333 W. Broadway Street (photo 10). The Byrne brothers owned the Princeton Transfer Company, a taxi service that had various lines that ran throughout southwest Indiana. They were conveniently located a few blocks east of the Southern Railroad passenger depot and west of the traction company offices and the state-designated Highway 10 (later U.S. 41, opened in 1919) which passed the public square. Highway 10 stretched north-south along the west side of the state connecting all of the major cities from Evansville, north. By 1932, Broadway Street had been designated State Highway 64 east/west across the south part of the state from New Albany to Mt. Carmel, Illinois. By 1960, a bypass of U.S. 41 was proposed west of Princeton. The new route, which also bypassed Patoka and Hazelton, was opened December 6, 1961.³¹ The opening of the bypass significantly reduced traffic through downtown Princeton and past the square.

Other buildings were built or substantially remodeled during the middle part of the 20th century leading up to or immediately after U.S. 41 bypassed Princeton at the end of 1961. The most notable of these new buildings is the Princeton Theater (photo 11) which opened to the public in 1948. The original theater, built in 1929 on State Street, had been destroyed by fire in 1946. The new building was called ultra-modern and a "dream theater" on opening day, July 21, 1948,

³⁰ "Clarion News History" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 08 Oct 1923. Pg. 6. Cols. 1-5

³¹ "US 41 Bypass to be Opened Dec 6" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 17 Nov 1961. Pg. 1. Col. 3

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

showing *The Moose Hangs High* with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.³² While citizens took great pride in the new theater, controversy over the theater's segregation policy for African Americans, including a designated seating section and separate entrance, caused a meeting of concerned citizens at the city's Bethel A. M. E. Church. Discussion centered around whether Indiana laws had been violated.³³

Two buildings composed of Bedford stone were constructed on North Hart Street in 1965, bringing to a close the period of significance. Gibson County Bank built a new facility at 225 North Hart Street (photo 21) after leaving their location north of the public square. The new facilities offered off-street parking and three drive-up windows. The bank traced its origins to the founding of Citizens State Bank in Hazelton in 1903. The bank relocated to Princeton in 1939 and purchased People's American National Bank. The bank hired Indianapolis architects Bohlen & Burns in 1964 and construction, costing over \$300,000, began later that year and was completed in 1965.³⁴ The building is now the Gibson County Government Annex.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

³² "New Modern Theater Opens Today" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 21 July 1948. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-5

³³ "Colored Citizens Protest Against Theater Policy" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 27 July 1948. Pg. 1. Col. 7

³⁴ "Gibson Bank Ready to Move" *Princeton Daily-Clarion*. 28 May 1965. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-4

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Armory Thronged for Formal Opening” *Princeton Daily Clarion* 29 Oct 1928. Pg. 1. Col. 1

“Broadway Christians to Erect New Church” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 22 May 1925. Pg. 1. Cols. 6-7

Caron’s Princeton, Ind. City Directory. Louisville: Caron Directory Co.: 1914, 1923, 1930

“Clarion News History” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 08 Oct 1923. Pg. 6. Cols. 1-5

“Colored Citizens Protest Against Theater Policy” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 27 July 1948. Pg. 1. Col. 7

“Dedicated to the Lord” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 7 April 1898. Pg. 3. Cols. 1-2

“Dickson, who Shod Famed Racehorses, to Move After 36 Years in One Site” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 24 March 1939. Pg. 1. Cols. 2-3

“Gibson Bank Ready to Move” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 28 May 1965. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-4

McAlester, Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

“Monument of the 58th Indiana Regiment” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 31 May 1894. Pg. 1. Cols. 4-5

“New Modern Theater Opens Today” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 21 July 1948. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-5

“Opening Near” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 8 April 1921. Pg. 1. Col. 7

“Personal Paragraphs” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 24 Aug 1893. Pg. 5. Col. 3

Princeton Daily Clarion. 16 June 1892. Pg. 4. Col. 3

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

“Princeton’s New Federal Building is Today Open to the Public” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 16 May 1913. Pg. 1. Cols. 3-4

“Rites Saturday for Dr. Mary Saxe, 77” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 26 Jan 1962. Pg. 1. Cols. 1-2

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Princeton: 1887, 1892, 1895, 1900, 1907, 1914

Stormont, Gil. History of Gibson County, IN. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1914

Tartt, James T. & Co. History of Gibson County, Indiana. 1884. Edwardsville (IL): Jas. T. Tartt & Co., 1884.

