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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by the alley north of Washington Street to the north; the alley east of Fourth Street to the east; the alley south of Liberty Street to the south; and Third Street to the west.

☐ not for publication

city or town Covington ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Fountain code 45 zip code 47932

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ **national** ___ **statewide** _x_ **local**

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

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Fountain County, IN
County and State

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.)

x	private
x	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	11	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	1	structure
0	1	object
23	13	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
SOCIAL: meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)	
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate	foundation:	BRICK
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival	walls:	BRICK
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival		STONE: Limestone
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical	roof:	SYNTHETICS: Rubber
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco	other:	METAL: Cast Iron
		METAL: Tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Covington Courthouse Square Historic District comprises the historic commercial area of Covington and the historic seat of government for Fountain County. The district is anchored by the courthouse square located in the center of the district and 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings that front the courthouse on streets that border the public square. The buildings that lined the west side of Third Street and fronted the courthouse square were demolished in 1989 for the expansion of a supermarket. This area is not included in the district. The remaining area around the square is largely intact and has had only a few substantial demolitions. The district is almost entirely composed of commercial buildings, but it also includes the Fountain County Courthouse, the Covington Post Office, and the old Covington City Building. The district has new sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting and landscaping.

The resource count includes primarily buildings, but also includes the courthouse square, considered a contributing site, and two objects. The objects are commemorative in nature and are located on the courthouse lawn. The Fountain County Courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 19, 2008. The resources considered non-contributing fall into two categories. The resources whose construction dates fall after the period of significance are considered non-contributing. Resources in the district that have been significantly altered but are within the period of significance are also considered non-contributing. Alterations that substantially change the historical appearance of the buildings include removal of historic details, new siding that covers historic details, or the change in window and door locations and sizes. Buildings that have retained integrity of design and materials, as well as form, massing, and fenestration, have been classified as contributing. One non-contributing structure, a brick knee wall along the east edge of Fourth Street, is part of the resource count. It was built as part of modern streetscape improvements in the downtown between 2005 and 2006.

Narrative Description

The following is a complete list of resources with descriptions.

Washington Street, beginning at Third Street, heading east (north side)

301 Washington. Commercial building, c. 1870. Non-contributing
Left side of photo 0001
The building is one story with a single storefront and walls composed of brick. The building was originally three stories with a tall brick cornice and had similar details to the building located at 303 Washington Street. The upper two floors were damaged during a tornado in June of 1980, and were removed to a height approximately midway through its second story.

The building's storefront was remodeled c. 1975. Its walls are composed of wood and three storefront windows. The entry is located on the east side of the front wall and is composed of a wood door with side-lites and transom windows. The door has three windows. Decorative cast metal pilasters are located on each side of the entry. The east pilaster is much wider than the west pilaster. A decorative metal column is located on the west side of the front wall on the building's corner. A metal cornice with rows of brackets and dentils is located at the top of the storefront. The top of the front wall has four former window openings. These have stone sills and are filled with concrete blocks. The building was part of the J. Loeb Store during the 1800s. The removal of the upper floors and alteration to the storefront have rendered this building non-contributing.

The building has a one-story section connected to its back wall. The one story section's west wall has doors and windows that face Third Street. From north to south, the wall has a window, metal door, door covered with wood, window, door covered with wood, large window, and a pair of metal doors in a former garage door opening. The windows are metal with stone sills. The doors have stone thresholds. The wall has a brick cornice composed of rows of dentils.

303 Washington. Commercial building/Loeb Building, c. 1870. Gothic Revival. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0001
Hetherington & Berner, Indianapolis is stamped on its cast metal storefront.
The three-story brick building had two storefronts that have been combined into a single storefront. The storefront is divided into three bays by decorative cast metal columns and pilasters and has a metal entry door in the center of its wall. The center bay is brick while the other two bays are each composed of wood and two metal display windows. A metal cornice with rows of dentils and brackets is located at the top of the storefront which was remodeled in c. 1995. The cast metal storefront columns and cornice are original to the building.

The second and third floors each have seven windows. The 1/1 wood windows have stone sills and Gothic arches composed of brick. The middle opening on the third floor is filled with bricks; this appears to be original to the building. The other windows on the third floor are covered with wood. A brick cornice at the top of the front facade is composed of two rows of dentils and matches the cornice on the rear of the building located at 301 Washington Street.

William Sangster erected the building on the lot in about 1870. The building was used by the Loeb brothers as a general mercantile during the second half of the 1800s. Julius Loeb immigrated to the United States and joined his brother's already-established business in Covington in 1864. Julius married Miss Nannie McMannomy, who was part of a Catholic family while the Loeb family was part of a migration of Jewish merchants who came to the United States during the middle part of the 19th century. The Loebs had a large mercantile that offered clothing, furnishings, hats, caps, trunks, suitcases, dry goods, carpet, and suits that continued well into the 20th century. The third floor of the Loeb building was used as the lodge for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows from the late 1800s into the early 1900s.

305/307 Washington. Commercial building, c. 1857. Italianate. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0001
The two-story brick building has two storefronts with a deeply-recessed stairway door centered on the front wall. The door is metal with a glass and wood transom. The west half of the building's storefront, including the stairway entry, is divided by five metal columns with complex capitals which support flattened metal arches. The west storefront's entry is located west of the stairway entry between two columns. The entry door is metal with a window in its upper half. The west storefront has two wood display windows; each is framed by the columns. The east storefront was remodeled c. 1995 and is covered with wood. A wide metal entry door is located on the east side of the storefront's facade. Two metal and glass display windows are located west of the entry door. The east storefront's metal cornice is extant while it was removed from above the west storefront. The cornice has a simple design with large end brackets.

The second story has three windows above each storefront. The windows have stone sills and simple metal hoods. The middle window above the west storefront is wider than the outside two windows. It is a 1/1 wood window. The outside two windows are covered with wood. The middle window above the east storefront is composed of two 1/1 metal windows with transoms which were installed c. 1995. The outside two windows are covered with wood. The building has a wide overhanging cornice with a row of fourteen large brackets that support it.

Dr. John Jones came to Covington in 1840 and constructed this building in about 1857. The west storefront of this building served as the First National Bank during the late 1800s until about 1913 when the bank constructed its new building at 328 Fourth Street. The building housed the Ost & Davis Grocery store during the early 1900s. The east storefront was used as a grocery store during this same time. TH M'George, Covington is stamped into the cast metal storefront. Thomas McGeorge operated a foundry in the community for a few decades beginning in the late 1850s into the 1870s.

309 Washington. Commercial building, c. 1915. Contributing
Right side of photo 0001
The two-story building has a single storefront and is composed of dark red and brown-colored brick. The storefront has a wide brick pilaster on its east end and a decorative metal pilaster near its center. The wall between the pilasters is covered with wood. The east half of the storefront has a short metal display window. The west half of the storefront has a wide entry door that leads to a small vestibule. The vestibule's back walls are angled with a door in each side. One door leads to a stairway, the other leads to the storefront. A metal canopy is above the storefront. A stone belt course is at the top of the storefront.

The second story has a centered window opening composed of three 1/1 wood windows with a stone sill. The window has a lintel composed of rowlocks and four square stones. A rectangular panel of bricks in a basket-weave pattern is inset into the wall above the windows. Three large corbels are located at the top of the facade.

