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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 30 1986

date entered

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

RECEIVED
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DIV. OF HIST. PRES. & ARCHEOL.

1. Name

historic: Downtown Wabash Historic District

and or common: Wabash Marketplace District

2. Location

street & number: Roughly bounded by Canal Street (south), Wabash Street (east), Hill Street (north), and Miami Street (west) — N/A not for publication

city, town: Wabash — N/A vicinity of

state: Indiana code 018 county: Wabash code 169

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name: Multiple owners

street & number:

city, town: ___ vicinity of state:

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Noble Township Assessor's Office

street & number: Wabash County Courthouse

city, town: Wabash state: Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

See continuation sheet

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

date: July 1982 — federal X state county local

depository for survey records: Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town: Indianapolis state: Indiana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wabash Marketplace District encompasses the vast majority of the City of Wabash's historic commercial buildings. Three entire city blocks and portions of the adjacent seven blocks are included within the boundaries. This area reached the peak of its density around the year 1900, coincidental with the last major building boom in the city's core. At this time, nearly all unimproved lots were developed. Since this time, there have been comparatively few demolitions within the commercial area, so that the district presents a remarkably well-preserved cohesiveness, especially on Canal Street.

The topography contributes greatly to the character of the historic district. The land rises from the southern boundary to the northern one along the general incline of the Wabash River Valley. Through successive 19th-century gradings, the east/west streets extend along generally leveled terraces. The north/south streets run along sloping grades, those above Market Street being much steeper. The foundations of many buildings along these north/south streets are banked into the hill. The exposed foundations, corresponding to the grades, often create unusual effects upon buildings' proportions, as the north and west facades of City Hall, 101 S. Wabash Street (photo #23) will demonstrate. Some buildings take particularly good advantage of the sloping grade; for example, the combined Sheriff's residence and jail, 31 W. Main Street (photo #17). (Both of these structures are described among the "pivotal buildings" that follow.) The interesting vistas created by the hills add to the distinctiveness of the city's character.

The gridiron pattern of the streets and the rectangular configuration of the original lots determined most of the building's footprints. The older buildings, especially, have narrow street frontages but extend back several times their width, being typical of 19th-century urban commercial structures. Nearly all of the structures are masonry and two or three stories in height. The tallest building in the district is the Eagles' Theater (photo #10); the largest is the Red Apple Inn (Hotel Indiana) (photo #J).

Of the approximately 100 buildings within the boundaries of the district, approximately 80 can be considered as contributing to the overall historic and architectural character of the area. The map of the district graphically identifies all non-contributing structures as well as parking lots. There follows a description and brief history of each of 29 structures selected as "pivotal buildings", largely because of their architectural merit. The opening paragraph summarizes the history, focusing upon the original construction and the major owners and/or tenants. The descriptions address scale, structure, plan, materials, design and stylistic features. For the convenience of viewing the accompanying photographs while reading the descriptions, the buildings are listed numerically by map number. Starting at the south of the district, the numbers run west to east (left to right) along the streets and progress northward. The numbers of the north/south streets (Miami and Wabash) follow the pattern of the existing street numbering system.

108 West Canal Street Photo 1

This building was erected in the late 1860s as the offices of Ross Bros. and Whisler, commonly known as the Ross Foundry. The company's manufacturing operations were located in a three-story stone building further west on Canal Street, where all types of iron castings, from sash weights to storefronts, were made. In the 1880s, Hubbard & Haas, dealers in agricultural implements, did business here. Since 1903, the firm of Schlemmer Brothers, originally specialists in tin, galvanized iron, and slate, has been located in this building. In its more than 80-year history, the company has also dealt in agricultural implements, harnesses, and hardware.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ 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/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1840-c. 1920 **Builder Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wabash Marketplace District takes its name from its role in the main commercial area for the city and the surrounding agricultural area. Its historical significance derives from several factors. Wabash served as an early trading center along the Wabash and Erie Canal and later continued a similar role during the railroad era. It supported a proportionately large Jewish population during the 19th century; many of these German immigrants were leaders in the development of commercial businesses within the district. During the early 1880s, the community was one of the country's pioneers in the use of electricity for street lighting--a progressive experiment that was symbolic of the city's continued prosperity. Wabash was the home and founding place of the world-renowned Honeywell Corporation. It also served as the governmental and judicial center for the county and city, and many of its lawyers became important state legislators. The district is also architecturally significant for its variety of commercial buildings that represent every decade of the city's development from the 1840s to the 1920s. Especially important are the numerous examples of the Romanesque Revival style in the 1890s and the early years of the 1900s.

Commercial Significance

Wabash County and the surrounding area was not opened to settlement until 1826, when the Treaty of Paradise Springs between the Miami and Potowatomi Indians and the U.S. Government was signed. Eight years later, Wabash was platted by David Burr and Hugh Hanna in April, 1834, as "Wabashtown." The platting was directly connected with the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal. Col. David Burr was a Commissioner for the Construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal and was well aware of the land purchased for the canal route in 1832-33. The plat was laid on the north line of the canal bed with a provision for docks, which were located at the southern corners of street intersections along Canal Street. One of these areas within the district is currently occupied by the Bradley Block (photo #7). The first sale of town lots took place just 24 hours after the bids had been let for construction of the canal in May, 1834. Early commercial establishments were begun within a few months on Canal Street by Hugh Hanna, who established a dry goods store, and others.

At this time Wabash was a smaller settlement than Lagro, which was located further east along the canal and was platted by John Tipton. However, Wabash was selected as county seat in 1835, partially due to an offer made by Hanna and Burr to provide a courthouse site and construct a suitable building. This courthouse was completed in 1839.

Wabash grew slowly but steadily in the 1830s and '40s. The Wabash and Erie Canal reached the town in 1837 and was completed to Lafayette in 1843. By 1840 the town boasted five brick buildings, primarily commercial, located along Canal Street. In addition to these masonry structures, there were numerous log cabins which served as residences and shops. These buildings were located mainly along Canal Street. In 1846 the first newspaper, The Upper Wabash Argus, began publication, and in 1849 telegraph lines were strung along the canal route. Wabash was first incorporated on January 16, 1849.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 17 acres

Quadrangle name Wabash, Indiana Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	599320	4516860
B	16	599540	4516890
C	16	599670	4516730
D	16	599560	4516520
E	16	599380	4516500
F	16	599180	4516640
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please 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 Mary Ellen Gadski and
Mary Toshach, architectural historians; Linda Robertson

organization Wabash Marketplace date July 31, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 432 telephone 219/563-1121 or 563-2972

city or town Wabash state Indiana 46992

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 James M Rideout

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-23-86

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

GPO 894-788

Jim Amoss Building
110 S. Wabash Street
August 30, 1984

Solomon Wilson Building
102 S. Wabash Street
August 30, 1984

These properties were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 30, 1984.

This three-story brick building, characteristic of the first generation of commercial buildings in Wabash, stands in a remarkable state of preservation. It was divided at the ground floor into two units, while its upper floors were open loft space. This is expressed on the facade by the two identical cast-iron storefronts and the uniformity of the six bays of the upper floors. The windows are all rectangular, double-hung units with simple stone lintels and sills. Painted advertisements formerly stretched across the facade above and below the windows, somewhat masking the plain character. The storefronts remain as built except for the infill of the transoms above the double doors. The makers' plate in the center pilaster reads, "Ross Bros. &/Whislers/Wabash."

102 West Canal Street Photo 2

This commercial building was associated with the Small family for well over half a century. Enoch P. Small (1839-1914) was engaged in the milling business and, according to his obituary, installed the first roller mill ever used in the county. In the 1880s this building was known as Small & Company's flour and feed store, which served as an outlet for Upper Union Mills, then operated by the family. Theodore Small (1859-1934) continued the business here, for a time under the name Small & Bechtold, and in the mid-1890s expanded his trade into groceries. After 1907 his sons, Goldwin and Garl, successively continued the family-run grocery business until the 1940s.

As was true of many commercial buildings on Canal Street, 102 W. Canal was rebuilt in the 1880s and owes its predominant stylistic characteristics to this later date. Its original construction date is not known, but it was modernized in 1884. As the changes in brick seem to indicate, the two-story building was formerly four bays wide on Canal Street before the corner was diagonally "cut" to provide a new, more fashionable entryway. It extends seven bays along its side elevation on Miami Street. The ground floor has been remodeled several times to the extent that little 19th-century character survives; however on the second floor, the 1880 fabric remains intact. The rectangular double-hung windows sport exuberant sheet-metal caps of unusual form with stamped ornament, those along the Miami facade varying from those along Canal. The bracketed cornice is also very distinctive. It is composed of applied four-petal flowers along the eaves alternating with smaller brackets

64 West Canal Street Photo 3

Robert Sweetser erected this building in 1881 on the site of his father's store, which dated to the 1840s. The first tenant was Carrie Staadecker, whose fashionable millinery and dress shops were located here through the 1880s. Mrs. Staadecker was one of the first successful businesswomen in Wabash. Later, James McCrea, who had owned the building since 1881, located his dry goods business here for about 15 years. The longest-term occupant of the building was the F. W. Woolworth Company, which was in business at this location from 1912 to 1948.

The imprint of the Second Empire style is unmistakable in this brick building, even with the loss of the original ground floor storefronts. The hallmark of the style is the Mansard roof of a tall attic, here covered in hexagonal slate. The center section rises to a truncated tower, emphasizing the symmetry of the facade. At the second floor, the three bays are divided by geometrically incised stone pilasters, with a line of quoins at the sides. The windows of the first and third bays are of segmental arch form with matching hood moldings. The center bay's double windows are set into an elaborate and unusual enframement of ogee curves joined by a center lintel. The sheet-metal cornice is similarly treated as a

three-part composition with brackets between headblocks at the first and third bays, and a line of circles at the frieze of the center bay. The roof dormer's three round-arched windows are also set into an unusual enframement combining a segmental arch hood mold over the tall center window with round arch hood molds over the flanking smaller windows.

E. M. Conner Building Photo 4
52 West Canal Street

Miss Ella M. Conner (1862-1929) constructed this building in 1897 on land inherited from her father, William A. Conner, an investor in Wabash real estate. The new building replaced a one-story frame store on the site. The earliest known tenant was H. Wolf & Son, who ran a grocery store. The Wabash County Loan and Trust Company then located here shortly after the bank's founding in the fall of 1907. The bank remained 20 years until the construction of its new building at the corner of Canal and Wabash Streets was completed in July, 1927. Two successive hardware companies then did business here until 1961 when the current tenant, Wassman's Ladies' Apparel, moved in.