“US 41 Bypass to be Opened Dec 6” *Princeton Daily Clarion*. 17 Nov 1961. Pg. 1. Col. 3

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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): 051-524-21001-076, 21537, 21540, 21549-551, 21567, 21569.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 18.5 acres

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 450095	Northing: 4245651
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 450619	Northing: 4245637
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 450613	Northing: 4245252
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 449990	Northing: 4245278

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning on the southeast corner of the intersection of West Street and Emerson Street, face east and follow the south side of the street to the west side of Hart Street. Turn south and follow the west side of Hart Street to a line extended west from the north property line of 130 West State Street. Turn east and, crossing Hart Street, follow the north property lines of 100-130 West State Street. Continue east crossing Main Street and follow the north property lines of 214 North Main Street and 122 East Broadway Street to the west side of Prince Street.

On the west side of Prince Street, turn south and follow the west side of the street to the south side of Broadway Street, then turn east and follow the south side of Broadway Street to the east property line of 203 East Broadway Street. Turn south and follow the east property line of 203 East Broadway Street to its south property line, then turn west and follow the south property line, crossing Prince Street and continuing west along the south side of the alley between Broadway and Water Streets to the east property line of 116 South Main Street. Turn south and follow the east property line of 116 South Main Street to its south property line. Turn west and follow the south property line of 116 South Main Street, crossing Main Street, to the west side of Main Street.

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Gibson County, IN
County and State

On the west side of Main Street, turn south and follow a line to the north side of Water Street, then turn west and follow the north side of the street to the east side of West Street. Turn north and follow the east side of the street to the north side of the alley between Water and Broadway Streets. Turn west and follow the north side of the alley to the east side of Hall Street, then turn north and follow the east side of the street to the south side of Broadway Street. Turn east and follow the south side of Broadway Street to the east side of West Street, then turn north and follow the east side of West Street, crossing Broadway and State Streets, to the south side of Emerson Street, or the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected due to the high concentration of historic commercial and public architecture centered on the Gibson County Courthouse Square, situated on the original plat of Princeton. Fairly strong divisions between residential or more modern commercial architecture are evident surrounding the boundaries. Residential development is to the south and west, where the city's Southside and Westside Historic Districts (identified in SHPO-sponsored survey) begin, and to the east. More modern commercial buildings are also scattered in those areas and are found north of the district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Downtown Princeton, Inc.
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: August 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Name of Property

Gibson County, IN

County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

-

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Princeton

County: Gibson State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: January 11, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at Methodist Episcopal Church at Emerson and West Streets

1 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest along the 200 block of West State Street

2 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the corner of Hart and State Streets

3 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the corner of Hart and State Streets

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

4 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the corner of Main and State Streets

5 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north at the United Presbyterian Church on West State Street

6 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the 200 block of West Broadway Street

7 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at Gibson County Courthouse at Broadway and Hart Streets

8 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at Gibson County Courthouse at Broadway and Main Streets

9 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at Byrne Brothers Garage near the corner of Broadway and Hall Streets

10 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at Princeton Theater near corner of Broadway and West Streets

11 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south from the southwest corner of the public square

12 of 28.

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the 100 block of West Broadway

13 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at the 100 block of West Broadway

14 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the corner of Main and Broadway Streets

15 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the 100 block of East Broadway Street

16 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the Princeton Post Office

17 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast from the corner of Prince and Broadway Streets

18 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west from near the corner of Hart and Water Streets

19 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the 100 block of North Hart Street

20 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest from near the corner of Hart and Emerson Streets

21 of 28.

Princeton Courthouse Square Historic District

Gibson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast from south of the intersection of Hart and Broadway Streets

22 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at Princeton's Carnegie Library, north of Water Street

23 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the 100 block of South Main Street

24 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the corner of Broadway and Main Streets

25 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at the 100 block of North Main Street

26 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the corner of State and Main Streets