315 Washington. Centre Bank, c. 1985. Non-contributing
This one-story, brick building is free-standing and has a shed canopy on its south and east facades. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The entry is located in a cut-away corner on the east end of the building's front facade. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass door that faces east. A wide aluminum window composed of three panes of glass is centered in the front facade west of the cut-away corner entry. A drive-up window is located on the east facade of the building. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing.

This was the site of a large commercial block constructed in the middle part of the 1800s. It was known as the Mayer, Faust & Frey Building. It was razed in 1984. Several businesses were located in the block including a hardware, dry goods, clothing store, and drugstore. The Knights of Pythias used an upper floor for a meeting hall until their building was completed in 1894. The Covington Masonic Hall was also once located in the former building into the early 1900s.

401 Washington. Old National Bank, c. 1985. Non-contributing
The one-story building is free-standing and composed of rusticated concrete block. The façade's top six courses of blocks have heavy vertical scoring. The building's entry is centered and deeply recessed into the wall. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass door and transom. An aluminum window composed of three panes of glass is located east of the entry; it is also recessed into the façade and is separated from the entry by a pilaster composed of concrete blocks. A low landscape wall composed of concrete blocks with heavy vertical scoring is located around the perimeter of the property. Four steps are located in front of the building. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing. The building is located on the site of the former Sullivan Building which was constructed c. 1880, and razed in 1977.

411 Washington. Commercial building, c. 1900. Contributing
Left side of photo 0002
The building is one story and its walls are composed of brick. The front facade of the building is set back from the sidewalk to accommodate a landscaped area. A wood entry door with a window in its upper half and wood-covered transom is centered on the facade. A 1/1 wood window with a stone sill is located in the facade to each side of the door. The entry door and windows have metal hoods and a metal cornice with rows of corbels is located at the top of the front facade. A decorative end bracket is located on the west end of the cornice.

The building first appears in the 1905 Sanborn map of downtown Covington and is identified as a law office. It was built by David Ferguson, an attorney, who donated it to the Democratic Party for their headquarters at the time of his death. It was also used by the "Ferguson Club", a group of individuals who were horse aficionados, and as a doctor's office for Dr. Lambright.

413 Washington. Old Covington City Building, 1903/1915. Neoclassical. Contributing
Right side of photo 0002
The one-story building is composed of dark red-colored brick with limestone trim and has a stone foundation. The building's front facade is divided into three bays by brick pilasters with stone capitals and bases. The middle bay is narrower than the other two bays. It contains the entry which is composed of an aluminum and glass door and transom. The other bays have large aluminum display windows with transoms. The brick pilasters support a stone entablature with a metal cornice. The frieze is covered with black art glass which has the words "Covington Building" painted on them. The glass dates to c. 1930. The cornice is painted black to match the glass. The cornice is supported by a row of modillions. The top of the building has a parapet wall composed of bricks with stone quoin details. A projecting half-round detail at the

center of the parapet, and set off by quoins, features a niche with a brick arch, keystone, and stone sill. The parapet wall has a stone cap.

The building was constructed for the Fountain Trust Company in 1903. The bank remained at the building until they purchased the First National Bank building at the southeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets in 1934. They sold this building to the City of Covington in 1935. Today it is a bank.

Fourth Street, beginning at Washington Street, heading south (east side)

328 Fourth. First National Bank, 1913. Neoclassical. Contributing
Left side of photo 0003
The building is located on the southeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets. It is two stories and has a single storefront on Fourth Street. The building has a tall base and its walls are composed of limestone. The front façade has a two-story portico with Doric columns and pilasters that support an entablature. The entry is located between the columns and is composed of a two-story arch. The first floor of the entry has a pair of wood doors with full windows; the doors have a simple surround and cornice. The second story of the entry has two horizontal rows of wood windows with five windows in each row divided by a belt course. An acanthus leaf scroll is at the top of the arch. The entablature is composed of an architrave, frieze, and cornice with rows of dentils. The frieze on the front facade is covered with black art glass with the words “The Fountain Trust Co.” painted on it. Above the entablature is a pediment-shaped parapet wall with a stone cap.

The north facade of the building is also composed of limestone. It has rows of paired 1/1 wood windows on each floor. The windows have stone sills and lintels. The frieze and cornice of the entablature on the front of the building continue across the top of the north facade. The cornice does not have dentils on this wall. A parapet wall with a stone cap is located above the cornice.

The First National Bank was established at 305 Washington Street. It relocated to this building after it was constructed in 1913. In 1933 the bank became the Fountain Trust Company.

328 Fourth (rear). Commercial building, c. 1920. Contributing
The building is one story and its walls are composed of dark red-colored brick. It has a storefront on the west end of its front facade. The storefront is composed of a wood entry door with a full window and transom. A large wood display window is located immediately east of the door. The wall below the display window is composed of boards. A wood transom window divided into two panes of glass is located at the top of the storefront. A stone lintel is above the storefront. A grouping of three 1/1 wood windows is centered in the building’s front facade. It has a stone sill. A 1/1 wood window with a transom is located on the east end of the front wall. It has a stone sill and lintel. The top of the front façade has three courses of bricks laid in a basket weave pattern. The parapet wall has a stone cap.

322 Fourth. Commercial building, 1887. Italianate. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0003
The two-and-one-half story brick building has one storefront on its north end and a stairway door on its south end. The storefront entry is recessed and features a wood door with a full-length window, side-lite, and transom. The wall between the stairway door and the storefront entry is composed of a wide metal display window. The wall below the display window is covered with metal, as is the transom area at the top of the storefront. The stairway door features an art glass transom. A fabric awning spans the width of the building above the storefront.

The second story has brick pilasters on each end which extend to the cornice at the top of the facade. The second story has three window openings divided by short brick pilasters with stone caps that mimic classical column capitals. The openings have a stone sill course and lintels that rest on the pilasters. The middle window is composed of two 1/1 metal windows. The flanking windows each contain one. The transom windows, which are covered with plastic, are composed of small square panes of glass divided by wood mullions. Two courses of stone blocks carved with small rosettes are located above the lintel. Three wood lunette windows with stone voussoirs and a keystone are located in the half story near the top of the wall. A stone with low-relief carving is located on each side of the middle lunette. A row of brick corbels is located between the pilasters above the lunettes. A row of brick dentils is located above the row of corbels. A simple metal cornice is located at the top of the front wall. It has wide end caps with rosettes on the front of each.

The building is identified as “being built” on the 1887 Sanborn map of Covington. It served as a bank during the first part of the 1890s and then as a dry goods store. During this time the telephone exchange was located on the second floor. It became the Dennis Grocery store during the early 1900s through the late 1930s.

320 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 1915. Contributing
Third from left side of photo 0003
The two-story brick building has one storefront. The storefront has a pair of aluminum and glass doors with transoms centered in its facade. Wide aluminum display windows with transoms are located in the facade on each side of the doors. The transom windows are partially obscured by canvas awnings. The second story has four 1/1 wood windows with stone sills. The top of the parapet wall has flashing covering it. The building had Coleman’s Dry Goods store located in it during the 1910s and 1920s.

318 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 1915. Contributing
Fourth from left side of photo 0003
The building, formerly a theater, is two stories, is composed of brown-colored brick, and has two storefronts. The storefront has a wainscot composed of stone ashlar. The remaining storefront is covered with wood. There are two pairs of wood doors centered in the storefront. They have full windows and are recessed into the front wall. The north storefront is narrow and has a wood door with a full window located in its north end. The south storefront has a wood door with a full window located in its south end. A pair of 4/1 Craftsman-style wood windows is located north of the door. A metal stairway door is located at the north end of the building. A canvas awning is located across the full-width of the building at the top of the first story covering the ghosting of the marquee.

