United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL - FILE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockville Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet n/a☐ not for publication

city or town Rockville n/a☒ vicinity

state IN code IN county Parke code 121 zip code 47872

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patrick R. Robb 4-19-93

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Rockville H.D.
Name of Property

Parke Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [x] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [x] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
210	38	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
1	0	objects
214	38	Total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious structure
RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious structure
RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE
QUEEN ANNE
COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other STONE: limestone
METAL: cast iron

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- [x] **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.
- [x] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance

1826-1942

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Beeson, Carroll O.
Tolan, T.J. and Son
Brown, L. Wallace

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] 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

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Rockville H.D.
Name of Property

Parke Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 70

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	479860	4401940
2	16	480690	4401440
3	16	480680	4400880
4	16	479870	4400840

☐ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant, for

organization Main Street/Rockville date August 4, 1992

street & number 3905 N. 500 West Road telephone 812/372-6806

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Roughly bounded by Pennsylvania Street on the south, Virginia Street on the east, Howard Avenue on the north, and College Street on the west.

Rockville is located roughly in the center of Parke County in west-central Indiana. There are outcroppings of limestone and sandstone in parts of the county. Throughout the county are coal deposits. The Wabash River forms the western boundary. There are streams throughout the county, and many small towns, some of which originated as mill towns. Rockville, with a population of approximately 3,000, is the largest town in the county. Turkey Run State Park is located about ten miles north of Rockville. U.S. 36 passes through the town from east to west, and U.S. 41 from north to south.

Rockville was named county seat in 1823 and platted in 1824. The commercial district is located in the center of town, within the original plat. This consists of commercial buildings surrounding the courthouse square. There are residential areas surrounding the commercial district. The older residential areas are south of Howard Avenue. Development in the area north of Howard Avenue dates, for the most part, from the 1920s.

Railroad lines, constructed in the 1860s and 70s, ran through Rockville east and south of the commercial area. The lines have been abandoned and the rails removed. A passenger depot built in 1884 for the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad remains on the south side of Ohio Street, east of the historic district. The historic industrial areas were adjacent to the railroad lines. Few resources associated with industry remain. To the west of the historic district, Yankee Street, which carries U.S. 41 through Rockville, is a commercial strip.

The historic district boundaries include most of the original plat of Rockville, and much of a 1836 addition, the West Addition. Within the boundaries are 210 contributing buildings. There are 38 noncontributing buildings. There are three contributing structures: the cast iron fence of the Strouse House, located at 514 N. College Street (photo 18), the belfry of Memorial Presbyterian Church at 128 S. Market Street (photo 26), and the brick street surrounding the courthouse square (photo 17). The World War I Memorial, a statue of a soldier on the courthouse lawn (photo 15) is counted as a contributing object. Noncontributing resources comprise

roughly 18 per cent of the total. Only primary buildings, and secondary buildings of a significant type, were included in the resource count.

The area east of Beadle Street is part of the original plat, recorded in 1825. The center block of this plat was designated as public ground. This is the site of the courthouse. Streets were originally 80 feet wide, except for two of the streets which bound the courthouse square, Market and High Streets, which were 120 feet wide. Most streets were later narrowed, to 60 feet. East-west alleys extended through each block. These alleys were named on the original plat. Parts of some of the alleys have been vacated, such as in the blocks on Jefferson and Market Streets, which face the courthouse. Most of the blocks in the original plat are roughly 300 feet square.

Most of the area west of Beadle Street is part of the West Addition, platted in 1836. The addition abuts the original plat on the west, with no side street separating the two plats. As a result, the blocks on Elm, York, Ohio, and High Streets, between Michigan and College, are unusually long. College Street, a main north-south street, also has long blocks. Streets in this area vary in width, from Elm Street, which is 35 feet wide, to High Street, which is 66 feet.

The commercial area of the town focuses on the courthouse square, bounded by Market, Ohio, Jefferson, and High Streets. Adjacent to the courthouse square, Market and High Streets are each 120 feet wide. Jefferson and Ohio Streets are each 80 feet wide. The streets around the courthouse are, for the most part, brick. The courthouse itself is a monumental, Second Empire style building, completed in 1882 (photo 15). It is the only building on this block, and is sited in the center.

There are commercial buildings on the blocks facing the courthouse square. The majority of these on the west (photo 25), north and east blocks opposite the square were built between 1870 and 1900, and are of the Italianate style of architecture, giving the square a great deal of continuity. There is one noncontributing building on the east side of the square, the building at 121 S. Jefferson Street, possibly built about 1900, but altered extensively.

All but two of the buildings on the south side of the square (photo 17) were built between 1900 and 1915. One, the building at 121 W. High Street, was built about 1880. It has been altered and does not contribute to the character of the district. The REMC building to the east was built after the period of significance. The buildings at 101 and 105 W. High (photo 17), built between 1900 and 1915, have been altered and do not contribute to the character of the historic district.

There are two noncommercial buildings on the square. These are Memorial Presbyterian Church, a Romanesque Revival style building located on the northwest corner of Market and High Streets (photo 26); and the Sheriff's Residence and Jail, an Italianate style building located on the northeast corner of High and Jefferson Streets.

The commercial district extends east and west from the square on Ohio Street, and north on Jefferson Street. On the west side of Market Street north of the square, are the U.S. Post Office, built in 1938 (photo 24), the Rockville Public Library, built in 1916, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1866, and remodeled in 1892 and 1909.

The residential part of the historic district is very cohesive, with few contemporary intrusions, or nonresidential buildings. There are two historic schools in this area, Rockville Grade School on W. Elm Street (photo 4), built in 1941, and Parke County Seminary at 503 W. Ohio Street, built in 1839 (second from right in photo 11). Large and small, grand and modest houses on varying size lots, are generally mixed together throughout the district, though there are concentrations of certain types. For example, Howard Avenue contains a large share of larger houses of academic styles (photos 1, 3), while Elm Street is comprised of smaller, vernacular houses (photos 5, 6).

There are several outstanding examples of domestic architectural styles adjacent to the commercial district. Dr. P.Q. Stryker built the Greek Revival style house on the southeast corner of Jefferson and High Streets in 1838 (photo 29). Dr. Harrison J. Rice built the Italianate

style house located at 115 N. Market Street in about 1880. The elaborate Colonial Revival style house on the southwest corner of Market and High Streets was built by Dr. Marion Goss in 1907 (fourth from right in photo 16).

Other excellent examples of academic styles are scattered throughout the district. Among these are the Greek Revival style Maxwell House, built c. 1830, located at 415 W. Ohio Street (photo 12); the Italianate style Starke House, built in 1871, located at 218 College Avenue (photo 20); the Queen Anne style Hargrave House, built c. 1895, located at 314 W. York Street (photo 7); and the Colonial Revival style Adams House, built c. 1905, located at 313 Howard Avenue (right in photo 3).