The two-and-one-half story brick structure with stone facade makes the most of its narrow site by a device commonly used in Wabash at the intersection of major streets: the facade turns the corner on its alley side, thus giving greater prominence to the building. A tall gabled parapet above this corner bay accentuates the effect. The choice of rock-faced limestone for the facade was a popular one in Wabash in the 1890s; here, the texture is enlivened by the variation of dressed and rough stone of the string courses. The current ground floor storefront dates to the early 1960s, with the shake-covered projecting roof structure over the sidewalk being more recent. The original design of the first floor remains unknown. All facade windows are rectangular, while those along the alley are of segmental arch form.

Beck Saddlery and Harness Shop Photo 5
49 West Canal Street

Tobias Beck (1815-1894) was engaged in the saddle and harness-making trade in this building soon after he came to Wabash in 1845. His son, Francis M. Beck (1843-1926), went into partnership with him in 1867, becoming sole owner in 1874, and later continuing the business with his two sons, William and Charles, under the name F. M. Beck and Sons. The third generation of the family sold carriages and buggies in addition to saddles and harnesses until 1920, when the automobile age rendered such a business obsolete. James D. Beck, another son of F. M. Beck, then opened a grocery store which remained in business for 20 years. The building was sold in 1943, thus ending nearly 100 years of continuous association with the Beck family.

This double-unit, three-story building was part of Commercial Row, the multi-unit structure built in the 1840s on a continuous limestone foundation at the edge of the Wabash and Erie Canal. Like many of the other units, the Beck Building's facade was altered from its original simple form. During F. M. Beck's ownership, probably in 1882, new storefronts were built and a new cornice added. The storefronts survive essentially as built, with the exception that there were formerly double doors in the center bay of the east side and the height of the two fronts varied, the west side's being taller. Both sides feature tall, cast-iron columns, paneled bases with an unusual diagonal, chamfered block, and a bracketed wood cornice. The parapet's bracketed metal cornice features an imaginative fan motif in its frieze. During a recent facade rehabilitation, paint was removed from the brick and

the upper floor windows were boarded and painted to simulate closed shutters. The simple stone lintels are the only decorative detail to survive from the original Commercial Row facade. The current paint scheme of yellow and green and the unpainted brick contrasts with the late 19th-century photographs of the building, which indicate the use of dark colors in the storefront and a light-colored paint on the bricks.

Wabash Loan & Trust Company Photo 6
8 West Canal Street

To celebrate the 20th-year anniversary of the founding of the Wabash County Loan and Trust Company, the bank opened the doors to its new building at the northwest corner of Canal and Wabash Streets on July 9, 1927. Attorney Nelson G. Hunter, a founder of the bank and its president during the time the new building was planned and constructed, had proclaimed it to be "a building for the future, the structure will accommodate the bank for 75 or 100 years." Ironically, the bank was the victim of the Depression and closed its doors in January, 1932. The longest-term tenant of the building was the Wabash Plain Dealer newspaper, which maintained its offices here from 1940 through 1966. Since that time, the building has been vacant or has supported short-term, marginal uses.

Architect Charles Weatherhogg of Fort Wayne relied upon classical proportions and design elements for the bank of the future. The three-story building is of steel frame construction with concrete floors and a facade of dressed Bedford limestone on a granite watertable. As built, the main banking room occupied the ground floor; the upper two floors were used for offices; and a large basement provided an assembly room for public meetings. Three-story-tall fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals demarcate the structural bays (three at the main facade on Canal Street, six along Wabash Street). The central main entrance is set into an entablature of composite classical orders, its main ornament being the acanthus-leaf achroteria. Original torchere light standards flank the doors. All windows are of rectangular form and have had mirror glass storm windows added in recent years. Above the attic story, which is capped by a cornice featuring a line of egg-and-dart ornamentation, a balustrade extends across the main facade. One of the most interesting features of the building is the copper clock mounted at the corner at the second floor level.

Bradley Block Photo 7
5-7 West Canal Street

The Bradley Block was constructed in 1901 on the site of the canal docks by the firm of Bradley Brothes, Druggists, which had been established in Wabash in 1894 by Charles and Oscar Bradley. The pharmacy first occupied the east half of the ground floor, then expanded to the entire floor. The second floor was rented for offices, and the third contained a lodge hall and ballroom. The Bradley Brothers continued in business here more than 40 years. At its peak, the firm operated five other pharmacies: two others in Wabash and one each in Huntington, Marion and Fort Wayne. For many years this corner of Wabash and Canal was a prime business location because it was the final passenger stop for the interurban and street cars.

The three-story structure with a facade of red pressed brick is four bays wide along Canal Street and three bays deep along Wabash. Although classical in its basic proportions, the building exhibits some stylistic characteristics of the Romanesque Revival that had been so popular in the previous decade in Wabash, namely, the rock-faced stone trim of the upper floor windows and the ground floor pilastered piers, now obscured by a sign board. The central access to the upper floors, its archway also now hidden, is unusual in that it was open to

the sidewalk. Also unusual is the combination of trabeated windows on the second floor, their lintels exhibiting label stops, and round arched windows on the third, with impost blocks carved in a foliar motif. The central parapet, which contains a stone tablet with the raised letters,"BRADLEY," between swags, formerly supported a large mortar and pestle above the dentiled sheet-metal cornice.

7 East Canal Street Photo 8

This commercial building was constructed in 1899-1900 on the site of the Star Woolen Mill (which was destroyed by fire in December, 1898). Its earliest-known occupants were the Wabash Electric Light Company and the Wabash Water Company, whose interests were combined in January, 1901, as the Wabash Water and Light Company. A number of express companies were established here between 1904 and 1915. One of the longest-term businesses ever located in this building is the current O.K. Barber Shop, which has been at this address approximately 35 years.

The two-story brick structure was designed for two ground floor businesses with offices above. The symmetrical facade is preserved nearly as it was built, although the storefronts have undergone some minor alteration with lowered ceiling heights. Three oak entrance doors (the central one leading to the second floor) are recessed behind the front plane of the facade and the single, central column supporting the steel lintel decorated with stars. The second story features two three-sided oriels with double-hung windows and metal bell-shaped roofs. A sheet-metal cornice with demarcating headblocks and medallions along the frieze extends across the top of this building as well as the adjacent, one-bay-wide brick building directly to the east (15 E. Canal).

Busick Block Photo 9
20 East Canal Street

This commercial building was constructed in 1882 by Joseph W. Busick (1830-1897), president of Wabash National Bank and one of the wealthiest and most prominent 19th-century citizens of Wabash. Busick's dry goods concern, which sold a wide assortment of merchandise (boots, shoes and clothing, carpets, notions, etc.), was located here for about ten years before relocating on Canal Street. From approximately 1893 to 1910, the retail outlet and warerooms of William P. Jones' furniture company (variously known as the Quaker Furniture Store, Jones and Whitcraft Furniture Company, and Simpson and Jones) was located here. Stoops Brothers, dealers in agricultural implements and feed, did business at this address for about 15 years, beginning in the mid-1920s, until the current occupant, the Baber Auto Supply Company, moved here in the late 1940s.

The first floor facade of this two-story brick structure has been completely rebuilt in recent years with a contemporary storefront dominated by a large, shingled pent roof. As is well documented in a plate from an 1884 county history, the ground floor originally was divided into two storefronts. Each had central entrances of double doors, recessed behind two cast-iron columns which rose to a level of the base of the surviving headblocks between floors. (Portions of these columns can now been seen on the interior.) Tall plateglass windows extended from a low paneled base to the ceiling, creating a very open facade ideally suited to the display of Busick's sundry dry goods. The six second-floor windows are set into molded stone frames with triangular pediments. Sheet-metal quoins now exist only at the second floor level but once extended down to the grade line. (Another line of quoins divided the two storefronts.) The ornamentation of the building's tall parapet and cornice is, perhaps, the most distinctive feature of the design. At the frieze that extends over the

first, second, fifth and sixth bays, brackets alternate with incised fleur-de-lis. Over the central two bays, a pediment rises between headblocks superimposed over engaged colonettes at the frieze. Within this enframement are the raised letters and numbers, "BUSICK BLOCK 1882." The current paint color scheme of green brick and black trim obscures much of the intended design effect as well as the intricate details. The building may have been designed by Indianapolis architect Edgar Hodgson, since it is similar to two other buildings he did: the Williamson Block at Bluffton (1881) and the Jacqua Block at Portland (1883).

Eagles Building Photo 10
104-106 West Market Street

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, which had first organized in Wabash in December, 1903, began construction of a new business block with theater in July, 1905. On March 30, 1906, the new theater, advertised as a "modern ground floor theater," opened with a seating capacity of 1163. Within a year, nearly all 18 offices and the two ground floor shops were rented. The initial success of the Eagles' ambitious real estate undertaking was short-lived, however, and the building was sold at public auction in 1912. (For a few years the name changed to the Yarnelle Building.) The theater was leased to the Dickson Brothers (William and Percy) in 1913; they then bought the building in 1917. They continued to operate the theater through the 1940s in conjunction with their other theaters in town, combining Vaudeville, road shows, and movies. The earliest known tenants of the ground floor shops were the Manhattan Cafe and Lunch Room and J. H. Sayre's real estate businesses. Tenants changed very frequently through the years, with the exception of a drug store which was located in the corner store from 1915 to 1940 through successive ownerships.

The four-story, red brick building is one of the largest buildings downtown, its footprint corresponding to the dimensions of an entire city lot. It was designed by Arland W. Johnson of Toledo, who had built a large number of theaters across the country. The only significant change to the main facade has been at the center portion of the ground floor, where the original theater entrance and canopy have been replaced, and the east storefront, to which a shake-covered overhang has been added. Architectural features of note include: the two-story tall pilasters at the center bays of the second and third floors; the tripartite round-arch windows of the third floor (all other windows in the building are rectangular); the prominent string courses above the first and third floors; the projecting modillioned cornice; and the roof parapet. On the interior, the theater occupies most of the first through third floors. The main floor seating takes a fan shape on a raked floor. The house has a 60-foot ceiling with two tiers of balconies, the upper having had gallery bench seating origially. There are two proscenium boxes to either side of the 68-foot-wide stage, from which arches spring, echoing the lines of the proscenium. The fourth floor of the building has a large hall (100 x 75 feet) which was used by the Eagles for their lodge activities; it was remodeled in the 1900s as a ballroom for weekly dances and contains an ornate, hand-painted ceiling and stenciled walls.

