

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 Gosport Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number approximately five square blocks in the center of the Town of Gosport roughly bounded by Church Street, Walnut Street, Fifth Street, and Third Street

	not for publication

city or town Gosport vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Owen code 119 zip code 47443

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 _____

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 _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
41	19	buildings
1	0	sites
3	2	structures
2	0	objects
47	21	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.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

LANDSCAPE: city park

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT OFFICE: municipal building

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

LANDSCAPE: city park

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT OFFICE: municipal building

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other: METAL: Cast iron

WOOD

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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.)

Function (continued)

Roof: METAL: Steel

WOOD: Shake

Summary Paragraph

Comprising approximately seven square blocks in the town of Gosport, Indiana, the Gosport Historic District contains 67 resources. Residential and commercial architecture is predominantly vernacular. Traditional house types—for example, I-house, central passage, gabled, ell—exhibit an influence of high style architecture in decorative details, such as window trim, vergeboard, and porches. Relatively modest brick commercial buildings display late-nineteenth century storefronts, with central entrances, piers, and large store windows. Only two commercial buildings can be considered high style: the c. 1873 Italianate Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera Hall (resource 38) and the 1909 Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (resource 35).

Narrative Description

The Gosport Historic District was not identified in the 1994 *Owen County Interim Report* as a district although some of its resources were surveyed as scattered sites. It was identified as part of the 2009 Gosport Revitalization Plan prepared by RATIO Architects and corroborated by the Indiana SHPO. The northwest and southeast boundaries of the district as identified in the plan have been expanded slightly to include five additional resources that historical research shows to be closely related to others in the district.

The district comprises approximately seven blocks in the center of the Town of Gosport, Wayne Township, Owen County, Indiana. Rough boundaries are Church Street on the north, Walnut Street on the south, Fifth Street on the west, and Third Street on the east.

The terrain is flat, with a gentle rise to the north beginning at North Street. The character of the district is commercial at its core and residential in the immediately adjacent areas. Streets are laid out in a traditional grid pattern with north-south streets slightly skewed to the northwest. For the most part, blocks are divided by north-south and east-west alleys, with quarter blocks divided into two lots. In the commercial core fronting Main Street, lots are frequently subdivided, so that legal property descriptions are measured portions of the whole, such as "16½ feet by 132 feet." Occasionally, other lots are also subdivided.

Within the district, streets are paved with asphalt and lined with concrete public sidewalks. There are no public tree planting strips between the sidewalks and streets. Some streets have curbs, others do not. With few exceptions, dwellings are set within 10 to 12 feet of the public sidewalk. In the downtown commercial core, new sewers, streets, sidewalks, and street furniture were installed in 2010.

One resource has been previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the Dr. H. G. Osgood House, a c.1854/1877 gabled-ell/Italianate style house. Three contributing buildings were listed in 1999; these resources are not included in this nomination's total resource count.

The Gosport Historic District contains 68 resources. There are 47 contributing resources: 41 buildings, 2 objects (private limestone sidewalk and newel associated with resource 9), 3 structures (retaining wall at resources 1 and 9) and an iron fence [resource 66]), and 1 site (Gosport Town Park). There are 21 non-contributing resources: 19 buildings and 2 structures (concrete slab [resource 15] and relocated iron fence [resource 51]).

Descriptions for all buildings and related resources follow. A resource inventory concludes Section 7.

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1 Tom and Hattie Dodd House (c.1922) • 1 E. North Street (C)
2 garage
3 retaining wall

On a slightly elevated lot, this 2-story gable front Craftsman-style house has recently been covered from eave to foundation with red vinyl siding.¹ The brackets under the eaves have been boxed in with vinyl, and all of the windows are vinyl replacements. The foundation and porch walls and columns are red brick. The main entrance features a wood Craftsman-inspired door and sidelights.

A frame garage covered with Dutch lap wood siding located at the northwest corner of the property is connected to North Street by a gravel drive. A pent roof with exposed rafter tails slopes from east to west. A pair of vertical board doors mounted with strap hinges is found on the south side. A retaining wall of concrete block is found along the public sidewalk on Fifth Street, at the rear half of the lot.

4 Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House (c.1870) • 3 E. North St. (C)
5 garage

See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix: Historic Photographs, HP 1.

