United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Converse Commercial Historic District
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Four blocks along Jefferson Street between Marion Street and First Street and one block of East Railroad Street
City or town: Converse State: Indiana County: 103
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	x
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
24	8	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
1		objects
25	9	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Commerce: Department Store
Commerce: Financial Institution
Social: Meeting Hall
Government: City Hall
Government: Post Office
Government: Public Works
Domestic: Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence: Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Commerce: Financial Institution
Commerce: Restaurant
Commerce: Specialty Store
Government: City Hall
Government: Post Office
Domestic: Single Dwelling
Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Other: Vernacular
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival
Late Victorian: Italianate
Mid-19th Century: Gothic Revival
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungaloid
Modern Movement: International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:	Brick/Stone/Concrete
walls:	Brick/Concrete/Wood
	Other: Cementious Coating
roof:	Metal/Asphalt
other:	

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

Summary Paragraph

The Converse Commercial Historic District is located in southeastern Miami County, on land formerly inhabited by the Miami. The Town of Converse straddles the boundary of Miami and Grant Counties, however the district falls completely within Miami County. The district, comprising four blocks of Jefferson Street, commences at State Road 18 and stretches north just beyond the former Pennsylvania Railroad bed. The district includes (24) contributing buildings and (8) non-contributing buildings, (1) contributing object (World War II Memorial – see page 20), and (1) non-contributing site (Converse Park – see page 11). Two resources already listed on the National Register, the Converse (Pennsylvania Railroad) Depot (NPS File Number 95000205) and the Converse-Jackson Township Public Library (NPS File Number 99000298),

are not included in the contributing resources count, but are included in the narrative because they add to the significance of the district.

Criteria for the determination of contributing and non-contributing for commercial and public buildings and two dwellings is based on a number of factors. Buildings constructed outside of the period of significance are considered non-contributing. The three buildings at 202-208 North Jefferson (see page 21) were constructed within the period of significance, however, their lack of architectural style makes them non-contributing. Although many of the buildings have been altered, those that maintain their massing, storefront bay layout, and original architectural elements are considered contributing. For example, no original detail remains at the storefront at 304 North Jefferson (see page 19), although the historic window openings at the second floor and brick corbelling at the parapet make the building contributing. In contrast, many historic details remain at 305 North Jefferson (see page 15), however, the severity of structural deterioration gives the building a non-contributing rating. Although dwellings are normally non-contributing resources in a historic district, the two (105 West Wabash and 118 North Jefferson) within the Converse Commercial Historic District were used to provide medical services, part of the commercial activity of the town, and are therefore considered contributing.

Originally named Xenia, the town was established in 1849 with the four-block original plat surrounding the intersection of Marion and Jefferson Streets. The town underwent two periods of economic growth: first, after the railroad was completed through town shortly after the Civil War, and second, during the late 1800s when natural gas was discovered in the area. These eras of prosperity stimulated expansion of the town north from Marion Street to form the commercial core along Jefferson Street.

The arrangement of buildings on the blocks varies: some with contiguous structures, and some with free standing buildings. The majority of the structures are of brick construction built at the turn of the nineteenth century; however, several twentieth-century structures also contribute to the significance of the district. The buildings and site reflect the mixed function of the district: the commercial center of town that included agricultural and professional businesses. Some buildings remain in good condition and have been maintained, while others suffer from neglect, even to the threat of imminent collapse. Although constructed over a 100-year time span, the buildings represent the prominently unpretentious styles of vernacular architecture typical of a small Midwestern town, and display modest individuality. Most of the buildings have received some form of alterations over the years but maintain their historic mass, proportions, and associations. The storefront level has seen the majority of changes with upper levels retaining original fenestration patterns and masonry details.

100 Block South Jefferson Street – West Side, beginning at SR 18 going north.

This block contains three stand-alone buildings, separated by lawns and parking. The 1898, 1909, and 1920 Sanborn Maps depict a mixture of dwellings, agricultural buildings, and an auto garage.

108 South Jefferson Street. Converse-Jackson Township Public Library, Classical Revival, 1918. Contributing. National Register File Number 99000298. Photo 0001.

The library building sits atop a sloped lawn with a retaining wall running along the east and south elevations, facing Jefferson and Marion Streets. The one-story building with partially exposed basement displays a parge-coating at the lower level and brown brick above. At finished grade a limestone watertable and first course wrap the building. The brick, laid in running bond, contains limestone accents. Geometric patterns in the brick are formed by a single row of stack-bond brick topped by a limestone square. This motif forms flush pilasters at the corners of the building and window jambs. The wood architrave is topped by a brick frieze, a wood cornice, and a brick parapet with limestone corners and culminates with a limestone coping. The façade faces east and displays five single-lite basement windows cut into the watertable flanking the central entry. Fifteen concrete steps, supported by brick sidewalls with limestone caps, lead to the recessed entry. Two limestone Doric columns in antis support a geometrically decorated limestone lintel over the entry. The metal-frame full-lite replacement door is flanked by two half-lite sidelites and topped by three original wood frame transom windows with cross mullions. A series of five-lite windows with cross mullion transoms and limestone sills flank the entry. A limestone stepped pediment displays the words “PVBLIC LIBRARY.” The south elevation, facing Marion Street, contains the basement entry with a half-lite metal replacement door and wood infill, flanked by narrow single light windows. Centered above are five-lite ribbon windows similar to those on the façade.

The library retains a high level of architectural integrity. The only visible alterations on the exterior are the replacement of the entry doors.

104 South Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Contemporary, 2000. Non-contributing. Left side Photo 0002.

The building is situated in the center of the property, with the entrance driveway to the north, a drive-through window to the north, and a parking lot on the south side. In front of the building a low walled outdoor seating area consists of concrete pads and concrete tables flanking a central brick walk leading to the front door. The one-story structure has a hipped, asphalt shingle roof with a gabled projection on the east elevation. The brick lower walls rise from a soldier course at the foundation for 27” in running bond, topped by a header course. The frame walls above are

clad in aluminum siding. The façade presents a central full-lite aluminum door flanked by sidelites and 4' by 4' plate glass windows. The north and south elevations each have four plate glass windows near the façade followed by a single entry.

102 South Jefferson Street. Professional Building, Vernacular, 1961. Contributing. Right side Photo 0002.

The side facing T-Plan building sits at the southwest corner of the lot, set back from Jefferson Street. The north half of the lot contains a concrete parking pad with decorative concrete barrier walls at the west end and diagonally at the northeast end. The one-story, concrete block masonry building is painted green with a shingled, low-slope hipped roof. The façade presents two planes; the closest to Jefferson Street displays a central entry with a replacement, residential-style, steel, half-lite door, flanked by two aluminum awning windows. Below the right window black letters read: "Converse Dental Clinic 395-3185." The main entry to the building is at the recessed portion of the facade. The aluminum and glass full-lite door is flanked by two narrow sidelites. A single aluminum awning window sits to the right.

This lot contained wood frame buildings used as a millinery, barbershop, bicycle repair shop, and single family dwellings. In 1961 Dr. Frank Miller, a Converse dentist since 1939, built this building to relocate his practice from the 100 block of North Jefferson.[1]

100 Block West Wabash Street

This block contains a contributing dwelling on the south side and the north contains the side elevation and addition of the building at 101 North Jefferson Street, and across the alley, a stand-alone structure and the town's electrical transformer equipment.

105 West Wabash Street. Dr. A. D. Kimball House, Gothic Revival, circa 1865. Contributing. Photo 0003.

This one and one-half story, center gable, center passage house sits on a limestone foundation, is clad in vertical wood siding and has a steep gable roof with asphalt shingles. The gable ends are decorated with scrolled verge boards. At the façade, the central entry has a wood panel half-lite door with transom window above, flanked by four over four double-hung wood windows with wood sills and narrow aprons. The flat roof entry porch is supported by two pilasters and four posts of wood adorned with simple, scrolled brackets. Above the entry, a single window opening sits within the central gable. A small wood double-hung window fills the top half of the opening and the bottom is infilled with a wood panel decorated with an applied ornament.

[1] Kokomo Tribune, "Dental Clinic Being Built At Converse," 9/25/1961.

The east elevation displays the gable end of the front section of the house and the cross gable of the rear of the house. The gable end section has centered four-over-four wood double-hung windows on the first and second level. The cross gable portion has piers and scrollwork brackets visible from an earlier porch, which is now enclosed. The section of the porch to right (north) appears to have been enclosed earlier than the left (south) portion, and contains a four-over-four, double-hung window with vertical wood siding. The left (south) portion of the porch has a smaller double-hung window with horizontal vinyl siding. A newer shed dormer breaks up the steeply pitched roof and contains two double-hung windows and is sided in horizontal vinyl siding.

The gable end portion of the west elevation has a three-unit bay window with double-hung wood windows. Above the windows, a polychrome frieze panel is decorated with applied wood ornaments and scrolling wood brackets that support the low slope bay roof. A four-over-four double-hung wood window is centered on the second level. The cross gable portion of the west elevation contains a one story addition with two four-over-four wood double-hung windows, topped by a frieze board and scrolling brackets. At the second level, a shed dormer with three double-hung ribbon windows breaks the steeply pitched roof.

The house displays many original features as depicted in the 1877 Plat Map (Photo 0004). Although the balustrade from the front porch roof no longer remains, the four over four narrow windows, decorative verge boards, and porch brackets look as they did in the early drawing. Although the former porch on the east elevation has been enclosed, the remaining piers and brackets depict its former function. The bay window and one story addition on the west elevation and the dormers at the cross gable section in the back were added at a later date.

Dr. A. D. Kimball began his medical practice in Converse (then Xenia) in 1860. He joined the Union Army in 1862 and returned to his practice at the end of the war. This house served as his home and office.[2] In the mid-1880s, Dr. Jeremiah Kelsey became a partner of Dr. Kimball and purchased the home and practice by 1887.[3] After Kelsey's death in 1893 his wife and daughters maintained ownership of the home until 1967 when Dr. Frank Miller's son, Douglas, purchased the home.

110 W Wabash. Public Service Building, Vernacular, circa 1903. Contributing. Photo 0005.

The false front of this two-story brick building faces Wabash Street. At the first floor level a limestone header caps the four unequal bays, separated by brick piers. The bays define the original openings and provide the entries and windows for the apartments within. They are now

[2] 1866 Converse Plat Map, Miami County Museum.
[3] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1887, 647. Rolland Lewis Whitson, *Centennial History of Grant County Indiana*, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914, 1267.

infilled with stucco. The westernmost bay has a residential-scale steel half-lite door. The next larger bay contains a small double-hung window. Access to the eastern apartment, located near the center of the building, is gained via a residential-style steel door with a half-lite, aluminum screen door. The last bay has paired double-hung wood windows topped by transoms. At the second story, the four openings feature limestone lintels and sills. The center two are infilled with horizontal aluminum siding, the westernmost has a horizontal, oversized plate glass window, and the easternmost contains an undersized double-hung aluminum window with horizontal siding above. The false front wall exhibits three bays separated by brick pilasters joined by corbel tables. The stepped parapet is topped with limestone coping, concealing the shingled gable roof behind. Decorative wood rafter tails support the roof overhang at the east elevation. Although the storefront and second floor windows have been altered, their former configuration remains evident.

The Converse Telephone Company purchased the lot in 1903, after they incorporated, and built the building soon after.[4] The building housed their electric substation and telephone storage.[5] Donald Camp purchased the building in the 1940s and began publishing the Converse Journal newspaper here in 1951.[6] The Journal ceased publication in 1960, although continued to publish other newspapers for a period.[7] The building was converted into apartments at a later unknown date.

100 Block North Jefferson Street – West Side

The first lot of this block contains two joined double-front buildings to the south and a narrow parking lot at the north. Across the alley sits a single building with parking to the north.

101-105 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1890, 1950. Contributing. Left side Photo 0006.