The Plain Dealer Photo 11
98 West Market Street Streetscape V

This building was constructed in 1897 for the offices of the PLAIN DEALER newspaper, which had begun publication in August, 1859, as the Wabash PLAIN DEALER, a Democratic paper founded on the model of the Cleveland PLAIN DEALER. At the time of the building's construction, Warren Bigler, attorney, was president of the newspaper corporation and Charles S. Haas (1859-1935) was its editor. (Haas had been born in the two-story dwelling on the site that was razed for the new building.) Coincidental with the newspaper's move into their new

offices in May, 1898, the Home Telephone Company moved into second story quarters. In 1895, the telephone company had organized under Dr. R. F. Blount, a pioneer in independent telephone service in Indiana, as a reaction against the Bell Company. During its first few years at this location, Home Telephone completed long distance connections to Marion and Indianapolis. In 1910 the phone exchange moved to new quarters on West Market Street. The newspaper remained at this location until around 1920. Other commercial concerns then located here, including a jeweler and a barber.

The two-story building's main frontage on Market Street is only 20 feet wide; the side elevation extends 102 feet along Miami Street. The main facade is constructed of coursed blocks of rock-faced Bedford limestone, the popular choice for several of Wabash's contemporary commercial buildings that took their design inspiration from the Romanesque Revival style. The square windows of the building's raised basement were designed to illuminate the press rooms located below grade. At the main facade a recessed entryway between stone piers at the corner led up a flight of steps to the main business office, which was lit by an immense plateglass window above the raised basement. (Much of this window has recently been filled in with vertical boards.) At the second floor level, there are conventional rectangular double-hung windows. Decorative embellishment of this building is sparse but includes such features of note as: the carved stone parapet tablet (THE/PLAIN/DEALER/1897); the minimal cornice line of square stone blocks; the carved foliar capitals of the first floor piers; and the "alligatored" hammered stone tablets above the entry. Miami Street's facade is of red pressed brick on a foundation of coursed limestone blocks. All door and window openings are of segmental arch form.

S. J. Payne Block Photo 12
84 West Market Street

Samuel J. Payne (1839-1924) erected this structure in 1898 as a retail outlet for the furniture business in which he and his brother, Thomas, were engaged. In the 1880s, the company's manufactory employed more people in Wabash than any other business except, perhaps, the school furniture company. This building was built on the east portion of the site of the Haas family dwelling, the last undeveloped lot on Market Street between Miami and Wabash Streets. Payne combined the professions of funeral director (embalmer) and furniture dealer, a common practice on the late 19th century, stemming from the coffin-making business. His store was located here for only ten years; soon thereafter, other combined furniture and undertaking businesses operated here until around 1930, when the ground floor was divided in two. The Union Coffee Shop and Union Cigar Store shared the building in the 1940s and '50s.

The two-story, L-plan building fronts 44 feet on Market Street, extends back 102 feet to the alley to the north, and jogs west to a 20-foot-wide side elevation on Miami Street. It is constructed of brick with an iron and steel frame. Perhaps the single most interesting feature of the building is the main material of its Market Street facade: a brown, glazed vitrified brick with a rock-faced surface. This type of brick was popular for a brief period at the turn of the century; these particular bricks are known to have come from Burgoon & Co. in Logan, Ohio. The symmetrical facade's three bays are divided by stone-trimmed pilasters. These pilasters and the steel lintel with rosettes formed the frame of the original storefronts, which features expansive plate-glass windows for the display of furniture. At the second floor, pairs of round-arched windows occur within three surmounting round arches. The composition is richly detailed by contrasting materials, with

rock-faced stone lintels and imposts, and red terra-cotta panels with garlands, archivolts, keystones, and decorative blocks and lions' heads in the tympana of the large arches. At cornice level are two bands of egg-and-dart moldings in terra cotta. The final eclectic touch is a central parapet composed of pediment upon flared base, with a scalloped fan above the stone tablet: "S. J. PAYNES 18 BLOCK 98." Miami Street's secondary facade of plain brick with limestone trim echoed some of the themes of the main facade in a less elaborate composition. Its ground floor has undergone a total remodeling in recent years.

J. C. Penney's
75 West Market Street Photo 13

Although this building has been known as J. C. Penney's store for over 60 years, it was originally built for a completely different purpose. In 1920 the Dickson Brothers built a new theater of 900 seats from the shell of Harter's Opera House, a prominent community landmark in Wabash. Over $30,000 was spent to create a new facility from the old opera house, whose structure dated to the 1870s. The Dickson's theater was not a success, and following a period of vacancy, J. C. Penney's opened its 553rd outlet in its chain here in October, 1924. It has remained at this location ever since. For a brief period in the 1950s, the Crest Theater was located in the theater space on the second floor.

Although the building rises to three-story height, it is technically only two stories, the second floor being a tall space for the theater. The 1920s facade is an interesting amalgamation, blending elements of the Prairie and Mission styles (both primarily residential) for an urban commercial building. The choice of brown brick, with soldier courses as string courses and wire-cut header bricks in rectangular outlines, is very typical for commercial buildings of the 1920s. Atypical are the casement windows of the second floor, especially the central band window, and the projecting pent roof of green tiles. The ground floor has been remodeled several times by Penney's since 1924. The Dickson's facade probably included a projecting marquee for the theater.

Farmers and Merchants National Bank Photo 14
55 West Market Street

Erected in 1910 by the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, this structure was touted as the "Most elaborate building in Wabash" at the time of its construction. Crowds gathered in July on Market Street to watch the erection of the monolithic stone columns, each weighing six tons. Farmers and Merchants National Bank, which had first organized in 1901, became a national bank the following year and merged with Wabash National Bank in 1927. Following the nationwide bank holiday in March, 1933, the bank never reopened. The building was then used by doctors and dentists for offices until the present owner, First Federal Savings and Loan, purchased it in 1966.

Here, a neoclassical facade of dressed limestone was added to a conventional two-story brick structure, which extends back to the alley, the building's depth being over five times its street frontage. The original facade was organized within the basic elements of the Greek temple which survive; namely, the pediment and entablature supported by two Ionic columns with tall plinths at the corners. In the late 1960s, a new glass and aluminum facade was inserted within the frame of the temple. Originally, the main entrance occurred within a one-story pedimented enframement of stone, much like a temple within a temple. A door on the west side led to the second floor, which served as the lodge hall and state headquarters of the Maccabees for nearly 30 years. The current facade is, therefore, more

stark than the original design, especially with the loss of other decorative elements such as the raised letters, "FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK," which originally extended across the frieze. The architect remains unknown; however, the building's contractor was P. H. McCormick.

26 West Market Street Photo 15

This structure was built in 1888 by the heirs of Samuel Smith, Jr., who had died in the spring of that year. Smith had purchased the property the previous fall from Mary Newman, proprietor of the Tremont Hotel, no doubt with the intention to build. Construction was coincidental with that of the addition to the new hotel, which was immediately adjacent to the west. For most of its history, the building was associated with businesses centering upon food: groceries, a restaurant, and a meat market. Its first tenant was Arthur B. Sweetser, who operated a grocery here from the time of the building's completion through 1902. That same year, Alvah S. Tilman opened a restaurant and operated here for six years. After 1908 he was followed by the Sundheimer & Meyer meat market, which was operated here by John Sundheimer and Simon Meyer through 1920. During the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, the McNarney Brothers (John and Michael) had a grocery business here.

The small brick structure is two stories high and three bays wide. Its ground floor facade has been completely remodeled within the past 25 years. The upper story, however, remains as built with the exception of the boarding up of the windows. Comparison of the second story with old photos of the Tremont Hotel, which was demolished in 1948, reveals that this buildnig was closely modeled after the large hotel built in stages in 1887 and 1888. The pedimented, sheet-metal hoods of the tall, narrow windows and the building's bracketed sheet-metal cornice are very similar to these same architectural elements of the hotel. The general proportions of the two structures were also similar, although the hotel rose three stories. Because the Tremont Hotel was so prominent in Wabash's history, the survival of this related building takes on greater significance than its survival as a late 19th-century commercial building first indicated.

National Block Photo 16
2 West Canal Street Streetscape V

In 1876 William R. Collins and the First National Bank of Wabash jointly undertook the construction of this large structure which combined the bank's headquarters with four ground floor shops and with numerous offices plus a hall in the upper stories. At the time of its construction, it was the most ambitious building project ever undertaken in Wabash. It also proved to be an architectural trendsetter. Collins (b. 1823) had been a bricklayer until the close of the Civil War, when he began a very successful ice business that was probably the foundation for this real estate venture. The First National Bank had been organized in 1863 and was under the presidency of Josiah S. Daugherty at the time the decision was made to construct a new bank building. Hezekiah Caldwell (1823-1892), who had been a building contractor in Wabash since 1852 and later was a brick manufacturer, served as the superintendent of construction. Its architect remains unknown.

The ownership and tenancy has been complicated since the building's completion. The first National Bank was located in the rooms at the intersection of Market and Wabash Streets; it also owned the two northernmost storefronts on Wabash and the floors above. Collins owned the storefront on Market Street, the southernmost storefront on Wabash (which, for over 20 years, was occupied by a bookstore), and all rooms above these. One of the earliest building tenants was Albert L. Rohbock (1847-1916), a druggist, who operated his pharmacy on Market Street from 1877 to 1890. A drugstore continued to be located here through the 1920s. Initially, a third-story room directly over the bank was rented to the City for the use of the fire department. A large part of the third floor was owned by the Wabash County Medical Society from 1878 to 1899, followed by the Royal Arcanum Lodge and the Phi Psi fraternal order from 1899 to 1902. In February, 1910, the First National Bank and the Wabash National Bank (organized in 1888) consolidated under the latter name. This merger brought about a remodeling, but the bank remained here only three years. In July, 1913, the Citizens Savings and TrustCompany, organized in April of that year, opened here. Although this bank moved to another location in 1927, the building continued to be known as the Citizens Bank Building until the 1940s.

The three-story National Block is rectangular in plan, extending 40 feet (five bays) along Market Street and 132 feet (15 bays) along Wabash Street. The diagonal entrance bay at the corner appears to be the first use of this type of plan in Wabash. The main building material is brick; the foundation is of rubble stone; and all trim stone (the quoins of the corner bay, the watertable, the window sills) is Monroe County limestone. The multi-colored, slate-covered Mansard roof with its eight dormers and two towers is typical of the Second Empire style which was at the zenith of its popularity, nationally. The tower over the entrance bay features a triple, stilted arch window and a tall, domical roof with bull's eye windows. The other tower (over the southernmost storefront on Wabash Street) rises from a bellcast base with triple windows and features a truncated pyramid, also with bull's eye windows. The main roof line and the towers formerly sported elaborate iron cresting. The windows of the second story are double-hung rectangular units; those of the third are of segmental arch form. They all feature galvanized iron window hoods that were originally painted and sanded in imitation of stone. The continuous bracketed cornice is also of galvanized iron and was treated in the same manner. One of the most interesting features of the building is the door in the third floor of the entrance bay, above which are the letters, "NATIONAL BLOCK." A three-sided balcony with iron railings was formerly supported by brackets here. The date, 1876, was worked into the unique door cap. Another balcony existed at the second floor directly above the Market Street storefront.