This I-house with one-story rear ell exhibits Gothic Revival influence in its front central cross gable and scalloped vergeboard. The partial width front porch reflects the later Stick style; it has a solid lintel, triangular braces filled with tracery, scroll-sawn brackets, chamfered square posts with capitals and paneled plinths, and hanging pendants. The foundation is made of hand-struck limestone blocks. Walls are clad in white vinyl. The roof is asphalt. Interior brick chimneys emerge from the roof ridge near the gable end walls. Windows in the main mass are six-over-six double hung wood sash. Three of four window openings on the west gable end and two of four on the east gable end are filled with fixed louvered shutters; no actual windows exist. The front entrance is topped with a transom; the original sidelights are obscured by vinyl siding but still evident on the interior. See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix: Historic Photographs, HP 1.

The rear ell has a full basement with limestone block walls. The same scroll-swan vergeboard on the main mass appears here as well. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash, with the exception of a rear (north) attic window that is six-over-six. Entrances are located in the west and east walls.

The property also includes one noncontributing garage and additional uncounted resources, including a small limestone grind stone and brick barbecue along the rear lot line; the rubble limestone remains of a wood shed at the northeast corner; limestone curbing along North Street; a limestone cistern in the west lawn; and what is thought to be a piece of limestone curbing standing upright in the west lawn along Fifth Street.

previously listed Dr. Horace G. and Hattie Osgood House (c.1854/1877) • 11 E. North St. (C)

See Photo 3 of 14 and Appendix 1: Historic Photographs, HP 1. See also NRHP Site Plan in Appendix 2.

This immaculately maintained, Italianate-influenced, two-story gabled ell house with one-and-one-half story rear ell has the fenestration of an I-house, with a central hall flanked by pairs of first and second story windows. Hand-struck limestone blocks make up the foundation. Siding is narrow wood clapboard painted yellow. Simple corner boards have chaste capitals. A plain frieze wraps the house. The roof is asphalt. Louvered roundels appear in the front and side gables at attic level. Windows are four-over-four double hung wood sash with filleted pediment hoods. Two mock openings on the west side are filled with fixed louvered shutters. There are no openings on the east gable end wall. A front porch spans the front ell. Square columns are connected by arches with ornate scroll-sawn spandrels, pendants, and brackets. The paneled wood entrance door with single arched light is surrounded by five-pane sidelights and a transom, all slightly curved to mimic the window in the door.

In 1860, Dr. Horace G. and Hattie Osgood purchased this property, adding the adjacent lot in 1863. In 1877, the main mass of the house was built and the rear ell remodeled to match it.

The rear ell dates to about 1850 and is believed to be the original portion of the existing house. When the main mass was built, the exterior of the ell was refinished to make the siding, corner boards, frieze, dormer windows, and east porch consistent with the new construction. Attached to the north side of the ell is a one-story, gable-roofed office dating to about 1860. A modern two-bay garage is attached to its east side, and a one-story shed with bargeboard siding dating to the 1920s is attached to its north side.

The property has additional historic uncounted resources, including a carriage barn, privy, framed well head, remains of a limestone building foundation, well, pump, and cistern, limestone public walk, limestone private steps, and a pair of turned limestone planters.

The small poplar barn has a vehicle and horse storage at ground level and a hay loft above. The foundation is limestone rubble, siding is vertically hung poplar boards with a trace of faded red paint, and the roof is vintage corrugated metal. A sliding track with door is found on the west end of the north wall. Small square wall openings are covered with

¹ A historic photo on file in the Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum in Gosport shows wood shakes on the upper wall and clapboard on the lower walls.

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wood doors with wrought iron strap hinges. The only actual window—a single paned fixed wood sash—is found in the south wall, with a paneled wood door to its left.

The outhouse is located near the barn's southwest corner. Siding is wood painted yellow with white trim to match the house. The door consists of vertical boards. The gable roof is asphalt.

The well head is found near North Street at the house's southeast corner. The base is made of concrete block with tooled mortar joints. Framing is wood painted yellow. The hipped roof is covered in wood shakes.

In the east yard is a wall made of limestone block with a limestone cap that serves as the backdrop for a small landscaped area. This is the remains of the foundation of a Baptist Church built c.1853 and demolished in the 1950s.

The cistern, well, and pump are located just off the east porch. The cistern and well are covered with a concrete slab on which is mounted a steel pump with rotary hand crank.

A limestone slab sidewalk with short sidewalls connects the public sidewalk along North Street with the front porch. Three limestone steps ascend to the porch; they are flanked by turned limestone planters.