The second story has three windows. The center opening contains a pair of 4/1 Craftsman-style windows, and the flanking openings each contain one. The sills are stone and the lintels are composed of a course of soldiers with square stone end caps. A long rectangular field of brick is located above the windows. It is framed with rows of soldiers with square stone corners. The top of the parapet has a stone cap. The Lyric Theater opened in the building in about 1925 and continued in operation well into the second half of the 20th century. While the marquee and porcelain enamel steel panels are gone from the building’s storefront, the building still maintains the historic doorway configuration of the lobby and small side storefronts.

314/316 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 1895. Contributing
Fifth from left side of photo 0003
The two-and-a-half story brick building has one storefront. It has aluminum display windows centered on its front façade which form a wide window bay. An aluminum and glass door is located to each side of the bay. A shed roof forms a canopy at the top of the storefront and covers the transom area.

The second floor has three openings, each containing two 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and lintels. Directly above are three short openings, each containing two fixed, single-pane, segmental-arched windows. These windows have stone sills and lintels. A stone belt course is located near the top of the facade. Three courses of bricks are located above the belt course and form the parapet wall, which is capped by flashing. The storefront was used by Ellis Furniture Store during the early 1900s, and continued as a furniture store into the 1920s.

310/312 Fourth. Commercial building, 1887/1975. Non-contributing
Fourth from right side of photo 0004
The building is two stories with two storefronts. The entire wall above the storefronts is covered with a tall shed roof which is covered with asphalt shingles. The storefronts are brick and have aluminum display windows and doors. The north storefront has a stairway door and an entry door recessed into the wall on its north end. A wide, two-pane, display window is located in the north storefront wall. The south storefront has a recessed entry door on its south end. A wide display window is located in the south storefront wall; the window is divided into two panes of glass.

The building is a combination of two buildings constructed in 1887 and c. 1897, each with a single storefront. Because the second floor’s front wall is covered with the large shed roof and the storefronts have been altered, the building is rendered non-contributing. If sufficient historic material remains intact in the second story and the shed roof is removed, the building may be considered contributing.

The north building is identified in the 1887 Sanborn map as “not completed” and “to be bank”. The building was constructed by J. L. Townsley. The building was used by the Citizens Bank from the time it was constructed into the

1920s. The south building was constructed by J. M. Marsh in 1893 as a drugstore. It was the location of the Ranier Drugstore during the 1920s.

308 Fourth (north). Commercial building, c. 1895. Italianate. Contributing
Third from right side of photo 0004
The building is two stories and has one storefront which is covered with vinyl siding. A wood door with a full window is centered on the facade. Small metal display windows are located to each side of the entry door. A metal shed roof forms a canopy above the storefront. The second story has three openings. The center opening contains a pair of 1/1 wood windows and the flanking openings each contain one. Each window has a transom and the openings have rusticated stone sills and lintels. A metal cornice with seven brackets and decorative end caps tops the facade. The building was the location of a jewelry store from the time it was constructed into the 1920s, including Robb Jewelers.

308 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 1895. Italianate. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0004
The building is two stories, composed of brick, and has one storefront which is covered with vinyl siding. The storefront has an aluminum and glass entry door with side-lites centered in the facade. A small aluminum display window is located to each side of the entry. A metal shed roof forms a canopy above the storefront and covers the transom area. The second story has a centered three-sided bay which is covered with wood. The bay has a wood window with a transom in each of its walls. The side windows are narrow 1/1 wood windows. The bay's roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A 1/1 wood window with a transom and rusticated stone sills and lintels is located to each side of the bay. Above the windows is a row of brick corbels. The façade is capped by a large metal cornice which features decorative brackets, large end caps, a central protruding gable, and metal cresting.

306 Fourth. Knights of Pythias Building, 1894. Romanesque Revival. Contributing
Right side of photo 0004
The building is three-and-a-half stories and is located on the northeast corner of Fourth and Liberty Streets. The brick building has one storefront composed of large aluminum display windows surrounded by vertical metal siding, which covers the transom area. The recessed entry near the north end of the front façade features an aluminum door. A display window is located north of the entry.

The upper floors of the facade are divided into three bays by brick pilasters with rusticated stone caps. Each bay on the second and third floors has two 1/1 wood windows with a rusticated stone sill and belt course that serves as lintels. Each bay in the half story has a wood lunette window with rusticated stone arches and sill courses. The windows are covered with wood. The front façade features a metal frieze with dentils which is arched above the middle bay. A metal cornice with ornate brackets topped by finials above each pilaster is located above the frieze on the outer bays. A stone name block with "K of P" engraved in it is at the top of the middle bay, below the arched frieze.

The south facade, facing Liberty Street, has six short window openings with rusticated stone sills and lintels on the first floor that have been filled with bricks. A large storefront window that is composed of glass blocks is on the west end of the façade. The second and third floors each have fourteen 1/1 wood windows with rusticated stone sills and lintels. A cornice that matches the one at the top of the front façade is at the top of the south façade. There is a steel fire escape between the second and third floors near the middle of the façade.

The Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization, was organized in Covington on August 8, 1873, and designated Tidal Lodge No. 36. Charles W. Brown and Mr. Koebler had the building constructed in 1894. They named their lodge hall "Castle Lodge". Morris Herzog was a Jewish immigrant from Germany who operated a department store known as "The Leader" on the main level of the building. The store later became a JC Penney department store, the Sprague Variety Store, and during the middle part of the 20th century it became Brooks Ben Franklin department store. Ben Franklin expanded into the two storefronts north of this site.

216 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 2000. Non-contributing
The building is one-story with a front gable. It has a metal entry door located just south of center on the front facade. A pair of metal windows is centered in the front facade north of the entry door. The walls are covered with vinyl siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing. The former building that sat on this site was Hotel Sprague and the Sprague Department Store. It was destroyed by fire on July 20, 1999.

214 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 2000. Non-contributing
The building is one-story with a front gable. It has a metal entry door centered in the front facade. A pair of metal windows is centered in the facade north and south of the entry door. The walls are covered with vinyl siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing.

212 Fourth. Commercial building, c. 2000. Non-contributing
The building is one-story with a front gable. It has a metal entry door centered in the front facade. A pair of metal windows is centered in the façade north and south of the entry door. The walls are covered with vinyl siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing.

215 Fourth. Joseph Allen Building, Commercial building, 1876. Italianate. Contributing
Left side of photo 0006
The two-story brick building has one storefront and is located on the southwest corner of Liberty and Fourth Streets. The storefront, which faces Liberty Street, is composed of large metal display windows on a stone sill at the bottom of the facade. The storefront was combined with the storefront to the west and no longer has an entry door. The transom area is covered with metal. Brick pilasters are located on each side of the storefront. A metal cornice at the top of the storefront has rows of dentils and large, ornate end caps. The second story has stone quoins on its corners and three 2/2 wood windows. The windows are arched and have ornate metal hoods and sills. The front facade has an elaborate metal cornice with decorative panels, dentils, and brackets.

