9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 21 acres
Quadrangle name Greenfield, Indiana Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	605640	440462 0	B	16	605640	440280
C	16	605130	440425 0	D	16	605090	440457 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan R. Slade		
organization	Greenfield Historic Landmarks, Inc.	date	September, 1984
street & number	P.O. Box 153	telephone	317/283-6114
city or town	Greenfield	state	Indiana 46140

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

NPS Form 10-900
(2-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Greenfield Courthouse Square Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by North, Hinchman, South, and Pennsylvania Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Greenfield N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Hancock code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	X unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	X work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	X entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	X transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Greenfield state Indiana 46140

6. Representation in Existing Surveys—See continuation sheet

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? X yes X no

date Summer, 1982 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology
Indiana State Museum, 202 N. Alabama Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered		X original site	
X good	___ ruins	X altered		___ moved	date ___
___ fair	___ unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Greenfield Courthouse Square Historic District is located at the core of Greenfield, Indiana, and extends roughly one block north and south of Main Street. Greenfield was chosen as the county seat in March, 1828, when Hancock County was formally organized. At that time, the principal thoroughfare was located about one block south of the present Main Street, approximately where South Street is now located. Once the National Road was constructed through the county between 1830 and 1835, however, the National Road, itself, became the "main street." This shift in location of the principal thoroughfare helped create the Courthouse Square between the two streets. The area was originally a large pond which was located between a log jail (1828) on the east and a two-story log courthouse (1829) on the west. The pond was drained and filled when the National Road was opened. In 1834 a two-story, brick courthouse was constructed in the center of the Square. The third courthouse, a two-story, stone-colored brick structure with bell tower, was completed on the same site in mid-1854. Thus, the Courthouse Square, the focal point of today's Greenfield, was established in 1834. The remaining streets in the town are laid out in a rough grid pattern, with only a few deviations occurring beyond the northern boundary of the district.

During the early years of the town's existence--about 1830 to 1850--the downtown area consisted of both retail and residential structures clustered around the Courthouse Square, the hub of daily life. Then, as travel increased along the National Road during the 1850s and 1860s, the core of the district began to lose its mixed-use identity, and commercial activity shifted up to Main Street. When natural gas was discovered in Hancock County in 1887, the ensuing boom created a demand for both new commercial and residential structures. Architectural, as well as economic growth, reached a peak during the 1880s through the 1920s. Businesses sprang up quickly along Main Street, and it was during this period that most of the imposing institutional structures were built.

The most striking physical characteristic of the district today is that the densely-packed commercial core is tightly surrounded by important residential and institutional structures, which serve as both the historical and visual anchors for the Courthouse Square Historic District. These anchors include such monuments as the Riley School (Greenfield High School) (Photo 1), the Christian Church (Photo 2), the Bradley Methodist Church (Photo 3), the First Presbyterian Church (Photo 4), the Andrew Jackson Banks House (Photo 5), and the D. H. Goble House (Photo 6). The typical commercial establishment in the district is a two or three story brick structure built flush with the sidewalk, with storefronts at the street level and residential or commercial space on the upper floors. While most of the buildings in the district date from the 1870s through the 1920s, several earlier structures are still extant, including the Walpole House, 26 West Main Street (Photo 7), which was built c. 1835 and converted to commercial use in the late 19th century. In all, there are 80 structures in the Greenfield Courthouse Square Historic District.

Architectural styles represented in the district range from the Second Empire Jail (Photo 8), to the Queen Anne/Free Classic D. H. Goble House (Photo 6), Romanesque Revival structures such as the Courthouse (Photo 9) and the Bradley Methodist Church (Photo 3), and the Neo-Classic Carnegie Library (Photo 10). The majority of structures, however, are Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and the 19th or 20th century functional, commercial styles, which range in ornamentation from the modest to the exuberant.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	landscape architecture	religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	X transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1835 - 1935 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Courthouse Square Historic District is significant both because its cohesive history and variety of architectural styles and building types represent the growth pattern of this small rural Indiana town, and because it has historically served as the center of Greenfield's economic, commercial and civic activities. The intact commercial streetscapes centered around the courthouse visually mark the major transportation route, the National Road, which runs east/west through the center of the District. The scale and finishes of the late 19th century commercial and institutional buildings reflect the wealth accumulated through the exploitation of a rich local resource, natural gas. The community leaders, the businessmen who built their buildings and identified them with their names, were contributing threads in the fabric of the town's history. The historical spirit of James Whitcomb Riley, the town's favorite son, is visibly represented by a statue prominently sited in front of the courthouse, facing Main Street, the National Road.

The Courthouse Square Historic District is located in Greenfield, Indiana, Hancock County's county seat. Greenfield was named as the county seat in March, 1828, when the county was formally organized. It was not until April 12, 1844, however, that Greenfield was originally platted by the county surveyor, Morris Pierson. The land for Greenfield had been given to the county by Cornwall Meek, Benjamin Spillman and John Wingfield. Early platters in the area included Nelson Bradley, a prominent local businessman for whom the Bradley Methodist Church was named.

During the earliest years of the town's existence, the major road through Greenfield was located approximately one block south of the present-day Main Street. Once the National Road was completed in 1835, however, it became the main road through Greenfield. A $60,000 appropriation by Congress in 1830 was used to build two sections of the National Road: a stretch 16 miles to the east of Indianapolis, and a stretch 12 miles to the west. The remainder of the road was completed through Indiana in sections by 1835.

The National Road was built through unbroken forest in Indiana, including the Greenfield area. The road was originally dirt, with bridges and culverts finished in stone. The contract specifications for the National Road through Indiana called for "maximum grades of four percent and grubbing and removal of all stumps in the 30' center."[1] This, however, proved too expensive, and thus for many years travelers had to forge their way through miles of stump-ridden, muddy roads.

The first improvements to the National Road came in 1850 and 1851 when the National Road was planked through Hancock County by the Central Plank Road Company. Although the federal government did not actually own the National Road,[2] it nonetheless "sold" the road to the Central Plank Road Company in return for its upkeep. This practice of "selling" a public thoroughfare to a variety of contractors continued until 1889, when the county purchased the road and re-assumed responsibility for its maintenance.

The importance of the National Road through Hancock County, and specifically Greenfield, cannot be overestimated. Travelers brought much-needed revenue to the small town in the form of restaurant, hotel, and saloon sales, as well as sales of services such as wagon

COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

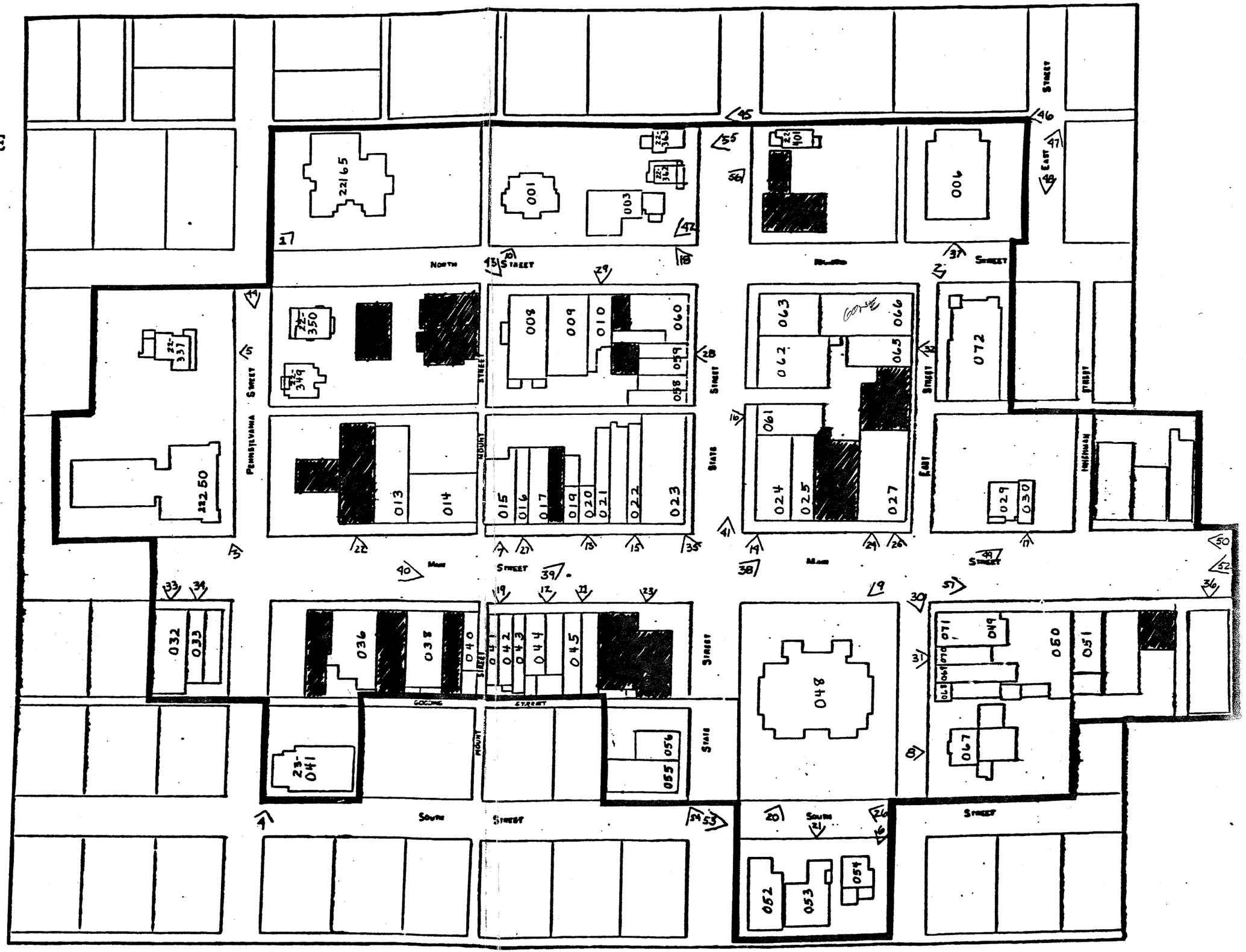
1984

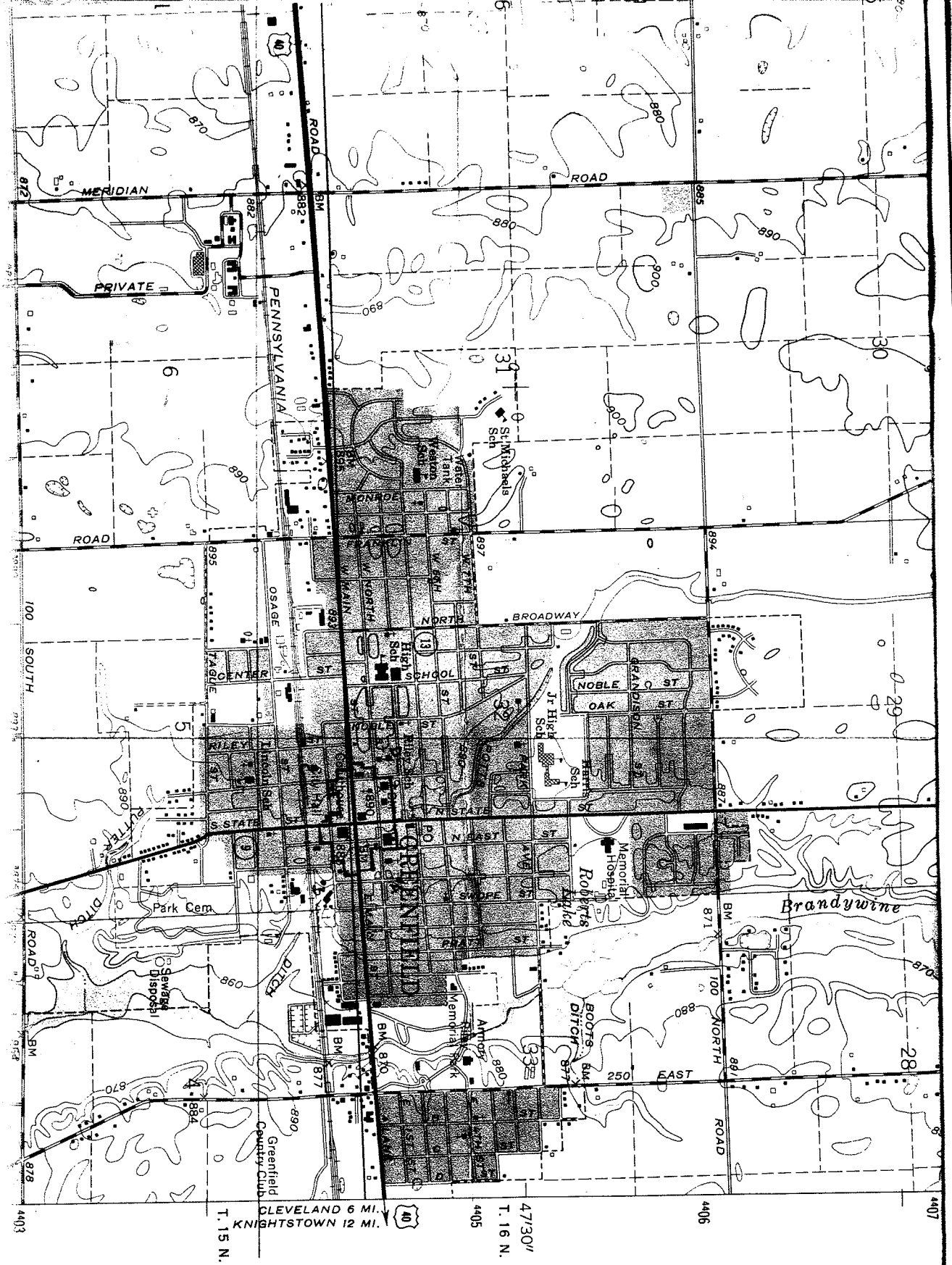
Greenfield, Indiana

PHOTOGRAPHIC MAP

(The first two digits of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory number are 21 unless otherwise indicated. Unnumbered buildings were not surveyed.)

■ Non-contributing structures





Greenfield Courthouse Sq. Hist. Dist.
Greenfield, Indiana
UTM References:

A	16/605640/4404620
B	16/605640/4404280
C	16/605130/4404250
D	16/605090/4404570

The following streets and addresses are included in the Courthouse Square Historic District.