The historic district contains a fine collection of vernacular domestic architecture. Among the principle types represented are hall and parlor cottages, I houses and cottages, gable front cottages, L-shaped cottages and houses, crossplan cottages, composite cottages, and bungalows. The house at 212 N. Michigan Street (photo 21) is an example of a hall and parlor cottage. The Starke House at 211 N. Market Street (photo 27) is an outstanding, intact example of an I house. An excellent gable front cottage survives at 316 W. High Street (photo 14). The house at 401 W. York Street (photo 8) is a good example of an L-shaped cottage. The house at 509 Howard Avenue (second from left in photo 2) is a fine representation of a crossplan cottage. The Rohm House at 311 W. Ohio Street (second from right in photo 13) is an example of a composite cottage. Among examples of bungalows are houses on the south side of High Street between Market and Michigan Streets (second and third from right in photo 16).

The historic district has a fairly high degree of integrity, with relatively few noncontributing buildings. A few historic buildings have been altered to the extent that they do not contribute to the district. Examples include a crossplan cottage at 112 Howard Avenue, and early twentieth century commercial buildings on the south side of High Street, west of Jefferson Street (left in photo 17). Among contemporary intrusions are a gas station and motel on the northwest corner of Ohio and

Michigan Streets, and a ranch style house at 316 W. Elm Street.

Following are descriptions of representative buildings.

Hargraves-Hunt House, 202 Howard Avenue, Italianate, c. 1870 (photo 1). The Hargraves-Hunt House is a two-story, Italianate style building with brick walls and a hipped roof. The original plan is T-shaped. There are several small, late 19th or early 20th century additions on the rear. The porch, which appears to date from the early 20th century, is brick and concrete with paired wooden posts. Windows are wood, double hung, with two lights in each sash. Lintels and sills are stone. The entry has a wood, paneled door, a transom and sidelights. There are carved, wooden brackets under the eaves, and a brick, exterior chimney on the west side. The house is sited on a large lot, roughly 100 feet wide by 300 feet deep, typical of those along Howard Avenue. There is a brick carriage house at the rear. The house was built for Henry and Hannah Hargraves, originally from England, who came to Rockville in 1861. Henry Hargraves had a boot and shoe store in east half of the building at 106-108 W. Ohio Street. Hannah Hargraves had a millinery, and also was an agent for Singer sewing machines. After the death of the Hargraves, their daughter Emma Hunt and her husband Elwood occupied the house.

503 Howard Avenue, I cottage, c. 1850 (left in photo 2). This house is an I cottage, a common type in Rockville. I cottages are one-story, single pile houses with a five bay facade, and a side gable roof. On the inside, there are two rooms on either side of a central hallway. Houses of this type may have chimneys at each end. This house has a chimney on one end only, the northwest end. Windows are wood, double hung, with two lights in each sash. The central entry has a multi-light transom and sidelights. The house has rear extensions or additions which appear to date from the 19th century, and are similar to the main part of the house in materials, scale, and detailing. Synthetic siding has been applied in recent years. The house has a concrete block foundation, dating from the early 20th century. Possibly the house has been moved, or it may merely have received a new foundation at some

point. This part of Howard Avenue was platted as part of the West Addition in 1836. Along this section of the street, the large outlots were broken up into smaller plots. The I cottage house type may have been brought to Rockville by settlers from southern states, where the type was common.

John Adams House, 313 Howard Avenue, Colonial Revival, c. 1905 (right in photo 3). This is a two-and-a-half story, brick, Colonial Revival style house, with a hipped roof. The house has a three-bay, symmetrical facade, and is square in plan. The main entry is located in the center bay of the south facade. It is a paneled wood and glass door with a transom and sidelights. There is a window on each side of the entry. Each is a large, single paned window with a transom. Sills and lintels are stone. Windows on the second story are grouped, wood, double hung, with one light in each sash. At the top of the house is a wide entablature. There are several dormer windows, and tall, decorative chimneys on the roof. The front porch extends the width of the main facade. It has a concrete block base, and wood columns which support a wide entablature. There is also a porch on the east side of the house. A two-story carriage house, similar to the house in style, is located on the rear of the original lot. It has been converted into a residence. This is one of the grandest early 20th century houses in Rockville. Adams was a lawyer.

Arthur A. Hargrave House, 314 W. York Street, Queen Anne, c. 1895 (photo 7). The Hargrave House is a two-and-a-half story, Queen Anne style house. It is irregular in plan, and has a hipped/gable roof. The siding on most of the house is clapboard. There are fish scale shingles in the front gable. Windows are tall, wood, double hung, with one light in each sash. There is a pair of small, square windows in the gable. There is a two-story, wood porch on the front of the house. Among decorative elements are a scroll-sawn bargeboard, bracketed cornice, pilasters, and decorative chimneys. There are a number of houses of the Queen Anne style in the historic district. This is one of the most elaborate. It is situated at the rear of a full lot of the original plat, roughly 150 by 150 feet. Hargrave bought the Parke County Republican in 1888. He

was manager and editor of the newspaper until 1954.

Rockville Opera House, W. Ohio Street, Mission Revival, 1912 (photo 10). The Opera House is a one-and-a-half story, Mission Revival style, brick building with a yellow brick main facade. The building is five bays wide on the first story. The bays are divided by brick piers. The center bay contains the entry, which consists of a ticket window flanked on each side by double, paneled wood and glass doors. In each of the other bays is a paneled wood and glass door flanked by paired, round arched windows. On the second story are grouped, round arched windows with stone sills and lintels. The upper story is a front, curvilinear gable, the building's chief feature of the Mission Revival style. The facade is virtually unaltered. The marquee, a circular structure above the entry, is perhaps the only addition. This replaced the old opera house on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Ohio Streets. It was built for live performances and later adapted for movies.

First National Bank, 126-28 W. Ohio Street, Neoclassical, 1907. This is a two-story, Neoclassical style structure, with brick walls, and stone detailing. It is five bays wide. The first story is faced in smooth limestone, except for a square, tower-like section on the west end of the facade, which has decorative brickwork. This section extends slightly from the rest of the facade, and is topped by a pedimented gable at the roofline. The entry is on the east end of the first floor of the main facade. West of the entry are four tall windows. A stone band separates the first and second stories. The second story is faced in brick. There are single and grouped windows on the second story. There is decorative brick and stonework above the second story windows. New windows and doors have been installed in all openings. There is a dentiled, stone cornice, and a sloped parapet. The bank was established in 1863, and has been located on this site since 1869. The present building was constructed in 1907, after the 1869 building was destroyed by fire.

Parke County Seminary, 503 W. Ohio Street, 1839 (second from right in photo 11). The Seminary is a one story brick building, with a cross gable roof. The original

part of the building is T-shaped. Windows in this section are tall, wood, double hung, with four lights in each sash. Openings are segmental-arched, and have stone sills and lintels with dripstones. There are chimneys on the ends of this section. The entry was originally in the center of this section. An addition was made to the front of the building which obscures the original entry. This is a small, multi-light section, with a porte cochere, and a hipped roof, added when the building was used as a gas station. The building originally was two stories high. The upper story was removed in the early 1870s. This building was constructed by public subscription. It is the oldest extant school building in Rockville. By the early 1870s it was overcrowded. A new school was constructed in 1874 on the site of the present Rockville Elementary School on Elm Street. Between 1874 and 1929, the old school was used to educate black children. Between 1933 and 1969, it was a gas station and restaurant. Since 1976 it has been home to the Parke County Museum.