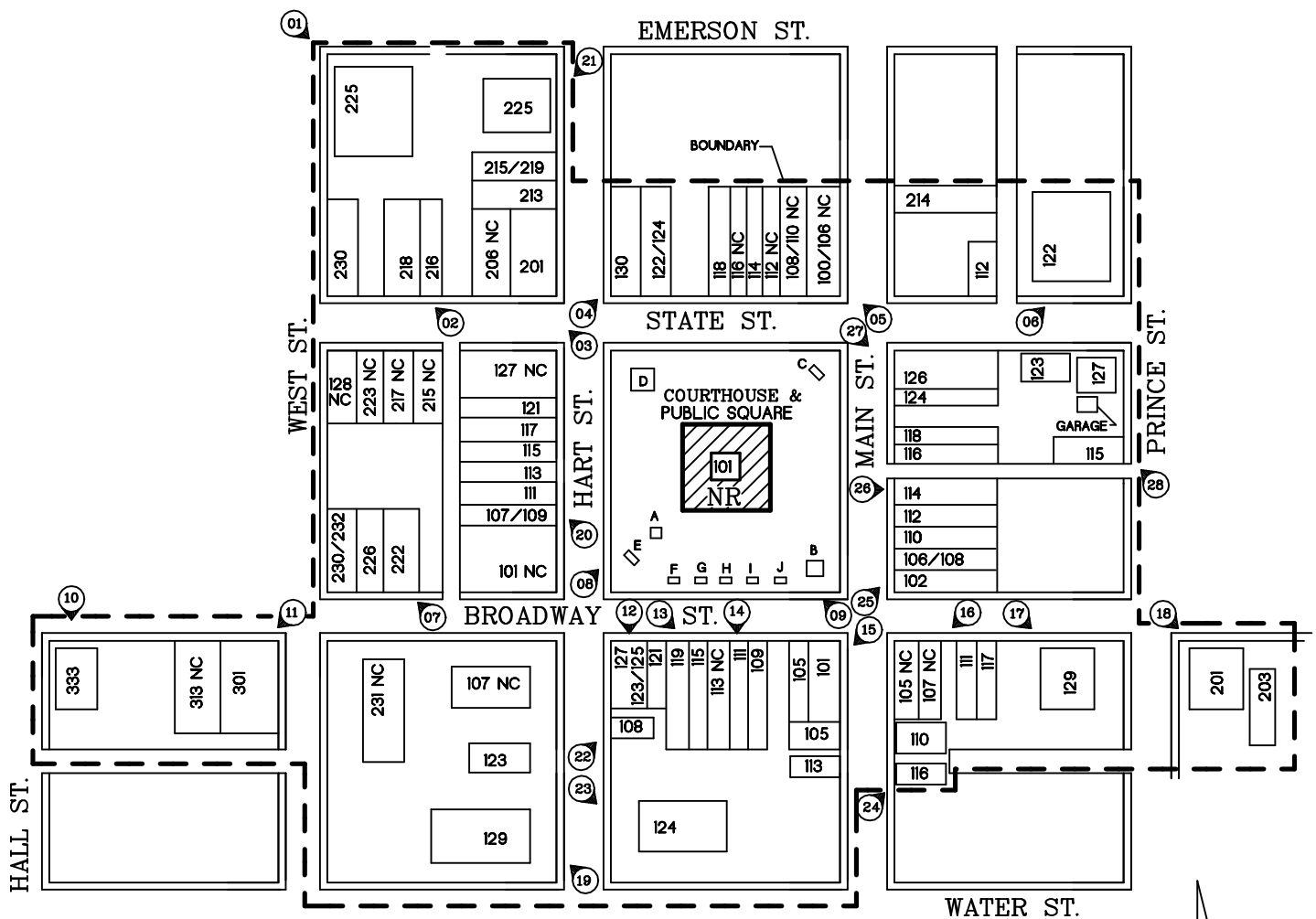
27 of 28.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the 100 block of North Prince Street

28 of 28.

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 100 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.



PRINCETON COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
GIBSON COUNTY, INDIANA

38 = PHOTOGRAPHS



NR = National Register
NC = Non-contributing
61 contributing buildings
17 non-contributing buildings
4 contributing object (on public square)
1 contributing site (public square)
5 non-contributing objects (on public square)
1 non-contributing structure (on public square)
1 building listed on the National Register (NR)