6 Willoughby-Stouder House (1913) • 122 N. Fourth St. (C)

This west-facing, gable front bungalow has a foundation of rock face concrete block, walls covered with blue vinyl, and an asphalt roof. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash with aluminum storms. Columns of rock face block frame the full-width front porch enclosed with aluminum frame windows. A rear extension on the house appears to be the original kitchen; a later addition used as an office by Dr. Stouder is located on the south.

7 House (1998) • 123 N. Third St. (NC)

This is a brick ranch style house.

8 Jennings-Brown House (c.1898) • 123 N. Third St. (NC)

The original style of this two-story, rectangular plan house with several rear additions and covered with vinyl siding is indeterminate. Facing south, the main mass features four symmetrically placed one-over-one upper floor windows. On the first floor, identical windows appear below the outermost windows, with an entrance located far right of center. On the east gable end wall is a one-story bay. A porch with foundation of rock face concrete block, concrete floor, and columns of concrete block cast like brick wraps the south (front) and east side. Along the public sidewalk on Third Street is a two-story ell with gable end walls facing north and south. On its north wall is a one-story extension with a pent roof; attached to it is another one-story addition set back slightly from the public sidewalk.

9 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (1881) • 125 N. Third St. (C)

10 limestone private walk

11 limestone newel (4)

12 limestone retaining wall

See Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2.

This diminutive Italianate brick cottage consists of a one-story rectangular main mass fronting North Street with a rear ell fronting Third Street. Under the ell is a full basement. The foundation is rock-faced limestone block. Walls are brick. Limestone quoins appear at the corners. The low-pitched asphalt-covered roof is cross-hipped. A plain wood frieze has paired scroll-sawn brackets. All windows are four-over-four double hung wood sash with limestone sills.

The front fenestration reflects the interior central hall plan, with a central entrance, a pair of windows on the east, and a rectangular bay with paired two-over-two double hung wood sash windows. The use of carved limestone ornament at the entrance and windows reflects the profession and skill of the builder and original owner-occupant Clayton L. Dyer. Chamfered square columns with square plinths and capitals frame the entrance. The columns are further decorated with scallops, panels, and dentils and incised flowers in the plinths. The arched entrance hood has relief panels with incised floral insets, a carved keystone with floral cap, and a tiered cornice. The paneled wood door has an arched single light and a large rectangular transom.

The bay window is framed with similar chamfered square columns, but these lack any additional ornamentation. They rest on a limestone base whose sides are incised with an elongated oval panel. The lintel has incised scrollwork above each window. A bracketed wood frieze and flat roof with copper half-round gutter tops the bay window. The two east front windows have projecting flared limestone hoods incised with deep vertical lines, brackets with relief squares, and a plain cornice. All other windows on the house have flush, smooth-faced, pediment hoods with rectangular plinths and cap.

On the west side of the ell is an Italianate-inspired wood porch with square posts with chaste capitals, solid curved lintels with a scalloped edge and a small hanging pendant, and scrolled brackets between the posts and the roofline. The brackets are a larger version of those under the eaves. An entrance is centrally located in the west wall, with a window to the right. On the north side of the ell is a below-grade entrance to the basement framed by a limestone wall.

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Limestone steps descend to an entrance. A window is located to the left of the entrance, with another directly above in the first floor wall. The entire entrance is covered by a non-historic flat roof supported by three attenuated posts. The recess formed by the ell's east wall and the north wall of the main mass is a wood-framed and -sided historic addition. It appears on the 1895 Sanborn map.

This property includes counted limestone resources of note: a dry stone retaining wall along the public sidewalk on North Street, two large carved newel posts near the corner of Third and North Streets and two small posts at the along Third Street, and a private walk leading from the corner of Third and North to the south and west entrances.

13 Brighton Poultry House (c.1889) • 19 N. Third St. (C)

See Photo 5 of 14.

This former hatchery and poultry house is a one-story gable front building with a foundation of poured concrete topped with concrete block. Walls are covered with asphalt siding, and the roof is also asphalt. Wall openings consist of windows and doors; all are non-functional, being filled, covered, or obstructed. Accessed by a single concrete step, the main entrance—a paneled wood door with covered light or lights—is located slightly right of center in the front (east) wall and flanked with window openings. Additional entrances and a single window are found in the north and south walls.

14 WPA privy (c.1935) • N. Third St. (NC)

This WPA-era privy has tongue and groove board walls and a door with strap hinges made from a single sheet of plywood. The pent roof is covered with corrugated metal. The stools and vent pipe are missing.