West North Street	0-110
East North Street	0-100
West Main Street	0-210
East Main Street	0-212
North State Street	0-112
South State Street	0-32, even numbers
East Street	0-26, even numbers, and 23
American Legion Place	0-27, odd numbers
South Street	0-17, odd numbers
North Pennsylvania Street	0-22
South Pennsylvania Street	0-21

Roughly, the general boundaries of the Courthouse Square Historic District are as follows:

North Boundary:	South side of the east/west alley north of North Street
South Boundary:	North side of Gooding Street to the west of South State Street; the north side of South Street, plus the south side of South Street opposite Courthouse Square east of South State Street
West Boundary:	210 West Main Street
East Boundary:	212 East Main Street

Item 6

Greenfield High School (Riley School) was listed in the National Register April 22, 1982.

Representative of these types of buildings is the A. J. Banks Building/Morgan Block, located at 11-15 West Main Street (Photo 11). Built in 1869, this two-story Italianate commercial building has a flat roof and painted brick. The facade is divided into two modern bays at the storefront level and seven bays at the second story. The double-hung six-over-six round arch sashes have heads and keystones which have been painted in contrasting colors. Above the second floor are seven bullseye openings with grill work; above these are eight single scrollwork brackets which support the cornice. Between the bullseyes and the second story windows, there are two tablets: the eastern tablet at the second bay reads, "Morgan Block," while the western tablet at the sixth bay reads, "A. J. Banks/erected/AD 1869."

Immediately adjacent to the A. J. Banks Building/Morgan Block to the west is another Italianate commercial structure which was built c. 1870 (17-19 West Main Street, Photo 12). Recently renovated, this two-story brick and stone building is divided into seven bays, as well. At the first floor, the storefronts consist of tall, round-arched fixed sashes, separated by brick piers and headed with large, round-arch surrounds with keystones. At the second floor, the seven double-hung sashes have heavy, ornate tin hoods with impost stops and keystones. The sills are of smooth stone, supported by smooth bracing blocks. A thin stone course extends to the end brackets and serves to demarcate the bottom of the frieze. A series of alternating ornate brackets and modillion blocks support the pressed tin cornice. Between the larger brackets there are oval frieze lights.

Another, smaller Italianate block is located at 14 West Main Street (Photo 13). The two-story, former bank building is faced with scored stone and is divided into four bays. The pedimental parapet has dentils inside the tympanum; below, at the cornice, there are pressed tin brackets at the ends, a dentil course, and the word, "BANK," in the center of the frieze. At the apex of the pediment rests a floral motif finial with "1874" applied. The four windows at the second floor have round arches with keystones and smooth surrounds. Below the sill line is an entablature-like stone course. At the storefront level, the two end bays are round-arch, deeply recessed doorways in which are located panels and rope molding as decoration. The middle two bays are round-arch, double-hung sashes that also have rope molding. The bays are separated by squared pilasters which extend from the raised basement sill to the entablature-like stone course. The stairs to the first floor have carved bracket-like rails out of which dogs' heads have been carved.

The Queen Anne commercial structure at 2-4 East Main Street, called the Randall Block, was built c. 1890 and has two stories with a flat roof (Photo 14). The entablature consists of a pressed metal cornice, brackets and modillion blocks with panels set into the frieze. At the corner of the building is a one-story oriel window which is decorated with floral swags, dentils, and Corinthian pilasters between the windows. The central, second story bay at the south (main) elevation has a pedimented window head, braces underneath and quoins. A smooth stone string course serves as the window sills for the entire upper facade. To either side of this central bay are double-hung sashes with flat entablature heads. Patterned brickwork embellishes the storefront windows,, which have replaced the original storefronts. At the side elevations, some of the original openings have been bricked in, but original pilasters with stone trim and upper story window heads are still in place.

Many of the commercial structures are of the Romanesque Revival style. Among these is the L. A. Davis Building, located at 8 West Main Street (Photo 15) and constructed in 1895. This two-story building has a stone parapet wall with quarry-faced stone tourettes and finials. The parapet wall, itself, has decorative checkerboard panels, and a pressed tin central arch with "L. A. Davis" embossed on the face. Below it is a semicircular cut-out which reads "1895." The second story windows have rock-faced, round arch heads, keystones, and molded terra cotta insets. Across the top of the windows is a stone string course; a similar band serves as the sills. The bottom of the piers between the windows extend below the sill line and are finished in rock-faced stone stops. The original storefront has been replaced with modern materials.

Another Romanesque Revival building can be found at 15 State Street (Photo 16). Designed by the architect, John H. Felt, the H. B. Thayer Building was constructed in 1895. This two-story brick structure has a roof balustrade with rounded end posts which have been finished in stone. Between the two central posts is a large stone tablet which reads "H. B. Thayer/1895." Below the cornice there are simple brackets with swags in between, and a dentiled architrave molding. The second and first floors are separated into three bays; at the second floor there is a taller, round-arch window flanked by two shorter basket arch windows. The brick heads project slightly away from the wall surface, and the windows are separated by brick and stone pilasters. Under the stone sills are bands of patterned terra cotta. To either side of the round-arch doorway at the first floor are recessed brick panels, which have replaced the original storefronts.

The district also includes several Jacobethan Revival structures such as the Henry B. Gates Building, located at 112 East Main Street (Photo 17). Also built in 1895, the Gates Building is a two-story commercial structure with a flat roof. The basic block is of brick with a rock-faced stone facade. The balustrade at the roofline is also finished in stone, and the central bay has a semicircular parapet wall into which has been set a tablet that reads "Henry Gates/1895." The balustrade dies are finished in finials, and extend below the cornice line to a red stone band. The cornice is supported by stone brackets. The corners of the facade are faced in alternating sections of smooth and rock-faced stone. The piers between the second story windows are treated similarly, and have red stone heads. Below the windows is another band of red stone. The original storefronts have been replaced by modern vertical wood siding. An iron corner post supports the lefthand corner.

While most of the commercial structures in the district date from the 1870s through the early 20th century, there are several buildings which add variety to the commercial character which were not built until later. One of these is the gas station located at 2 North Street, built c. 1920 (Photo 18). This 20th century functional structure's main block has a hipped roof and an attached service bay, also hipped. The rusticated concrete block garage also has a hipped roof, and a wooden paneled garage door. Windows in both blocks take on a variety of shapes from industrial or casement windows to double-hung sashes.

Another later example is the narrow, three-bay commercial structure at 23 West Main Street and the adjoining elevation to the west, built c. 1920 (Photo 19). The tan brick face, with recessed panel and untrimmed metal casement windows, is capped by a tile-covered penthouse roof. The commercial storefront windows have been altered.

Several institutional and residential structures offer an exciting counterpoint to the commercial character of the district. Most of these structures are located at the perimeter of the downtown core and serve as strong visual and historical boundaries for the district. At the heart of the district, and perhaps the most prominent of the buildings, is the Hancock County Courthouse, bounded by Main, South and State Streets and American Legion Place (Photo 20). Designed by the Fort Wayne firm of Wing and Mahurin (1896-97), the courthouse is located at the center of a public green space. This massive Romanesque Revival building is basically symmetrical in plan. The central tower has a high hipped roof, rock-faced stone facing and details, and a clock on every face. Each face also has a central bay demarcated by two-story piers with finials to either side, a pointed wall dormer, heavy corner towers, stone string courses, and a variety of window types, including flat head, double-hung sashes with ogee hoods.