The building's east façade (facing Fourth Street) has a pair of wood entry doors with a transom window and segmental arch near its south end. Two 2/2 wood windows with brick arches and stone sills are located south of the door. The second floor of the east façade has eight 2/2 wood windows with brick arches and stone sills. Two wood doors with transom windows and segmental arches are also located on the second story. They provide access to a cast iron balcony and staircase that leads to the sidewalk on Liberty Street. The balcony and staircase have a decorative balustrade and newel post.

Though the architect is unknown, a drawing of the building has written "Danville" (likely Illinois) and the date, 1876. It was used as a grocery store during the 1880s through the 1920s. Jesse Smith operated the grocery store during the 1910s through the 1920s. He lost his business during the Great Depression, after which time the building was used as a café during the 1930s.

Fountain County Courthouse Square

301 Fourth Street. Fountain County Courthouse, 1936-1937. Art Deco. Contributing
Louis Johnson, architect. Jacobson Brothers, builders. National Register of Historic Places. Photo 0011
The building is three stories and is located in the middle of the public square. It is composed of smooth limestone and has a flat roof. Its main entrance faces east, though there are also entrances in the north and south facades. The east and west facades are similarly designed, except for the entrance, as are the north and south facades. While the building is constructed in the Art Deco style, it follows general classical rules of architectural design. The building has a base composed of six courses of large rusticated stones, topped by upper stories composed of smaller stones and divided by pilasters. The first story, which is partially below grade, features double-pane awning windows with in-filled transoms in each bay. The second and third stories feature windows composed of a two-pane awning window in the middle, a fixed rectangular pane below the awning window, and an in-filled transom. Light green-colored rectangular stones featuring Art Deco motifs separate the second and third floor windows. A stylized cornice consisting of a smooth bottom course and a ribbed top course is located above the third floor windows. The parapet wall is composed of three courses of smooth stones and a top course composed of stones carved with stylized Art Deco motifs.

The front (east) facade of the building, is symmetrically designed with a wide, projecting center entry bay. A stone terrace with a balustrade is located in front of the entry bay. A pair of stylized bronze lights and stone horns with rams is located on the balustrade. The center bay of the facade is composed of three pairs of bronze doors with elaborate stylized designs in their panels. The simple door surrounds are topped by elaborate carvings of shields and swags. A window is located to each side of the door openings. The center bay's second and third stories are divided into five window bays. The four pilasters that separate the middle three window bays are three-sided and fluted with stylized capitals. The parapet wall above the center entry bay has "FOUNTAIN COUNTY COURT HOUSE" carved into it. The remaining east facade is

mirrored on each side of the center entry bay. Each side has three windows in its base and three window bays on the second and third stories. An octagonal stone is located in the parapet wall above each bay. The west façade of the building is nearly identical to the east facade, except that it does not have a terrace or pairs of entry doors. Windows, currently covered with wood, are in the locations where doors are on the east facade. Utilities and vents are installed through the wood.

The north and south facades of the building are symmetrical. They each have a pair of centered metal and glass doors, partially below grade, and that are accessible by a wide set of steps. Four windows are located in the base to each side of the doors. The second and third floor facades are divided into bays by pilasters. Each bay contains a window as described above. Quotes about justice and government are carved into the center of the parapet wall.

Courthouse Square, 1936-1937. Contributing (site)
The courthouse square is a well-manicured site mostly composed of lawn. Concrete sidewalks are located around the perimeter of the courthouse which is centered in the square, and also around the perimeter of the square. Wide concrete sidewalks on each side of the square lead to the sidewalks around the perimeter. Shade trees, planted in about 1960, and shrubbery are located in the lawn on the square.

The public square was a tract of land donated by Isaac Coleman, who platted Covington in 1826, to entice the location of the county seat. However, the first courthouse constructed in Covington was placed on lot 120 (the southwest corner of Washington and Third Streets) in 1827. The second courthouse constructed in Covington was located on the public square and was completed in 1833. It was a brick building that served the county until 1856 when the county commissioners ordered the construction of a new substantial building. It was centered in the square and composed of brick with stone quoins and stone-trimmed windows. The building was designed by architect Isaac Hodgson with several small turrets and a large central entry and bell tower that faced south. The new building suffered a fire in 1860 but was repaired and served until 1936. In that year Fountain County partnered with the Federal Works Administration for the construction of a new courthouse to take the place of the 1856 building. The new building was completed in 1937.

Centennial Monument, 1926. Contributing (object)
The monument, which commemorates the centennial founding of the county (1826-1926), is located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. It is composed of white granite and has granite drinking fountains on each side of a wide stone tablet. The monument was placed by the Richard Henry Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of the pioneers who settled the county and those who fought in American wars.

War Memorial, 1988. Non-contributing (object)
The monument is located on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. It is composed of a stone base and white granite tablet. The base is composed of limestone ashlars with a concrete cap. The granite tablet has the insignias of each of the branches of the armed forces. An aluminum flagpole is part of the memorial and is centered behind the tablet. The monument's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders it non-contributing.

Liberty Street, beginning at Fifth Street, going west (south side)

418 Liberty. Covington Post Office, 1956. Contributing
The one-story building is composed of quarry-faced, rectangular limestone ashlar in various sizes. The deeply recessed entry in its west end is composed of an aluminum and glass door, side-lite, and transom windows. Four wide concrete steps lead to the entry. A wide window composed of three rows of five aluminum windows is located east of the entry. A portion of the front wall between the entry and window is composed of four columns of thin, smooth, rectangular stone ashlar. Cast metal letters denoting "United States Post Office Covington, Ind. 47932", are mounted on these vertically stacked sections. A stone cap is located at the top of the building's walls. The west façade has an aluminum and glass door and transom near its north end and four short 1/1 metal windows near the top of the façade south of the door.

The Covington Post Office historically had been located nearer the courthouse square during the 1800s and first half of the 1900s. Prior to its construction at this site it had been located in the Mayer Block, in the general vicinity of Centre Bank, since the early 1900s. The post office had also been located at the rear of 328 Fourth Street during the 1880s and at 303 Liberty Street on the south side of the courthouse square during the 1890s. The first post office in Covington was opened in about 1826. A stage between Terre Haute and Lafayette brought mail twice a week. Joseph Sloan was the first postmaster. Frank Youngblood was the postmaster when the post office was constructed at this site in 1956. At the

building's dedication on October 28, 1956, Arthur Summerfield, the United States Postmaster General, gave the address, and Covington native, Congresswoman Cecil Harden, presented a flag to be flown at the new facility.

408 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1930. Non-contributing
Third from right side of photo 0005
The western third of this one-story, metal-clad building is taller than the remaining portion. The east end of the facade has a tall pair of bi-fold wood and glass doors which are original to the building. A wide aluminum display window composed of three panes of glass is located in the facade west of the bi-fold doors. An aluminum and glass entry door with a transom is located west of the wide display window. Another aluminum three-pane display window is located west of the entry door. The building was constructed as an automobile garage in about 1930. Frost Harden operated the garage during the 1940s.

406 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1965. Non-contributing
Second from right side of photo 0005
The building is one story and has a single storefront. An aluminum and glass entry door is located on the west end with four aluminum display windows to the east. The wall beneath the display windows is composed of bricks. A shed roof canopy is located above the storefront and is covered with asphalt shingles. The parapet wall is covered with metal. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing.