The main two-story, brick building was built prior to 1898 and the one story frame addition was built circa 1950. The façade of the main building is covered with a veneer, applied circa 1960, tooled to resemble concrete block. The first story contains two storefronts with a central second-floor entry door. The southernmost storefront includes an aluminum storefront system with full-lite door and sidelite flanked by identical plate glass windows set on parge-coated brick kickplates with limestone sills. The traditional transom area is covered with painted vertical wood siding, obscured from street view by fabric awnings. The center steel stair door contains a vision lite. The storefront at the north of the facade is identical to the south except the left flank

[4] Ft. Wayne Weekly Journal-Gazette, 7/2/1903.
[5] *Fire Insurance Maps of Converse, Miami County Indiana*. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map and Pub. Co., 1920.
[6] Converse Journal, 2/2/1951 and 10/26/1951.
[7] Converse Journal, 5/18/1960.

of the storefront is configured with an aluminum full-lite door and partial sidelite with a flat metal panel and mail slot. The beam above the storefronts is covered with wood.

The second story has five punched window openings with parge-coated headers, tooled to resemble voussoirs with a larger keystone. The openings are boarded with vertical painted wood siding. The parapet wall rises from a corbelled cornice and is divided into five recessed panels aligning with the windows below.

The painted brick south elevation, facing Wabash Street, is accented with veneer quoins. A recently attached porch with wood posts and panels and metal shed roof spans the eastern portion of the lower level. This addition provides patio seating for the current restaurant. Aluminum and glass divided-lite doors provide access to the interior. A wood privacy fence screens mechanical equipment. A small, original window opening has been partially infilled and contains ventilation equipment for the restaurant. The kitchen entry door beyond is a half-lite two-panel steel door, with wood vertical siding infill at the transom within the original limestone lintel. The second story contains punched window openings with limestone lintels and sills; a series of three paired openings with brick mullions, ending with a single opening at the west end of the building, all now infilled with aluminum. The parapet wall steps down and features a pilaster. The exterior of the building has been recently repaired and painted. The storefronts have been retained in their original proportions.

Amos and Jennie Fowler owned this property and had a dry goods store here as early as 1887.[8] By 1898 the post office had moved into the north portion of the building, and by 1909 had taken over the whole building.[9] The storefront at 103 North Jefferson was converted into a small office and occupied by Wilbur T. Clair, a local auctioneer and real estate salesman, circa 1931 through 1980. The post office remained in the building until 1965 when it relocated to the east side of South Jefferson Street.

107-109 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1898-1909. Contributing. Right side Photo 0006.

This one story building features two storefronts and has a flat roof with a small parking area to the north. The brick façade is covered with a veneer, tooled to resemble cement block. The southernmost storefront is composed of an aluminum and glass full-lite door and sidelite flanked by two plate glass windows with brick parge-coated kick plates and limestone sills. The transom is covered with vertical wood siding at the entry and painted glass above the storefront windows. A single fabric awning spans the entire south storefront. To the north, the aluminum storefront is constructed of anodized bronze and of the same configuration as the south storefront. An

[8] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 634.
[9] Sanborn Maps 1898 and 1909.

additional opening at the far north end of the façade is infilled with smooth stucco. The simple corbelled cornice is topped with metal coping. Although windows and doors have been replaced, the storefront retains its historic configuration. The façade veneer was added circa 1960 (see Photo 0007 taken circa 1960).

Amos and Jennie Fowler owned this property circa 1880-1895, and Jennie had a photo gallery in a small building.[10] The Fowler's daughter and son-in-law, Frank and Edna Macy, lived in a house north of the building.[11] The current building was built between 1898 and 1909 and was operated as a drugstore until 1987.[12] Benjamin F. Agness owned the drugstore until he sold to Frank Bly in 1922. Bly's son Robert took over the business in 1941 and sold the store to Robert and Mary Cain in 1973. The Cains closed the store in 1987.[13]

123 North Jefferson Street. First Farmers National Bank, Contemporary, circa 1981-2004. Non-contributing. Photo 0008.

This modern, one story building was constructed over a period of years with the south section being the earliest. The red brick structure spans the whole block and displays varied lines of its hipped, shingled roof. The façade is accented with contrasting walls of buff brick flanking the entrance and wrapping the north east corner of the building. The stepped cornice reflects the original building's rooflines.

The First National Bank constructed a building at this site in 1921. The bank expanded and remodeled in the 1960s. In 1980 a bomb was detonated in the building during a robbery attempt. In 1981, the original bank building was torn down and replaced with the south portion of the current building. As the Bank continued to grow and expand throughout Miami County, the building did likewise. The most recent portion was added in 2004 and the building serves as the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

<u>200 Block North Jefferson Street – West Side</u>

This block has been besieged by fire. The first occurred in 1894, destroying all the wood frame buildings on the block. A fire in 1972 damaged the buildings in the center of the block and they were taken down in the 1990s. A 1987 fire brought down the building at the corner of Jefferson and Brandon Streets. Only two buildings remain on the block.

201 North Jefferson Street. Converse Park, Site, 1994. Non-contributing. Left side Photo 0009.

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[10] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 634.
[11] "Disastrous Fire Early Yesterday." Converse Journal, 4/1/1927.
[12] Sanborn Map Comparison. "Fizz gone from the business, Converse drugstore to be sold." Converse Clipping File, Miami County Museum, circa 1987.
[13] "Fizz gone from the business, Converse drugstore to be sold." Converse Clipping File, Miami County Museum, circa 1987.

The park consists of winding concrete pathways amid planted beds, a gazebo and outdoor seating at the back of the park, and covered stage attached to the adjacent building. The shingled stage roof has a low slope and is supported by metal columns.

In 1994 the town received an Economic Development Grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce Neighborhood Assistance Program to build the park. The historic brick building that originally occupied the property burned in 1987. It had been built after the fire in 1894 and the Gift Drugstore occupied the building until 1955. Xen and Dorothy Mayne purchased the building for their grocery store, Mayne's Market, which then became Sigler's Finer Foods in 1977.

203 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1894. Non-contributing. Right side Photo 0009.

This two-story, brick building has a flat roof. The altered storefront presents a flush façade with horizontal aluminum siding infill and a residential-scale, steel, half-lite door flanked by small fixed windows. An air-conditioning unit is evident at the north edge of the storefront. The transom level is covered with a wood and shingle awning. At the second story, two window openings with limestone sills, brick arched voussoirs contain undersized double-hung windows and aluminum vertical siding. A portion of the formerly attached building remains at the north end, featuring a shutter and brick. The parapet has corbeled details at the cornice. Historic detail remains at the second story. Although the first level has been obscured by modern alterations, the historic detail may remain beneath. The building is currently vacant.

205-219 North Jefferson Street. Vacant Lot. 2008. Left side Photo 0010.

This empty lot has a series of 4 painted wood panels depicting racing horses. A 1972 fire destroyed the historic buildings. The mural project was cooperative effort of the Converse Economic Development Commission and a group of Indiana Wesleyan students. The commission paid for the materials and the students created and painted the mural, providing a screen for the unsightly empty lot.[14]

221-223 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1895, circa 1903. Contributing. Right side Photo 0010.

This painted brick two-story building was built in two sections; the south portion constructed in 1895 and the north was built circa 1903. The unifying details include the painted red brick, segmental arch window heads at the second floor, and uniform toothed corbelling at the cornice at each bay.

[14] Per conversation with Steve Reiff, Converse Economic Development Commission.

The southernmost storefront is divided into three equal bays. The display window to the south is constructed of brick kickplate, columns, and sill, with an undersized plate glass window and vertical wood infill siding. The central entry bay contains a residential-scale screen and entry doors and wood infill at the sidelite and transom areas. The northernmost bay holds the entry for the second floor. The original wood and glass double doors remain, but are covered by aluminum storm doors. The transom window remains. The second level contains three segmental arch window openings with limestone sills. Decorative wood infill panels at the arch top the full-size double-hung vinyl replacement sash and aluminum storms. The upper level is divided into three bays. At the lower edge of the cornice, brick pilasters rise to toothed, corbelled bands. The parapet wall rises to simple corbelling and crenellations at the outermost edges of the roof line.

The north section of the building is slightly larger than the south. The altered storefront level has been infilled with wood siding, a residential-scale bay window and wood, divided-lite French doors. A low slope wood and shingle canopy covers the window and extends into a gabled porch projection over the entry doors. The transom level is infilled with painted vertical wood siding. The original steel beam and rosettes remain in view. A projecting business sign hangs from a pole above the storefront level.

At the second story the building is arranged in four bays: a smaller one at the south end followed by three equal bays. The details at the second level are the same as the south building, with segmental arch window openings, wood infill at the arch and wood double-hung windows with limestone sills. However, the sill height is approximately 12 inches higher than the south building. The corbel details at the parapet and cornice match the south building. Crenellations top the pilasters separating the bays.

The north elevation displays the corner of the east storefront elevation, followed by six transom-level segmental arch windows at the first floor level as well as a former double entry with brick infill, paired windows and stone sills, a single storefront entry with a fixed half-light panel door and brick transom infill and flanking display window opening infilled with brick, A wood slab door at the west edge of the elevation provides the second-floor entry. The second floor contains nine punched window openings with segmental arch heads, wood infill at the arch, double-hung wood windows and painted limestone sills. A stepped parapet is topped by limestone coping. Although the historic details of the north storefront are no longer apparent, the south storefront retains its original configuration. The building also retains historic window configurations.

After the 1894 fire, James Sullivan rebuilt his jewelry store (south portion of the building) in brick and his family lived in the apartment on the second floor. Sometime between 1898 and 1909 the north building was constructed.[15] In 1922 the Knights of Pythias purchased the north

[15] Sanborn Map comparison.

half of the building for their lodge hall on the second floor. They constructed a stage at the west end of the hall in 1929.[16] Jay Burk operated a grocery store in the north section of the building, where he had earlier served as a clerk. In 1967, Xen and Dorothy Mayne opened the "Converse Café" in the building. The current owners are remodeling the interior to reopen as a restaurant.

300 Block North Jefferson Street – West Side

The block presents a series of joined brick buildings, followed by three stand-alone buildings with parking lots. The 1894 fire destroyed the buildings on the south portion of the block. The brick buildings are rich with architectural detail and the brick masonry is some of the most intricate in Converse. The concrete block buildings at the north end of the block illustrate the twentieth-century growth of the district.

301-303 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1894. Contributing. Left side Photo 0011.

This two-story corner building is constructed of red brick with limestone accents and has a flat roof. The façade is separated into three vertical bays, two larger storefronts followed by a smaller entry to the second floor. Each bay is separated by brick pilasters with limestone accents. The altered southernmost storefront has a residential-sized set of full-lite French doors and two punched window openings. It is infilled with metal vertical siding. The north storefront sits on a limestone foundation with a wood kickplate supporting a bank of fixed windows. Vertical metal siding covers the transom level. The metal beam with exposed bolts is evident at all three bays. The second floor entry bay contains an undersized replacement six panel painted wood door with limestone stoop and a historic wood transom window.

At the second story the brick wall features square limestone accents topped by a brick soldier course. A limestone beltcourse provides the sill and head for the windows. The two larger sections each contain three punched window openings separated by brick strips. The entry bay contains one narrow window opening. All second floor window openings contain painted plywood infill. The brick wall above repeats the limestone square accents and soldier course found below the windows. The cornice level contains an arcaded corbel table topped by a limestone beltcourse. The recessed brick rectangles at the parapet level correspond with the windows below. The parapet is topped by limestone coping and has raised caps corresponding to the pilaster strips. The south elevation contains a brick wall with limestone watertable, limestone bands at the head and sill levels of the second story windows. The first floor contains a single window opening at the storefront area with limestone header and sill.

[16] "A Fine Curtain." Converse Journal 3/25/1929.