Major alterations have occurred at the ground floor level. One of the first changes was the total rebuilding of the Market Street storefront circa 1900, when the floor level was lowered to grade level and a flight of five steps was eliminated. The new storefront then featured large plate-glass windows and four rectangular windows above. All traces of this storefront have been removed by the current one, to which most recently was added the shake-covered overhanging roof. In 1910 the newly-consolidated bank also lowered its floor level to grade level, eliminating its steps and completely changing its entry. The current classical door enframement of stone columns, a broken pediment of inverse volutes, and the clock frame all date to the 1910 remodeling, as do the rectangular windows in the flanking bays. None of the three storefronts along Wabash Street retains its original configuration, the southernmost one having been completely rebuilt by the bank in 1910. In 1982, the north half of the building was sympathetically cleaned and repainted, which has furthered the myth that the northern seven bays were a later addition to the 1876 structure.

Sheriff's House and Jail
31 West Main Street

Photo 17

Coincidental with the construction of the new courthouse, plans were begun in late 1879 to replace the county jail that had been built in the early 1850s. Attached to the jail was to be a new residence for the County Sheriff. B. V. Enos & Son, the architects of the courthouse, designed the combined structure, and L. S. Wilson served as contractor. It was constructed for approximately $20,000. The building continued its original use for nearly a century until a new jail was built in 1979. The building now serves as offices of the Wabash County Welfare Department.

The two-story red brick residence for the Sheriff fronts Main Street and takes precedence over the slightly smaller jail, which is attached to the rear. The stone jail is also two stories high but, because of the steep grade of the site, it appears as a one-story building with a high basement. Much of the superior design quality of the Italianate Sheriff's residence is obscured by the one-story front porch added in the 1920s. At the main facade, a central projecting pavilion with sandstone quoins rises above the line of the low hipped roof and terminates in a pedimented gable with a central oculus window. At the peak of the roof is a short tower with a pyramidal roof. At the roof's edge are dormer-like vents in horseshoe form. Along all four sides of the structure runs a projecting cornice of alternating brackets and molded panels. The tall, first-floor windows are of round arched form with rusticated sandstone window caps of pointed arch form. At the second floor, the rectangular windows' stone caps are of segmental arch form with label stops. The entire structure rests on a rubble stone foundation with dressed stone watertable. Besides the front porch, the only notable alteration to the house has been the replacement of the original front door. Its arched stone enframement with engaged columns has survived. The jail, which is nearly square in plan, is constructed of large, rough-faced stone slabs.

Memorial Hall
89 West Hill Street

Photo 18

Memorial Hall was erected in 1899 as a tribute to Union Civil War veterans. Alexander Hess, Alvah Taylor, and B. F. Williams led the efforts to procure a site and raise funds for a building that would serve the community far greater than the typical monument. Following a popular petition, a tax of $25,000 was levied to pay for construction. Memorial Hall has been referred to as "the second structure of the kind in the United States." It is an uncommon manifestation of patriotism by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and may be the only building of its kind in Indiana.

In addition to the assembly rooms' use for G.A.R. meetings and the basement's use for community dinners and events, the earliest functions of the building included an office for the City Superintendent of Schools and a museum and headquarters for the county's historical society. The building often served as a location for special events, such as the Women's Temperance Union convention in October, 1904, and the farmers' corn show in November, 1908, or as an emergency shelter, such as for flood victims in the spring of 1913 and January, 1930, or for influenza victims crowded out of Park Hospital in the epidemic of February, 1920. In 1938 the historical society again relocated its museum to Memorial Hall (after an interim period in the County Courthouse) and has maintained this location ever since.

The two-story building with raised basement is constructed with 18-inch-thick masonry load-bearing walls: brick with rock-faced Bedford limestone with dressed stone trim. Technological advances in its construction include a steel-trussed hip roof, tile partition walls, and concrete floors. In plan, the building is rectangular, approximately 40 by 80 feet, with its long axis parallel to Hill Street. Circular towers with conical roofs are placed at its northeast and northwest corners. The hipped roof's original red clay tile has been replaced by shingles in recent years. Architect J. C. Gault of Lima, Ohio, drew heavily upon the popular Romanesque Revival style, then reaching its last years, nationally. The focal point of the asymmetrical main facade is the entry pavilion. A flight of 15 steps leads to the double doors, recessed within the typical semicircular archway resting upon colonettes. To the east of the portal, a semicircular stair tower projects, accentuating the asymmetricality. Between the arch and the second floor rectangular windows is a mosaic tile tablet depicting a Civil War battlefield. The pavilion rises above the roof line, its flanking tourelles topped by spiral cone roofs of copper. The majority of the building's windows are double-hung units surmounted by round arches, the arch form highlighted by stone moldings that terminate in a foliar ornament. The first floor's greater height is notable in its taller windows. Except at the entry pavilion, a stone banding of machicolations encircles the building below the cornice.

United States Post Office Photo 19
110 South Miami Street

This building was erected in 1911-1912 by the federal government for the City of Wabash. It has continually served as a post office since the day it was opened, April 20, 1912. It was designed by architect John Knox Taylor, who was Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department from 1897 to 1912. In this role, he designed numerous government structures and post offices across the country, including the San Francisco Custom House and the Federal Building in Indianapolis. Fremont Ward served as the Superintendent of Construction. The building's cost was approximately $70,000.

This classically-inspired, one-story building at the corner of Miami and Main Streets is square in plan. There are five bays to each side as demarcated by pilasters. The structure is faced in dressed Bedford limestone and rests on a granite foundation, which is visible as a raised basement on the south portion of the building owing to the sloping grade of the site. The main elevation on Miami Street features an entrance portico of four fluted Doric columns supporting a projecting pediment. The main entry door has been replaced by a fixed window in recent years. It is set within a tall Roman arch and is topped by a fanlight. Globed torcheres exist atop the stairwells here, as well as at the secondary entrance fronting Main Street (now the main entrance). The building's windows are all rectangular, set within a classical architrave, with a rectangular carved panel above; they originally accommodated a single pane of glass and now have aluminum units. Above the modillioned cornice that surrounds the building runs an open balustrade. A large central skylight formerly illuminated the public lobby, which has undergone reconfiguration. Finish materials such as Vermont marble and oak woodwork still survive in the current lobby.

Wabash County Courthouse Photo 20
South Wabash Street

This building is Wabash County's third courthouse. The cornerstone was laid in May, 1878, eight years after fire had destroyed the second courthouse, which had been built in the

1840s. A few months after the new courthouse was completed in the fall of 1879, Wabash became the first electrically lighted city in the world when four Bruch arc lamps were experimentally installed on the building's tower. This was, undoubtedly, the single most important historical event in the city's history.

The courthouse was sited on the brow of the hill of the Public Square, a large parcel of land equal to four city lots. When it was constructed, the courthouse dwarfed all surrounding buildings. The two-story building is essentially rectangular in plan, with projecting pedimented pavilions at each elevation and porches at its north, east, and south elevations. Architect B. V. Enos of Indianapolis successfully played upon the contrast of brick and sandstone to create a lively design with polychromed effect. Comparatively little brick wall surface is actually exposed as the stone trim of the windows dominates the composition. The main structure rests upon a raised basement of limestone blocks so that the first floor is reached by long flights of stone steps leading to the entry porches. The flat-roofed, balustraded porches are supported by groupings of Tuscan columns. The first floor's round-arched windows, which occur in pairs, are set into Renaissance style stone enframements. On the second story, taller windows also occur in pairs (except in the pavilions, which have three); they are of segmental arch form with alternating brick and stone voussoirs. The corners of the building are strongly accentuated by piers of banded stone. From the deck of the flat hipped roof, which was formerly of tin, rises a monumental four-sided clock tower with a domical roof. Each side of the tower has a round-arched vent within a pediment supported by paired columns. The roofline has undergone the only significant exterior alterations. In 1958 minaret-like elements above the four corner piers, similar to the general design of the clock tower, were removed. Also taken off were 16 chimneys, cresting at the roof deck, and numerous weather vanes, all of which contributed to the overall liveliness of the design. Interior features of note include the encaustic tile floors, the stamped metal ceilings and grand staircase, and the walnut woodwork and doors.

On the east lawn of the courthouse is a bronze memorial sculpture of Abraham Lincoln by Charles Keck and a State marker commemorating the first electrically lighted city.

Bigler & Dicken Building Photo 21
11 South Wabash Street

John H. Dicken (1848-1912) and Warren Bigler (1851-1930) were partners in a general law practice which focused upon their unique abstract records for the City of Wabash. In connection with their title work, they conducted a large mortgage loan business and owned much real estate in the city. The Bigler & Dicken Building was constructed by them in 1900 as a speculative real estate investment. (The offices of the firm were never located here.) The earliest known tenants of the divided ground floor were M. L. Chapler's grocery store and Flora DePuy's art store, both of which had moved by 1910. The upper floor offices were rented by a variety of physicians and realtors, later being converted into apartments. The longest-term tenant of the ground floor was Gackenheimer Pharmacy, which was located here from the late 1930s to 1961.

Like a number of commercial buildings constructed in Wabash at this time, the design of the Bigler & Dicken Building took its inspiration from the Romanesque Revival style. The three-bay-wide, three-story facade of rock-faced limestone blocks is trimmed with dressed limestone ornamentation. In recent years, the ground floor has undergone a totally inappropriate rebuilding in brick with "picture" windows and a shingled pent roof with gable.

Originally, there was a grand entry arch at the center, of which only the uppermost elements of its entablature, including acanthus leaf corner blocks, survive. To either side were large, squarish display windows of plate-glass, above which ran the surviving line of finely detailed vine ornamentation. The upper floors remain as built with the exception of the windows. Round arched window forms alternate with rectangular ones in a checkerboard fashion. On the second floor's first and third bays, semicircular arches rest upon three stylized, engaged colonettes. New stationary, aluminum frame windows replace the original double-hung windows on this floor. On the third floor, the windows have been boarded up. At the roof line, an open balustrade of stone extends over the first and third bays. At the center, a parapet rises between stone piers for two tablets: "1900" surmounting "BIGLER & DICKEN." While the architect remains unknown, the building's contractor was Mat Jones.