The bulk of the building is designed around a system of gabled blocks projecting from a central, hipped block. At the main, north elevation (Photo 9), two round towers with dentils, modillions, string courses and double-hung sashes flank a central flush gable roof projection. This central section has a larg, round-arch entrayway--with crenallations, dentils and string course--standing apart from the main block and connecting the two round towers. A large ogee molding frames round-arch windows at te- third floor of the gable, double-hung sashes with transoms at the second floor, and a variety of window types at the ground floor. Between the second and third floors there are also three carved stone spandrel panels with a floral motif.

The second elevation (Photo 20) is similar to the north elevation, but lacks the rounded towers. Additionally, the south elevation has a heavy entablature which runs across the top of the doorway arch. The arch itself has carved moldings, smooth Corinthian columns and pilasters, and small portals off to either side. Squared stone chimneys with corbeling rise above the eave line to either side of the central bay. Windows of the center bay have ogee moldings above the basket arch hoods.

The east and west elevations are identical to one another, and carry many of the same motifs as found elsewhere on the structure, including the flush gable wall, finials, corbeling, round-arch doorway, Corinthian columns and floral motif panels.

The main block of the structure is two and one-half stories and has either dormers or wall dormers on the north and south facades. The roof has a full entablature, including modillions, dentils, frieze and corbel table. The basement is raised and is characterized by larger rusticated stonework into which has been set short sashes on every elevation.

Another Romanesque Revival structure included in the district was also designed by Wing and Mahurin. The Greenfield High School (Riley School) was built in 1895 and is located at the northwest corner of the district (Photo 1). This two and one-half story building has a four-story tower with billcast roof and wall dormers on each face. Two piers, which extend down to the roofline of the main block, flank the ogee-surround window on each side of the dormer. Below the tower's roof there are three bays, each featuring a double-hung, one-over-one sash window with fixed toplight above. Below these is a stone string course, followed by a stone corbel table. In the central bay below this is another ogee surround window and a flat head window. Beneath the tower, over the

main (south) entrance is a wall dormer which is treated with piers, finials and windows. At the ground floor is the three-bay entrance arcade. The middle bay has an ogee molding while the side bays have more rounded moldings; the arches, themselves, are round. Above the arcade is a course of carved stone which creates a frieze into which has been placed a panel with the words "High School." Under this projection at the west end of the back wall is a tablet naming the architects, trustees, and contractor.

Advance pavilions flank the main entrance. Each of these two sections has three bays across the front, a central gabled wall dormer, and a bell-cast roof. Additional dormers are located on the sides, along with a round-arched entrance with ogee molding and curved, projecting bay with a conical roof on the west side.

At the cornice line of the building there is a double stone corbel table which runs around the full block, except where there are dormers or towers. At the second floor sill line there is a smooth course of stone which also encircles the building. The building has a raised foundation into which have been set regularly-occurring fixed sash windows with flat heads. At the west elevation there is a round-arch doorway with ogee molding.

The Greenfield/Hancock County Jail (Photo 8) is the last surviving Second Empire structure in the district. Located just off the courthouse square to the east, the jail is a two and one-half story brick structure, with stone quoins at the corners of the main block and of the central projecting bay. The main doorway consists of a large round-arch opening into which has been set a door with sidelights and a semicircular light above. The archivolt consists of two bands of rope molding. The mansard roof of the structure is slate. The dormers to either side of the central bay at the west elevation have bracketed hoods, with keystones and pilasters, while the central bay dormer has a round hood and no brackets. All feature wooden and cast window surrounds. The large cornice has a brick scalloped frieze underneath and pairs of scrollwork brackets. Windows on every facade have segmental arches, two-over-two sashes, and smooth stone sills. The foundation is made of rough stone blocks and is raised. The tin roof cupola form at the central bay replaces an original tower which was destroyed by high winds during the 1930s.

Another important institutional structure in the district is the Carnegie Library, located at the northern portion of the district at 98 East North Street (Photo 10). Designed by architect G. W. Gordon and completed 1908-09, the Neo-Classic library is a one-story, buff brick structure with a heavy stone balustrade all the way around the flat roof. The building supports a full entablature, including modillions, dentils, and frieze panels, and a balustrade above. Doric columns flank the pedimented doorway, with large consoles and a keystone over the double doors. The words, "Public Library," are placed above the doorway in the frieze. Windows around the building are in pairs and surrounded by raised brick and a keystone above. Each pair of windows has a diagonally muntined, fixed sash. The entire structure rests on a raised basement with a heavy stone water table. Two-light fixed sashes are located at the ground level around the building.

The district's three churches--the Christian Church, the Bradley Methodist (Episcopal) Church, and the First Presbyterian Church--anchor the District at the northeast, west and southwest boundaries, respectively. The Christian Church, begun in 1895 during the first pastorate of Rev. B. F. Dailey, was designed by Greenfield's architect of the

period, J. H. Felt (Photo 2). The prominent, three-story tower anchors the bold massing of the fully exposed north and west elevations. The Victorian Romanesque style is defined by the use of red brick and rock-faced limestone blocks which outline the major openings. Large, round-arch windows filled with dark stained glass panels set in applied tracery are finished with an arch of limestone voussoirs. Stone corners on the tower break into quoins above the entrance. Original door openings have been altered and infilled with red brick. All elements of the tower are similarly detailed with limestone. The second level features rose windows set in a blind arcade. Steeply pitched gabled dormers with finely detailed windows centered in each elevation are framed by solid corner tourelles.

The Bradley Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the intersection of West Main Street and Pennsylvania Street, the center of the western district boundary, was designed by C. A. Krutsch of Indianapolis (Photo 3). The Richardsonian Romanesque, Akron-plan church was built in 1902 by Edward R. Wolf, general contractor, for $22,468. The two-story, hipped roof, stone structure features a prominent octagonal corner tower. The elevations of rock-faced ashlar limestone wrap around the corner tower. The south elevation features a centered gable with large rose window, and a projecting, one-story arched entrance portico, now filled in. The east elevation is similarly arranged. The third north bay contains the entrance to the church and to the parish house to the north. Another octagonal corner tower is located at the northeast corner. At the southwest corner is a recent, one-story addition which houses church offices.

All windows and doors are set in round arch openings which are finished with voussoirs. An upper band of now filled round-arch windows, three per face, finish the southeast corner tower. Double-hung, triplet windows set in the south and east gables are framed by limestone pilasters. The two entrance porticos are articulated by intricately worked, Sullivanesque foliate panels which serve as a transition from the ashlar face to the blind arcades above. Similarly decorated panels span the gables at the roofline, continuing the horizontal line established by the denticulated cornice gutter. The hipped roof cupola is a replacement for the original bell tower which was weather-damaged beyond repair.

The crenellated, three-story bell tower of the First Presbyterian Church (Photo 4) marks the southwest corner of the District. The red brick structure with fully exposed west and south elevations was erected in 1906-07 at a cost of $24,000. The elevated rock-faced limestone base rising from the sidewalk is finished with a smoothly finished limestone water table. The line is broken by the deeply recessed west entrance which is framed by a flattened round brick arch with centered, initialed keystone. Limestone imposts project from the brick opening to visually support this span. A similarly arched opening set in a slightly projecting portico with full entablature provides access to the parish hall at the southeast corner of the building. All window openings in this otherwise Romanesque Revival styled church feature brick lancet arch frames with limestone spring blocks and projecting limestone sills. A large, three-part, stained glass window is centered in the gabled wall of the south elevation. Other lanced windows are filled with double-hung, stained glass sashes.