Judge Samuel Maxwell House, 415 W. Ohio Street, Greek Revival, c. 1840 (photo 12). The Maxwell House is a one-story, timber-frame structure with a five bay facade and a side gable roof. There are interior chimneys at each end. The entry is in the center of the main facade. It has a paneled wood door, and multi-light transom and sidelights. Windows are wood, double hung, with two lights in each sash. The windows have plain, wood surrounds. Synthetic siding has been added to the building. There is a concrete stoop and steps at the main entry. The foundation is concrete block. There are small, one-story extensions on the rear of the house. Maxwell moved to Rockville after graduating from the State University of Indiana at Bloomington in 1838. He became a prominent lawyer and judge, and was well-known throughout the state.

316 W. High Street, gable front cottage, c. 1860 (photo 14). This house is a one-and-a-half story, timber-frame structure, with a three-bay facade, and a front gable roof. Siding is clapboard. The entry is in the east bay. It has a paneled wood door with a transom and sidelights, and a pedimented head. Windows are tall, wood, double

hung, with four lights in each sash. There is a like window in the gable. Windows have wood surrounds with pedimented heads. The front porch extends the width of the facade. It has wood columns which support a sloped roof. This is an early example of a common late 19th century house type in Rockville.

Parke County Courthouse, W. High Street, Second Empire, 1882 (photo 15). The courthouse is an elaborate Second Empire style structure, faced in native limestone. The base of the building is faced in native sandstone. The building is two-and-a-half stories high. There is a three story tower, topped with a hemispherical dome, which extends from the center of the roof. Windows are segmental-arched on the first story, and round-arched on the second story. Openings retain their original wood, double hung windows. There are dormer windows of various sizes and designs on the roof. A wide entablature with dentils and modillions extends around the top of the building. On each facade, there is an elaborate entry which protrudes from the facade. Each entry is of a different style, and is composed of a arched portico, with a balconet above, topped by a pedimented gable. Ornamentation on the building includes stone banding, pilasters, and columns. This is one of the least altered courthouses in Indiana, both on the exterior and the interior. It was designed by Thomas J. Tolan and Brentwood S. Tolan, father and son architects of Fort Wayne. The Tolans designed seven courthouses in Indiana, and others in Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, and Tennessee. The contractor for the building was W.H. Myers of Fort Wayne. The building has been the center of county government since its completion in 1882 to the present time. The surrounding lawn is a community focal point, the site of festivals and gatherings. On the southwest corner of the lawn is a monument to Parke County soldiers who died in World War I. This consists of a stone base which supports a carved stone soldier.

Levi Frybarger House, 215 W. High Street, Free Classic style, c. 1895 (right in photo 16). The Frybarger House is a two-and-a-half story, wood frame building, with a hipped/gable roof. Most of the siding is wood. There are fish scale shingles in a front gable. Windows are wood,

double hung, with one light in each sash. There is a pair of small, square windows, in the gable. There is a small, classical porch on the front of the house. Ornamentation includes wood banding, and modillions under the eaves. The carriage house can been seen at left in photo 23, a view of the Leonard-Sunderland-McCune House. Frybarger purchased the lot from McCune. The deed states that no house may be built on the rear of the Frybarger property, between the McCune and Frybarger houses. This early type of zoning was employed to avoid excessive division of lots, a practice which can be seen in some parts of the historic district. Frybarger owned a hardware store, located in the building at 122 S. Market Street.

Alden Brothers, 109-11 W. High Street, twentieth century functional, 1914 (fourth building from left in photo 17). This is a two-story, brick building with a flat roof. On the first story, there are three large, flat-arched openings, separated by brick piers. Within these openings, alterations have taken place for the accommodation of stores. On the second story are five segmental-arched window openings, with brick lintels, and stone sills. Windows are wood, double hung, with six lights in each sash. Along the top of the building is a band of decorative brickwork. This building served as an early garage and automobile agency. As the automobile grew in popularity in the first decades of the 20th century, more buildings in the commercial district were converted or constructed for uses related to motorized transportation. The building to the west of the Alden garage, for example, housed a battery service operation.

Juliet and Isaac Strouse House, 514 N. College Street, Italianate, 1883 (photo 18). The Strouse House is a two-story, wood frame building, with a cross gable roof. It is irregular in plan. Windows, arranged in groups, are tall, and double hung, with one light in each sash. On the first story, windows have plain wood surrounds. On the second story, windows have wood surrounds with scroll-sawn lintels. There is a classical front porch which extends the width of the facade. The center part of this porch is two stories high. The ends are one story high. The frieze at the top of the house is distinctive, with scroll work depicting a floral pattern. There are

scroll-sawn brackets under the eaves. The house has artificial siding. The cast iron fence in front is one of a small number in Rockville. The house was built for General William Henry Harrison Beadle. It was sold in 1893 to Juliet and Isaac Strouse. The Strouses were editors of the Rockville Tribune. Juliet also contributed to the Indianapolis News and other newspapers, and was nationally-known for her column in The Ladies Home Journal. She was also a popular lecturer. A number of prominent people visited the house in the early 1900s, including Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan, Thomas Marshall, Annie Oakley, James Whitcomb Riley, and Kin Hubbard. Juliet Strouse died in 1918. The house remained in the Strouse family until 1947.

Thomas West House, 306 N. College, composite cottage, c. 1898 (photo 19). The West House is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame building, with a hipped/gable roof. It is irregular in plan. There is a combination of tall, small square, and grouped windows. A bay window in the front gable features leaded glass in the upper sash. The front porch, which extends the width of the main facade and circles around the south side, is composed of classical columns on brick piers, with a wood railing and spindles. The roof of the porch has a gable with brackets and scroll work, and a conical roof section on the south side. The house appears to be unaltered except for the addition of aluminum siding. There is a two-story garage on the north side of the house. This building is square in plan and has a hipped roof. It has wood garage doors on the first level, and a continuous band of square, leaded glass windows on the second level. There is a passage which leads from the house to the second story garage room. The house and garage were built by L. Wallace Brown, a local builder, who constructed several houses in the district, including the Rohm House at 311 W. Ohio Street (center in photo 13), and Brown's own house, at 513 W. Ohio Street (left in photo 11). Composite cottages are common in the district. They are characterized by irregular massing. West was a pharmacist.

A.H. Starke House, 218 N. College Street, Italianate, 1871 (photo 20). The Starke House is a two-story, Italianate style, brick house, with a low-pitched, hipped roof. It

is irregular in plan. Windows are wood with double hung sashes, and stone sills and lintels. On the first story, there are windows with flat arched and segmental arched openings. On the second story, openings are round arched. The main entry, located on the north end of the main facade, is a paneled wood and glass door with a transom. A classical wood porch extends the width of the facade and wraps around the sides of the house. The house is sited approximately 120 feet from the street, on a large lot. It is unaltered on the exterior. It now serves as a funeral home. Starke was president of the Parke State Bank, which was located in the building at 101 S. Jefferson Street. Mrs. Starke was a founder of the Rockville Women's Club.