Shively Block
59-73 South Wabash Street

Photo 22

Judge Harvey B. Shively (1844-1909) erected this building as a business investment in 1897. By this time, he had been a prominent attorney in Wabash for nearly 30 years and had served one term in the State Legislature, and was in his second term as Circuit Court Judge. No doubt, the judge had first-hand knowledge of the need for office space for attorneys in proximity to the County Courthouse, directly across the street. Indeed, in its early years, the building's upper floors were occupied by attorneys, notaries, insurance men, and loan officers, to be followed later by physicians. The office of Shively & Switzer was located in the building from 1903, when the judge retired from the bench, until his death in 1909. Perhaps the best-known tenant of the building was the Gackenheimer Pharmacy, which was located in the northernmost storefront, No. 59. Emanuel Gackenheimer opened his "Deutsche Apotheke" in November, 1901, and remained here until he outgrew the space in 1937 and relocated to the Bigler & Dicken Building up the street. In its early years, the drugstore was best known for its soda fountain.

The three-story brick building has a facade of rock-faced limestone blocks. It extends six bays wide on a steep grade of Wabash Street which, no doubt, had delayed the lot's development until the late 1890s. The facade is made asymmetrical by the interesting entry bay to the second floor and the window groupings of the second story. Quite recently, the original storefronts, which featured large plate-glass windows, were removed and replaced by the current board-and-batten siding, new windows and doors, and shingled pent roofs. New aluminum storms also detract from the second floor windows; the third floor windows have been boarded up. Stylistic features of the popular Romanesque Revival include: the foliar capitals of the ground floor piers dividing the storefronts; the four tourelles of the third floor which rise above the roofline; and the simulated machicolations of the parapet of the central bays. Research has not yet revealed the architect of this building; however, William Steuart, a contractor/builder who also advertised himself as an architect, was an early tenant of the building and may have had some involvement in its construction.

City Hall
101 South Wabash Street

Photo 23

Wabash's City Hall was constructed in 1883-84 and has remained the seat of municipal government since that time. It was designed to accommodate the City's fire department on

the first floor, with offices of the chief municipal officials (the Mayor, the Treasurer, the Clerk, the Engineer, etc.) and the City Council Chambers on the second floor. The site had been purchased in 1878 when architectural plans were submitted by B. V. Enos (architect for the Courthouse); however, action was delayed for five years. When interest in building the structure was renewed in 1883, the newly submitted architectural plans of Frederick A. Grant were accepted, and he also was awarded the building contract. The building remained relatively unchanged until the administration of Mayor James Vice, when the police headquarters and fire department moved to new buildings. The first floor was then remodeled for offices in 1975.

The two-story structure of red pressed brick and stone trim is sited at the corner of Wabash and Main Streets, both of which have sloping grades. The partially exposed foundation walls and north first floor wall are of coursed rubble stone blocks. The first floor of the main elevation is organized by an arcade of seven bays executed in dressed limestone. Like other architectural features of this building, the arcade is quite individualistic and eclectic—it does not follow any single style but, rather, is an imaginative mixture of elements. At the doorways of the end bays and the central bay, the arches rest upon piers with alternating courses of brick insets; in between the second and third bays from each end is an engaged column. The effect of the arcade was drastically altered in the 1970s, when the windows were blocked in and doors were changed. Originally, two large double doors in the central bay led into the fire department's main room, with stables immediately adjacent. On the second floor, a large, round-arched window in the center bay is composed of two pointed arch sections. The window belonged to the Mayor's office. The other six windows are uniformly tall and narrow in proportion, with imaginatively incised caps and aprons. Further emphasizing the importance of the center bay is a steep gable that breaks the roofline. The sheet-metal cornice has its own arcade which becomes stilted at the gable. Directly above this, at the deck of the flat hipped roof, was an octagonal belfry of iron which was removed many years ago.

Solomon Wilson Building
102 South Wabash Street

Photo 24

Solomon Wilson (1832-1906) built this commercial structure in 1882 on the site of the Nye Marble Works. Wilson was a man of diverse professions: he taught in the Wabash schools from 1851 to 1859; he was the proprietor of a meat market in 1875; and he was a director of the Wabash School Furniture Company for over 40 years. It appears that he erected this building as a real estate investment. From the late 1880s until 1918 the ground floor shop was occupied by successive drug stores (Swadley & Son; Arthur Seawright, and Merker Drug Store). For the past 67 years Scheerer's Grocery Market has been continually located here. The second and attic floors were used as club rooms from the 1890s through the 1930s. This building as listed on the National Register on August 30, 1984.

This two-and-one-half-story building of pressed brick is in an excellent state of preservation, there having been very few changes made in over 100 years. Rectangular in plan except for the diagonal bay at the corner, it extends seven bays along Main Street and two down Wabash. The main entrance is located in the diagonal bay, which is accented by stone quoins on both the first and the second floors. Several stylistic features were modeled to harmonize with the adjacent building to the south built a year earlier; for example, the pilaster dividing the two bays of the Wabash Street storefront; the line of dentils under the storefront's cornice; the use of quoins, and the general style and rhythms of the main

bracketed cornice. The major stylistic difference between the two buildings is the Mansard roof, generally associated with the Second Empire style, which features two stilted arch windows in elaborate horseshoe enframements and three bull's eye windows. The Mansard's original honeycomb-pattern slate has recently been replaced by artificial slate. All second floor windows, and the original second floor door, are of segmental arch form with limestone surrounds. The exterior iron stair on the north elevation (manufactured in Wabash by "Ross Bros. & Whislers") is also original, as is the side door in the westernmost bay. The only structural change on the exterior has been the addition of a door with a rectangular window above it on the north wall. In 1982 an exterior restoration resulted in the present paint scheme and the replacement of some lost decorative elements, such as the double-leaf main entrance doors, modeled after the surviving original doors of the north elevation. On the interior the grocery features a metal-stamped ceiling in excellent condition.

Jim Amoss Building Photo 25
110 South Wabash Street

James M. Amoss (1838-1906), an attorney and both Circuit Court Clerk and Wabash City Clerk, was involved in a real estate/loan/insurance business when he erected this building as an investment in 1880. The first known businesses here were a tailor shop run by J. Merchy and Simon Pfief on the ground floor and an insurance company in the second floor offices. By 1897, James Huddleston's barber shop and public bath was located here briefly, to be succeeded in 1901 by Rizzo Brothers' confectionary and fruit shop. In 1907 the Knights of Pythias purchased the building and located its lodge room on the second floor. During the 1910s successive printing concerns did business here. Other diverse tenants of this building have included the Salvation Army and the Wabash Business College, both here in 1924. This building was listed on the National Register on August 30, 1984.

This small brick commercial building is two stories high and three bays wide along Wabash Street. Before the building to the south was erected circa 1900, an exterior stair and porch existed on the south elevation. The ground floor storefront is divided by four dressed limestone pilasters resting on a limestone sill plate and foundation. The side pilasters are wider and topped by carved head blocks of the dentiled storefront cornice. The original store windows and door were altered over time, the present ones dating to the 1982 restoration. At the second floor, the two rectangular, double-hung windows and central door are topped by segmental arch sheet-metal hood molds sporting some fanciful ornamentation. Original cast-iron brackets support the restored balcony at the door. At the sides of the second store are stone quoins. The bracketed cornice features recessed ovaloid panels with ornamentations in its frieze, a line of dentils, and small scrolled brackets.

Hess Building Photo 26
129-131 South Wabash

Alexander Hess (1839-1924), an attorney, was called "the dean of the Wabash bar" in his later life. He was a distinguished Civil War veteran, having been promoted to Captain while imprisoned in the South, and served three terms in the lower house of the State Legislature. In 1894 he began a four-year service as Clerk of the Supreme and Appellate Courts. Upon returning to private practice in Wabash in 1898, he erected this building in which his office was located for 20 years. Other attorneys, notaries, and insurance men had offices in the upper floors through the 1940s, although several offices were converted to apartments by the 1920s. The first known tenant of the ground floor space was

James M. Huddleston's billiards and pool room. In the late 1910s, William Tay, a baker, was located here, followed by the Ideal Bakery in the 1920s.

The narrow, two-bay-wide, three-story facade has survived in an excellent state of preservation, with the exception of the infill of the ground floor display window. Above the storefront, the facade of rock-faced limestone with alternate courses of dressed stone exhibits many popular characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style, although the windows are atypically rectangular rather than of arched form. Some of its most interesting and individualistic architectural features are the small tourelle at the upper north corner of the facade, along the alley; the four narrow courses of stone between the second and third floors; the sawtooth stone edging of the third floor windows, capped by stylized lintels; and the intricate vine ornamentation below the name tablet of the central, gabled parapet. The well-detailed stone corner piers contrast with the cast-iron center post and steel lintel of the storefront. The incorporation of the stone transom block over the recessed entry, which features a studded fan, is somewhat unusual.

Honeywell Plumbing & Heating Photo 27
144 South Wabash Street

This building was probably constructed in the late 1870s by Francis M. Eagle (1816-1899), an attorney who had amassed a fortune in Wabash real estate in his lifetime. It was used for offices in the 1880s and 1890s and was briefly a confectionary around the turn of the century. Its most important occupant, however, was the Honeywell Heating Specialty Company, which was located here from 1907 to 1918. Its president, Mark C. Honeywell (1874-1964) had started his heating and plumbing business in 1900 in a building at the southeast corner of Wabash and Hill Streets (which is no longer extant). While at 144 South Wabash Street, Honeywell developed a number of advances in hot water heating, inventing several important devices such as a mercury standpipe heat generator. The company, of course, went on to establish a worldwide reputation in the field, its thermostats being its best-known product. It once employed 1,250 people in Wabash at the peak of its local manufacturing (1960), when it occupied 187,700 square feet of space in five separate buildings.

The two-story brick building is architecturally notable for its well-preserved storefront, which has a recessed central entrance between two large plate-glass windows and a side entry to the second floor (now boarded up). The wooden storefront cornice continues across the full width of the facade and features alternating brackets and modillions. Perhaps the most interesting architectural elements of the building are the three rope-molded, cast-iron colonettes which occur at the entries. At the second floor level, a large square window with divided transom is flanked by two round-arched windows with header brick voussoirs. The central window was probably an early 20th century alteration, perhaps made during Honeywell's occupancy. (A large, two-story addition was made to the rear of the building between 1901 and 1910.) The brick cornice is composed of projecting courses of brick, varying headers simulating dentils, stretchers, and a line of sawtooth brick.