404 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1902. Contributing
Right side of photo 0005
The building is one story and has a single storefront. The entry is located on the west end of the façade and is composed of a metal door and side-lites. The storefront, which was remodeled c. 2000, has four metal display windows. The wall below the windows is composed of bricks. A canvas awning is located above the storefront and covers the transom area. A pressed metal cornice is located above the awning. The façade above is covered with metal pressed in the shape of rusticated stone blocks. The top of the façade features a pressed metal cornice with large end brackets and a clam shell design. The 1905 Sanborn map identifies the building as a repository. In 1910 it is identified as a doctor's office.

322 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1876. Italianate. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0006
The brick building is two stories and has two storefronts. The storefronts are divided by wide brick pilasters. The east storefront has a pair of wood doors with full windows on its west end and two large metal display windows are located east of the doors. The transom area of the east storefront is covered with metal. The west storefront has a deeply recessed, centered entry which has a wood door with a full window. A large metal display window is located in the facade on each side of the entry. A metal cornice with corbels, rows of dentils, and large end caps is located above each storefront.

The second story has six 2/2 wood windows; three above each storefront. The windows are arched and have ornate metal hoods and sills. An elaborate metal cornice with pairs of brackets and rows of dentils is located at the top of the facade. The cornice and the windows are identical to the details on the building located at 215 Fourth Street.

In the 1887 Sanborn map the east storefront is identified as a business that sold china and tinware and the west storefront sold agricultural implements and harnesses. From 1892 through 1905, both storefronts were identified as selling agricultural implements, harnesses, or rackets. During the 1910s and 1920s, Kerr & Son Undertaking and Furniture was located in the east storefront. In the 1930s, it became just a furniture store. Harnesses continued to be sold from the west storefront through the 1920s.

318 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1856. Non-contributing
Third from left side of photo 0006
The three-story building with one storefront is covered with metal. The storefront has a pair of wood doors with windows in their upper halves and metal sliding windows to each side of the entry doors. The wall below the windows is composed of brown-colored brick. A vinyl awning is located at the top of the storefront covering the transom area. A simple metal cornice is located above the awning. A metal stairway door is located west of the storefront. Pilasters that are covered in metal frame the sides of the door and continue to the top of the facade. The transom is also covered with metal.

The second story has three 1/1 wood windows. The third story also has three window openings (not visible on the exterior) which are covered with the metal that covers the surface of the facade. A short section of a brick cornice with dentils is visible above the metal at the top of the facade. Due to the covering of the building's facade with metal, the building has

been determined non-contributing. If historic material is intact, and the metal is removed the building may be considered contributing.

The building has a long history as a café. It was a restaurant during the early part of the 1900s. Prior to that it is identified as a bank in 1887 and a grocery in 1892.

316 Liberty. L D Building, 1856. Contributing
Third from right side of photo 0007
The two-story, brick building has a single storefront. The building was originally three stories and appears to have been constructed in conjunction with the building to its east. For an unknown reason, the third floor was removed after the 1930s. A wide brick pilaster is located on the west end of the building's front facade. The storefront has a centered metal door with wood display windows to each side. The windows have stone sills and lintels. A belt course of rusticated stone is located at the top of the storefront. The second story has three 1/1 metal windows with simple stone lintels and sills. A small building stone centered in the top of the facade is carved with "L 1856 D". Flashing covers the top of the parapet wall. The building was used as a drugstore during the 1880s and 1890s. By 1910 it had been converted into a hardware store.

314 Liberty. Commercial building, 1928. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0007
The building is one story and its walls are composed of brown-colored brick. Brick pilasters are located on each end of the storefront which has a centered entry. The entry has a wood door with a full window and a side-lite. A transom window is located above the door and side-lite. A wood and glass display window with a stone sill is located in the wall on each side of the entry. The transom area above the display windows and entry are covered with wood. A band of metal is located at the top of the storefront. The building's parapet wall is stepped and has a concrete capstone. 1928 is carved into four individual stone blocks near the top of the wall.

308 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1895. Romanesque Revival. Contributing
Right side of photo 0007
The building is two stories and has two storefronts which are covered with vertical wood siding. The second story is composed of brick with stone trim. The building has a brick pilaster with stone belt courses on the east side of its first story wall. A stone pilaster is located on the west end of the first story. A wide, cast iron, fluted pilaster is centered between the two storefronts. The east storefront has a metal door on its east end. Three small rectangular metal windows are centered on the storefront. Small shed awnings are located at the top of each window. The west storefront has a stairway door on its west end. A narrow cast iron pilaster that is fluted is located on the east side of the stairway door. The west storefront's entry is recessed in the center of the storefront. The entry door is metal with a window. A small rectangular wood window is located on each side of the entry. A tall shed awning, covered with wood shakes, is located above the west storefront.

A belt course composed of rusticated stones is at the top of the storefronts. The belt course forms a sill course for the five 1/1 wood windows on the second story. The windows have rusticated stone arches that rest on a belt course composed of rusticated stones. The top of the front facade is covered with a short shed awning covered with wood shakes. A portion of the building was used as a printing office during the early 1900s. The building was known as the Martin Block during the 1940s.

302 Liberty. Commercial building, c. 1985. Non-contributing
The free-standing building is one story and its walls are composed of bricks. The building has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. An entry door with a full window is centered in the building's north facade. The building's date of construction is after the period of significance and thereby renders the building non-contributing.

A destructive tornado in June of 1980 did considerable damage to the City of Covington. The upper floors and west wall of a nineteenth century building that was once located on this site were so heavily damaged that the building was razed. This building was constructed shortly after. The former building had been known as the Miller Block during the late 1800s and as the Cardiff Block during the early 1900s. Located in the building were the Columbia Opera House and Cardiff & Son Saloon.

Third Street, beginning at Washington Street, going north

411 Third. Commercial building, c. 1907. Contributing
Photo 0009
The building has a two-story center section with one-story sections on each side. The front facade is composed of rusticated brick and has a stepped parapet with a stone cap. The front facade has a centered, wide-arched entry which is filled in with wood and a metal door. A wood display window is located in each of the one-story sections of the front facade. The window openings are arched and a piece of wood is located in the space between the arch and the top of the window. The second story has two 3/3 wood windows with segmental arches. A piece of wood is located in the space between the arches and the top of the windows. The north and south facades of the building have rows of tall arched window openings that have been covered with wood in the one-story sections. The north and south sides of the two-story section are covered with vinyl.

The building was used as the Tharp & Price Automobile Garage. It was constructed in about 1907 and is identified on the 1910 Sanborn map as a machine shop and garage with cement floors.

416 & 420 Third. Commercial building, c. 1930/c. 1941. Contributing
Photo 0010
The building has two parts; its north part is an addition built in about 1941. The south part is two stories and its walls are composed of brown-colored brick. The front facade's first floor has a centered wood door with a window in its top half and three panels in its lower half. A new stairway door is located in the south end of the front facade. A narrow wood display window is between the entry and stairway doors. A wide wood display window is north of the entry door. Both first floor windows have stone sills. The second story has two 5/1 wood windows with brick sills. The front façade's parapet is capped with stone.

The north part is two stories and its walls are composed of brick. The facade's first floor has a wood entry door on its north end. A display window composed of three wood windows with a stone sill is centered south of the door. The second story has two 4/1 wood windows with brick sills. The front façade's parapet is capped with concrete.