The asymmetrical massing of the structure is further articulated by brick and limestone banding, brick corner piers, and corbeling. The northwest corner, a one-story vestibule located just north of the main entrance, is finished with brick corner piers which rise above the blind arcaded, corbeled parapet wall. Each is topped with a limestone cap and centered round finial. The corner bell tower with brick pier buttresses is finished at the third level with triplet lancet openings. The blind arcaded, corbeled parapet wall is finished with crenellations. The verticality of this element is further emphasized by the similarly finished chimney which rises through and above the tower. The gable-on-hip roof of the main building is finished with a prominent soffit and boxed gutter line.

Large, high-styled residential structures complete the visual anchoring of the District. The A. J. Banks House, 22 North Pennsylvania Street, was originally constructed c. 1832. It was altered in 1894-95 by the Greenfield architect, John Felt (Photo 5). The resulting Queen Anne styled residence, located at the northwest corner of the District, is sited on a double, tree-filled lot bordered by a delicately detailed, wrought iron fence. The two and one-half story, three bay, red brick structure, with a crested, slate-covered hipped roof, presents an imposing east entrance elevation. The front-facing gable, finished with an oval light surrounded by imbricated shingles topping a fenestrated panel, is just to the right of the two-story entrance bay. A semicircular, conical, slate covered roof of the second story porch/balcony sits atop the prominent, pedimented entrance to the first story veranda. Each level is detailed by turned, bowed columns set on a railing composed of molded top and bottom rails fitted with turned and tapered balusters. Paired, rock-faced limestone side stairs provide porch access beneath the plasterworked pediment which is detailed with centered scallop shell and base swags. The double leaf entrance doors are set in a slightly arched doorway. The main brick body of the structure is subdivided by brick piers with limestone bases and headers. Double-hung windows with single light sashes are arranged within this pier system. Wide, molded boxed eaves top a deep soffit fitted with modillion blocks. This roofline continues onto both porches.

The D. H. Goble House, constructed c. 1900, is sited at the southeast corner of the District (Photo 6). The two and one-half story, red brick, Queen Anne/Free Classic structure features a prominent slate-covered gable roof with gabled dormers. All ridge lines are delineated with scalloped cresting; all gable peaks are marked with finials. The molded open eaves with large modillion blocks extend into the gable faces as boxed returns which are also fitted with the same blocks. The two-story north veranda extends from the entrance to the west, wrapping around to the east, and continuing as a centered element on the east elevation. Paired turned and tapered columns extend from the deck to the deeply molded entablature of the flat roof of the second story porch. The same element is repeated as support for the slightly projecting hipped roof of the first story porch. Both levels are finished by a balustrade or railing composed of turned and tapered balusters. The main brick walls of the structure are subdivided by rock-faced limestone bands which serve as lintels and sills of the double-hung, single light sashes.

The D. H. Goble House, now an office for a law firm, is connected by an awning-covered walkway to the large frame Queen Anne residence immediately adjacent to the west. This residence, which was renovated in 1983-84 as a law library, was originally designed in 1894-95 by John Felt for William C. Scott, a local businessman (Photo 21). The two-

story frame, T-shaped residence features a full-width pitched roof porch with stair access at the east end. Originally, as in a published elevation drawing, a pedimented entrance was centered on the north elevation. Turned and tapered columns create a bay pattern, with railing below and similarly spindled screen above. The north elevation is symmetrical in the arrangement of the projecting gable end flanked by the cross gables. Paired, centered, second story windows are framed with flat molding. The open gable above is bordered with a narrow band of board and batten work. A centered, semi-circular, louvered grill is surrounded by imbricated shingles. Turned and tapered spindles arranged in a sunburst fill the gable peak.

The architectural character of the Courthouse Square Historic District can be defined as a solid core of commercial buildings surrounded by monumental institutional and residential structures. As little building activity occurred in Greenfield after 1925, there are few non-contributing or intrusive structures. The theater, 122 West Main Street, was constructed in 1947 (Photo 22), and replaced the Arcade, a small commercial building which housed several small service and retail establishments. The Hancock Bank and Trust Company, constructed in 1967, with a 1982-83 addition to the west (Photo 23) is sited in the location of one of Greenfield's early inns, the Gooding Tavern. This building was removed in 1921 for the erection of a Standard Oil gas station. A building at 7 West Main Street was demolished for the bank's enlargement and refronting in 1982-83.

Beginning with the renovation of the Riley School into apartments in 1982-83 and the completion of the survey and publication of the Hancock County Interim Report for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, the city of Greenfield has become aware of its architectural heritage. Restoration and renovation projects include not only the Riley School (Photo 1) but also the Howard-Dobbins Building (Photo 12), 9 South Street (Photo 21) and the current project, the L. C. Thayer Building, 20 E. Main Street (Photos 24 and 25). The private sector preservation organization, Greenfield Historic Landmarks, Inc., has been active in local research and documentation, fostering public education and awareness, and supporting projects such as the preparation of the county inventory, this National Register nomination, and the newly-enacted historic district ordinance. Greenfield Revitalization, Inc., using a master plan study prepared by Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff for the city, have placed their priority on the closing of South Street and the creation of a public pedestrian plaza within the commercial core of the city (Photo 26).

repairs and horseshoeing. In addition, farmers in the Greenfield vicinity now had a fairly reliable and direct means of getting to and from Indianapolis and points eastward.

Of the town's earliest structures, only a few survive today. One of these is the Walpole House, 26 West Main Street (Photo 7). This Greek Revival residence (converted to commercial use) was built c. 1835 by Thomas D. Walpole, who came to Greenfield in 1834 from Indianapolis (born 1816 in Zanesville, Ohio). In 1836 Walpole was elected to the State Legislature, when barely of the requisite age, and he served in the Senate from 1840-44. While in Greenfield, Walpole opened for business as an attorney, and continued to practice when he moved to Indianapolis in 1860. Aside from his law business, Walpole also established, in 1847, the local newspaper, The Sentinel, which ran about five years.

Another important early structure still extant is the Andrew Jackson Banks House, 22 North Pennsylvania Street (Photo 5). The house was constructed c. 1832 by Andrew M. Patterson, a hatter who came to Greenfield from Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Banks took up residency in the house c. 1860. Although the house was originally a Greek Revival structure (the ground floor is original today), it was remodeled c. 1894 by John H. Felt, the prominent architect, into a Queen Anne structure.

Born in Wayne County, Indiana, in 1830, Banks moved to Greenfield sometime after his marriage to Viola Harvey in 1859. He first worked in the dry goods business, and gradually worked his way into the real estate, agricultural and plumbing businesses by the end of the 19th century. Banks also went into partnership with James Morgan and Capt. Matthew L. Paullus to build the "A. J. Banks/Morgan Block" (Photo 11) at a cost of $12,000. Banks operated his agricultural implements and gasfitting companies from this building.