McCrea Building Photo 28
225 South Wabash Street

In 1901, coincidental with the construction of the Bedford Block next door (photo #29), a new stone front was added here to an existing commercial building that may date to the 1860s. The L. B. Davis & Son boot and shoe store was the building's tenant in 1901, having been at this location since the 1880s. The building was owned by James McCrea (1827-1909), a principal owner and former president of Citizens Bank, who was, no doubt,

influenced by his neighbors to improve and upgrade his own building. Following construction of the new facade, the upper floor was used as professional offices while the ground floor had a variety of tenants after Davis, including a motion picture theater, a lunch room and cafe, and a beauty shop.

The two-and-one-half-story limestone facade repeats many of the stylistic features of the Bedford Building and, in fact, shares the northernmost pier of Bedford's facade, duplicating it at its own north edge. The intended effect was to make the ground floor appear as if it were all of the same building. The McCrea Building's storefront has been completely remodeled. The second floor features a three-part window of segmental arch form flanked by round-arched windows. This central window makes an interesting composition with the semicircular arched window directly above it in the attic story, although the effect is diminished by the fact that the top story's windows are now boarded up. The open parapet is the same as that of the Bedford's with the exception of the central arched tablet which reads, "1901/McCREA." A single stone urn at the north corner adds a final eclectic note to the facade.

Bedford Block Photo 29
231-237 South Wabash Street

In 1901 William H. Wilson (1840-1911), the former postmaster of Wabash, persuaded Warren Bigler (1851-1930), an attorney, that the two men should jointly build a new structure on their adjoining properties on South Wabash Street. At this time, three one-story frame buildings were on the site, the northernmost one being owned by Bigler and known as the Little Gem Grocery. The two men may have chosen the name "Bedford" to honor the source of the limestone facade. The earliest tenants of the three ground floor shops were a "gentlemen's furnishings" store at 231, a saloon at 235, and the Wabash National Bank at 237. Although it was originally planned as a two-story building, apparently the demand for new office suites led to an additional story. Several of the city's leading attorneys were among the earliest office tenants. By 1910, the Dickson Brothers opened the city's first moving picture theater, known as the Princess, where the saloon had been.

The Bedford Building was one of the last commercial buildings in Wabash to take its inspiration from the Romanesque Revival so popular in the city. The three-unit, three-story structure is faced with limestone in alternating courses of dressed and rock-faced blocks. The facade's symmetry is skewed by the door and stairway bay between the north and center units. The storefronts are divided by unusual stone pilasters featuring paired colonettes and incised ornamentation more characteristic of the 1870s. Only the storefront at 231 has retained its line of foliar, metal ornamentation above the display windows. The end bays of the second floor and the center bay of the third floor have large, semicircular-arched windows with smooth voussoirs and imposts resting on paired colonettes. (This third floor window has recently been filled in by metal paneling.) The end bays of the third floor feature paired, round-arched windows and intersecting archivolts. Continuing this ABA rhythm at roof level, the end sections have an open parapet of stone blocks in checkerboard pattern while the solid, taller, center section features a line of carved ornamentation, the raised inscription, "1901/BEDFORD," and a capping renaissance-like cartouche. The parapet's cornerstones are carved with lions' heads.

The 1850s brought a new era in transportation to the county and town. A series of plank roads was constructed, including the Wabash and Eel River Plank Road and the Wabash and Mt. Vernon Plank Road connecting the city with areas north and south. These roads, the establishment of stagecoach passenger and mail service to Cambridge City, and the canal brought additional traffic through Wabash which would lead to its predominance over Lagro. A more important step in the growth of Wabash was the arrival of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad in 1856. It was through the efforts of Hugh Hanna and others that the railroad was routed through Wabash, just north of the courthouse.

A rise in population of 56 percent and increased traffic along the canal and railroad during the 1850s resulted in the growth of businesses. A commercial area had already been established between the canal and the courthouse square along Market and Canal Streets. During the 1850s additional buildings were constructed, replacing log structures. Canal Street dominated the business activity, and its commercial structures became known as Commercial Row. Businesses included B. E. Davis, general merchant; T. Beck, saddler and harness maker (photo #5); Bechtol and Brown, grocery and provision dealers; Ferguson and James' shaving salon; A. Haas & Son's general store; T. F. Payne, cabinetmaker and furniture dealer; and Sterne & Levi, drygoods and clothing merchants. The building at 18 West Canal Street, constructed in 1854, may be the oldest structure on the north side of Canal Street. By 1860 there was a total of 84 merchants and professionals in Wabash.

The next two decades were years of continued growth and change. The post-Civil War era was generally a prosperous period for Indiana, and Wabash shared in this prosperity. Population nearly tripled between 1860 and 1880 and business establishments increased accordingly. Part of the surge in population was due to an influx of German Jews.

The Jewish population in Wabash was large enough by 1868 to form the Rodef Sholem congregation, which took over operation of the Jewish cemetery established in 1854. This cemetery is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Indiana. Many of the Jewish residents were also prominent businessmen and early settlers. David Beitman and Benjamin Wolf formed a partnership in 1868 and ran a drygoods, grocery and notion store. They had taken over the business of Michael and Leonard Hyman that had been established in 1846. The business operated from 1888 until 1980 in the canal era buildings, eventually ending at 90 West Canal Street. Additional Jewish-owned businesses included the Simon Brothers' drygoods business (58 West Canal); the Bach Brothers' grocery; the Herff grocery; the Star Woolen Mills owned by J. Hyman and David Marks; and Isaac New's clothing store. (Isaac New's son, Alexander, gave the Abraham Lincoln statue on the courthouse lawn to Wabash in 1931.) It has been claimed that Wabash had as many as 100 Jewish families at one time. The majority emigrated directly from Germany to work in places such as the Pioneer Hat Works, owned by Nathan Meyers. After many of these businesses ceased operation, many of the Jewish families left Wabash to work in other communities.

During the late 1860s and the 1870s, building continued apace of prosperity. The first Tremont Hotel was constructed in 1868. J. D. Connor and Warren Bigler constructed three commercial buildings (262-266 South Wabash Street) on the north portion of Hugh Hanna's property in the late 1860s. The Big Four Railroad arrived in 1872; its shops were constructed just east of the Commercial area that same year. The growth of the railroads and ensuing competition with canal trade resulted in the closing of the section of the Wabash & Erie Canal between Wabash and Lagro in 1872. In 1870 a disasterous fire struck Wabash, destroying the courthouse and Tremont Hotel and damaging over 32 buildings. The buildings were, however, quickly rebuilt and businesses resumed operations.

In 1875 the county atlas indicated that the city boasted two hotels, two banks, two newspapers and various businesses. The National Block (photo #16) was constructed in 1876 for the Wabash National Bank and commercial enterprises. Construction of the new courthouse (photo #20) began in 1878 and was completed the following year. Concurrently, negotiations began for the installation of an electrical street lighting system. On March 31, 1880, the Brush Arc light was tested from atop the courthouse cupola. Success of the test and the subsequent installation of the street light made Wabash the first municipality to test, adopt and successfully operate the Brush Electric Light System. This system, although significant in the development of municipal lighting, lasted only until 1886 in Wabash.

During the 1880s and the 1890s many of the canal era buildings along Canal Street were replaced with new structures. In 1881 the Rudell Brothers built at 53 West Canal a large, two-story brick structure for their long-established drygoods and clothing store. Robert Sweetser built the structure at 64 West Canal Street (photo #3) as a successor to the family boot and shoe store from the 1840s. Ella M. Conner constructed a two-story, limestone-faced structure at 52 West Canal Street (photo #4). This building replaced a one-story frame structure which she had inherited from her father.

The steep grade of the hill leading to the courthouse is caused by a ledge of rock which had given Wabash the nickname "Rock City." Over the years the rock was gradually removed for use as a building stone and the hill was graded so that by the 1880s it was possible to build on the slope along Miami and Wabash Streets. Buildings constructed along this hill include the Wilson Block (102 South Wabash, 1882) (photo #24); the Jim Amoss Building (110 South Wabash, 1880) (photo #25); and City Hall (101 South Wabsh, 1883-84) (photo #23).

In September, 1881, the Plain Dealer published an article which stated that 67 new buildings had been erected that year at an expense of nearly $90,000. Included in the article was a list of approximately 36 businesses, the majority of which had been established for a number of years. This benchmark year of 1881 may have marked the peak of construction within the district.

The building activity of 1881 continued throughout the next two decades as early (pioneer) establishments felt the need for larger and/or more modern quarters. The J. W. Busick & Sons drygoods store, established in 1857, constructed a new building at 20 East Canal (photo #9). In 1887-88 the Tremont Hotel was rebuilt, again. Together with the adjacent Lutz Hotel, it served Wabash until 1948 when it was demolished.

Natural gas was also important during these years to the development of Wabash, despite the absence of natural gas fields in the county. In 1887 the Howe Natural Gas Company of Indiana began operations south of Wabash County. The availability of this inexpensive and seemingly endless supply of fuel was soon available to Wabash businesses and industry.

The furniture industry was also very important to the development of Wabash. T. F. Payne was the first cabinetmaker in Wabash. He began his furniture factory in 1849 and it soon blossomed into a large manufactory that distributed its product throughout the Midwest. In the 1870s Payne built the structure at 205 South Miami which was substantially remodeled in 1920 as the "New Bradley Block." In 1884 his brother, S. J. Payne, took over the retail portion of the company and in 1898 built the building at 84 West Market (photo #12) for his business. The Wabash School Furniture Company was another important furniture factory. Opening in 1873, the Board of Directors included local businessmen such as S. Wilson, J. S. Daugherty and John H. Bruner. In the 1880s these two furniture companies were the two largest employers in the City of Wabash.

The 1890s brought continued prosperity and building for Wabash. Although the Big Four Railroad shops were destroyed by fire in 1894, they were quickly rebuilt. In addition, the sale of the canal right-of-way to the railroad brought additional traffic through the city. It also made the city a more desirable location for business and industry.

Reflecting this continued prosperity was the construction of numerous speculative business blocks near the turn of the century. Included in these buildings are the Bigler and Dicken Block (11 South Wabash, 1900) (photo #21); the Hess Building (129-31 South Wabash, 1897) (photo #26); the McCrea Building (225 South Wabash, 1901) (photo #28); the Bedford Block (231-37 South Wabash, 1901) (photo #29); the Speicher and Bridges Blocks (35-45 and 21-31 East Market, 1895); and the Pettit Building (128-30 South Wabash, 1897).