Orrin "Pappy" Parish relocated his auto repair shop from its location around the courthouse square to this site in 1941. He created an addition on the north side of the building with living quarters on the second floor (420 Third Street). The building is thought to have originally been constructed as a dairy house.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1856-1956

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Johnson, Louis
Jacobson Brothers
Hetherington & Berner
Townsley, J. L.
Sangster, William

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1856 when the first building in the district was constructed at 316 Liberty Street. The period ends in 1956 when the last contributing building, the Covington Post Office, was constructed at 418 Liberty Street. During this one hundred year period the district experienced its most significant commercial and governmental development. 1936 marks a significant date when the new Fountain County Courthouse was constructed in the public

square. A few buildings were constructed after the period of significance. These were constructed in place of historic buildings that were demolished due to fire, wind, or other structural issues.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Covington Courthouse Square Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The district is eligible under criterion A because of two areas of significance that demonstrate broad patterns of the development of a county seat town. These areas include Politics/Government and Commerce. Politics/Government is an area of significance due to the establishment of the county seat in Covington and the construction of the courthouse. The old Covington City Hall and post office are located in the district and also demonstrate the role government has played in the district. Commerce is an area of significance due to the concentration of commercial activity around the courthouse square as the retail center of the city and its surrounding areas. The district is also eligible under criterion C with architecture as an area of significance. The district has a high concentration of commercial buildings designed in architectural styles popular during the period of significance as well as the Fountain County Courthouse, which is an outstanding example of the Art Deco style.

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

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

One of the key factors that led to the development of Covington was its selection as the county seat for Fountain County. The establishment of county government in Covington not only affected the economy of the town, but also influenced the general layout of the town. Isaac Coleman purchased the land that would become Covington in 1823-1824. Fountain County was established the same year Covington was platted in 1826. Coleman wanted to entice the county to locate the county seat in the new community. In order to do this Coleman donated every fourth lot in the plat as well as the public square around which the center of commerce would develop. By doing so, Coleman provided four lots for churches, a cemetery site, and school and county building sites. The donation of lands was made under the condition that Covington would be the permanent county seat, and should it be moved, the land would revert to Coleman's heirs.

Other towns vied for the selection as the county seat of government, including Attica, but it was determined Covington was better positioned nearer the middle of Fountain County. The first county court meetings were held in homes in Covington. In 1827 the board of justices ordered a courthouse be constructed on lot number 120 (southwest corner of Washington and Third Streets); this location faced the public square. The first courthouse to occupy the center of the public square was constructed between 1830 and 1833. A building to serve the county clerk, auditor, and recorder was constructed in 1842 on the public square. This building was relocated to 516 North Fourth Street and serves as a local museum. A large new courthouse was constructed in the public square in 1859. That building served the county until 1936, at which time the county entered into an agreement with the federal government for the construction of a new courthouse under the New Deal relief program (photo 0011). The courthouse grounds serve as a gathering place for the community. Two memorials are located on the public square. One commemorates the military sacrifices Fountain County residents have made. The other commemorates the centennial of the founding of the county. The county jail was located southwest of the square at the corner of Third and Union Streets; it is no longer extant.

The location of the county seat in Covington attracted professionals connected to the courts, such as attorneys and judges, many of whom lived in the community and had their offices around the square. As with many other county seat towns, the public square also served as a focal point for the orientation of buildings facing the courthouse. Location information for businesses around the square was often provided as "on the north side of the square", etc.

City government has also played a role in the district. The City of Covington established their municipal offices at 413 Washington Street just east of the public square (right side of photo 0002). The building was constructed for the Fountain

Trust Company in 1903 but was sold to the city in 1935 after the bank relocated to their new facility. The city was first incorporated as a town in 1852, then as a city in 1888. The building is once again used as a bank.

COMMERCE

The first businesses established in Covington were small, constructed out of logs, and provided a wide variety of products for the residents. The first business was constructed on the west side of the square by Joseph Sloan prior to 1830. David Rawles constructed a hotel, also out of logs, on the west side of the square during the 1830s. Sloan replaced his building with a brick building that occupied a whole lot in 1835. The building was two stories and served as a store room and tavern. Rawles later replaced his building with a frame structure. Also during the 1830s Harmon Webb, who came to Covington in 1831, constructed a large frame structure on the west side of the square that was used as a tavern. David Webb started a livery business on this side of the square in 1848. The early businesses on the north side of the square included a small dry goods store operated by Hawkins and Sanders as early as 1835. A small building was used by Dr. John Jones as a drugstore in 1840. A frame building on the east half of the block was being used as a grocery and bakery in 1840 by Michael Mayer. Both Jones and Mayer replaced their buildings with large brick blocks in 1857 (Jones building, second from right side of photo 0002), 1866, and 1877 to accommodate the growing business climate downtown.

A dwelling with a hattery located in the rear of the house was located on the east side of the square as early as 1830. It was owned by William Crain who came to Covington in 1829. The south side of the square was developed with a business house as early as 1830. It was a frame building constructed by Frank Merrill from which he sold dry goods until 1846. A saloon was kept by Nicholas Kiger in a frame building on the south side of the square as early as 1836. Drs. Hamilton, Clark, and Weldon all had offices on this side of the square during the 1820s-1830s. The oldest extant building in the district is located on the south side of the square. It was constructed in 1856 at 316 Liberty Street (third from right in photo 0007). It was used as a drugstore and later as a hardware store. A small building was constructed by George Snyder as early as 1835 for the sale of whisky; it was located on the southeast corner of Fourth and Liberty Streets. It was removed in about 1845 and a new brick building was constructed for Hardy & Reid, bankers, and Thomas Detrick who operated a hardware store.

While Covington's early growth was advanced due to its location on the Wabash River and Wabash Canal, the coming of the St. Louis, Lake Erie, and Wabash Railroad in 1861 brought sustained commercial growth around the public square. Most of the district's buildings were constructed during this second wave of commercial development that occurred from about 1861 through the early 1900s. In 1861 there were two grocers, four department stores, two jewelers, two hotels, two hardware stores, two drugstores, a butcher shop, livery, and cabinet maker/undertaker. Covington also had five attorneys in 1861. In 1871 there were three grocers, five department stores, a jeweler, three hardware stores, and four drugstores. Many of Covington's large business establishments during this period of time include J. Loeb's department store (left two buildings in photo 0001) and Michael Mayer's grocery on the north side of the block (no longer extant), and Mont Boord's furniture and undertaking business on the east side of the block. Joseph Allen constructed a large business block on the south side of the square for his agricultural implement store in 1876 (left two buildings in photo 0006). The largest extant business block was constructed in 1894 on the east side of the square. "The Leader", a large dry goods establishment operated by Morris Herzog, was located on the main floor of this three-story building (right side of photo 0004).

While growth slowed after about 1910, the downtown district remained the primary center of commercial activity in the town. Business establishments continued to thrive around the courthouse square. The First National Bank constructed an impressive building on the southeast corner of Washington and Fourth Streets in 1913 (left side of photo 0003) and the Lyric Theater was constructed on the east side of the square in about 1925 (fourth from left side of photo 0003). The last building constructed in the district that is considered contributing is the Covington United States Post Office, built in 1956 (far left side of photo 0005). It is located at 418 Liberty Street, a block east of the square. A few buildings have been constructed around the square after that time including two banks, a grocery, gas station, and laundry. These later buildings demonstrate the district's continued position as the commercial hub of the community, though some commercial activity has occurred north and southeast of the district.