The building was constructed after the 1894 fire destroyed prior buildings on the block. The 1898 and 1909 Sanborn Maps indicate that the building held a general store, but by 1920 it had been converted to an auto repair shop. John Malott operated an auto garage in the building circa 1928-1936 and today the building still houses an auto service center. Although the storefronts have been altered, the southernmost storefront was likely changed to a garage door configuration between 1909 and 1920. The building contributes to the district because of its intricate brick detailing, full height pilasters, and historic second floor window configuration.

305 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1894. Non-contributing. Center Photo 0011.

This two-story building is constructed of red brick with a flat roof. The storefront is flanked by brick pilasters and a central metal support column with vertical wood infill siding. A limestone foundation is evident at the north section of the storefront. At the first floor, the south section contains a residential-sized divided-lite wood panel door covered by a ¾-lite aluminum storm door. One double-hung vinyl window sits to the south (left) of the entry and a bank of three windows of the same size and configuration are located to the north (right) part of the altered storefront. The beam is boxed with wood. The second story contains three segmental arch window openings with wood infill at the arch and replacement wood double-hung windows with limestone sills. The cornice contains corbelled brick topped by brick inset soldier course and the parapet contains inset brick rectangles. The building is in in a seriously deteriorated condition and may be structurally unsound due to roof and back wall collapse.

307 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1890. Contributing. Right side Photo 0011.

This two-story red brick building with a flat roof sits 12 inches away from the building to the south (left) indicating that it was constructed at a different date. A driveway flanks the north (right) side of the building. The storefront has been recently remodeled but retains some original details. The storefront features brick columns supporting a steel beam atop a concrete and limestone foundation. The storefront display windows have brick kickplates with two plate glass windows surrounded with wood shingle siding at the transom level. Two iron columns flank the central entry. A pair of full-lite aluminum storefront doors gives access to the interior. The entry transom is topped with a projecting wood and shingle awning. The second story contains three segmental arch window openings with limestone sills and double-hung vinyl windows. The corbeled cornice is surmounted by a brick parapet wall with metal coping.

The building has held a restaurant, cream station, and the Blue Room bar, now located at 311 North Jefferson Street. The building is currently vacant and ready for a tenant.

309 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1910. Contributing. Left side Photo 0012.

The diminutive one-story brick building sits to the front and center of the lot. The former coal office scale was located to the south (left) which now contains a driveway. The structure has the original wood-framed storefront windows sitting on top of a brick kickplate with a limestone sill. The recessed, single-cant storefront opening has limestone lintel and sills and limestone foundation and new aluminum and glass entry door. The transom windows are covered with horizontal siding and rise above a flat aluminum awning installed circa 1950. The brick work features a simple pattern with corbelling at the cornice. The south elevation contains a single aluminum and glass entry door and plate glass window. A small wood lean-to addition remains at the back (west) of the building. The many remaining historic details make this building a contribution to the historic district.

A.M. Fink built this building as the office and for his coal yard. The driveway to the south held the scale. Daniel Sommers moved his barbershop to the building in 1961 when the First Farmers National Bank purchased his former building on the west side of 100 block of North Jefferson Street for its expansion. Sommers operated the barbershop until his death in 2015.

311 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1960. Contributing. Center Photo 0012.

The one-story concrete masonry unit building contains a single storefront entry with a residential-style door. Three window openings containing undersized units sit to the north (right) and one, containing an air-conditioning unit, to the south (left). Further south are two small windows. Although the window openings are undersized, the contrast with the white infill siding and painted concrete block reveal the original opening size. The south elevation contains an opening for an entry, infilled with horizontal white vinyl siding. The building shows its original configuration and falls within the period of significance.

Donald Camp built this building in 1960 to house a laundromat. Victory and Betty McDowell moved their Blue Room Tavern to here in the late 1960s, from their previous location at 307 North Jefferson Street. They converted the north half of the building for the bar and the south portion for their residence. The tavern remains in business, now run by the McDowell's grandson.

315 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1941. Contributing. Right side Photo 0012.

This one-story concrete masonry unit structure has a flat roof. The façade contains two similar storefronts, the larger (north) with a full-lite aluminum entry door flanked by plate glass windows with stone sills. The south (left) storefront contains a single entry with a plate glass

window to the left. A wood and asphalt shingle awning spans the entire façade and wraps the corner of the building. The façade is topped with a clay tile coping.

The Osborn and Anderson Lumber Company occupied this lot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Huber Lawson constructed the current building in 1941. The south portion of the building contained the first commercial cold storage locker in Converse, while the north portion held Lawson's Meat Market.[17] After the locker closed the building housed the "The Fair Café" restaurant, a NAPA auto parts store, and now a specialty décor shop.

Mill and Railroad Depot Site

This section of the district contains the site of the former Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, the former grain mill, and railroad depot. The area marked the end of the commercial district and served the function of transporting passengers, goods, and the agricultural products raised in the surrounding areas.

402 North Jefferson Street. Goodrich Brothers Building, Vernacular, circa 1892. Contributing. Photo 0013.

This two and one-half story brick building held the mill and grain elevator and adjoins the site of the former railway bed. The building has several later additions. The oldest portion faces Jefferson Street with a gable front, painted brick and rock-face stone base, rising 44 inches above grade. The symmetrical façade features a central entrance with a stone stoop that is reached by five steps on both sides of the landing. Modest-sized segmental arch openings with limestone sills contain a steel half-lite door flanked by two vinyl replacement windows with wood frames. Basement windows are infilled with vertical painted wood siding and align with the windows above. Painted signs on the brick indicate the building function; above the door reads "Goodrich Bros. Co.," and "Farm Supplies" flanks the entry door below the windows. A boarded-up window is located at the attic level with a segmental arch and limestone sill. A simple wood fascia board is located below the projecting eaves. A one-story wood-frame lean-to addition is located to the north (left) of the primary structure.

The south elevation, facing the railbed, is clad with painted brick, rock-face stone base, and has segmental arch openings with limestone sills. Two larger centralized loading doors feature wood planks in an inverted "V" pattern. The basement level has five openings infilled with painted wood. The first level has window openings on each side of the doors, three infilled with wood and one with a vinyl replacement window and wood frame. The second level has two openings to the right, infilled with wood. A series of wood-framed additions with corrugated metal siding are attached at the east and north sides.

[17] "Refrigerator Locker Plant to Be Built In Converse By H.C. Lawson." Converse Journal, 1/24/1941.

In 1868, Wright and McFeely opened a grain mill on this site in a frame building.[18] Long and Draper constructed the existing building in the early 1890s.[19] The frame add-on buildings were constructed between 1898 and 1920 and were used for the elevator equipment and handling different sorts of seeds. The change in building configuration arose because of the shift from flour milling operations to grain storage as the capacity increased from 12,000 bushels of grain in 1909 to 14,000 bushels in 1920.[20] Ownership of the building changed many times and operations ceased in the 1960s.

The building contributes to the commercial district because it provided goods and services to the local farmers. As indicated on the building signage, the mill stocked farm supplies, including animal feed. The mill also processed grain and weighed the grain for sale. These services were an integral part to the business of agriculture and farming.

Vacated Railway. Photo 0014.

The introduction of the railroad contributed to the development and early prosperity of Converse. The Panhandle Railroad was completed through Converse at this site in 1868.[21] The location of the railroad tracks provided a physical border for the town to expand toward. It shaped the sorts of businesses that operated in the surrounding area and provided a visual break between the commercial and residential areas of town. The tracks were removed circa 1980, but the open space of the rail bed continues to help define the identity of the district.

202 East Railroad Street. Converse Depot, Craftsman, 1912. Contributing. National Register File Number 95000205. Photo 0015.

Because of the angled orientation of the railroad line, the Converse Depot is sited at an angle to the town's grid line. The one to one and one-half story building is clad in brown brick at the first level. Double header rowlock courses separate the Flemish bond coursing, approximately three feet above grade. Stucco covers the brick above the windows and at the gable ends of the south, west, and north rooflines. The cross gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The public entrance is off of Madison Street, one block east of Jefferson Street. Three concrete steps lead to the central entry. Narrow double-hung wood windows flank paired half-lite wood panel doors. Additional narrow windows extend past a brick pier beyond each side of the entry composition. A large six-over-three double-hung wood window sits to the left, and a series of smaller casement windows are at each end of the elevation. Above the pent roof, a stucco clad

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[18] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 626-627.
[19] John H. Stephens, *History of Miami County Illustrated*, Peru, Indiana: The John H. Stephens Publishing House, 1896, 314-315.
[20] Sanborn Map 2 for the years 1898, 1909 and 1920.
[21] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 634.

gable end presents a half-round window divided by two mullions and concentric arch muntins. Tile rectangles and lozenges line the window opening. The east elevation contains two window openings. A triple unit in the center is composed of a larger sash in the middle flanked by two smaller sashes, all double-hung. Below, a segmental arch basement window is visible. The pent roof is surmounted by the broad view of the shingled cross gable roof.

The railroad entry to the north contains elements of the south elevation: paired entry doors and flanking windows with a larger unit to the left. To the right, the operator's bay extends under the pent roof with two narrow casement windows on the extending walls, and a larger three-over-one double-hung window on the wall facing the tracks. Beyond are four smaller casement windows. A cross gable sits on the pent roof below the large gable end and is configured as on the south side.

The west elevation contains a wooden cross-bucked and glazed sliding door. Casement windows flank the door. Above the pent roof extends a smaller gable end covered with vinyl siding and an off-center replacement double-hung window.

This building contributes to the district because of its architectural style and its importance as the entrance point for the world outside, including travelers and goods.

300 Block North Jefferson Street – East Side, going south

This block contains two freestanding buildings. The north building is set back from the sidewalk with a narrow lawn and foundation plantings. The south building is flanked by gravel parking lots. The lot south of the lone surviving historic building remains open as it has for decades, however the buildings which once stood to the north are now gone.

314 North Jefferson Street. Professional Building, Contemporary, 2003. Non-contributing. Photo 0016.

The one-story red brick building with limestone quoins has a cross-gable metal roof. A canopy projects from the north end covering the entry area. Doors and windows are divided-lite units. The town raised the funds to build the facility in order to have a medical clinic in the town.[22] Prior buildings included a house circa 1898-1920 and a building used as a poultry house and later for coal storage.

304 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1890. Contributing. Photo 0017.

This two-story brick building has a contemporary one-story lean-to attached at the north end. The storefront is covered with horizontal metal siding. Two residential-scale metal doors with

[22] "Medical Center now taking patients." Marion Chronicle Tribune, 11/5/2003.

half-round vision lights occupy either end of the storefront and a low plate glass window occupies the center. Historic details remain at the second story including segmental arch window openings with stone sills and brick corbel details at the cornice. The window openings are infilled with unpainted particle board. The brick has been painted brown. The wood-frame lean-to, clad with vinyl siding and covered by a red metal roof, sits back from the front plane of the building approximately four feet. Metal siding hides the historic details that remain at the first story, including decorative metal columns with ornate detailing and the steel beam supported by masonry piers.

200 Block North Jefferson Street – East Side

This block contains two complexes of freestanding buildings with paved parking.

214 North Jefferson Street. Fire Station, Vernacular, 1959. Contributing. Left side Photo 0018.

Set back from the street, the main portion of the red brick facade is composed of oversized garage doors topped by a simple stepped parapet with clay tile coping. The false front hides the concrete block and a shingled gable roof structure. A more recent administration wing is attached to the south (right) end and is a low, single-story structure with a flat roof, recessed entry and single plate glass window.

When the town purchased larger fire trucks in 1959, they constructed this building to garage them.[23] The building's facade, clad in brick with a stepped parapet, is sympathetic to the 1937 City Hall building in the same complex. The administration wing was added at a later date, but does not detract from the historic setting.

A house occupied this property until it burned in 1937. Another frame building also sat on the property and was used for a grocery store (1898), farm implements (1909), and a blacksmith shop (1920).

World War II Monument. Object, 1947. Contributing. Front Photo 0018.