Owner Frank Nichols relocated the privy to this site within the past few years. It sits over a former hide curing pit.

15 concrete slab/vacant lot (c.1900) • N. Third St. (NC)

Measuring about six feet by eight feet, this poured slab marks the location of a wood frame building that had various uses ranging from an ice house, shoemaker's shop, and store.

16 garage (NC)

This non-historic two-bay garage is rectangular in form. It has a poured concrete foundation, asphalt roof, vinyl siding, and paneled wood doors.

17 Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (c.1881) • 17 N. Third St. (C)

See Photo 5 of 14.

Rectangular in plan with a steeply pitched, metal-clad gable roof with overhanging eaves, the frame livery barn has a foundation of cut limestone block. The building faces Third Street. The lower front wall is covered with horizontal wood boards. The upper gable wall and all other walls are board and batten. Centered in the front wall is a carriage entrance consisting of paired doors of vertical boards on strap hinges. To its right are a service entrance with paneled door with a single large light and one fixed window. Sheltering both is a canopy covered in wood shake. A loft opening in the upper gable is covered with wood. On the south wall is a metal stove pipe. All exterior walls are painted brown, with the exception of the unpainted north wall.

18 George D. and Mary Dunagan House (c.1879) • 126 E. North St. (C)

This single story central passage house with rear ell features a partial width front porch with Queen Anne-style turned columns, beaded spindles, and scroll swan brackets. The house's foundation is obscured by concrete parking, walls are sided with aluminum, and windows are vinyl replacements, and the roof is asphalt. Later additions are found on the rear and east side.

19 Express News • 146 E. North St. (NC)

This is a non-historic gable-front prefabricated metal building on a poured concrete pad. It was built by Clarence Lambert, owner of the adjacent hardware store (resource 33) in the 1960s or 1970s. The building has been recently remodeled it into a printing shop.

20 Gosport Ice House (c.1905) • no address (C)

Built of layers of poured concrete, the rectangular ice house is located behind the Gosport Feed Store, at the southwest corner of intersecting alleys. The foundation is poured concrete. Vertical boards fill each gable, in which is cut one opening, now filled. The roof is asphalt. Rafter tails are exposed. What appears to be the primary loading and unloading entrance is centrally located in the west wall. It consists of paired hinged doors of board and batten construction with wrought iron strap hinges. Above is a band of three fixed transoms of eight lights each. A second entrance is located in

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the north wall; wood doors are recent replacements. In the east wall is a third entrance filled with a board and batten door sized only for people.

21 Gosport Feed Store (c.1870/c.1950) • 18 N. Fourth St. (NC)

See Photo 13 of 14 and HP 3.

The Gosport Feed Store consists of two conjoined buildings: a one-story gambrel roof building with large shed on the west elevation and a one-story rectangular block building. All walls and the roof are clad in new corrugated white metal with red metal accents. The front façade of the block building has a red brick veneer. All windows are vinyl replacements.

The building was completely remodeled into a restaurant and large meeting/auction hall in 2011.

22 Nazarene Church (1952) • 19 N. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 3 of 14.

Rectangular in plan with a gable front, this church is constructed of brown glazed clay tile block. When the clay was still wet, the surface was dragged with a tool or machine to leave a ragged appearance. The foundation is concrete block, and the roof is asphalt. Narrow rectangular louvered vents with a limestone lintel are found in the gables. Pilasters with limestone caps appear on the building's side and rear walls. Between the pilasters are windows. Two tall sanctuary windows in the middle of the side walls are anodized replacements. Small, fixed windows with three lights of milky colored glass of various hues are found in the rear wall and on the side walls near the southeast, southwest, and northeast corners. The window at the west end of the north wall and the four windows on the front gable wall consist of three sashes, each with four panes of colored glass. The center sash is fixed, and the two outer sashes are casements. All windows have limestone lintels and sills.

The main (east) façade features an elevated central entrance in a projecting rectangular tower. A flight of concrete steps connects the paired steel entrance doors with the public sidewalk. The tower is minimally decorated. Limestone quoins surround the entrance, above which is a limestone block that reads NAZARENE CHURCH. Over this block are two narrow, fixed, eight-pane windows of streaky opal sheet glass. Between and slightly above these windows is a cross of limestone block. In the wall of the church building on either side of the tower are two three-part casement windows, one above the other.