Unquestionably, the most successful Wabash firm, the Honeywell Manufacturing Company, began business in 1902 as the M.C. Honeywell Heating Company. Mark C. Honeywell, its president, began the business in a small building opposite City Hall. In 1904 he began manufacturing heat generators at 144 South Wabash (photo #27) and patented many of his inventions. The business soon outgrew those quarters, and the manufacturing portion was relocated to 119 West Canal (demolished). Following a merger in 1927 with the Minneapolis Heat Regulator Company, the firm became nationally famous. The Honeywell Company no longer operates in Wabash. Another firm, MarkHon, named for Mark Honeywell, continues to manufacture products similar to those of the Honeywell Company in Wabash.

In 1901 the streetcars and interurbans began operation in Wabash and continued until 1937. Businesses continued to operate and grow during the early 20th century, but building activity slowed down and was almost nonexistent after World War I. Banks that constructed new offices during the 1910s and 1920s include the Farmer's and Merchant's National Bank (55 West Market, 1911) (photo #14) and the Wabash Loan and Trust (8 West Canal Street, 1927) (photo #6). Two of the largest buildings constructed were the Eagles Building (104 West Market, 1905) (photo #10) and the Hotel Indiana (111 West Market Street) (photo "J"). The Hotel Indiana has operated as Red Apple Inn since its construction in 1919-20.

Many older structures experienced major reconstruction or facelifts during the 1920s and 1930s. The Lutz Hotel (54 West Market Street, 1880) was given a new facade in 1922. It also served a new purpose as a furniture showroom for the Lutz Brothers. The J. C. Penney Building (75 West Market) (photo #13) is a remodeling of the 19th century Harter Opera House. The building adjacent (65 West Market) was originally the Launder and Harter Carriage factory from the 1870s. It was remodeled in the 1920s to accommodate a motion picture house. The F. J. Rettig & Sons Building (233 South Miami) was also associated with Launder and Harter, as well as with Linley A. Dawes. It had served as a livery stable for decades and was refaced in 1931 for a hardware store.

During later years very little construction occurred within the district. The most notable remodeling was the Blue Front Drug Store at 41 West Market Street. This remodeling was done by Gackenheimer Pharmacy in 1945 and was lauded as progressive by the City Council. The Dollar General Store, Gackenheimer Rexall Drugs, and Masonic Temple replaced existing buildings during the 1950s and 1960s. A new jail was constructed in 1979, replacing residential structures. In addition, a few buildings were demolished for parking lots, such as the Tremont Hotel and the Ross Block.

In recent years Wabash Marketplace, Inc., has restored two buildings. It has also enhanced the Tremont Hotel parking lot through a large wall mural on the east wall of the Lutz Building. Designed by William Parker Stouffer, it depicts several of Wabash's historic businesses in an imaginative streetscape. Through continued educational efforts and by providing advice to building owners, Wabash Marketplace has facilitated the sensitive rehabilitation of numerous buildings.

Architectural Significance

The architectural significance of the district primarily derives from the fact that commercial buildings from the 1840s to the 1920s have survived within a cohesive, concentrated area. Many styles of architecture are represented, from the small, simple, utilitarian brick units of Commercial Row, a block built along the canal in the 1840s, to the elegant, classically inspired bank built in 1927 for the Wabash Loan & Trust Company (photo #6).

Over one-third of the historic commercial buildings of the district were built in the 1860s, 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s and exhibit general "Italianate" features: tall proportions, heavy bracketed cornices, round-arched or segmental-arched windows with heavy hood molds, or rectangular windows with projecting caps with ancons. This general category of "Victorian" building could almost be considered the commercial vernacular of the late 19th century. Its ornamentation or detailing varies, often reflecting the design features of popular domestic styles. Most all ground floors of these buildings have been altered, but many of the upper stories retain their original design. Representative and well-preserved examples of this broad category include: 80 West Market Street, built in the early 1870s; 202, 264, and 266 South Wabash Street, built in the late 1860s; 46 West Canal; 64 West Market; and 134 South Wabash.

In contrast to the generic Italianate, one particular style of architecture that caught the interest of Wabash businessmen for a short period in the late 1890s was the Romanesque Revival. The number of architecturally significant buildings of this style within the district is surprisingly large, especially when compared to the commercial districts of other cities in the state. The Wabash High School, 209 West Hill Street--a particularly fine example of the Romanesque Revival, built in 1894 to the designs of Fort Wayne architects John Wing and Marshall Mahurin--may have been an important influence in establishing the style's popularity. Three years later, in 1897, there were four new commercial buildings whose facades reflected the style: the E. M. Conner Building, 52 West Canal Street (photo #4); the Plain Dealer Building, 98 West Market Street (photo #11); the Shively Block, 59-73 South Wabash Street (photo #22); the Hess Building, 129-31 South Wabash (photo #26). (These four are described in detail in Item 7.) All of these buildings have facades of rock-faced limestone in coursed ashlar. They convey a sense of weight in their heavy massing, and their proportions break with the attenuated Italianate. Common features of the Romanesque Style, such as paired colonettes and decorative details carved in foliar patterns, are employed.

In 1899 Memorial Hall on West Hill Street was built (photo #18). This major building was as "pure" an example of the style as was the high school, and again due to its stature in the community as an institutional building, it, too, may have influenced the design of subsequent buildings. In 1900 and 1901, other examples followed, including the Bigler and Dicken Building, 11 South Wabash Street (photo #21); the Bedford Block, 231-37 South Wabash Street (photo #29); and the McCrea Building, 225 South Wabash Street (photo #28).

Here, in addition to the features called out for the 1897 examples, large, semi-circular windows were an important design element. There were other prime examples once within the district, as well, most important of which was the Masonic Temple on South Wabash Street, built in the 1890s and destroyed by fire in the 1950s. Several turn-of-the-century buildings combined popular elements of the Romanesque Revival with classical elements in an eclectic transitional style, e.g., the Bradley Block, 5-7 West Canal Street (photo #7) and the S. J. Payne Block, 84 West Market Street (photo #12). In summary, the Romanesque Revival made a strong impact upon the character of the city's commercial area, and by virtue of the general high quality of both the building materials and the designs, is a major contributing factor to the architectural significance of the district.

Notable examples of the work of several important architects are found within the boundaries of the district. The best-known architect was John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department from 1897 to 1912, who was responsible for the Post Office Building at 110 South Miami Street (Photo #19). Among the numerous government structures and post offices he designed across the country were the San Francisco Custom House and the Federal Building in Indianapolis. Taylor enjoyed a national reputation even after his government position, practicing on the East Coast from Boston to Florida. Two Ohio architects who designed buildings in Wabash were Orland W. Johnson, of Toledo, who had designed a number of theaters across the country before he did the Eagles' Theater Building (photo #10) in 1905, and J. C. Gault, of Lima, Ohio, architect of Memorial Hall in 1899.

The other known architects were all from Indiana. It must be noted, however, that research failed to uncover the names of architects for the majority of buildings designed by architects. Perhaps the most prominent 20th-century Indiana architect to have designed a building in Wabash was Charles Weatherhogg, of Fort Wayne, who designed the Wabash Loan & Trust Company Building in 1926. Born in England in 1872, Weatherhogg practiced in Fort Wayne from the 1890s until his death in the 1930s, and designed a wide variety of building types: houses, schools, hospitals, apartment buildings, and commercial buildings. For the 19th century, the most important Indiana architect was B. V. Enos, who designed the Wabash County Courthouse (photo #20) and the Sheriff's residence (photo #17). Enos was established in practice in Indianapolis in the 1870s and 1880s, where he was noted as an architect of churches. He received national attention for the county courthouse when announcement regarding the acceptance of its design was published in the American Architect and Building News in 1877. Another Indianapolis architect who is credited for having designed a building in Wabash is Edgar Hodgson (b. 1854), son of the more famous Irish-American architect, Isaac Hodgson. This is based on two other commercial buildings that Hodgson designed that are very similar to the Busick Block (photo #9): the Williamson Block at Bluffton (1881) and the Jacqua Block at Portland (1883). It is also possible that Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne were the architects of several of the turn-of-the-century commercial buildings in the Romanesque Revival Style, since they are well-known for the design of this style.

Unfortunately, very little is known about resident Wabash architects who practiced in their city. A primary source of information on construction history has been contemporary newspaper accounts, which often fail to mention the name of a local architect, even when names of contractors and suppliers are mentioned. There are numerous examples of buildings that were obviously architect-designed (the National Block, 1876) (photo #16); the S. J. Payne Block, 1898 (photo #12); the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, 1910 (photo #14); etc., but of which nothing is known concerning the architects. One of the only examples of a

building known to have been designed by a Wabash architect is City Hall, 1883-84 (photo #23), by Frederick A. Grant. (The only reason this fact is known is that there was a dispute recorded in the public records over rejecting the plan made by B. V. Enos in 1878 in favor of accepting the newly proffered plans of Grant in 1883.) Grant was both architect and building contractor for City Hall, a combined role that was probably quite common in Wabash in the 19th century. Other known Wabash contractors include Hezekiah Caldwell, William Steuart, Mat Jones, and P. H. McCormick. Architects and/or engineers who lived and practiced in Wabash in the 19th century, but for whom there exist no known examples of their work include A. F. Newman (d. 1879), Frank Knight, and C. Bailey.

Wabash's commercial buildingsexhibit two interesting architectural features that add to the architectural significance of the district: corner bays diagonally oriented to the intersections, and balconies. While neither of these features is unique, they were not so commonly used in other cities and, therefore, contribute to the special "sense of place" in Wabash. The National Block (1876) appears to have been the trendsetter with respect to these features. Sited at the prominent corner of Wabash and Market Streets, this building's plan cut the corner diagonally with a main entrance by that was, thus, oriented towards both streets. A number of later buildings followed this innovation in plan, including the Ross Building (1870s), formerly across the street at the northeast corner of the intersection. Three other examples of existing buildings in the district that include a diagonal corner bay are the Solomon Wilson Building, 102 South Wabash Street, 1882 (photo #24); 102 West Canal Street, an older structure rebuilt and modernized in 1884 (photo #2); and the E. M. Conner Building, 52 West Canal Street, 1897 (photo #4) (which is not sited on a prominent corner but rather the north/south Alley between Miami and Wabash Streets).

The inclusion of a balcony on a commercial building in a northern climate was never a common practice. Again, the National Block was apparently the originator of the idea with its iron balconies: one at the third floor door of the corner bay and another at the three western bays of the second floor. A 1924 newspaper article shed more light on the former prevalence of balconies. The reporter bemoaned the fact that the building at 41 West Market Street at that time was one of the last buildings in the city that retained its distinctive balcony. One by one, others had disappeared over the years. Both 102 and 110 South Wabash Street, which were built to complement one another, architecturally, still feature balconies. Although the S. J. Payne Building, 84 West Market Street, did not originally have balconies, its current examples revive the bygone practice.