A bronze tablet set in stone reads, "Dedicated to the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice and in honor of those who served in the armed forces of our country in World War II and all other wars erected by Converse Lions Club May 30, 1947." The tablet sits near the sidewalk, in front of the Fire Station.

[23] "New Fire Barn Completed; To Be Landscaped." Converse Journal, 9/16/1959.

The monument was originally created by the Converse Lion's Club to honor those who served in World War II.[24] A smaller bronze, reading "and all other wars," was added at a later unknown date.

210 North Jefferson Street. Converse City Hall, Vernacular, 1937. Contributing. Photo 0019.

The brown brick building contains two distinct areas; the two-story administration and fire station in the front, and a one-story auditorium in the rear. The front two-story structure has a flat roof. The off-center entry rises two steps above the sidewalk level. The door is a wood ¾ divided-lite unit with matching sidelites. A flat metal canopy covers the entry and a divided-lite transom rests above. To the north (left) of the entry, the city offices have two window openings with limestone sills, containing three double-hung sashes; a large center unit flanked by two narrower units. The former fire house to the south (right) contains two wood-panel garage doors with vision lites and horizontal siding infill above.

The second story contains four window openings with limestone sills, aligning with the fenestration below. A pair of double-hung windows tops the entry door, and the other three units match the triple, double-hung arrangement as in the city offices below. A stone cartouche bears the words "City Hall" at the cornice. The building is topped with a stepped parapet and metal coping. A cornerstone at the lower right portion of the façade reads "1937," and an additional stone sits to the right of the entry stating "Built by Federal Works Progress Administration 1937." The single-story auditorium wing behind has a gable roof and a false front wall to the rear with stepped parapet.

202-208 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Buildings, Vernacular, 1960. (3) Non-contributing buildings. Photo 0020.

Three buildings exist on this site. The primary building in the middle is flanked by two service buildings. The center building sits back 10 feet from the sidewalk and is composed of brick and aluminum storefront system at the first level topped by a pent shingle awning with a metal-sided gable end above. The sides are constructed of concrete masonry block units. The shingled gable roof extends only over the front or sales portion of the building. The service area to the rear of has a metal, barrel roof supported with rounded glue-lam rafters. The second building to the north (left) sits back 16 feet from the primary building and presents a one and one-half story gable end metal clad structure with one single-pane window in the center of the elevation. The building to the south (right) sits back almost 60 feet from the primary. The concrete block base rises 7 feet and is topped by yellow, vinyl horizontal siding at the gable end.

[24] "Bronze Memorial Tablet Arrives." Converse Journal, 5/30/1947.

Although the primary building falls within the period of significance, its façade has lost its historic character. The service buildings flanking the primary do not contribute to the district.

Historically, a livery stable, flanked by two houses occupied the property. In 1903, Dr. O. Litzenberger replaced the wood-frame livery with a brick livery building.[25] By 1920, the building was being used as an auto garage. A Ford Dealership operated in the building as early as 1938.[26] Delmar Graham owned the dealership in 1960 when an explosion destroyed the historic building.[27] He replaced it with the current primary structure.

100 Block North Jefferson Street – East Side

The 102-118 North Jefferson Street block is essentially intact and has undergone little change in building footprint as documented through the 1898, 1909, and 1920 Sanborn Maps. The building facades, however, have seen loss of cornice detailing, storefront changes and application of new facing materials. The commercial buildings were constructed after an 1882 fire destroyed the earlier wood frame structures.

118 North Jefferson Street. House, Bungalow, circa 1908. Contributing. Left side Photo 0021.

This one and one-half story house has a brick foundation, white vinyl lap siding and a hipped shingle roof. The central entry is reached by five concrete steps to a small wood porch. The walls supporting the steps are painted brick with stone caps. The riser for the top porch step is painted wood lattice. The porch is constructed of turned wood posts, scroll work supports, and wood railings with turned balusters. The shingled porch roof presents a vinyl lap siding gable end with wood fascia. The original full-lite wood panel door remains behind a white aluminum framed full-lite storm door. To the north (left) of the porch is a bay window with three double-hung replacement windows in wood frames with simple wood trim. A single, double-hung wood window sits to the south (right) of the entry. A centrally located hipped roof dormer features three double-hung replacement windows.

A stone foundation supports the house at the north elevation. The north roofline juts out to accommodate another bay window with three double-hung replacement units. A shed roof dormer holds two windows; one fixed and one partially infilled with an air conditioning unit.

The south elevation mirrors the north, except for an additional double-hung window near the front of the house. A shed roof addition sits to the back of the house and is not evident to the street. The façade of the house maintains its original features.

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[25] "Building Boom." Converse Journal, 9/18/1903.
[26] Converse Journal, 8/26/1938.
[27] "Fire Destroys Graham Ford." Converse Journal, 3/9/1960.

Harry Rausman, a local dry goods merchant, owned a house on this property beginning in 1893. Between 1898 and 1909, he constructed the house that presently sits on the property. Dr. Andrew Newell and his wife Edith purchased the house in 1919. Dr. Newell served the medical needs of the town. Descendants of the Newell family still own the house.

112-114 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Italianate, circa 1884. Contributing. Right side Photo 0021.

This red brick two-story building has a flat roof. The façade is separated into three sections with a large central area flanked by angled walls. The canted walls contain entries composed of ¾-lite wood panel doors with wood sidelites that replaced the original paired doors. The transom windows remain above the doors. The central portion of the façade features large storefront windows with wood kickplates, and wood-framed display windows and transoms. Canvas awnings top both entries and the storefront windows. The beam is covered by a wood frieze supported by decorative wood brackets and a metal cornice. The second story contains segmental arch window openings with limestone sills. The angled walls have wood framed fixed windows and the front wall has two narrower wood framed double-hung windows. The parapet wall is constructed with intricate brick details including an arcaded corbel table and a dog-toothed band pattern topped by a basket weave pattern. The stepped section contains a recessed rectangular panel in the center.

The building was constructed after a fire occurring in 1882. The building held a millinery shop from 1898 to 1909.[28] In 1947 Leicester Brown purchased the property and opened his feed store and hatchery in the building. He and his wife lived in the apartment on the second floor. Later the building held a real estate office and is now a beauty salon and exercise studio.

The building is one of the most intact structures in the district, retaining its original storefront, unique footprint, and ornate brick work.

110 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884, 1963. Contributing. Left side Photo 0022.

The two-story brick building with flat roof formerly held two storefronts. The current storefront (circa 1963) has a flush entry at the north end and a low orange brick kickplate wall with aluminum storefront system. The transoms are covered with vertical aluminum and are concealed by a series of green canvas awnings. Two original iron pilasters support the edges of the storefront. The painted brick upper story has segmental arch window openings with limestone sills. All are infilled with vinyl horizontal siding. The simple parapet wall rises to a metal coping.

[28] Sanborn Maps.

The Public Hall Co. built the building for two business establishments on the first floor and an opera house on the second floor.[29] In 1902, the local athletic club leased the opera house space and remodeled it for their basketball court.[30] When the building opened Alexander Keyes moved his dry goods store to the south storefront, and the north was occupied by a hardware store. Between 1898 and 1909, the hardware store expanded into the south storefront and the owner created an opening on the first floor making one large retail space. The change in floor plan was reflected on the storefront; it was remodeled to a single recessed entry with low wood kickplates supporting plate glass display windows. The building continued to house a hardware store and implement dealer until 1941 when Benjamin and May Hodson purchased the building and opened their grocery store. The current grocery entry was installed in 1963. The grocery closed in 2011 for structural repairs.

108 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884. Contributing. Right side Photo 0022.

The two-story brick building has a flat roof. The storefront composition includes wood kickplates supporting plate glass display windows that terminate with turned wood columns leading to a canted, recessed central entry. The door has a residential-scale screen unit in front of a half-lite wood entry door. The second story is supported by historic cast iron pilasters at the outer edges of the structure and newer iron columns in the center. At the south (right) the second floor entry is covered with painted particle board. The transom level is covered with aluminum siding. The second story brick is covered in a smooth finish parge-coat. Three segmental arch window openings with limestone sills contain undersized double-hung sashes with aluminum infill. The corbeled cornice leads to a flush parapet wall with clay tile coping.

The parge-coating was applied prior to the 1960s. The storefront, although not original, is designed in a sympathetic form to the historic district.

James Powell operated a dry goods store in the building from the early 1900s until his death in 1926. It remained a dry goods store and in 1969 his grandson purchased the store and named it the J. P. Powell Department Store. The building currently houses a photography business.

104-106 North Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884. Contributing. Left side Photo 0023.

The two-story brick building has been covered with a veneer, tooled to resemble rock-face block. Two identical storefront bays are composed of brick pilasters and kickplates supporting cast stone sills and plate glass windows. The recessed entries have aluminum full-lite entry doors and

[29] Xenia Journal, 11/27/1885.
[30] The Peru Republican, 8/1/1902.

canted walls. The transom level is covered with metal vertical panels. Offset red plastic letters read "Hardware." The second story level is separated into 4 bays with four window openings. The windows are infilled with painted plywood and have limestone lintels and sills. A projecting metal pole supports an internally lighted business sign. The veneer was applied circa 1960. The storefronts were remodeled in 2003 in a configuration typical to the historic nature of the district. The building has housed a hardware store for several years.

102 North Jefferson Street. Farmers State Bank, Classical Revival, 1884, 1921. Contributing. Right side Photo 0023.

This corner two-story building has rose colored brick on the south elevation and buff brick on the façade that wraps the corner of the south elevation. The front was refaced in 1921, while the side elevation retains its original appearance. The offset, slightly recessed storefront rises from a limestone base. A 42" brick wall and limestone sill support the plate glass window and exposed transom glass above. A central brick pilaster separates the display window area and the entry. The decorative brickwork on the pilasters and kickplates is arranged in rectangular outline of header bricks with limestone corner blocks. The entry is composed of a central wood ¾ lite door with flanking sidelites. The transom area above the door is covered with vertical metal siding. A metal awning above the storefront conceals a limestone bands on the brick pilasters. The storefront cornice displays a limestone egg and dart beltcourse topped by cyma recta molding. The second floor windows sit within a recessed area, corbeled at the top. The openings have a continuous limestone lintel and sill and are infilled with painted wood panels. The entablature is constructed of limestone with a frieze panel and brackets supporting the cornice. The parapet is topped with a stepped pediment and limestone coping.

The Wabash Street elevation presents a limestone foundation, a series of windows, two storefronts and an infilled second floor entry door. The Jefferson Street storefront wraps the corner to Wabash Street for one bay, displaying similar elements, including the buff brick and second floor window arrangement. The first floor window is infilled with tan brick and houses an air conditioning unit. The older portion of the building, clad in rose colored brick, has three window openings with limestone lintels and sills, infilled with tan brick, followed by a small storefront segment composed of a ¾-lite wood entry door, aluminum panel awning and transom infilled with brick, topped by a limestone lintel. It is flanked to the east (right) by a window opening matching the previous ones. Two former entry openings with limestone headers are infilled with brick. A final storefront segment finishes the building with infilled window, wood half-lite door and aluminum awning. The second floor has a series of windows, all with limestone lintels and sills and infilled with wood panels. Two single units are followed by two paired units, a single unit and finally two slightly wider units. A limestone cornice terminates the older portion of the building and is topped by newer parapet wall, constructed of buff brick. A

small single-story concrete masonry addition is attached at the far-east end with a central entry flanked by two small double-hung windows. A wood and shingle canopy extends beyond.

Mark Tully built the building to house his Tully's Exchange Bank in 1884. The original storefront configuration had a canted entry at the southwest corner and display windows on the façade. Tully sold the enterprise and the building to the Farmers State Bank in 1907. In 1921 the façade was remodeled to its current configuration. The bank remained in the building until 1946 when they merged with the First National Bank and moved across the street. The telephone company operated out of the building from 1946 to 1958. In 1963 Huber Davis bought the building and moved his Barber Shop from across the street to make way for the First Farmers Bank expansion.[31]

100 Block South Jefferson Street – East Side

The two buildings at 101-105 South Jefferson Street serve as the south anchors of the remaining nineteenth-century commercial buildings downtown. They display some of the richest extant original detailing along the Jefferson Street corridor. The modern U.S. Post Office sits at the border of the district.