212 N. Michigan Street, hall and parlor, c. 1840 (photo 21). This is a one-story, single pile, timber frame house with a three-bay facade and a side gable roof. The entry, a paneled wood door with a plain wood surround, is located in the center bay of the main facade. Windows are tall, wood, double hung, with four lights in each sash. There are two small additions on the rear of the house, and a wood columned front porch, which appears to date from the early twentieth century. The house has a concrete block foundation, and aluminum siding. This is an early house type in Rockville, believed to have been brought by pioneers from the mid-Atlantic states. Hall and parlor houses are one-story, single pile houses with two rooms. Most houses of this type have been altered to some degree because of their small size and age. This one is intact, except for the addition of new siding. The house is located in a two-lot area of the original plat which was subdivided in six small lots for the construction of small, modest houses.

208 S. Michigan Street, cross plan cottage, c. 1890 (photo 22). This is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame house. Clapboard siding covers most of the house. There is a combination of fish scale and diamond shingles in the gables. First story windows are wood, double hung, with one light in each sash. They have wood surrounds with entablature-like heads. There are small, round arched windows in the gables. There are two entry doors, opening onto a front porch. These openings also have

entablature-like heads. The front porch has a concrete block base and iron columns which support a wood frieze. Cross plan cottages are a common house type in Rockville, and in many parts of Indiana which experienced industrial growth in the late 19th century. The plan of such houses was shaped like a cross. The roof was gabled. Cross plan cottages were usually modest, with little ornamentation. For the most part, they served as houses for the working class. This house is a typical example in Rockville.

Leonard-Sunderland-McCune House, 215 S. Michigan Street, Federal/Italianate style, 1826 (photo 23). This is a two-and-a-half story, timber frame house with a gable roof. A two-story addition on the rear of the house has a hipped roof. Clapboard siding covers both sections. The house has a three-bay main facade, with the entry in the southernmost bay. First story windows are tall, and have double hung, wood sashes. Openings have wood surrounds, with pediment-like heads. The entry has a paneled wood and glass door, a transom and sidelights. Originally, there was an elliptical arched fanlight over the door. The entry was probably altered in the late 19th century. There is a one-bay portico, with square wood columns and a wood railing and spindles. There is a wood railing and spindles on the roof of this portico. There are carved brackets under the eaves. The house's original barn is extant on the property to the northeast of the house. This has been altered for use as a garage. The house was built in 1826 for Dr. Edward A. Leonard. It was sold to John Sunderland, a businessman, in 1835. Alexander McCune purchased the house in 1876, and it stayed in the McCune family until 1991. The McCunes were involved in several Parke County businesses, including the Rockville National Bank.

Rockville Public Library, 116 N. Market Street, Neoclassical, 1916. The library is a one-story building with a raised basement. It is rectangular in plan and has a seven-bay facade, and a hipped roof. Walls are yellow brick. The entry is in the center bay and has a classical surround with stone columns and a pedimented gable. Window openings have stone sills. The original wood windows and door have been replaced with metal. There are brick quoins at the corner of the building, and a

dentiled, wood cornice. There is a one-story addition at the rear of the building. The building was constructed with the help of a Carnegie Foundation grant, other private contributions, and local taxes. The first librarian was Mary Linebarger. The architect was R.L. Brookie of Indianapolis. The contractor was James T. Boswell of Bloomington.

U.S. Post Office, N. Market Street, Colonial Revival, 1938 (photo 24). The post office is a one-story brick building. It has a five-bay facade and a flat roof. The entry is in the center bay. Windows are double hung with multi-light, wood sashes. They have stone sills and lintels. The entry is reached by a set of concrete steps, which have iron railings. The entry has a fairly elaborate wood surround with pilasters, a multi-light transom, and a dentiled, entablature-like head. The original wood doors have been replaced with metal doors. There is stone coping at the top of the building. Except for the replacement doors, the building is virtually unaltered. The Rockville post office was established in 1824. Carroll O. Beeson, a Crawfordsville architect, designed the present building.

Parke Hotel, 102 S. Market Street, Italianate style, 1880 (right in photo 25). The Parke Hotel is a three-story, brick building with a flat roof. It is divided into five bays by brick piers which extend to the top of the buildings. The second bay from the north contained the entrance to the hotel. The other bays contained businesses. The hotel entry has a wood, bracketed canopy, supported by brick piers. There are double wood and glass doors with a segmental arched transom, and sidelights. The storefronts to the north and south of the entry retain their large, segmental arched display windows. The remaining storefronts have been altered. There are 12 windows across the main facade, and 15 across the north facade. Upper story windows are segmental arched with stone lintels with dripstones, and stone sills. Windows have their original wood, double hung sashes. First story windows on the north facade are round arched, but otherwise like upper store windows. Around the top of the building is a wide, decorative brick cornice. Above the

cornice, in the center bay is a pressed metal, gabled parapet, which reads, "PARKE HOTEL/1880." The building has a high degree of integrity. An earlier Parke Hotel on this site burned in an 1870s fire. The present building was operated as a hotel until 1984.

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 128 S. Market Street, Romanesque Revival style, 1891 (photo 26). The Presbyterian Church is a monumental, Romanesque Revival style building. It has brick walls, and a front gable roof. The main facade is three bays wide. There are two front gable sections on the end bays, which contain paired wood, double hung windows in a round arched opening. Above the center bay is a large, point arched, stained glass window. Flanking this, on the end bays, are round windows. Above the pointed arch window is a round window. Flanking this bay, and on the end bays of the main facade, are polygonal pinnacles. Across the top of the facade is a wide band of decorative brickwork. On the north facade are paired, stained glass, pointed arch windows in round arched openings with stone sills and lintels. The belfry was constructed in 1901, and moved forward in 1954. The iron fence and gate date from 1958.

Tichnor House, 125 N. Jefferson Street, Greek Revival style, c. 1850 (photo 28). The Tichnor House is a two-and-a-half story, single pile, timber frame building. The foundation is brick. The side gable roof has pedimented gables. The house has clapboard siding. The facade is five bays wide. The central entry is recessed, and has a paneled wood and glass door, with a transom and sidelights. Windows are wood, double hung, with six lights in each sash.

Second Parke County Jail, 117 S. Virginia Street, Federal style, 1832 (photo 30). The jail is a two-story, brick building with a stone foundation and a side gable roof. The facade is five bays wide. Windows are wood, double hung, with two lights in each sash. They have wood surrounds and brick lintels. There is a plain, interior end chimney on the south end of the building. Across the center three bays is a one-story brick addition which appears to date from the early 19th century. The building was used as a jail from its construction in 1832 to about 1879, when the new jail and sheriff's residence was constructed. It was later used as a residence.