23 Fox-Hart-Hoadley House c.1900/1936 • 14 N. Fifth St. (C)

24 garage

This T-plan, one-and-one-half-story house is a frame house that received its brick veneer and bungalow-style front porch in 1936. The cross-gabled roof is asphalt. Exterior walls and porch columns and walls are buff-colored brick. All windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash. A bay is centered on the lower front wall, with a windowless upper cross gable projecting above the porch roof. The bay has entrances in the cutaway corners and a single large window in the front wall. Entrance doors are paneled wood with a single large light and transom and Craftsman-influenced storm doors. The footprint of the elevated porch, with its limestone-capped walls, columns, and newels, mimics that of the house's front wall. Entrance is gained through one of two sets of stairs flanking a curved center wall. At the rear of the house, along the north-south alley, is a rectangular, gable-front garage made of glazed tile brick. The foundation is concrete block. The roof is asphalt. A small window and entrance are found in the west wall. The garage door is aluminum.

25 Smith-Fox House (c.1850) • 15 N. Fifth St. (C)

See Photo 12 of 14, HP 4, and HP 5.

Fronting Fifth Street, this I-house has an ell extending along North Street and sits very close to the public sidewalks along both streets. A small, one-story square bay with hipped roof on the north front wall is likely a later addition. The house's foundation is limestone block, walls are clad with vinyl, and the roof is asphalt. Elongated first floor windows are one-over-one wood. Shorter second floor windows are two-over-two. A single interior end chimney remains on the south end. The house exhibits Greek Revival influence in its central two-story pedimented entrance with dentil molding, classical wood pilasters against the front wall, sidelights, and original wood panels along the upper entrance. Turned posts are Queen Anne in style. Elevated slightly above the public sidewalk, the porch is accessed by three limestone slab steps, the bottom of which has a wrought iron boot jack. The first- and second-story entrances feature a paneled wood door with a single large light and four-light rectangular sidelights extending only the length of the door's window.

26 Gosport Post Office (1950) • 11 N. Fourth St. (NC)

Constructed of limestone block with a limestone block veneer on the front facade, the one-story, rectangular plan post office has a pitched roof with a front and rear facing gables filled with vinyl siding. The ribbed metal roof is blue. The

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building appears to have originally had a flat roof. Another significant alteration is the abandonment of the original 45-degree recessed entry with a pair of doors in favor of one brought out nearly flush with the front wall. Flanked by sidelights, the glass entrance door has an aluminum frame. The walls of the original entrance also have a veneer of limestone block; the door on the right has been filled, while the door on the left leads to the office interior. The post office's north wall has two one-over-one double hung windows. Two smaller and higher window openings on the south wall are filled with glass block. The front wall has a large plate glass window north of the door, and another window wrapping the southeast corner. All window sills are limestone.

27 I. O. O. F. Owen Lodge No. 146 (1891) • 19 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

This two-story, four-bay brick commercial building has two first floor spaces. The upper façade is divided into four bays by recessed panels. Below the corbelled cornice is another panel stretching between end walls; a limestone block painted white in the center of this panel reads IOOF Owen Lodge 1891-1901. Upper floor windows are reduced in size with vinyl infill. Sills are limestone and arched lintels are brick. On the first floor, cast iron storefront piers are evident, but display windows have been severely altered. The west space has four small fixed windows, while the east unit has no windows. Infill is vinyl. Both entrance doors are insulated steel, with the west door having sidelights. The building's west wall is within a few feet of the north-south alley. Upper windows are reduced in size. Lower windows are original size but vinyl replacements. Near the northwest corner is the original entrance to the second floor lodge hall. The paired doors are replacements. To its left is a second, relatively recent entrance of paired steel doors. Attached to the rear of the building and extending across the rear of the building to the east (resource 28) is a large prefabricated addition.

28 Commercial Building (c.1901) • 21 E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

Though Sanborn maps indicate this building was constructed with two units, it now consists of a single unit with a recessed central entrance with aluminum framed door, sidelights and transom. The entire storefront has been altered with brick and wood infill. A single fixed window is located to the left of the entrance. A full-length, shingled wood canopy overhangs the sidewalk. A photograph from the 1920s shows this building with a 45-degree-angle recessed central entrance with an entrance to each unit located in the angle's sides.

Attached to the rear of the building and extending across the rear of the building to the west (resource 27) is a large prefabricated addition.