101-103 South Jefferson Street. Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Building, Italianate, 1879. Contributing. Photo 0024.

The three-story corner building holds a commanding presence in the district. The painted brick is laid in common bond. The façade is organized by function at each level. The first floor shows evidence of two storefronts; the one to the north retaining its original configuration and many original details, including cast iron columns, while the south entrance has been concealed with a continuous block kickplate and wood framed plate glass display window with aluminum mullions. Evidence of the prior storefront configuration remains at the ceiling on the inside of the display area. The transom windows are concealed by horizontal metal siding and the beam is boxed with wood. The second story is divided into two bays of three double-hung windows at each bay. The original, segmental arch, double-hung wood windows with limestone sills and metal decorative window hoods remain. The third story is separated into two bays with identical Palladian window configurations. The center windows are large, wood-framed, double-hung four-over-two, round arch windows. Two smaller wood double-hung windows flank the center windows and their limestone lintels intersect the central window at its springline. All windows have limestone sills. Oculus openings top the smaller windows and are infilled with horizontal wood siding. The cornice is composed of two courses of corbelling, a course of dentil brick, and is topped by a metal gutter.

[31] Kokomo Tribune, 1/24/1964.

The north elevation contains segmental arch windows at the second floor and round arch windows at the third floor, all with limestone sills. A storefront at the east end retains some of its original wood and glass construction. The right portion of the storefront has wood infill at the display window and the left has metal siding and is topped by exposed metal beam and rosettes. At the far-east end the entry to the upper levels contains a modern steel door with the original transom window exposed and limestone lintel. The parapet at the north elevation conceals the gable for the low sloped roof and is similar to the front façade with corbelling and a dentil course. The simple brick wall leads to a stepped pediment. At the east elevation all windows are four-over-four with segmental arches and limestone sills. A former entry has been infilled with brick and is flanked by two oculus windows. The exposed elevation to the south contains rectangular four over four wood windows and metal star brick tiebacks.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge #320 built this building in 1879.[32] The storefront was occupied by the Sumpter Dry Goods Store until 1938. It later held a hardware store. Today the Eastern Woodland Carvers Club occupies the entire building, with their meeting room on the first floor, craft and tool rooms on the second floor, and storage space on the third floor.

105 South Jefferson Street. Commercial Building, Italianate, circa 1879. Contributing. Left side Photo 0025.

The two-story brick building has a flat roof. The flush storefront sits on a limestone foundation. A low red brick kickplate walls supports late twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefront system with a central, full-lite entry door. Three original cast iron pilasters support the beam. The capitals are decorated with acanthus and emblems at the center of the pilaster read “S. & J. H.” The second floor is accessed at the south (right) end via metal slab entry door. All transom areas are covered with vertical aluminum panels. The painted beam is capped by a metal cornice. A central metal pole supports an internally lighted projecting sign. The second story is composed of red brick with three window openings above the store front area. The openings have segmental arch decorative metal hoods and limestone sills, with historic wood double-hung 4-over-4 windows. The metal cornice includes a painted frieze interspersed with ancones, and terminated at the ends with larger brackets. The brick side wall from a formerly attached building is visible to the south.

Richard Powell operated a general merchandise store out of this building in the first three decades of the 1900s. Today the building houses an insurance office.

107 South Jefferson Street. U.S. Post Office, International Style, 1965. Contributing. Right side Photo 0025.

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[32] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 631.

This building is one-story with a flat roof. The primary façade at the north (left) is clad in 4' by 4' sections of limestone and has blue applied letters reading "United States Post Office Converse, Indiana 46919." A metal canopy extends to the south of the limestone wall. The south (right) side of the façade is recessed below the canopy and contains a wall of aluminum-framed windows, five rows over four columns, with the lowest row of windows double the height of the upper rows, set in brick with limestone lintel. The entrance to the building is an aluminum storefront connecting the limestone wall at the north (left) end of the facade and the recessed south wall of windows. The south elevation is clad in brick with a centered bank of three aluminum-framed windows, divided into three horizontal panes, with limestone mullions, and seated within a limestone sill and lintel. Prior to the construction of this building the post office was located in the Macy building at 101 North Jefferson Street.

Inventory Listing:

100 Block South Jefferson Street - West Side
108 Converse-Jackson Public Library, Classical Revival, 1918. Contributing. NR # 99000298.
104 Commercial Building, Contemporary, 2000. Non-contributing.
102 Professional Building, Vernacular, 1961. Contributing.

100 Block West Wabash Street
105 Dr. A. D. Kimball House, Gothic Revival, circa 1865. Contributing.
110 Public Service Building, Vernacular, circa 1903. Contributing.

100 Block North Jefferson Street - West Side
101-105 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1890, 1950. Contributing.
107-109 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1898-1909. Contributing.
123 First Farmers National Bank, Contemporary, circa 1981-2004. Non-contributing.

200 Block North Jefferson Street - West Side
201 Converse Park, Site, 1994. Non-contributing.
203 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1894. Non-contributing.
205-219 Vacant Lot. 2008.
221-223 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1895, circa 1903. Contributing.

300 Block North Jefferson Street - West Side
301-303 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1894. Contributing.
305 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1894. Non-contributing.
307 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1890. Contributing.
309 Commercial Building, Vernacular, circa 1910. Contributing.
311 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1960. Contributing.
315 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1941. Contributing.

Mill and Railroad Depot Site
402 North Jefferson Street. Goodrich Brothers Building, Vernacular, circa 1892. Contributing.

202 East Railroad Street. Converse Depot, Craftsman, 1912. Contributing.

300 Block North Jefferson Street - East Side
314 Commercial Building, Contemporary, 2003. Non-contributing.
304 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1890. Contributing.

200 Block North Jefferson Street - East Side
214 Fire Station, Vernacular, 1959. Contributing.
World War II Monument Object, 1947. Contributing.
210 Converse City Hall, Vernacular, 1937. Contributing.
202-208 (**3**) Commercial Buildings, Vernacular, 1960. (**3**) Non-contributing.

100 Block North Jefferson Street - East Side
118 House, Bungalow, 1920. Contributing.
112-114 Commercial Building, Italianate, ca 1884. Contributing.
110 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884, 1963. Contributing.
108 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884. Contributing.
104-106 Commercial Building, Vernacular, 1884. Contributing.
102 Bank, Classical Revival, 1884, 1921. Contributing.

100 Block South Jefferson Street - East Side
101-103 I.O.O.F. Building, Italianate, 1879. Contributing.
105 Commercial Building, Italianate, 1879. Contributing.
107 U.S. Post Office, International Style, 1965. Contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

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

[x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[x]

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

☐ B. Removed from its original location

☐ C. A birthplace or grave

☐ D. A cemetery

☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐ F. A commemorative property

☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Commerce
Transportation
Architecture

Period of Significance
1865-1965

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Works Progress Administration
Bowstead, H. G.
Price & McLanahan

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with construction of the earliest extant building, the circa 1865 Dr. A. D. Kimball house, and ends with the most recent significant building, the 1965 United States Post Office. This timeframe illustrates the growth and development of the district through changing local circumstances and national programs.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Converse Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The buildings tell the story of the growth and development of the town in the significant areas of Commerce, Transportation, and Architecture. The commercial activities that make up the town began with supportive businesses for the local farming community, including flour mills and implement dealers, and developed through the era of significance with additional agricultural activities including a meat locker and hatchery. Banking continues to be an important commercial activity today in Converse and has affected the streetscape and arrangement of the town throughout the period of significance.

The district displays evidence of the effect of railroad transportation on the growth and development of Converse. Locating the tracks three blocks north of the original plat's crossroads created an area for industrial and agricultural activities at that end of the district. However, as the town experienced new prosperity, the district expanded north toward the railroad integrating transportation into the commercial sphere. The railroad gave the town its name; originally called Xenia, the town adopted the name Converse in 1892. The rise of automobile transportation also left its mark on the district, creating new businesses to service the cars and designing site plans for new buildings to include parking lots. Finally, the Converse Commercial Historic District displays a broad range of vernacular architecture and the buildings tell the story of how the local style developed as a result of fire, functional needs, and available materials and funds. A few buildings display distinctive styles ranging from Gothic Revival to International Style.

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

Commerce

The Converse Commercial Historic District was the main business center not only for its own residents but for Jackson Township and portions of adjacent Grant and Howard Counties. Many of the varied businesses are documented in Section 7. The most significant commercial activities were banking, agriculture, and medical services.

Banking – Mark Tully established the Exchange Bank in 1885 at the southeast corner of Jefferson and Wabash Streets (102 North Jefferson).[33] In 1907 Tully sold his business to the newly formed Farmers State Bank.[34] However, Tully's debts to depositors overreached the cash he had on hand to pay them.[35] Later allegations implicated Tully's son-in-law, Oren Trook, with embezzling $25,000 to finance a plantation in Louisiana.[36]

In early 1920, a group of citizens met to organize a bank with a charter from the United States Government. The previously established Farmers State Bank rebuffed the new bank's offer to merge with them. The First National Bank received approval from the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. and opened in April, 1920. They constructed a building at the west corner of Jefferson and Brandon Streets in 1921. The First National Bank advertised the luxury and accoutrements of their planned building: clad in "chinchilla" colored brick and trimmed in stone, with terrazzo floors, public telephone booths, and a separate waiting room and restroom for ladies.[37] The bank directors recognized women as a new segment of their potential customer base and created amenities to accommodate their needs including a private area, or "stocking room," to conduct business.[38]

In response to the new competition, in 1921 the Farmers State Bank Directors remodeled their building, still standing at 102 N. Jefferson. An architect designed the modern façade that "in no manner resembles the old Exchange Bank," thereby removing the reputation of Farmers State from Mark Tully's bank failure. The interior was adorned with new terrazzo flooring, decorative plaster molding, elaborately stenciled walls, and a granite and marble teller desk. The lobby also offered a telephone booth for the customers' convenience. The remodeling work extended to the basement with the addition of a vault, a boiler for the hot water heating system, and a coal room.

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[33] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 629.
[34] Virgil O. Smith, *The First Farmers National Bank: A Commemorative History*, Largo, Indiana: Commercial Printing of Largo, Inc., 1985, 13.
[35] "Bank Owner in Straits." Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, 8/1/1907.
[36] "Oren Trook Must Face Charge of Embezzlement." Indianapolis News, 12/7/1907.
[37] "Converse Bank Contract Let." Article circa 10/1920, Miami County Museum Clipping File.
[38] Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Architecture and Interiors: 1870-1960*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009, 252 footnote 3.

The basement extended beyond the building footprint and received natural light through Luxfer glass block embedded in the concrete sidewalk.[39]

The two banks merged in 1946, occupying the First National Bank building, on the west side of Jefferson Street, and changed the name to the First Farmers National Bank.[40] The first major remodeling of the building occurred in 1960 to accommodate modern banking practice. However, by 1964 the bank needed more land to allow for a drive-through teller window and parking.[41] The expansion of the building required businesses to the south to relocate. The Davis Barber Shop moved across the street to the former Farmers State Bank building. Dr. Frank Miller purchased the land at the southwest corner of Jefferson and Wabash Streets and built a new dental clinic. The 1964 remodel also included expanding the footprint of the bank, refurbishing the interior, and cladding the exterior with marble and granite.[42] In 1980, the front of the building was damaged from a bomb detonated during an attempted robbery. The original building was torn down in 1981 to make way for a new, modern structure to house the bank.[43] The building has been expanded several times and now holds the Corporate Headquarters for the regional bank.

Agriculture – The Town of Converse developed as a farming village and buildings in the Converse Commercial District reflect the continued local reliance on agriculture, how a new business in the downtown represents changing patterns of food storage, and the presence of other farm-related businesses in the district.