Covington, which had incorporated as a town in 1852, was incorporated as a city in 1888. The city became the commercial center for Troy Township and a large part of Fountain County's western region due to its position on the Wabash River. A ferry service was located at Covington until 1847. A covered drawbridge was completed in 1851 and opened to the public in 1852. Tolls were charged for the use of the bridge, but markets to Vermillion and Warren Counties

were opened as well as the large city of Danville in nearby Illinois. Attica, further upriver in Fountain County, was the only other major commercial center for the county. A few smaller communities, most notably Veedersburg and Portland, also developed commercial trade. Portland was located on the Wabash Canal between Covington and Attica, but it lacked railroad service. Veedersburg, on the other hand, lacked access to the Wabash Canal and Wabash River. Portland never grew beyond its canal-days boundaries. Veedersburg grew in response to a railroad that connected it to Covington and markets to the east and west.

ARCHITECTURE

The district's commercial architecture is reflective of many communities whose development is traced to the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. The district has several examples of the Italianate style and examples of the Romanesque Revival style, Neoclassical style, and Gothic Revival style. The most notable building in the district is the Fountain County Courthouse. It is an exceptional example of the Art Deco style used with references to the Classical order of architecture.

The Italianate style, which dominated many Midwestern towns during the second half of the 19th century, was popular between about 1850 and 1880. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years. The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling informal Italian farmhouses, but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style. One of the earliest buildings in the district is designed in the Italianate style. It is located at 305/307 Washington Street (second from right side of photo 0001); it was constructed in about 1857. The building has a row of arched windows and doorways on its first floor (though they have been removed from the 307 Washington storefront). The arches have keystones and are supported by columns with embellished capitals. The building also has a wide overhanging metal cornice at the top of its front wall. Another excellent example of the style is located at 215 Fourth Street and 322 Liberty Street (left two buildings in photo 0006). The buildings were constructed by a single owner beginning in 1876. The building at 215 Fourth Street was constructed first. It has stone quoins and ornamented cornices over its storefront and at the top of its front wall. Its windows are arched and have large ornamented window hoods. The building at 322 Liberty Street is similar in design, but lacks stone quoins.

Hints of the Gothic Revival style are found in the buildings located at 301 and 303 Washington Street (left two buildings in photo 0001). These buildings were constructed in about 1870 with three stories and three wide storefronts. The upper floors have windows with pointed arches composed of bricks, a detail found in the Gothic Revival style. The Gothic Revival style was popular in the United States between 1840 and 1870. It began in England in the 18th century as a renewal of medieval details placed on country estates of the wealthy class. It was popularized in the United States through the work of Alexander Jackson Davis, the first American architect to practice in the style, and Andrew Jackson Downing, who further developed examples of the style in pattern books during the 1830s into the 1850s. The most identifiable element of the style used was pointed, or Gothic arches.

One of the largest commercial buildings constructed in the district is located at 306 Fourth Street (right side of photo 0004). The Knights of Pythias building was constructed in 1894 in the Romanesque Revival style. The most identifying features of the style on this building are the use of stone belt courses that divide the floors on the front wall, as well as capstones on the pilasters that divide the front wall into three bays. The building also has large arched attic windows trimmed in stone above the third floor on the front wall. Another example of the style is located at 308 Liberty Street (right side of photo 0007); it was constructed in about 1895. It has large arched windows on its second floor. The arches are composed of rusticated stones and are connected across the front wall with a belt course composed of stones. The Romanesque Revival style was popular between about 1880 and 1910 due in large part to Boston architect H. H. Richardson. Typical features of the style are broad arched windows and stone banding.

One of the most architecturally articulated buildings in the district is the First National Bank Building, also known as the Fountain Trust Company, located at 328 Fourth Street (left side of photo 0003). The building was constructed for the First National Bank in 1913 in the Neoclassical style. The building has large two-story columns that form a portico on the front of the building. The portico frames a two-story arched entryway composed of a pair of doors and a large arched transom window. Its walls are composed of large limestone blocks topped by a cornice featuring dentils and a parapet wall. A second example of the Classical Revival style is located at 413 Washington Street (right side of photo 0002). It was also constructed for use as a bank in 1903. It has much simpler Classical features, but includes four brick pilasters on its front

wall with stone bases and capitals, and a stone entablature with modillions that support the cornice. The building's front parapet has an arched wall in its center with a small niche in it. The Classical Revival Style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930's in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward Classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced Classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The Federal government adopted Classicism for its expanding number of courthouses and post offices beginning in the 1890's. The style lent itself well to defining a period of explosive wealth due to its formality, scale and sense of permanence and therefore became popular with financial institutions. While the style began with fairly limited detail or classical ornamentation, by the late 1910's and into the 1920's, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling. This is evident between the two examples in Covington which were constructed in 1903 and 1913.

Unlike many courthouses that were constructed in the first decades of the 1900s, Fountain County turned away from the Classical Revival style and used a modern architectural style when their new courthouse was constructed in 1936 (photo 0011). The courthouse was designed in the Art Deco style by architect Louis Johnson. Aside from more stripped-down early 20th century vernacular construction, no examples of modern architecture existed in the district when the courthouse was built. The building's exterior walls are nearly void of decoration and appear like monolithic slabs of limestone punctuated by bays of rectangular window openings. The building has large bronze doors with low bas relief and stylistic bronze light fixtures and stone carvings on its front entry terrace. The interior of the building has walls, columns, and stairways clad with pink marble. While the building is an abrupt change from revival styles of the 19th and 20th centuries, aspects of the building maintain the Classical order including the use of base, middle, and top, and the way in which the entry is organized with a row of engaged fluted columns. Another important feature of the building is the large murals that were commissioned for the interior. The county turned to a nationally-known artist and Covington native, Eugene Savage, to paint many of the murals, while many other murals were also painted for the galleries surrounding the central room of the courthouse.

A few other buildings should be noted, though not distinctive in an architectural style. Two buildings located on the east side of the public square have exceptional architectural features. One is located at 322 Fourth Street and was constructed in 1887 (second from the left side of photo 0003). It has a highly articulated brick corbelled cornice with a large metal cornice at the top of its front wall. The building has three fan-lites in the front wall of its attic. Pilasters with flattened stone capitals separate its second floor windows. A large transom window with art glass is above its stairway door. The building at 308 Fourth Street (second from right side of photo 0004) was constructed in about 1895. It has a window bay that projects from the center of its second floor. It also has a metal cornice at the top of its front wall with a tall gabled section in its center. Both buildings have elements of the Italianate style, but also some Queen Anne and Classical Revival elements. The oldest building in the district, constructed in 1856 at 318 Liberty Street, lacks any specific style, but is reflective of typical large commercial brick blocks that were constructed during the middle part of the 19th century. The post office, located at 418 Liberty Street, is the latest contributing building constructed in the district in 1956. It has simple modern lines with a large window on the front wall of its main level.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Covington's location near the Wabash River drove the town's early development from the time it was platted in 1826 into the 1840s. The population reached between 150 and 200 by 1830. The Wabash & Erie Canal reached Covington in 1846 and then was completed to Evansville in 1853. This, along with the construction of a drawbridge over the river in 1851, provided further development for the community. The town incorporated in 1852 and the first railroad reached the community in 1861. Sidewalks were first required in front of businesses around the public square in 1860 and the first streetlights were placed around the square and on public building lots in 1876. Covington incorporated as a city in 1888. Liberty Street was designated as State Highway 136 through Covington, but when I-74 was constructed around the south side of the city in 1970, through traffic to Danville, Illinois, was greatly reduced.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Architectural and Historical Tour of Covington, 1990

Architectural Styles of Fountain County, Indiana. Historic Landmarks of Fountain County, 2004

Beckwith, H. W. History of Fountain County. Chicago: H. H. Hill & N. Iddings, 1881.