Two prominent structures which reflect the commercial success of the city of Greenfield in this early phase of development, 1828-1887, are the Jail (Photo 8) and the Bank (Photo 13). The jail as constructed in 1871 was to cost $32,900, but prior to completion, the cost was accounted at $75,000. In 1882, J. H. Binford, in The History of Hancock County, Indiana, recorded his impression of the building: "The architecture is modern and the work first-class."[3] This is in contrast to the run-down condition of the county poorhouse which was a "discredit" to the county. The fact that the county fathers saw fit to spend a highly significant sum on providing a first-rate jail was evidence of their wishes that public tax monies should be spent on buildings which demonstrated the success and affluence of the town and its associated county government. The finely detailed bank, constructed in 1874, was the first structure to be built specifically for banking purposes in Greenfield. The classical elements projected an image of stability and prosperity to the community. The bank, as a repository for the commercial wealth accumulated by the influx of travelers and agricultural success of the county, was organized in 1873 with Philander H. Boyd as president. Boyd, as a community leader, was one of the first school trustees in 1869-70, a councilman in 1882, and investor in the continued growth of Greenfield as a platter of Boyd's Highland Home Addition in 1890.

The continued prosperous growth of Greenfield was assured on April 28, 1887, when the first natural gas well was drilled near Greenfield. The applications of this new resource created industrial activity in those areas where a viable transportation system was in place, such as Greenfield's National Road and accompanying Pennsylvania Railroad Line from Richmond to Indianapolis. Four glass factories were established within a short period of time: two plate glass manufacturing companies and two bottleworks companies.

Greenfield's economy boomed, thanks to the industries attracted to the city by the abundant supply of natural gas, such as the Home Stove Company and the nailworks. Although the gas boom began to decline after 1916, it left the city with rich architectural resources from an associated building boom. One of the significant characteristics of the district today is its collection of similarly scaled buildings, solidly lining the major streets. The continuity is due, at least in part, to the gas boom period during which many of the buildings were constructed, respecting the existing architectural scale and texture of the already established core of Greenfield. Examples of buildings from this period include the highly styled City Building, 1895, which was designed as a council chamber and engine room by John Felt (Photo 29). The Jacobethan Revival characteristics are similar to Felt's other buildings, such as the H. B. Thayer Building (Photo 16) which, along with other similar buildings, is attributed to Felt (Photos 15 and 17). All three of these building, like the City Building, were erected in 1895.

Another example is the Barr and Morford Building, 1898 (Photo 28). The Barr and Morford Company, a contract paving company, later associated with Greenfield Brick Company, presents a somewhat utilitarian commercial facade on North State Street. The L. C. Thayer Building, rediscovered this past summer after having been covered for several years by corrugated metal panels, is another ornate example from the gas boom period (Photos 24, 25). It is worth noting that the most notable public and quasi-public buildings in the district were erected during the gas boom period, actually within a year of one another. They include the just-mentioned City Building (1895), Greenfield High School (1895), the Christian Church (1895), the Courthouse (1896-7), and the Masonic Temple (1895).

Newspaper publishing and printing companies historically were centered around the Courthouse Square. William G. Mitchell, who was first associated with The Greenfield Sentinel, began The Hancock Democrat in 1859. The first office was located in the east wing of the first courthouse at the northwest corner of South State and South Streets. Prior to the establishment of the large printing plant on South State Street (just south of the district) in 1881, The Democrat offices were housed on the second floor of the Banks Building, 15 West Main Street (Photo 11). Publication of this newspaper continued until 1953, with the Hancock Journal, by the same company, surviving until 1973. The printing company of Mitchell-Fleming exists today, outside the district boundaries.

Another publication serviced the county school system as supplemental reading, The Home and School Visitor. Originated by Superintendent Aaron Pope, the publication was purchased by D. H. Goble in 1881. During the 1880s the paper grew from four pages to a magazine which was distributed throughout the state. Additional printing jobs by this company included legal blanks for township and school records.[4] D. H. Goble Printing Company today is housed in three buildings located on the east side of American Legion Place (Photo 30), across the street from Goble's prominent residence (Photo 6). The north building originally housed The Herald (Photo 31), a weekly newspaper which, along with The Globe, was relocated to Cumberland, western Hancock County, c. 1909.

Prior to 1908, Greenfield had two daily newspapers, The Star and The Tribune, and four weekly publications, The Democrat, The Republican, The Herald and The Globe. In 1908, Newton Spencer established the Spencer Publishing Company which began printing The Daily Reporter on April 27.[5] By October, 1910, Spencer had purchased The Star, The Tribune, and the weekly Republican. By 1914, Spencer had constructed the Spencer Publishing Company, 212 E. Main Street (see Photo 50). The Daily Reporter continues today as Greenfield's newspaper at the same address. Publisher Spencer resided at his wife's family home, the A. J. Banks House, 22 N. Pennsylvania Street (Photo 5).

With increased disposable revenue and an enlarged population, private clubs and institutions flourished, many of them establishing their headquarters in the district. In 1891, the I.O.O.F. moved to the second story of 3 American Legion Place (Photo 30). Today, the Greenfield lodge is located at 20 East Street (Photo 32). Other fraternal organizations established their buildings and images within the center of Greenfield. In 1908, the lodge of the Knights of Pythias purchased three-eighths interest in the building known as the Strickland Building. The remaining interest in the building, now known as the K of P Block, was purchased in 1915 (Photo 33). Located at the west end of West Main Street, this block at 205-07 West Main Street and its attached Italianate Block to the east, 201-03 West Main Street (Photo 34) were and are today the only non-residential structures on the south side of West Main Street, west of Pennsylvania Street. The Masonic Temple, prominently located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and North State Streets, was designed by Indianapolis architect, Louis H. Gibson (Photo 35).[6] Built in 1895-96 by Hinesman Brothers, of Noblesville, Indiana, the structure housed commercial businesses on the first floor, offices and the Temple Club on the second floor, and the lodge rooms on the third floor. This three-story, ashlar masonry, Romanesque Revival building is architecturally another monument to the town's rise to prominence.

The interurban passenger and freight station, constructed between 1892 and 1895 as a livery, was converted c. 1907 to serve the Terre Haute, Indianapolis, and Eastern Traction Company's line which began in 1900 as the Indianapolis and Greenfield Rapid Transit Company (Photo 36). By 1919, bus service had begun to Indianapolis. By 1932, 12 buses each day provided transportation to the capital city and the interurban line was disbanded. In 1921, the National Road was paved to Indianapolis, providing smooth and speedy access by private automobile to a large retail and employment market. Today, Interstate 70, paralleling the National Road north of Greenfield, allows the suburban Indianapolis resident living in Greenfield to reach the office in 40 minutes.

The Hancock County Memorial Building, 1923, was built to honor the county's war dead in World War I (Photo 37). This building, its finishing and detailing, reflects more than any other the change from the affluent economy as seen in the building of the Masonic Temple or the Bradley Church. The County Memorial is a building representing a county seat which was already witnessing a decline in the economic base. The basement was not completed until 1927, due to insufficient funds.

The building decline was directly related to the quality and quantity of natural gas. Following excessive use and waste of the natural gas, the supply began to decrease. As early as 1897, the pressure had begun to decrease noticeably, down from that of the first wells at 250-325 lbs., to 150-200 lbs., depending upon age and condition of the wells. By 1897 and 1900, general well pressure was reduced 18-20 lbs. annually. Prior to 1916, pumping stations were installed to enable residents of Greenfield and surrounding cities to use gas for cooking and space heaters. According to Richman in Hancock County, Indiana, by 1916 the pressure was insufficient to supply heat during the winter.[7] The newspaper reported in 1928 that the gas supply was the shortest in years and the quality the poorest.