The first flour mill opened in 1868 after the railroad was completed through Converse.[44] The mill served the farming community in many ways: besides grinding the grain into flour, the mill provided other processing services, including shelling corn off the cob, and aiding the farmer in selling crops by packing, storing and shipping the processed products.[45] The mill was also a place for farmers to purchase livestock feed and other supplies needed on the farm. In 1892 the original frame mill structure was torn down and replaced with a brick building. Smaller frame and metal structures were added later to house the grain sorting and elevator activities. The mill remained in operation until the 1960s.

The local livestock farmers needed a cold storage facility to hold the meat processed locally. This type of facility also allowed them to sell a processed animal directly to residents in town and to those who did not raise their own livestock. In 1916 Fred Eward of the Marion Ice & Cold

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[39] Converse Journal, 11/25/1921.
[40] Smith, 23.
[41] "Converse First Farmers Bank Completes Remodeling Program." Kokomo Tribune, 12/7/1964.
[42] Smith, 25-27.
[43] Smith, 41.
[44] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 626-627.
[45] Sanborn Maps list the types of equipment in the mill, indicating its functions.

Storage Company built a plant in the industrial area on the east side of town, approximately one mile outside of the commercial district. Mechanical refrigeration kept the building evenly cold. This new method solved the problems of obtaining local ice during a mild winter and the unstable cooling achieved from the use of block ice.[46]

In 1941 Huber Lawson purchased the lot at 315 North Jefferson and built a refrigerator locker plant. The plant was equipped with 300 lockers for customers to store frozen food. A newspaper account promoting the facility stated, "Science has discovered that the quick freezing breaks the tough tissues so that [food] is more tender and palatable after being stored."[47] The meat market section of Lawson's business grew to the capacity that required butchering at least one animal per day.[48] Locating the locker downtown brought the agricultural function of meat processing and cold storage into the commercial sphere of the town.

Other agriculture-related businesses in Converse included the Hunt and Wales Hardware and Implement Dealers (circa 1885-1936) at 110 North Jefferson and Brown's Hatchery at 112-114 North Jefferson. Leicester Brown operated a feed store out of the front of the building and set up the hatchery in the back. Brown was a former teacher, educated at Manchester College, and was elected president of the Indiana State Poultry Association in 1956.[49] Harry Newell lived next door and took a job at Brown's Hatchery during his teenage years. While working with the hatching chicks Harry developed an interest in animal science and went on to become a veterinarian.

Medical Services – The district was home to providers of services, as well as goods. The district has a long history of medical practitioners that served the area. Two single-family houses in the district that provided the dwellings and office spaces for some the town's doctors. In 1857, Abner D. Kimball began the study of medicine under Dr. Frazier in Converse. Kimball attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, graduating in 1860. He returned to Converse to practice medicine until enlisting in the Union Army in 1862. While serving in the Army, Kimball gained experience as a surgeon in the Forty-eighth Indiana Infantry. After mustering out of the Army in 1865 Kimball resumed his practice in Converse.[50] Kimball continued his surgical training at Bellevue Hospital in New York City during 1868 and 1869. The Dr. A. D. Kimball House at 105 West Wabash is located on lot 6 of the Original Plat. This earliest extant building in the district

[46] "Converse Cold Storage." The Peru Republican, 5/26/1916.
[47] "Refrigerator Locker Plant to be Built in Converse By H.C. Lawson." Converse Journal, 1/24/1941.
[48] "Lawson Sells Locker Plant to Partners." Converse Journal, 7/25/1947.
[49] "Former Howard Co. Man Elected to ISPA Presidency." Kokomo Tribune, 12/27/1956.
[50] Centennial History of Grant County. 1267.

was featured on the 1866 Plat Map and 1877 Miami County Atlas, indicated on both as "Dr. Kimball's Office."[51]

Dr. Kimball moved to Marion in 1884 and in 1890 became the Chief Surgeon of the Marion National Military Home for Disabled Volunteers.[52] In 1886, Kimball sold his practice and home to Dr. Jeremiah Kelsey. Kelsey began his study of medicine in 1863 with Dr. E. W. H. Beck of Delphi, Indiana. In 1864 he attended Medical School at the University of Michigan and in 1866 graduated from the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. He began practicing medicine in Carroll County, Indiana, and remained there until moving to Converse (Xenia) in 1886.[53] He remained in practice until his death in 1893.

After Dr. Kelsey's death, his wife and daughters retained ownership of the house (105 West Wabash) and leased the land east of the house facing Jefferson Street for the building of a millinery shop.[54] In 1961 Dr. Frank Miller, a Converse dentist, built the Dental Clinic on the lot facing Jefferson Street and his son, John Douglas Miller purchased the Kelsey house.

Andrew S. Newell practiced medicine out of his house at 118 North Jefferson. Newell served in the Spanish American War before entering the medical profession. He graduated from the University of Louisville Medical School in 1911 and returned to Converse to practice. He entered the Army in 1917 as part of the Medical Mobilization for World War I. Upon his return in 1919, he and his wife purchased the house at 118 North Jefferson.[55] He saw patients in a room off an entrance to the south side of the house.

Transportation

Specific resources in the Converse Commercial Historic District reflect the effect of changing methods of transportation throughout the period of significance. Planning for a rail line running from the eastern border of Indiana at Union City west to Logansport took place in 1852 and 1853. Small companies formed to build sections of the track, such as the Marion and Mississinnewa Valley Railroad running between Union City to Marion, and the Marion and Logansport Railroad that continued the line from Marion to Logansport. The Civil War brought a halt to railroad planning and construction until 1863 when the Union and Logansport Railroad incorporated and purchased the uncompleted line between the two cities. Dr. J. N. Converse, President of the Union and Logansport Railroad, drove one of the last three spikes at the completion ceremony for the line in late January 1868. The completion of the line also

[51] *Combination Atlas Map of Miami County Indiana*. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1877, 63. Converse Businesses File, Miami County Museum.
[52] *Centennial History of Grant County, Indiana: 1812-1912*, 1267.
[53] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 646-647.
[54] Converse Journal, 9/7/1899.
[55] "Miami County Coroner Dies Friday Evening." Kokomo Tribune, 3/16/1940.

completed the consolidation of several small railroads, including the Union and Logansport, into the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central Railroad.[56] The Converse (Xenia) stop on these rail-lines increased connections to a larger region allowing for increased commercial activity.

Business grew in the town after the railroad was completed. A grain mill (402 North Jefferson), sawmill and coal yard (309 North Jefferson) were established along Jefferson Street near the tracks. New additions were platted in the town, including Converse's Addition in 1869, named after Joel N. Converse of the Union and Logansport Rail line. The commercial district also stretched north to the tracks. Earlier, the central point for commerce was located at the intersection of Marion and Jefferson Streets. After 1870 new business buildings were built along the three blocks between Marion Street and the Railroad.

The town's connections increased further in the last decade of the nineteenth century when the Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the line, thereby including it in its "Pandhandle" system. The Panhandle connected Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. Connections for the line that spun off from Columbus, OH ran south to Cincinnati through Xenia, Ohio and northeast to Chicago through Logansport including a stop at Xenia, Indiana. In order to relieve the confusion between the two towns with the same name, the railroad renamed the Xenia, Indiana station "Converse." After the railway threatened to move the station house outside of the city limits, the town conceded and officially became Converse on August 1, 1892.[57]

Railroads became the dominant means for freight and passenger travel in the early 1900s. The railroad lines built new depots in order to accommodate the passengers' comfort and luggage. The depot also served as a gateway to the outside world and an introduction for travelers to the town.[58] The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot (202 East Railroad) was constructed in 1912 and replaced an earlier wood structure. The new depot was located one block west of the old depot allowing closer access to the business district.

After the rise in the use of automobiles, train travel decreased. Passenger transport on the line in Converse discontinued in 1925 and freight traffic declined into the 1960s. The tracks were removed in the 1980s. The remaining site of the former rail bed speaks to the significance of the railway to the development of the town.

Roads provided access to Converse since its founding. Marion Street was the first road leading to the town and it became State Road 18 in 1936.[59] The use of the auto as a major means of transportation affected the streetscape of the district. Autos required repairs and Fred Malott used

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[56] American Railroad Journal, Vol. 41, 145-146.
[57] "The Vexed Question!" Xenia Journal, 5/19/1892.
[58] Francis Parker, *Indiana Railroad Depots: A Threatened Heritage*. Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University Department of Urban Planning, 1989. 1-3.
[59] "Highway Improvement." Converse Journal, 5/15/1936.

the space at 301 North Jefferson for his garage business. The brick livery barn at 202-208 North Jefferson was converted to an auto garage by 1920 and by 1936 held a Ford Dealership for residents to purchase cars. As new construction took place in the district, buildings were sited to allow for parking. The earliest on the Converse streetscape at the 1937 City Hall Building (210 North Jefferson) was created after the house north of the building burned.[60] The 1941 Lawson Meat Market (315 North Jefferson) and the 1961 Dental Clinic (102 South Jefferson) also were placed on their lots in order to provide parking.

Architecture

Significant buildings within the Converse Commercial Historic District reflect the nature of the town: a modest small town that supports the agricultural and light industrial enterprises in the area. The materials, massing and detailing used in construction reflect these qualities. The locally available materials of brick, limestone and concrete block make up the exterior cladding of the buildings. The scale of the buildings, one and two story with only one three-story building, is appropriate to the physical size of the district and the local population. The detailing and ornaments are for the most part simple and understated and also reflect the internal function of the building. A few buildings display distinctive architectural styles; however, the majority of the buildings reflect the vernacular, as interpreted through the era of significance; However, the majority of the buildings illustrate the breadth of Midwestern-style vernacular from the late nineteenth century through the mid twentieth century.

The earliest extant vernacular structures were built after an 1882 fire.[61] The buildings on the east side of Jefferson Street north from Wabash Street (102-114 North Jefferson) are characterized by two-story, brick construction with storefronts on the first level and public gathering space or apartments on the second floor. Iron storefront pilasters remain on some of the buildings. Importation of such pre-fabricated elements was another tangible result of Converse's rail connections. The buildings display simple corbelled cornices and segmental arch or rectangular second story windows. The building at 110 North Jefferson housed the town's Opera House Block. When basketball was introduced in the early 1900s, the theatrical culture made way to a sports culture and the second floor was remodeled for the Converse Athletic Club for their basketball court.[62] The most elaborate building of the era, at 112-114 North Jefferson, had two angled entrances and an Italianate entablature. The bank building at 102 North Jefferson also had a canted entry wall, prior to being remodeled in 1921.

The early 1890s mill building illustrates the functional vernacular. The brick structure with limestone foundation uses the same materials as the commercial buildings, but the arrangement

[60] "Fire Destroys Town Property." Converse Journal, 4/8/1938.
[61] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 630.
[62] Xenia Journal, 11/27/1885.

and sizes of the openings and the roof line displays the purpose of the building. The south elevation oriented toward the railroad tracks contains oversized loading doors and a total of six single window openings on two levels of the entire length of the building. The west elevation acts as the façade, displaying the business sign painted directly on the brick. Although it is the commercial entry to the office, the small door opening and unadorned gable front speak to the building's industrial nature.

Another fire in 1894 spurred a new wave of building to replace the structures that were destroyed on the west side of North Jefferson Street from Brandon Street north, crossing Water Street (203-305 North Jefferson).[63] At this time, the town was in the midst of a natural gas boom (see developmental history). In an effort to entice factories to relocate to Converse, town boosters promoted the businesses and the beautiful buildings in the downtown, therefore the architecture of the new buildings reflected the new prosperity of the era. The corbelling at the cornice of the building at 221-223 North Jefferson is more intricate than previous buildings. The 301-303 North Jefferson building displays a higher style of ornamentation than those of the previous decade, with limestone banding and quoins and crenellations at the top of the building.