The Rockville Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, Politics/Government, and Ethnic Heritage; and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Rockville was established as the seat of Parke County in 1823, and platted in 1824. The historic district comprises a large part of the original plat and an 1836 addition to the town. It is the oldest area of Rockville, and contains most of the town's surviving early houses, which relate to the settlement period, roughly from 1824 to 1850. The courthouse square and surrounding commercial area, a cohesive group of buildings, most of which were built between 1870 and 1900, represent the town's role as the center of government and commerce in Parke County. The historic district was the location of a community associated with post-Civil War black migration to Indiana. The district as a whole illustrates architectural development in Rockville between 1826 and 1942. It contains a fine collection of vernacular houses, and other buildings which are outstanding examples of academic styles.

The southern third of Indiana was the first part to be settled. The earliest settlers arrived towards the end of the 18th century, but the period of the greatest migration into the region was between 1814, after the War of 1812, and 1819, the year of an economic depression which slowed migration for several years. By the late 1820s, improved economic conditions, and the establishment of the National Road through Indiana, contributed to increased migration, now to the central part of the state, where Parke County is located.

The area which would become Parke County was open for settlement after Indians ceded the land to the U.S. government through a treaty in 1809. The first settler did not arrive until 1816, the year Indiana became a state. The earliest pioneers came by way of the Wabash River. Later, the National Road was important to the settlement of the county. Parke County was organized in 1821. The 1830 population was recorded at 7,535. By 1850, roughly the end of the settlement period, it had reached 14,968. Most of the settlers coming by way of the Wabash River were from Kentucky or Tennessee. Those using

the National Road were mainly from Pennsylvania or Ohio.

Rockville was named county seat in 1823. Andrew Ray had settled in the area in 1822, establishing a tavern on the site of the courthouse square. He later donated 40 acres to the county, and moved his tavern to the north side of the square. Another 40 acres was donated by other settlers. In 1824, the original plat was surveyed and platted by James B. McCall, a surveyor and lawyer. The town grew slowly, with competition from several other market towns. By 1850, roughly the end of the settlement period, the population had reached 714, below average in comparisón to other county seats in the central part of the state. There were few industries in Rockville. The town's main importance was as a commercial and government center for the county. No known commercial buildings survive from this period. One government building, the second jail, built in 1832, is extant. This building, a brick structure, is located at 117 S. Virginia (photo 30). The oldest extant school, built in 1839, is a brick structure, located at 503 W. Ohio Street (second from right in photo 11).

Many residences of prominent citizens also survive from the period. The oldest known house in the district is the Federal/Italianate style Leonard-Sunderland-McCune House, built in 1826, and located at 215 S. Michigan Street (photo 23). The first owner of the house, Edward A. Leonard, was a doctor. Another doctor, P.Q. Stryker, built the Greek Revival style house on the southeast corner of High and Jefferson Streets (photo 29) in 1838. In 1837, General Tilghman A. Howard built the house, later remodeled, at 512 Howard Avenue. Howard was a lawyer and a U.S. Congressman. The Federal style house at 206 Howard Avenue (second from right in photo 1) was built c. 1840 by General Alexander Houston, who operated a store in Rockville, A.M. Houston and Company. The Greek Revival house located at 415 W. Ohio Street, built c. 1850, was the home of Judge Samuel Maxwell (photo 12).

A significant number of vernacular houses survive from the settlement period. These were the homes of the town's working class, the carpenters, factory workers, store clerks, and blacksmiths. Many of the houses from this

period were I cottages, such as the one at 503 Howard Avenue (left in photo 2), built c. 1845, and the one at 402 W. York Street, built c. 1840. Another common type was the hall and parlor cottage. Examples of this type are the house 411 W. Elm Street, built c. 1850, and the house at 304 W. High Street, built c. 1840.

The Rockville Historic District contains the highest concentration of resources associated with the settlement of Rockville. There are some scattered early houses to the east and south of the district. In general, however, early settlement was concentrated in the area defined by the historic district boundaries. In other parts of the county, there are many scattered resources associated with settlement in Parke County. These include houses, mills, stores, churches, and schools. Three small historic districts, one each in Montezuma, Bridgeton, and Mansfield, each contain resources associated with settlement.

The historic district is also significant in the area of commerce. As is the case for most Indiana county seats, Rockville has been the most important commercial center for Parke County from the time it was founded, though during the early 19th century, there was competition from other towns in the county.

The period between 1824 and 1865 was one of little commercial and industrial growth. Among commercial establishments are known to have existed, are two stores, A.M. Houston and Company, and Patterson and McCall; and the tavern of Andrew Ray. Industries included a tannery, a wagon shop, and the carriage shop of J.S. Tichnor. The first newspaper, The Wabash Herald, was started in 1833. The first mill in Rockville was built in 1855. Coal mining started in Parke County as early as 1853, but Montezuma, located in the western part of the county on the Wabash and Erie Canal, had the advantage over Rockville as a shipping point. The first railroad, the Evansville and Crawfordsville, came through Rockville in 1859. Soon after, the Civil War started. Resources and manpower, which might have contributed to local development, were diverted for war efforts. Businesses started during the war include the Rockville National

Bank, established in 1863.

After the war, the population increased significantly, from 728 in 1860, to 1,187 in 1870. The second railroad, the Logansport, Crawfordsville, and Southwestern came through town in 1871. The railroads gave Rockville importance as an agricultural shipping center. Development of the coal mining and limestone industries in the county, more practical with railroads for shipping, contributed to commercial prosperity in Rockville. Rockville industries started after the war included a woolen mill, built in 1866, saw and planing mills, flour mills, carriage shops, wagon shops, and a stave factory.

A series of disastrous fires in the early 1870s destroyed most of the buildings on the courthouse square, but the times were prosperous, and merchants were confident. Several grand new commercial buildings were constructed. Among these buildings were the Rice Block, built in 1871 and located at 104 W. Ohio Street; the Parke State Bank, built in 1873 and located at 101 S. Jefferson Street.

The Panic of 1873 and subsequent economic depression had a impact on Rockville's economy. Many of the merchants had overextended themselves in the construction of new buildings, and went bankrupt. In 1879, the economy began to recover. The Parke Hotel, built in 1880 and located at 102 S. Market Street (right in photo 25); and the Rockville Opera House, built in 1882 and located on the northeast corner of Ohio and Jefferson Streets represent renewed prosperity. Several other buildings were constructed in the 1890s, including the Italianate style buildings at 116-18 S. Market Street (third from right in photo 25) and 115-17 S. Jefferson Street.

During the 1880s and 1890s, the buildings on the square housed a variety of uses, typical in Indiana county seats. On the north side of the square, there were a boot and shoe store, a millinery, a jewelry store, a drugstore, a dry goods store, a hardware store, and a harness shop, and, in the Rice Building, a grocery store. On its ground floor, in addition to the hotel office and dining room, the Parke Hotel housed a barber shop, a drug store, a grocery store. On the east side of the square, south of

the bank, were a clothing store, a grocery store, a dry goods store, and a furniture store. The opera house was located on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Ohio Streets. The second stories of these building had offices for lawyers and other professionals, or lodge rooms.