The decrease in available, quality natural gas caused abandonment or relocation of the industries which, in 1888-90, were so eager to establish manufacturing sites in the gas belt area. The Greenfield Fruit Jar and Bottle Works was purchased by Ball Brothers, Muncie; before 1917, the glass blowing machines were moved to Muncie. The last glassworks in Greenfield, Owens Bottle Manufacturing Company, continued production after the gas supply decreased. In 1917, this company was using 120 carloads of coal every three months. At this time, the Frazier Packing Company, reported to be the world's largest packer of catsup, moved to the city to be near the bottle production of this company. Production ceased in 1921 when the Owens Bottle Company moved to Charleston, West Virginia.

With reduced employment, little additional demand for services and products was present. Therefore, the continued growth of the previous three decades was halted. Serviceable buildings present in the commercial core continued to be occupied. When the suburban growth occurred in the 1960s, a commercial strip was developed on North State Street, State Road #9, near access to I-70. Thus, with little development pressure, the commercial core of Greenfield remained largely intact to the present. Eleven parking lots have been created by building removal. Only four occur along East and West Main Street. Photos 38-43 illustrate clearly the architectural integrity and the densely packed, intact building pattern of this community.

The Courthouse and the church towers visible from every street contained within the district are a testament to the typical community plan, based upon the Philadelphia model. The open square, in this instance the Courthouse and its surrounding green space, serves as the focus for civic consciousness and pride in heritage. A bronze statue of James Whitcome Riley (1849-1916) stands on the north center approach to the Courthouse. The bronze statue, sculpted by Indianapolis artist Myra Reynolds Richards[8] and cast by the United Bronze Works, New York City, was unveiled November 26, 1918. The ceremony was the culmination of five years of work by members of the Greenfield Art Association, including George Beamer Davis, to collect the necessary funds for support of this project.[9] Today, the tradition of honoring Riley continues with the celebration of Riley Days during the October weekend which comes nearest his birthday, October 7. The Parade of Flowers, which was part of the ceremony in 1918, begins the festivities. All Greenfield school children, grades one through six, march along Main Street. Each child presents a small floral tribute to the poet. All bouquets are placed in a frame around the base of the statue. Thus, yearly, James Whitcome Riley is honored by the community of his birth. His home, now operated as a house museum, is located three blocks to the west on the north side of West Main Street.

Although the courthouse square development in Indiana is a rich historical tradition, the Greenfield Courthouse and the three other limestone Romanesque-inspired buildings, Riley School, Bradley Methodist (Episcopal) Church, Masonic Temple, present a stylistic monumentality which is unique to the Hancock County seat, Greenfield. The Courthouse is the visual and commercial center around which the partial concentric rings of residential areas developed between 1875 and the late 1920s.

The significance of the Courthouse Square Historic District is thus clearly demonstrated by the cohesive history and variety of Architectural styles visible in the presentation of intact streetscapes. The major architecturally significant buildings, built by a rapid infusion of wealth based upon development of a local natural resource, are sited along an established, important national route.

Footnotes

[1]Indiana Geological Report (1905), p. 24.

[2]Patrick Steele, ed., Then and Now: The National Road and Its People (Richmond, Indiana: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, n.d.), p. 12.

[3]J. H. Binford, History of Hancock County (Greenfield, Indiana: King and Binford, 1882), p. 37.

[4]George J. Richman, History of Hancock County, Indiana: Its People, Industry and Institutions (Greenfield, Indiana: William Mitchell Printing Co., 1916), p. 645.

[5]Ibid.

[6]Louis H. Gibson also submitted plans for the Hancock County Courthouse. See Richman, pp. 85-89.

[7]Richman, p. 166.

[8]An article was published about Richards after the unveiling of the Riley statue. See American Art News, December 26, 1918.

[9]The Hancock County Democrat, October 2, 1913, p. 1.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southeast corner of West North and North Pennsylvania Streets, proceed north along the east curbline of North Pennsylvania Street (see Photo 1) to the south right-of-way of the first alley. At this point, turn east and follow the right-of-way (Photos 44, 45) to the west curbline of North East Street (Photos 46, 47). Turn south and continue to the north curbline of East North Street (Photo 48). Turn west and proceed to a point due north of the east lotline of 23 North East Street (see Photo 2). Turn south and continue to the south right-of-way of the first alley.

From this point turn east and proceed to the intersection of this line and the east lotline of 212 East Main Street (Photos 49 and 50). At this point turn south to the north curbline of East Main Street. Turn east to a point due north of the east lotline of 201-05 East Main Street (Photos 51 and 52). From this point, turn south, proceeding to the intersection of the south lotline of this property; turn west and proceed to the east lotline of 27 American Legion Place (see Photo 8). Turn south and proceed to the north curbline of East South Street. Turn west and continue to the west curbline of South East Street.

At this point, turn south and proceed to the south lotline of 17 East South Street (Photo 6). Turning west, follow the south lotlines of 1, 9, and 17 East South Street to the east curbline of South State Street (Photo 53). Turn north and continue to the north curbline of East South Street, turn west, and proceed to the west lotline of 28-32 South State Street (Photo 54). Follow the lotline north to the north right-of-way of the first alley. Turning west, proceed to the east lotline of 21 South Pennsylvania Street (see Photo 4), and turn south. Follow this lotline to the north curbline of West South Street, turn west, and proceed to the east curbline of South Pennsylvania Street.

Turn north and continue to the first alley. Follow the north right-of-way of the alley westward to the west lotline of 205-07 West Main Street. Turn north and continue to the north curbline of West Main Street, turn west, and proceed to the west lotline of 200-210 West Main Street and, turning north, proceed to the north lotline of this property; turn east at a point of intersection with west lotline of 22 North Pennsylvania Street (see Photo 5). Follow this lotline, turning northward, to the south curbline of West North Street, turn east, and proceed to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The commercial core of the district, with its common or party-wall configuration, extends east/west along Main Street and one block north/south along North and South State Street and East Street and its south extension, American Legion Place. Superimposed upon this grid of visually perceived linearity are the bold vertical accents of the large masonry structures which mark the center and major corners of the district. Those residential structures included in the district are identified as a potentially threatened, historically significant building (see Photo 5), residences now serving a commercial use (Photos 44, 55), and a residence which falls within the north boundary alley line (Photo 56).

COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

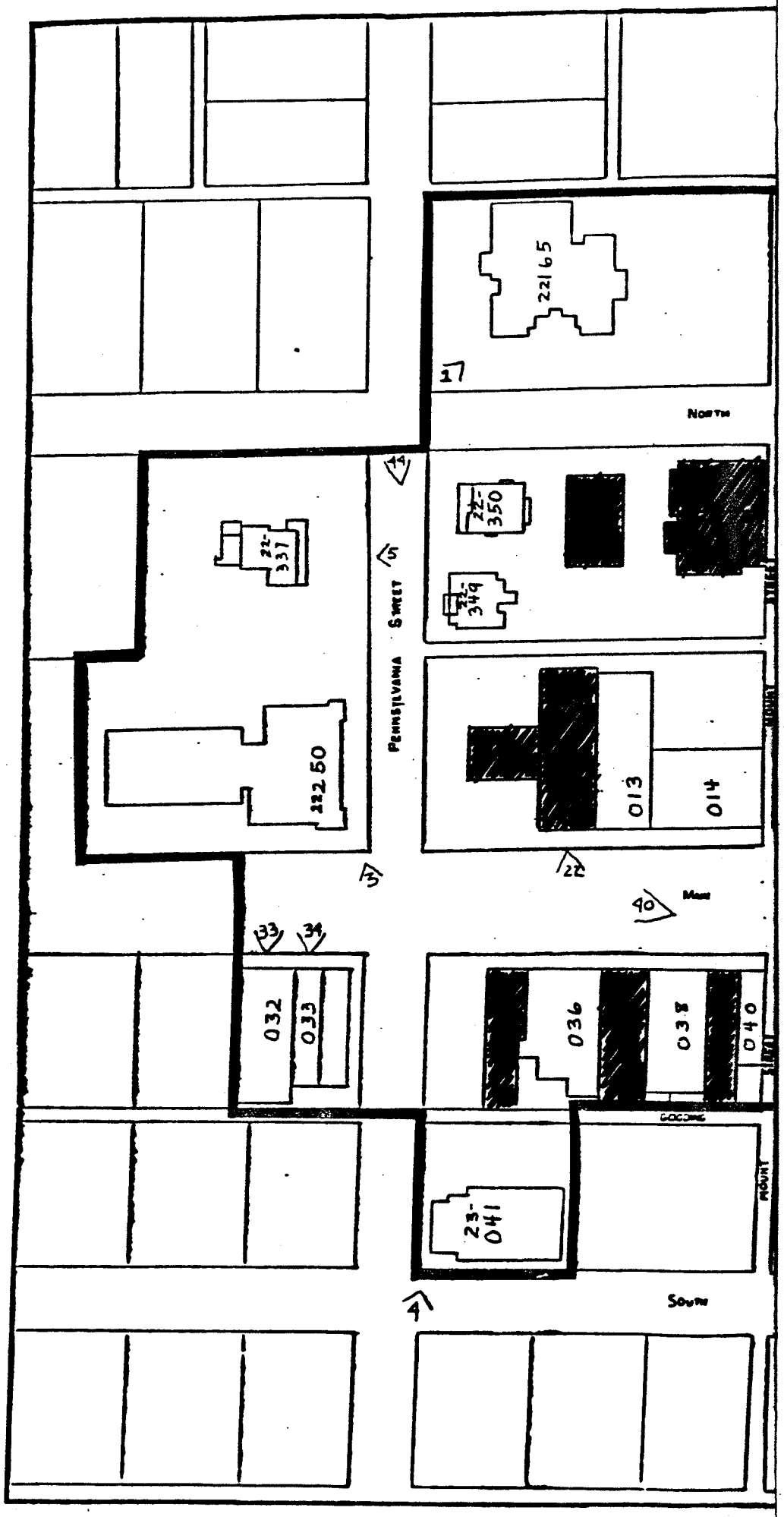
1984

Greenfield, Indiana

PHOTOGRAPHIC MAP

(The first two digits of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory number are 21 unless otherwise indicated. Unnumbered buildings were not surveyed.)

■ Non-contributing structures



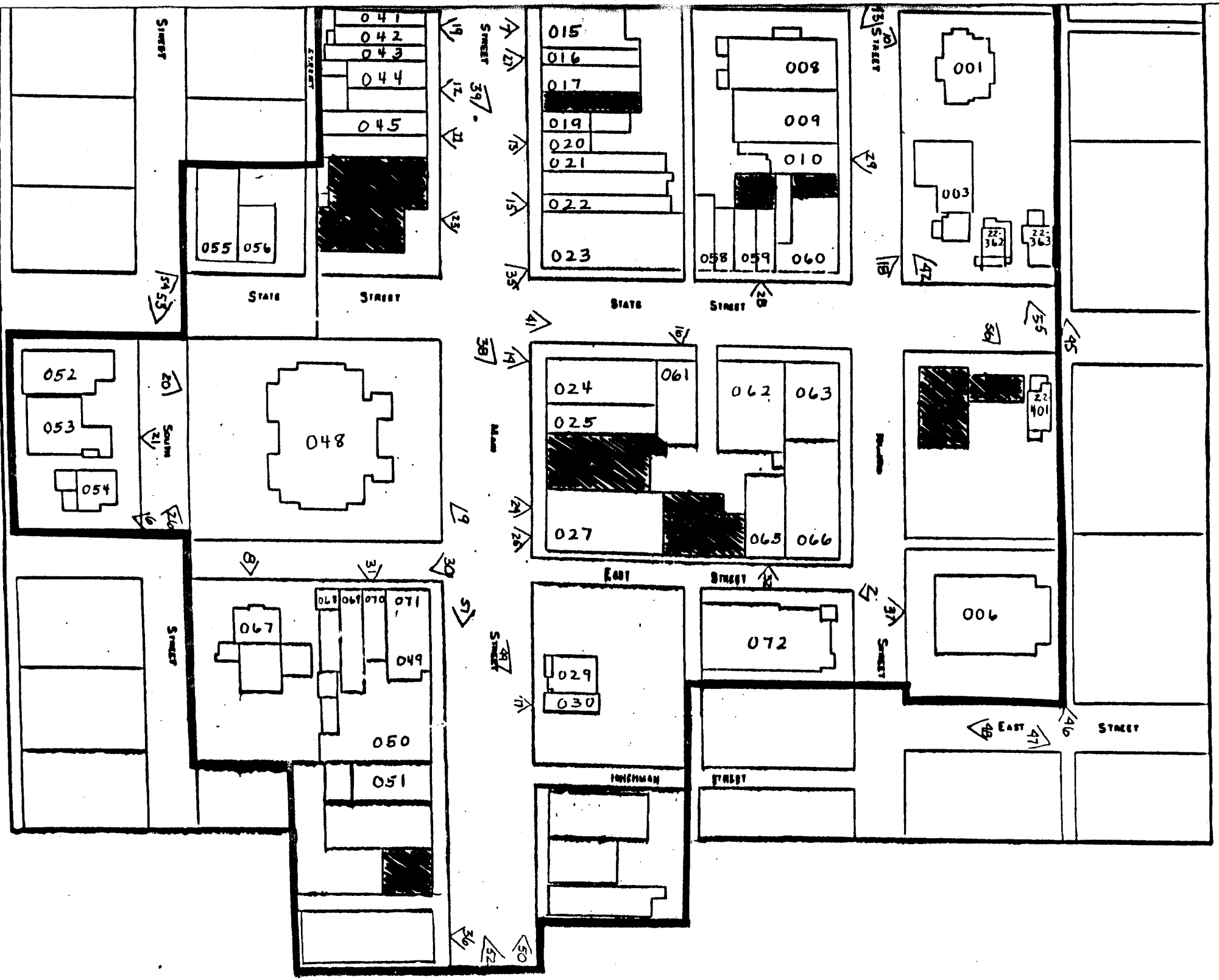

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Photo 2
Courthouse Square Historic District
Greenfield, IN
Christian Church 1895
23 East St. (21072)
View: West elevation from NW
Photographer: Diana Elrod 7/84
Neg. filed: Greenfield Historic Landmarks, Inc.

ONLY
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Photo 3
Courthouse Square Historic District
Greenfield, IN
Bradley Methodist Church 1902
200-10 W. Main St. (22250)
View: South & East elevations, from SE
Photographer: Diana Elrod 7/84
Neg. filed: Greenfield Historic Landmarks, Inc.