Construction in the early 1900s returned to a simpler, utilitarian style. The large openings for equipment doors on the 1903 electric and telephone switching station illustrate its functional nature. The drugstore at 107-109 North Jefferson, constructed between 1898 and 1909, has modest storefronts with simple brick pilasters. The diminutive size and arrangement of the 1910 Coal Office (309 North Jefferson) also display functionality. The scale window and doorway on the south elevation offered the operator a view of a vehicle waiting at the scale and access to the yard. The size of the building suited the enterprise; the entire inventory was located outside and the interior of the building only needed to house the coal yard operator.

Three twentieth century buildings in the district have a connection to national programs. These programs were established to aid society by increasing literacy, economic stability, and creating architecture more functional to the purpose of the building.

The Converse Public Library (108 South Jefferson) was built by funds donated by the Carnegie Foundation. Andrew Carnegie put his fortune, earned in the steel industry, to work to benefit others through the construction of libraries throughout English speaking nations. He offered the funds to build the libraries to communities who agreed to supply the land and the public funds to maintain the property. Mrs. Milton Macy presented Converse's initial proposal to the Foundation. In December 1916, the Town of Converse agreed to budget and supply at least $900 per year for maintenance of the library in accordance with the Carnegie Corporation's

[63] "The Fire Fiend!" Converse Journal, 7/26/1894.

requirements attached to the grant of $9,000 to construct the building.[64] The ultimate design reflects Carnegie's desire for libraries to be simple, dignified structures.[65]

Evidence of the effect of programs resulting from the Great Depression is displayed on a limestone block embedded in the wall of the Converse City Hall (210 North Jefferson) that reads "Built by Federal Works Progress Administration 1937." In fact, it was the PWA that funded the new city hall. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) were created in the 1930s to relieve the economic burden of the Great Depression. Although construction projects were coordinated under the PWA, most people were confused by the numerous acronyms used and mistakenly credited the WPA with buildings.

Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 1933 provided the funding for and created the PWA. The PWA administered a loan and grant program for the construction of federal and non-federal public buildings. Owners applied for the funds from the PWA, but hired their own architects, contractors, and builders and purchased their own materials and supplies. When reporting the accomplishments of this federal program, the authors highlighted the resulting progress in architectural design stating, "The best designs of public buildings that have been produced in the past six years indicates definite efforts to provide structures to fit our present civilization rather than to make our civilization fit into buildings that were designed for other ages."[66] The report praised structures that complied with the needs of the occupants and only used modest ornamentation so as not to detract from the intrinsic aesthetic values of a building.[67]

The Converse City Hall exhibits the forward-looking functionality intent of PWA buildings. The structure was arranged by clearly defined use: the right side for the fire department, left side for administration, and the auditorium in the back of the building. The limestone base, sills and cartouche provide simple, pleasing ornamentation without overshadowing the municipal purpose of the building.

Accounts of the construction of the building in Converse illustrate the local confusion over the correct acronym for the funding agency, in one instance correctly referring to it as the PWA, and in another as the WPA. In Converse, the building cost $40,000; the town sold an $8,000 bond issue to cover their portion and the PWA supplied $32,000 for labor and materials. The town also asked residents to donate furnishings or equipment for the building and in return their contribution would be recognized by a nameplate attached to the item. The town hired John

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[64] Town of Converse Minute Books, 1916-January 1922, 99.
[65] Converse-Jackson Public Library National Register Nomination.
[66] C.W. Short and R. Stenley-Brown, *Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933-39, Vol. 1,* Reprint with new introduction by Richard Guy Wilson. New York: Da Capo Publishing, 1986, iii-vi
[67] Ibid.

Horan, a civil engineer from Peru, Indiana, to act as architect and construction supervisor.[68] The citizens of Converse benefitted from this national program and rallied together to complete and furnish the building.

The U.S. Post Office (107 South Jefferson) resulted from amid-twentieth-century federal policies. After World War II the Federal Government expanded, resulting in the formation of new agencies. In 1949, the General Services Agency (GSA) was created to supply the necessary tools for federal agencies to complete their missions.[69] One of the greatest needs became office space, but the program also encompassed buildings for the U.S. Postal Service. The Public Buildings Act of 1959 charged the Public Buildings Services agency of the GSA with the efficient administration of locating or constructing these resources. The GSA surveyed communities, recommended projects for Congressional appropriation, and administered the disbursement of the funds to the projects.[70]

The GSA set forth policies for Modern Architecture in the Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space 1962 report, "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture:" 1. Incorporate the finest architectural thought, including local and regional architectural traditions. 2. Avoid development of an official style. 3. Develop the building site with respect to the nearby street layout and public spaces.[71]

In 1960 the newly formed Converse Chamber of Commerce discussed the need for a new post office. They wrote to their local Congressman, Ed Roush, asking him to intercede on behalf of the town to obtain an appropriation of funds for the new building.[72] In 1964, Robert Glatz of West Alexandria, OH was awarded the contract to construct the building on the east side of Jefferson Street. Besides the choice of a Midwestern architect, the use of brick and limestone provides the link of local and regional tradition. Since a small town needed only a small, one-story facility, the building was appropriately sited near an existing gas station and across the street from other one-story structures, fulfilling the policy that the site be developed based on neighboring properties. The building displays International-style features similar to the Albion, Indiana Post Office (NPS File # 13001014). Both have flat roofs and smooth, uniform wall systems. The facades contain an inset bank of aluminum framed windows beneath a covered porch, leading to the entry.

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[68] "Fire Destroys Town Property." Converse Journal, 4/8/1938. "New City Building." Converse Journal, 2/26/1937. "Completion of City Hall to be Soon." Converse Journal, 7/8/1938. "Will Dedicate New Town Hall." Peru Republican, 12/14/1938.
[69] *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70*,.U. S. General Services Administration, 2013, 28.
[70] Ibid, 40-41.
[71] Ibid, 42-45.
[72] Converse Chamber of Commerce Minutes Book, Converse City Hall Records.

Huber Lawson's 1941 Locker Plant at 315 North Jefferson illustrates the use of new materials and a new function for a building in the Converse Commercial Historic District. The "Walight" concrete block construction was the first non-brick or wood building in the district. The choice of concrete block was appropriate to the function of meat processing and cold storage. The interior contained "a cork insulated room for quick freezing," providing the climatic conditions to reach lower than 30 degrees below zero.[73] As Lawson's business focus shifted, the configuration at the northern portion of the storefront provided the retail arrangement needed for his meat market and ice-cream fountain, while the freezer facility at the southern portion of the building allowed for the storage of his products. The functional style of the building became an integral part of the streetscape as it evolved from an agricultural purpose into a retail food outlet.

Two buildings constructed in the early 1960s describe the function of the business within. Dr. Frank Miller's Dental Clinic (102 South Jefferson) and the laundromat (311 North Jefferson) portray their business purpose; not as retail outlets but as service providers. The buildings also illustrate the trend of using concrete block for its durability and cost effectiveness, requiring less labor than brick. The brick at the front of the 1959 fire barn (214 North Jefferson) provided a façade sympathetic to the 1937 City Hall (210 North Jefferson) while concealing its concrete block construction.

In the 1960s several building owners used concrete veneer as a means to waterproofing their aging brick buildings. The facades of the circa 1890 building at 101-105 North Jefferson and the drugstore next door were covered with cementitous units that were tooled to give the impression of concrete block construction. The hardware store across the street at 104-106 North Jefferson also has a veneer that has a rock-face block finish. The parge-coating on 108 North Jefferson has a smooth finish, differentiating its function as a department store. Although this sort of treatment often removes a structure from contributing to a historic district, the timing of the veneer application falls within the period of significance and reflects the vernacular style popular when it was applied, e.g. concrete block.

The district includes buildings with distinct architectural styles popular throughout the period of significance. The Gothic Revival movement began in the United States with the first house plan book published by Alexander Jackson Davis, *Rural Residences.* Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books proliferated the style throughout the states. Popular between 1840 and 1880, Gothic Revival houses are characterized by steeply-pitched, cross-gabled roofs with decorated vergebords, extension of wall-boards into gables and tall-narrow windows.[74]

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[73] "Refrigerator Locker Plant to be Built in Converse by H.C. Lawson." Converse Journal, 1/24/1941.
[74] Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989, 197-198.

The circa 1865 Dr. A. D. Kimball House (105 West Wabash) is an excellent example of a Gothic Revival house, though it also reflects vernacular traditions with its central-passage plan. The steeply pitched roof with narrow central gable and decorative verge board remain. Other elements displayed on the house reflecting the style include the tall four-over-four windows and the flat roof porch with decorative scroll work brackets.

Italianate commercial buildings, popular between 1855 and 1890, are recognizable by the applied, elaborate entablature and brackets supporting the roof eave. The details were also often applied to the hoods over long, narrow windows. The storefront bays were separated by decorated cast iron pilasters and cast iron beams divided the first and second stories.

The district includes three interpretations of the Italianate style. The façade of the 1879 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) building (101-103 South Jefferson) displays metal window hoods above the second floor segmental arched windows. The large round arch windows at the third floor are configured in a Palladian arrangement with flanking smaller units separated by brick pilasters. The roof line contains simple brick details and a metal gutter rather than an Italianate entablature. The north elevation displays Italianate-style windows: segmental arches on the second floor and round arches on the third floor. The stepped pediment conceals the gable end of the low-slope roof.

The building is typical for lodge buildings of the era such as the I.O.O.F. building in Farmland, IN. Both occupy a prominent corner on the streetscape. Both are arranged with first-floor retail space, second-floor office space, and the third-floor reserved for the lodge rooms, with entry to the upper levels on the secondary elevation. The ornate third-floor windows on the Converse building signify the importance of the lodge and the purpose for which the building was built.

The 1879 Commercial Building (105 South Jefferson) retains many of its Italianate elements. The metal windows hoods remain above the segmental arch second floor window hoods. The entablature includes a painted frieze board, ancones, and larger brackets at the edges of the roofline.

The 1884 Commercial Building at 112-114 North Jefferson presents a unique angled footprint and a combination of Italianate and vernacular styling. The entablature above the first floor includes a painted frieze board and ancones supporting the cornice. The segmental arch windows at the second floor reflect the Italianate style, although the no window hoods covered the brick. The vernacular parapet is ornamented in brick detailing including corbelling, dogtooth and basket weave patterns, and a stepped pediment.

The house at 118 North Jefferson has a typical Bungalow form, popular between 1905 and 1930. The term bungalow originated in India from a type of house or “bangla.” Bungalows are most often recognized by their side-gable form, with a porch under the main roof and a center shed or

gable dormer. The style may be interpreted with Craftsman features such as solid brick or battered porch piers, simple knee braces, and ribbon windows.[75] The one and one-half story structure in Converse has a low-sloped, hipped roof with a hipped dormer at the front of the house and shed dormers at the sides. The gable-front porch, however, is supported by turned wood posts typical of the Queen Anne style.

The 1912 Pennsylvania Railroad Depot was designed by the firm of Price and McLanahan in the Craftsman style of the many small depots they designed for the Pennsylvania line. Some features distinctive of the style include the pent roof canopy with stucco finished braces, the careful brick details, and the casement windows. This property was listed on the National Register in 1999 (National Register File Number 99000298.).

The 1918 Converse Public Library has Craftsman detailing in its projecting cornice and window sills, but has many more Classical Revival elements. The Doric columns surmounted by a carved lintel at the entrance, brick pilasters framing the windows, and the full entablature along the length of the building display classical features. This property was listed on the National Register in 1995 (National Register File Number 95000205).

In 1921 the façade of the Farmers State Bank (102 North Jefferson) was remodeled in the Classical Revival style. The brick pilasters with limestone corner blocks mirror those on the Converse Public Library. Other Classical Revival details on the façade include the storefront entablature with a limestone egg and dart frieze and cyma recta cornice. The cyma recta profile is repeated at the second floor window heads.