In the early 20th century, industries in Rockville included a tile and brick works, and a cement factory. With continued prosperity, new commercial buildings continued to be constructed. A new Rockville Opera House was built. This building, now known as the Ritz, was constructed in 1912 and is located at 210-18 W. Ohio Street (photo 10). A new building for The Republican, Rockville's longtime newspaper, was located at 127 W. High Street. A new building was constructed at 126-28 W. Ohio Street for the Rockville National Bank in 1907, after the. old building was destroyed by fire. Several buildings were constructed to house uses related to the automobile. These included an auto dealership at 109-11 W. High Street, built in 1914 (fourth from left in photo 17); and a garage at 211-15 W. Ohio Street, built c. 1920.

The popularity of the automobile in the early 20th century affected Rockville in another way as well. It made the county seat more important as a commercial center. By 1920, nearly half of the farmers in Indiana had an automobile. This percentage continued to increase. By 1940, about 80 per cent had cars. This widespread use of motorized transportation gave rural dwellers the mobility to do their shopping in the county's largest town, where the variety of goods and services was greatest. Another benefit of the automobile was improved roads. The Indiana State Highway Commission was established in 1917, and, by 1920, had designated several routes as state highways. One of these routes, State Road 31 (now U.S. 36), extended from the National Road near Plainfield, through Rockville, to State Road 63 north of Clinton. State Road 31 went through the heart of Rockville, and undoubtedly gave a boost to the commercial area.

The Hoosier obsession with the automobile contributed to the growth of tourism in the state. This, as well as an expanding interest in conservation, led to the establishment of state parks in Indiana. The second state

park, created in 1916, was Turkey Run in Parke County. This park is located about ten miles north of Rockville. The establishment of Turkey Run signaled the beginning of tourism as an important part of the Parke County economy. The decline of the coal industry in the county was complete by 1920. The limestone industry had slowed. Better quality limestone was available in Monroe and Lawrence counties. A recession in agriculture that would last from about 1920 to 1940 also had an impact on Parke County. The visitors who passed through Rockville on their way to Turkey Run helped fill a gap in the economy. The commercial area adjusted to serve these tourists, focusing on automobile-related businesses and restaurants. The pagoda style service station on E. Ohio Street (U.S. 36), built c. 1930, illustrates this new focus.

The Rockville Historic District contains the highest concentration, as well as the largest variety in type and date, of commercial buildings in the county. As the county seat, Rockville has been the most important center of commerce since it was platted in 1824 to the present. Few historic commercial buildings in other parts of the county were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The Montezuma, Bridgeton, and Mansfield Historic Districts have been mentioned. Each of these districts contain some commercial buildings, all stores dating from the 19th century.

Rockville is the center of government for Parke County. The first courthouse was a log structure, located on the south side of the square. The first jail was also a log structure, located in the southeast quarter of the block bounded by Jefferson, Ohio, Virginia, and High Streets. A new brick jail was built on the opposite side of Virginia Street in 1832. This second jail was mentioned above in the discussion of resources associated with settlement. The log courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1858 and replaced by a brick building. In 1879, the second courthouse was inadequate for the needs of the county. Thomas and Brentwood Tolan, Fort Wayne architects, were commissioned to design the present courthouse and jail. The building, Second Empire in style, was completed in 1882 (photo 15). The Jail and Sheriff's Residence, Italianate in style, was completed in 1879. The two jails

and the courthouse are significant as representations of county government in Parke County.

Another resource associated with government in Rockville is the U.S. Post Office, built in 1938 and located on the northwest corner of Market and Ohio Streets (photo 24). In the building's lobby is one of 37 WPA murals which survive in Indiana post offices.

The Rockville Historic District is significant for its architecture. One of the finest buildings in the county, and the only representation of the Second Empire style, is the Parke County Courthouse (photo 15). The building, completed in 1882, was designed by Thomas and Brentwood Tolan, Fort Wayne architects. A large percentage of the commercial buildings around the courthouse square were built between 1870 and 1900 and are of the Italianate style of architecture. Outstanding examples include the Parke Hotel, built in 1880 and located at 102 S. Market Street (right in photo 25), and a building, constructed in 1877, at 118 W. Ohio Street. Memorial Presbyterian Church, built in 1891 and located at the southwest corner of the square (photo 26), is an excellent local example of the Romanesque Revival style. The U.S. Post Office, built in 1938 and located on the northwest corner of Market and Ohio Streets, is an outstanding local example of Colonial Revival style architecture.

There are a number of residences which are outstanding representations of academic styles of architecture. The Leonard-Sunderland-McCune House, built in 1826 and located at 215 S. Michigan Street (photo 23), is an excellent local example of the Federal style of architecture. The Tichnor House, built c. 1850 and located at 125 N. Jefferson Street (photo 28), is a fine representation of the Greek Revival style. Among notable examples of the Italianate style are the Overman House, built c. 1865 and located at 316 Howard Avenue; and the Rice House, built c. 1880 and located at 115 N. Market Street. There are many houses of the Queen Anne style. Among the most distinctive of these are the Hargrave House, built c. 1895 and located at 314 W. York Street (photo 7); and the Maxwell House, built c. 1900 and located at 303 Howard Avenue. The Colonial Revival style was common in the

early 20th century. The house at 313 Howard Avenue (right in photo 3), built c. 1905, is a particularly fine example. The large carriage house, now used as a separate residence, is located to the south on Beadle Street. The Goss House, built in 1907 and located at 203 W. High Street, is another outstanding Colonial Revival style house.

Houses of academic styles account for approximately 40 per cent of the houses in the historic district. About 50 per cent of the houses comprise a distinctive collection of vernacular house types. (The remaining 10 per cent of the houses are ranch houses, mobile homes, and other types which were built after the period of significance.) Rockville was a study town for the book, Common Houses in America's Small Towns, written by geographers John Jakle, Robert Bastian, and Douglas Meyer. The book is a study of vernacular house types. Twenty towns between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi valley were chosen for the study. One of the reasons Rockville was chosen was because of the range of vernacular house types. Common types identified in Rockville include hall and parlor cottages, I cottages and houses, gable front cottages, L-shaped cottages and houses, crossplan cottages, composite cottages, and bungalows.

In the historic district, hall and parlor cottages, and I cottages, are the most common types surviving from the period 1824 to 1870. Compared to other towns surveyed for Common Houses in American's Small Towns, Rockville had a high percentage of houses of these types. Approximately five per cent of the houses in the historic district are hall and parlor cottages, a type popular with migrants from Pennsylvania. Examples are houses at 409 W. Elm Street, 316 W. Ohio Street (right in photo 9), and 212 N. Michigan Street (photo 21). I cottages and houses were brought to Rockville by pioneers from southern states. Approximately 6 per cent of the houses in the district are of this type. Examples of I cottages are a house with Greek Revival style detailing at 503 Howard Avenue (left in photo 2), and a house at 404 W. Ohio Street (center in photo 9). The Starke House at 211 N. Market Street (photo 27) is an outstanding example of an I house.