Covington Historical Homes Tour, May 1, 1976

Federal Census for Covington, Indiana: 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920

History of Fountain County, Indiana. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1983.

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

Royal, Josephine, *Fountain County 1826-1976*.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Covington, Indiana: 1887, 1892, 1899, 1905, and 1910

Troy Township Historical Homes Tour, October 20, 1963

Welcome to Covington, Volume 1, 2007. Fountain County Genealogy Society, publisher

Welcome to Covington, Volume 2, 2008. Fountain County Genealogy Society, publisher

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): 045-137-31001-040, 045-137-33036-038

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.75 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	466331	4443172	3	16	466039	4442913
2	16	466344	4442918	4	16	466043	4443186

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

Beginning at the southwest corner of the public square, at the northeast corner of Liberty and Third streets, continue in a line north with the east side of Third Street to a line extended east from the south property line of 411 Third Street. Turn west and continue in a line with the south property line to the west property line of 411 Third Street. Turn north and continue north to the north property line. Turn east and continue east with the north property line of 411 Third Street to the east side of Third Street. Turn north and continue with the east side of Third Street to the north property line of 420 Third Street. Turn east and follow the north property line to the east property line of 420 Third Street. Turn south and continue in a line to the south side of the alley behind the buildings fronting the public square. Turn east and follow a line with the south side of the alley to the east property line of 413 Washington Street, which also forms the west side of a north/south alley. Turn south and continue in a line with the west side of the alley across Washington and Liberty Streets to the south side of Liberty Street. Turn east and follow a line with the south side of Liberty Street to the west side of Fifth Street. Turn south and continue in a line with the west side of Fifth Street to the north side of the alley behind the buildings fronting Liberty Street. Turn west and continue in a line with the north side of the alley across Fourth to the east side of Third Street. Turn north and continue in a line with the east side of Third Street to the southwest corner of the public square, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described above include all of the contributing resources that are part of the historic courthouse square and commercial district of Covington. Areas surrounding the district are largely residential in nature, or light industrial to the south. The west side of the public square, between Liberty and Washington Streets, had its historic buildings razed in 1989; it was therefore excluded from the historic district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt West Garner

organization Landmarks of Fountain County/PIP date September 6, 2013

street & number 12954 6th Road telephone 574-936-0613

city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563

e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 North side of public square, looking northwest

1 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 411 & 413 Washington Street, looking northeast

2 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 Fourth Street looking southeast from Washington Street

3 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 Fourth Street looking northeast from Liberty Street

4 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 South side of Liberty St. looking southeast from Fourth St.

5 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 South side of Liberty St. looking southwest from Fourth St.

6 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 South side of Liberty St. looking southeast from Third St.

7 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 Looking southwest toward 221 Third Street

8 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 Looking northwest toward 411 Third Street

9 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 Looking east toward 416 & 420 Third Street

10 of 11.

Name of Property: Covington Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Covington

County: Fountain State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 1, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Looking west at the front wall of courthouse

11 of 11.

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Fountain County, IN
County and State

Property Owner:

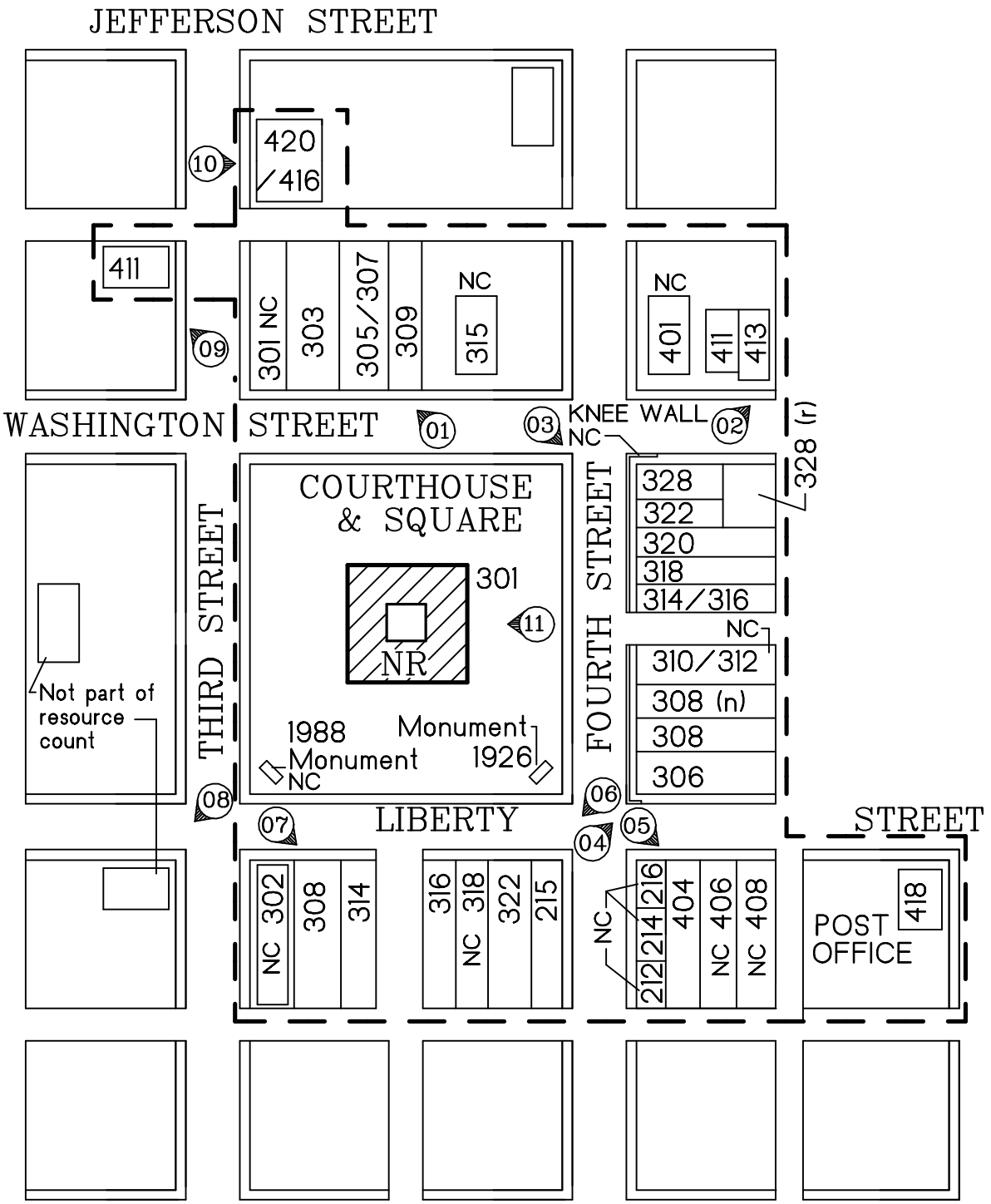
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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.



COVINGTON COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY, INDIANA
Contributing: 23; Non-contributing (NC): 13
National Register-listed property (NR): 3

38 = PHOTOGRAPHS
NO SCALE

NORTH

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0001

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0002

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0003

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0004

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0005

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0007

Covington Courthouse Square Historic District, Fountain County, IN #0009