Comparative Qualities

The Converse Commercial Historic District is similar to the Dunkirk Commercial Historic District (IHSSI Survey number 075-528-58001-038) in Jay County, Indiana. Dunkirk is 49 miles southeast of Converse, and was built around the Union and Logansport rail line, which later became a part of the Panhandle system. Dunkirk's downtown comprises approximately four blocks of historic buildings along Main Street, of the same vintage, size, and massing of those in Converse. Although the railroad line ran through other small towns such as Sweetser and Gas City, the Dunkirk Commercial Historic District more closely resembles that of Converse. Converse's significance arose from its railroad history and the extant depot illustrates the town's local importance. Towns along the railway, such as Amboy to the northwest and Sweetser (Grant County) to the southeast, developed around the same railroad line, but never reached the size or manufacturing or commercial capacity of Converse. Today, both Amboy and Sweetser have small commercial cores like Converse. Their cores retain fewer historic buildings – neither was

[75] *Historic Indiana: Indiana Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places 2003-2004*, page 64. McAlester, pages 453-454.

recommended to have a district by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, unlike Converse. Bunker Hill is another similar rail town on the same line in Miami County. It retains a greater concentration of commercial resources, but Converse has the distinction of having its depot and civic buildings. Converse is among the most representative of the historical impact of small rail towns on the Panhandle – Pennsy line in Miami County.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Miami County, including the land where Converse resides today, was originally inhabited by the Miami Indians. Oliver Hazard Perry Macy arrived in the area 1842 and petitioned to have the township named Jackson after President Andrew Jackson. He and Willis Elliott had the town platted in 1849 which encompassed four blocks surrounding the intersection of Marion and Jefferson Streets. He named the town Xenia after Xenia, Ohio. Macy and Addington added forty lots to the north of Marion Street in 1856. [76]

In 1868 the railroad was completed through the town causing an expansion further north. Between 1867 and 1870 properties of mixed commercial and residential lots were added as follows: Macy and Addington, an additional 29 lots north; J.M. Eward to the east; J.N. Converse, north of the railroad tracks; and Smith and Lee south of the railroad.[77]

In 1871, men of the community met to organize the Xenia Union Agricultural Association for the purpose of sponsoring a fair. The first Xenia Fair was held in September, 1871. They leased property north of the railroad, approximately one-half mile east of Jefferson Street. The annual fair was discontinued briefly around the turn of the twentieth century but was revived again in 1908. Although Peru is the county seat of, the Converse Fair has remained an annual event since that date and the fairgrounds remains in the same location.[78]

In 1887, Converse (Xenia) drilled the first product natural gas well in Miami County. Citizens quickly formed gas and real estate companies to purchase land for drilling more gas wells. Throughout east-central Indiana, after the discovery of natural gas, local booster groups formed to lure manufacturers to relocate their factories to the gas-boom towns, offering in return incentives such as free operating fuel and land to build the factory on. Several factories came to Converse, including Peerless Glass Works, a wooden hoop factory, a carriage manufacturer, and other fuel-thirsty enterprises. The factories were built northeast of the commercial district and created an industrial district with access to the railroad. By 1889 gas production was sufficient to

[76] *History Of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 624-626
[77] Ibid.
[78] *History of Miami County Indiana*, 1887, 629. Arthur L. Bodurtha, *History of Miami County Indiana*, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914, 411.

supply the town's electric light plant, the grain mill, and several new factories in the area.[79] The gas boom was short-lived, however, and by 1902 factories began to close or move to other locations with alternate fuel sources.

[79] Bodurtha, 12-13, 186.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Xenia Journal

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 103-620-51001-035____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.0_____

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 595239	Northing: 4492898
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 595468	Northing: 4492900
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 595404	Northing: 4492420
4. Zone:	Easting: 595253	Northing: 4492420

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

Starting at a point at the northwest curb at the intersection of Marion and Jefferson Streets, proceed west along the southern border of the property line of 108 South Jefferson. At the west edge of said property line, proceed north and cross Wabash Street. Continue west following the southern border of the property line of 110 West Wabash Street. At the west edge of said property line, proceed north until intersecting with southern edge of the property line for 123 North Jefferson. Turn west and follow said property line to Maple Street. Turn north and continue along the western edge of the property line of 123 North Jefferson Street. Upon reaching the curb of the southeast corner of Maple and Brandon Streets turn east and continue to the eastern edge of the vacated alley at the north edge of the property line at 123 North Jefferson. Cross Brandon Street and continue north along the western edge of the property lines of 201 through 315 North Jefferson Street. At the northwest corner of the property line at 315 North Jefferson Street turn and proceed southeast to the southwest curb of Railroad and Jefferson Streets. Proceed in a northeasterly direction reaching the northeastern curb of the intersection of Jefferson and Railroad Streets. Proceed north along the western edge of the property line of 402 East Jefferson. At the south east curb of Jefferson and First Streets proceed in a southeasterly direction to the eastern edge of the property line of 402 North Jefferson Street. At the northeastern edge of said property line

proceed south along the eastern edge of the property lines of 402 North Jefferson and 202 East Railroad. Follow the southern edge of the property line of 202 East Railroad until the southwestern terminus of said property line. Turn south and proceed along the rear property lines from 314 North Jefferson to 107 South Jefferson arriving at the southeast corner of 107 South Jefferson. Turn west and proceed to Jefferson Street. Cross said street and turn south. Proceed along South Jefferson Street to Marion Street, arriving at the point of origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above boundary defines the Converse Commercial Historic District through the 1865-1965 era of significance. It includes resources from throughout the period that represent the commercial, transportation, combined residential and commercial array, and architectural themes that describe the district. Discussion with the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and survey work published in the *Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Miami County Interim Report* helped determine these boundaries. To the east lies the survey, identified Wabash Street Historic District, while Maple Street to the west is essentially the edge of town. Marion Street is nearly the south edge of town, with residential lots extending to the south for several blocks. Notable historic houses line Jefferson Street north of the district, but these are not related to the main commercial theme of the district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _Rose Wernicke / Julie Zent_____
organization: __Consultant for Architecture Trio / Indiana Landmarks Partners in Preservation Program_____
street & number: _447 West 91st Street_____
city or town: __Indianapolis_____state: _IN_____ zip code:_46260_____
e-mail: _rdwernicke@yahoo.com_____
telephone:__317/372-3625 _____
date: revised:_July 1, 2016____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Converse Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Converse

County: Miami State: Indiana

Photographer: Rose Wernicke

Date Photographed: June – September, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 108 South Jefferson Street, Converse-Jackson Library..
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0001

2 of 25 - Camera facing southwest at 102-104 South Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0002

3 of 25 - Camera facing southeast at 105 West Wabash Street. Taken by Patricia Jacobs, November 2010.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0003

4 of 25 – Clipping from *Combination Atlas Map of Miami County Indiana*. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1877, page 63.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0004

5 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 110 West Wabash Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0005

6 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 101-109 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0006

7 of 25 – Photo circa 1960 at 107 North Jefferson Street. Unknown Photographer.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0007

8 of 25 - Camera facing southwest at 123 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0008

9 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 201-203 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0009

10 of 25 - Camera facing southwest at 205-223 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0010

11 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 301-307 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0011

12 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 309-315 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0012

13 of 25 - Camera facing east at 402 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0013

14 of 25 - Camera facing southeast at 202 East Railroad Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0014

15 of 25 - Camera facing northwest at 202 East Railroad Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0015

16 of 25 - Camera facing southeast at 314 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0016

17of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 304 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0017

18 of 25 - Camera facing east at 214 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0018

19 of 25 - Camera facing east at 210 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0019

20 of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 202-208 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0020

21 of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 112-118 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0021

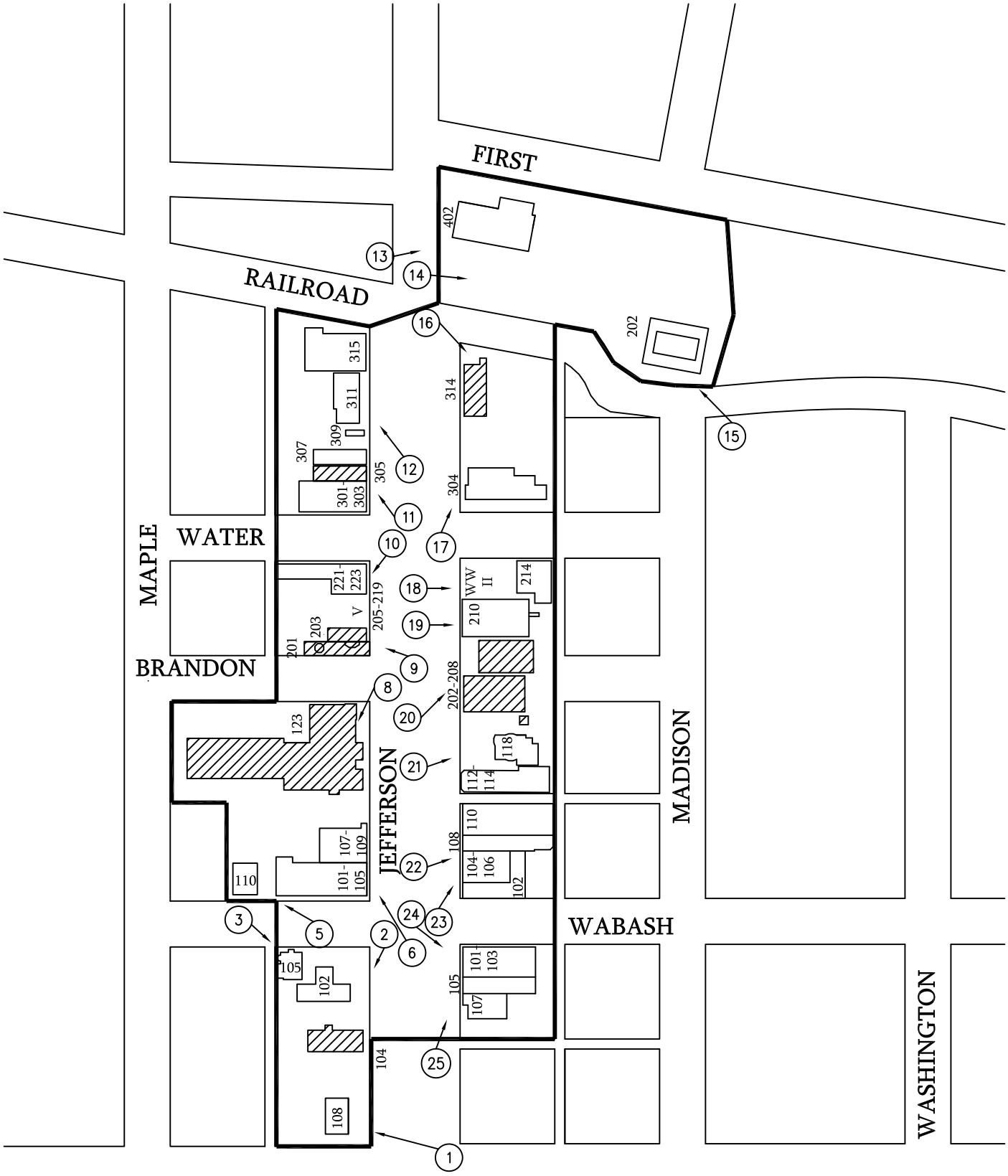
22 of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 108-110 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0022

23 of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 102-106 North Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0023

24 of 25 - Camera facing southeast at 101-103 South Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0024

25 of 25 - Camera facing northeast at 107-105 South Jefferson Street.
IN_MIAMICOUNTY_CONVERSECOMMERCIALHD0025

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



CONVERSE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Converse, Miami County, Indiana

District Boundary
Contributing
Non-contributing
X Photo number and shot angle
WW II World War II Monument (contributing)

0 200 400 600
Scale of feet
Drawn from Miami County GIS Map

N

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0001

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0002

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0003

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0006

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0008

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0011

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0013

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0015

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0019

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0021

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0023

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0024

Converse Commercial Historic District, Miami Co., IN Photo #0025