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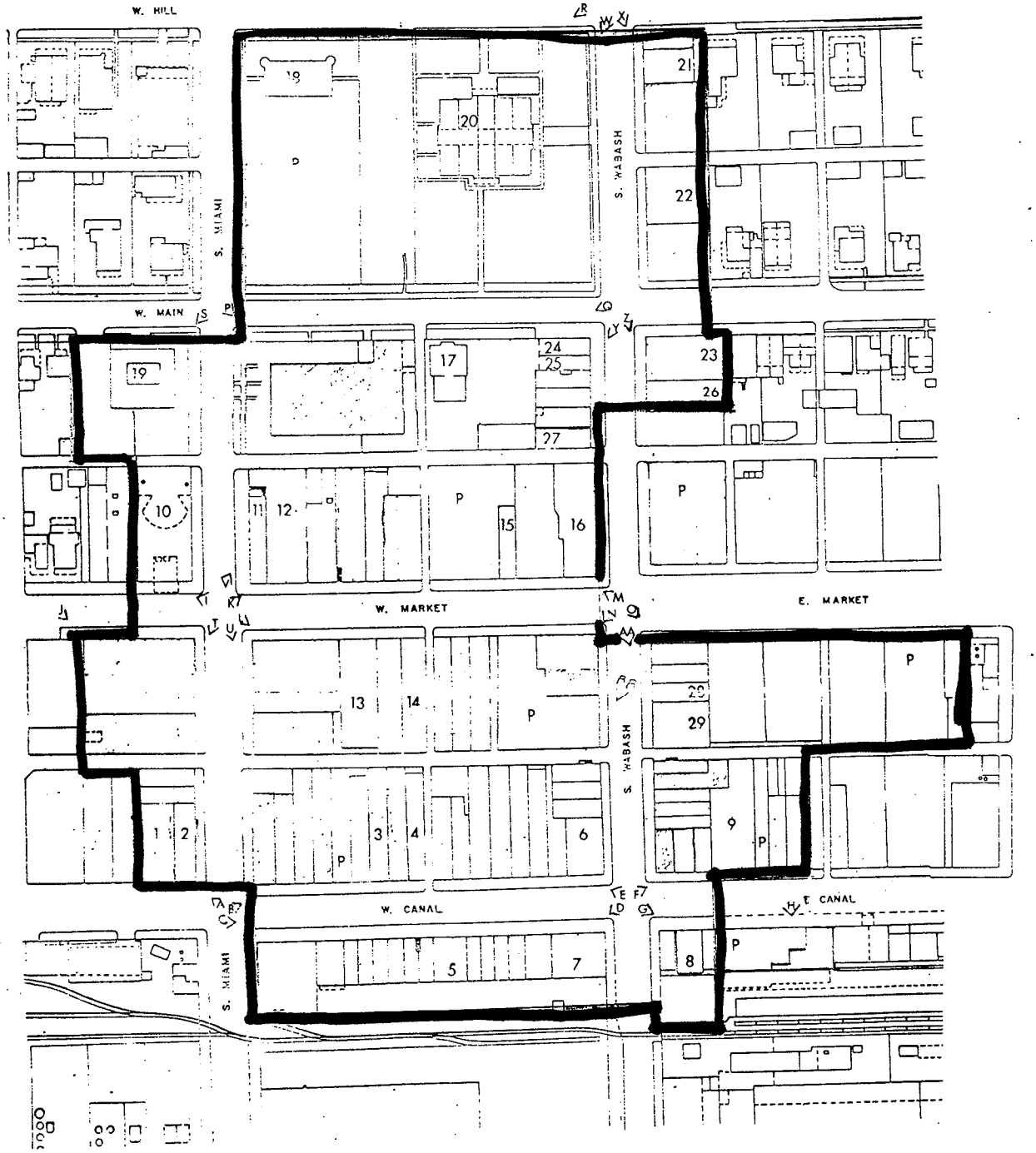
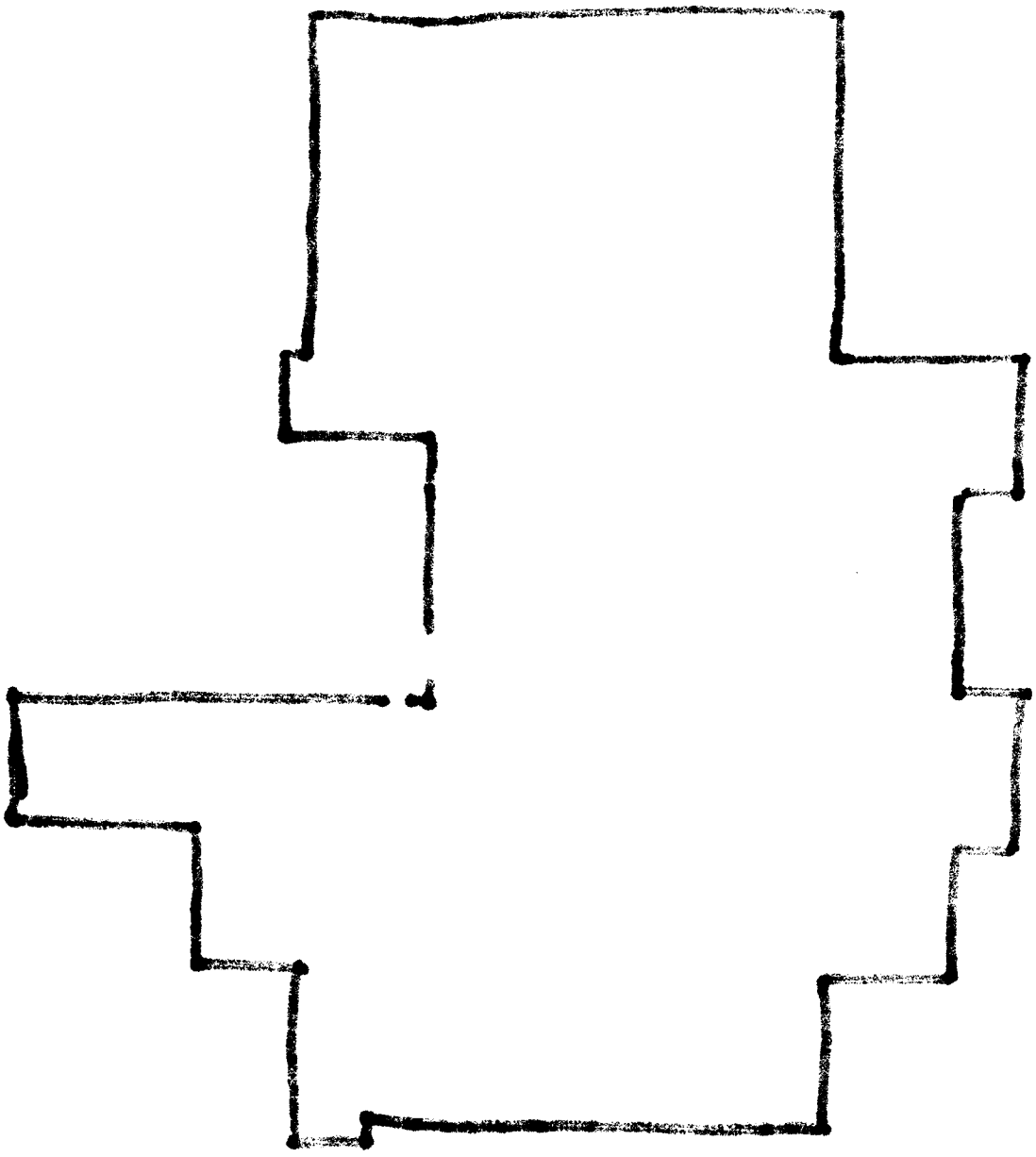
Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Hill and South Miami Streets, proceed south along the east right-of-way line for South Miami Street to the southeast corner of West Main and South Miami Streets;
then west along the south right-of-way line for West Main to the western property line for the U.S. Post Office Building (#19); then south along this property line to its southern property line;
then east along the southern property line to the western property line of the Eagles' Theater Building (#10); then south along this property line across West Market Street to the south right-of-way line for West Market Street;
then west along the right-of-way line to the western property line for Red Apple Inn; then south along this property line across an alley to the southern right-of-way line for the alley;
then east to the western property line of the Schlemmer Brothers Building (#1); then south along this property line to the northern right-of-way line for West Canal Street;
then east along the right-of-way line to the northeast corner of South Miami and West Canal Streets; then south along the eastern right-of-way line for South Miami Street to the southern property line of 89 West Canal Street;
then east along this property line to the east right-of-way line for South Wabash Street; then south along this right-of-way line to the southern property line of 311 South Wabash Street;
then east along this property line to the eastern property line; then north to the northern right-of-way line for East Canal Street;
then east along the right-of-way line to the eastern property line for 40 East Canal Street; then north along this line to the southern property line of Bridges and Speicher Blocks (21-45 East Market Street);
then east along the southern property line to the eastern property line of 53 East Market Street; then north along the eastern property line of the southern right-of-way line for East Market Street;
then west along the right-of-way line to the western right-of-way line for South Wabash Street; then north along the right-of-way line to the southern property line of the Hess Building (#26);
then east to the eastern property line; then north to the southern right-of-way line for East Main Street; then west along the right-of-way line to the eastern property line of the Shively Block (#22) and the Bigler & Dicken Building (#21);
then north to the southern right-of-way line for East Hill Street; then west along the southern right-of-way line for West Hill Street to the point of origin.

The Wabash Marketplace National Register District's boundaries delineate the primary area of both commercial and governmental activity for Wabash and Wabash County. The district includes both north and south sides of the three major east/west streets--Canal, Market and Main--between the two major north/south streets--Wabash and Miami. The district's southern boundary closely follows that of the original plat for "Wabashtown." It includes part of the right-of-way for the Wabash and Erie Canal, as well as the former Beck Coal Company Building (311 South Wabash) built c. 1905 within that right-of-way. The eastern boundary includes all commercial buildings on the east side of Wabash Street, as well as those along East Canal and the south side of East Market. The east side of South Wabash between East Market Street and the Hess Building (#26) and the north half of East Market Street west of South Wabash have been excluded. Most of this area is vacant due to the

1983 demolition of the historic Ross Block; both the Masonic Temple and the Old Towne Mall are non-contributing structures. The northern boundary (the southern edge of Hill Street) defines the northern edge of the Courthouse Square and the commercial area. The north side of Hill Street is primarily residential with some religious structures intermixed. The western boundary takes in Memorial Hall and all commercial buildings on the west side of Miami Street. Very few historic commercial structures in the City of Wabash exist outside these boundaries.



Wabash Marketplace District

Legend

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