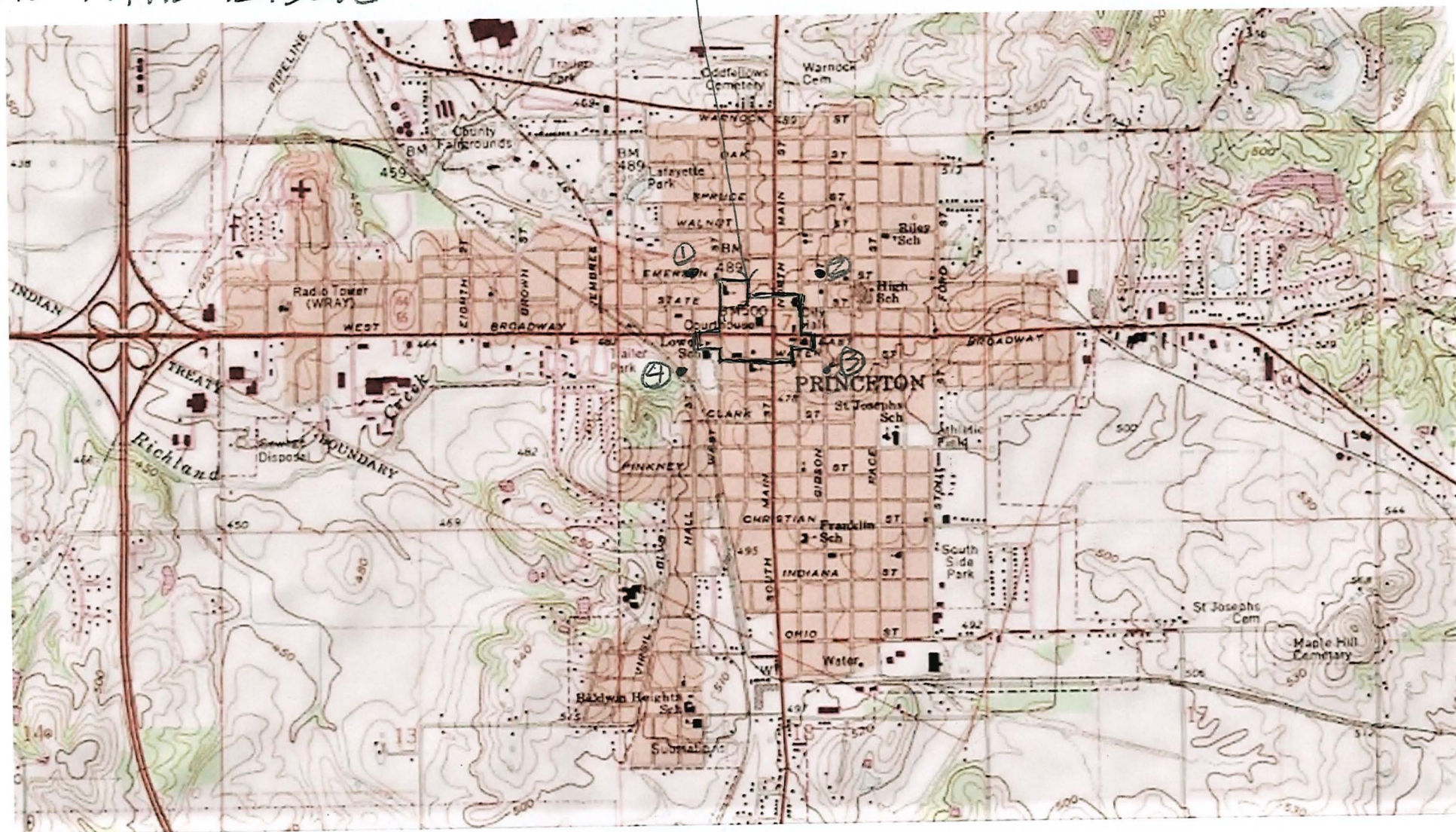
PUBLIC SQUARE OBJECTS

A 58th REGIMENT MONUMENT
B GIBSON CO. SOLDIERS & SAILORS MONUMENT
C TEN COMMANDMENTS MONUMENT - NC
D GAZEBO (STRUCTURE) NC
E JUDGE WM. PRINCE CENTENNIAL MONUMENT
F FALLEN OFFICER MONUMENT - NC
G SOLDIERS & PATRIOTS MONUMENT - NC
H SERVICE MOTHERS MONUMENT
I KOREA & VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL - NC
J DESERT SHIELD-DESERT STORM MONUMENT - NC

NAD 83 UTM's

- ① 16 450095 4245651
- ② 16 450619 4245637
- ③ 16 450613 4245252
- ④ 16 449990 4245278

PRINCETON COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
GIBSON CO. IN





IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0002



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0003



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0004



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0006



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0009



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0010



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0014



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0017



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0019



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0020



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0023



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0027



IN_GibsonCounty_PrincetonCourthouseSquareHistoricDistrict_0028