After about 1870, house types were influenced less by

migrant origins, and more by pattern books and local builders tastes. Between 1870 and 1900, gable front cottages, L-shaped houses and cottages, crossplan cottages, and composite cottages were common types. Gable front cottages comprise roughly six per cent of the houses in the historic district. Illustrations include houses at 416 Howard Avenue, 503 W. Elm Street, and 316 W. High Street (photo 14). L-shaped houses and cottages account for nearly seven per cent of houses. House at 401 W. York Street (photo 8), 408 W. Ohio Street, 416 W. High Street, and 310 N. College are examples of this type. Cross plan cottages, which account for over seven per cent of houses in the historic district, can be seen at 509 Howard Avenue, 415 W. York Street, 307 W. High Street, and 208 S. Michigan Street (photo 22).

Approximately four per cent of the houses are composite cottages, such as those at 211 W. York Street, and 306 N. College Avenue (photo 19). Bungalows were common between about 1910 and 1930. About seven per cent of the houses fall into this category. Examples include houses at 107 Howard Avenue, 505 W. York Street, 209 W. High Street (second from right in photo 16), and 402 N. College Avenue.

Other vernacular types, such as saddlebag houses, double pile houses and cottages, square cottages, shotgun cottages, and foursquares, account for about eight per cent of the houses in the historic district. The house at 411 W. Elm Street (photo 5) is an intact example of a saddlebag house, an early type. The house at 403 W. Elm Street (photo 6) illustrates a local variation of a double pile house, dating from the early 1940s.

The Rockville Historic District contains the most extensive collection of historic architecture in Rockville and Parke County. The three other historic districts in the county consists mainly of vernacular types dating from the 19th century. The Rockville Historic District has the largest concentration of buildings of academic styles, and of vernacular house types.

The Rockville Historic District is significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage. The huge migration of blacks from

southern to midwestern states in the late 19th century had an impact on the town. After the Civil War, many blacks were dissatisfied with economic and social conditions in the south. Large numbers came to Indiana, seeking jobs and land. In many parts of the state, they were not welcome. To some whites, they represented competition for jobs. Many employers welcomed blacks, who were willing to work for low wages, and were occasionally used as strikebreakers. The Republican party did not discourage the migration, as most blacks could be counted on to vote Republican. Blacks tended to migrate to larger cities, where job opportunities were greatest. There were occasionally black communities in small towns, like Rockville. Quakers were particularly supportive of blacks. Blacks communities tended to grow were Quaker communities already existed.

Between 1870 and 1880, the population of the Rockville grew from 1,187 to 1,684. One of the factors contributing to this increase was the establishment of a black community. Patrick Thomas, who was born in Vincennes and educated in Chicago, arrived in the 1860s and became a barber. He encouraged other blacks to move to Rockville. Rockville's black population by 1870 was 55. Several families from North Carolina came in the early 1870s. A large number of blacks from several southern states came in the late 1870s. This influx resulted in the increase of the black population to 200 by 1880.

In 1880, blacks represented nearly 12 per cent of the Rockville population. This was greater than in the state as a whole, where blacks constituted two per cent. Blacks appear to have been welcome in Rockville, in spite of a slow economy in the 1870s. One of the reasons for this may have been the support of the Quaker community in nearby Penn Township. Resources identified with Rockville's black community include the parsonage for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, built c. 1872, located at 506 W. Ohio Street; and the brick school at 503 W. Ohio Street (second from right in photo 11), built in 1839, and used as a black school between 1874 and 1929. Frederick Douglass spoke in Rockville in the 1870s to raise money for this school.

The black population of Rockville decreased in the early 20th century. This was probably due to the general statewide migration from rural to urban areas, which affected blacks even more than whites. Blacks moved to larger cities for better job opportunities. By 1930, the black population of Rockville had decreased to 50. In 1940, only 17 blacks remained. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was torn down about 1925, and the black school closed in 1929.

Also during the early 20th century, the black community moved from being generally integrated with the white population, to being concentrated in an area near the edge of town, northeast of the historic district. It is possible that the decrease in the black population, coupled with pressure from the Klu Klux Klan - active in Parke County in the 1920s - contributed to this concentration of the black population.

Except for large cities like Indianapolis and Gary, where blacks historically comprised a large percentage of the population, few resources associated with black history have been identified. One reason for this is the fact that most rural areas have historically had a low or nonexistent black population. Another is that historians in the 19th and early 20th century tended to exclude the history of minority groups from their writings. Because of this, it is often difficult to identify resources associated with minority populations. There may be other resources in Rockville and Parke County associated with black migration, but none have been identified.

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Tofaute, Eleanor. "Members Recall Their Old Church." Parke Place, vol. 5, no. 7.

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southwest corner of lot 7 of Elwood Hunt's Addition; thence north along the west boundary of said lot 320 feet; thence northwest along a line parallel with Howard Avenue to the axis of the east side of College Street; thence south along the east side of College Street to a point on the axis of the north boundary of out lot 14 of Howard and Bryant's West Addition; thence west, across College Street, along said boundary, to a point 150 west of the west side of College Street; thence south to the south boundary of lot 12 of Howard and Bryant's West Addition; thence east 50 feet along said boundary; thence south to the north side of Ohio Street; thence east to the northeast corner of Ohio and College Streets; thence south, along the east side of College Street, to the north side of Mulberry Alley; thence east along the north side of said alley to the southwest corner of lot 72 of the Original Plat; thence south, along the west boundary of lot 75 of the Original Plat, to the south boundary of said lot; thence east along the north side of Pennsylvania Street to the southeast corner of lot 76 of the Original Plat; thence north along the east boundary of said lot to the north side of Mulberry Alley; thence east along the north side of said alley to the east side of Jefferson Street; thence north, along the east side of Jefferson Street, 50 feet; thence east 85 feet; thence north to the north side of High Street; thence east along the north side of High Street to a point 100 feet east of the east side of Virginia Street; thence north 70 feet; thence west to the west side of Virginia Street; thence north, along the west side of Virginia Street to the southeast corner of Ohio and Virginia Streets; thence west, along the south side of Ohio Street to a point on the axis of the east boundary of lot 40 of the Original Plat; thence north, along said boundary, across Sugartree Alley, along the east boundary of lot 27 of the Original Plat; to the south side of York Street; thence west, along the south side of York Street, to the southwest corner of York and Jefferson Streets; thence north, along the west side of Jefferson Street, to the southeast corner of Jefferson Street and Howard Avenue; thence west, along the south side of Howard Avenue, to a point on the axis of the west boundary of lot 7 of Elwood Hunt's Addition; thence north, across Howard Avenue, to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

An area roughly bounded by Howard Avenue, Jefferson Street, High Street, and College Avenue, was identified as the Rockville Historic District in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. This is the historic commercial and residential area of Rockville. The area to the north was generally developed later than the historic district. The areas to the east and south were industrial areas, which have been altered, and do not contribute to the character of the historic district. The street to the west of College Avenue is a contemporary commercial strip.

The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Rockville Historic District
2. Rockville, Indiana
3. Laura Thayer
4. 1992
5. 3905 N. 500 W.
   Columbus, Indiana 47201

Additional information for individual photographs:

Photo 1
1. Hargrave-Hunt House, 202 Howard Avenue
6. camera facing northwest
7. 1 of 30

Photo 2
1. 503, 509, and 513 Howard Avenue
6. camera facing southwest
7. 2 of 30

Photo 3
1. Maxwell House, 303 Howard Avenue (left), and
   Adams House, 313 Howard Avenue (right)
6. camera facing southeast
7. 3 of 30

Photo 4
1. Rockville Grade School, W. Elm Street
6. camera facing north
7. 4 of 30

Photo 5
1. 411 W. Elm Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 5 of 30

Photo 6
1. 403 W. Elm Street
6. camera facing south
7. 6 of 30

Photo 7
1. Arthur A. Hargrave House, 314 York Street
6. camera facing north
7. 7 of 30

Photo 8
1. 401 W. York Street
6. camera facing south
7. 8 of 30

Photo 9
1. 406, 404, and 316 W. Ohio Street
6. camera facing northeast
7. 9 of 30

Photo 10
1. Rockville Opera House, W. Ohio Street
6. camera facing north
7. 10 of 30

Photo 11
1. South side of Ohio Street, east of College Street
6. camera facing southeast
7. 11 of 30

Photo 12
1. Judge Samuel Maxwell House, 415 W. Ohio Street
6. camera facing southeast
7. 12 of 30

Photo 13
1. 307 W. Ohio Street (left), Rohm House, 311 W. Ohio Street (center), Rohm House, 315 W. Ohio Street (right)
6. camera facing southeast
7. 13 of 30

Photo 14
1. 316 W. High Street
6. camera facing north
7. 14 of 30

Photo 15
1. Parke County Courthouse, W. High Street
6. camera facing northeast
7. 15 of 30

Photo 16
1. South side of High Street, east of Michigan Street
6. camera facing southeast
7. 16 of 30

Photo 17
1. South side of High Street, west of Jefferson Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 17 of 30

Photo 18
1. Strouse House, 514 N. College Street
6. camera facing west
7. 18 of 30

Photo 19
1. Thomas West House, 306 N. College
6. camera facing west
7. 19 of 30

Photo 20
1. A.H. Starke House, 218 N. College Street
6. camera facing west
7. 20 of 30

Photo 21
1. 212 N. Michigan Street
6. camera facing west
7. 21 of 30

Photo 22
1. 208 S. Michigan Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 22 of 30

Photo 23
1. Leonard-Sunderland-McCune House, 215 S. Michigan Street
6. camera facing northeast
7. 23 of 30

Photo 24
1. U.S. Post Office, N. Market Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 24 of 30

Photo 25
1. West side of Market Street, south of Ohio Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 25 of 30

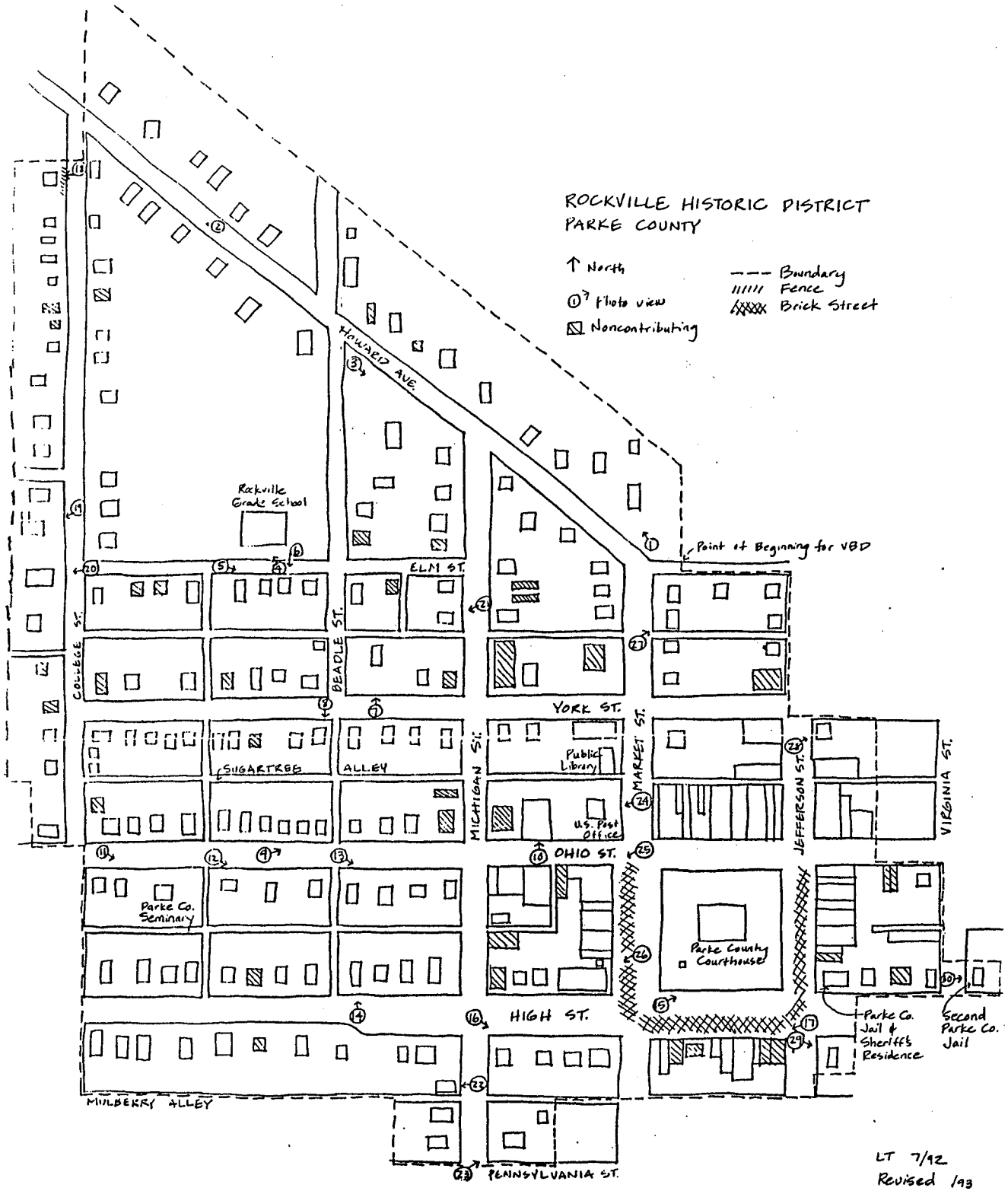
Photo 26
1. Memorial Presbyterian Church, 128 S. Market Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 26 of 30

Photo 27
1. Starke House, 211 N. Market Street
6. camera facing northeast
7. 27 of 30

Photo 28
1. Tichnor House, 125 N. Jefferson Street
6. camera facing northeast
7. 28 of 30

Photo 29
1. Dr. P.Q. Stryker House
6. camera facing east
7. 29 of 30

Photo 30
1. Parke County Jail, 117 S. Virginia Street
6. camera facing east
7. 30 of 30



LT 7/92
Revised 1/93