29 Commercial Building/west part of 23 E. Main St. (c.1896) • [no address] E. Main St. (C)

30 Commercial Building (c.1893/c.1896) • 23 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6.

These two buildings today are identified by a single address and occupied by a single business, the Gosport Diner. There are two separate storefronts. The storefront on the east is easily identified by the corbelled cornice projecting above the shared canopy. Despite alterations, the original storefronts are evident. Seven brick piers—five with a coating of painted stucco—and four brick bulkheads frame display windows that have been reduced in size and infilled. Entrances have also been reduced in size and original doors replaced by anodized security doors. A notable vintage feature of the east building is a pair of two pendant-style metal light fixtures, one on either side of the entrance.

31 Bank of Gosport (1867/c.1900) • 31 E. Main St. and 7-11 N. Fourth St. (C)

32 Commercial Building/rear part of bank of Gosport (c.1891) • 7 N. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 2 of 14, HP 7, and HP 8.

This Italian Renaissance Revival style brick building consists of two parts. The main mass is one story over a raised basement. At the rear is an original, integrated single story unit with an entrance at ground level. The main mass and rear unit will be described separately.

The main mass has a foundation of smooth cut limestone block, above which is a limestone water table. East basement windows are slightly arched, one-over-one double hung wood sash; narrow wells make the below-grade lower sash visible. Two openings are found in the south basement wall. One has been filled with limestone block in which is inserted a cast iron coal chute. The other is a deeply recessed entrance at the bottom of several steps.

First floor windows are rectangular one-over-one double hung wood sash, but the upper sashes are filled or obscured with wood panels painted red. Windows have pedimented limestone hoods incised with decorative scrolls resting on plinths and limestone sills.

The south and east walls intersect at a 45-degree angle. The recessed entrance is located here, accessed by a flight of 11 limestone steps ascending from the public sidewalk. The entrance is framed by square, engaged limestone columns with inset panels in which are located a central carved roundel. The columns have square plinths resting on

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limestone walls projecting from the basement walls and chaste capitals. A plain frieze is topped by a pediment with raking cornice and tympanum incised with scrolls. Spanning the columns is an arch order with square columns, a decorative carved keystone and incised spandrels. The paired wood doors have carved lower panels, a single, large, rectangular light topped by pediments carved into the wood, and original brass hardware. Above the entrance, the wall corners are accentuated by limestone quoins. On the wall face between the quoins is an oval plaque with a bulldog holding a money bag in its mouth.

A new hipped asphalt roof projects above the corbelled cornice that features a dogtooth course above a raised panel with brickwork crosses.

Resource 32, the rear storefront with an address of 7 N. Fourth St., faces east. It has a central entrance flanked by replacement one-over-one vinyl sash windows. The door transom and upper sashes are obscured with the same red panels found on the Bank of Gosport. Window hoods are three-tier brick archivolt, and sills are limestone. The entrance opening has been reduced in width and the original door replaced with an insulated steel door. Three rectangular vents with wood grills are located above the entrance and windows. The cornice has three courses: a top stretcher, middle dogtooth, and bottom header with every other brick projecting from the wall surface.

33 McClure's Service Hardware (c.1950) • 125 E. Main St. (NC)

34 relocated coal shed (NC)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 9.

Rectangular in plan, this gable front commercial building is made of concrete block with a smooth stucco finish on the rear and two side walls. The front wall is veneered with red brick. The original flat roof was altered to a pitched asphalt roof, with the resulting gable on the front filled with vinyl siding. The building was built in two phases, with a rear addition clearly demarcated by the changing roofline. Side walls are buttressed by pilasters between which are windows filled with glass block. The central main entrance is recessed into the front wall. Deeply set display windows of three panes each flank the entrance. Sills are limestone.

The property includes a relocated gable front frame coal shed adorned with salvaged architectural pieces such as the Eastlake front door and front porch. Walls are unpainted clapboard. A single window in the east wall is two-over-two wood sash. A single west window is a two-over-two fixed sash. A pair of solid paneled wood doors is found in the rear wall.

35 Gosport Banking Company (1909) • 141 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

This small Neoclassical brick building has a limestone façade of ashlar limestone. The foundation is brick. Located right of center, the slightly projecting entrance features a classical pediment, tympanum with dentil course and roundel, architrave with BANK and two wreaths carved in relief, and a pair of Ionic columns framing a recessed door with transom of triangular panes. Left of the entrance and recessed into the wall is a bay window with wood sash; the transom repeats the triangular panes over the entry. The architrave, its dentil course, and horizontal cornice of the pediment are carried across the face of the building. The upper front façade features a panel with three eyebrow windows and a cornice with dentil course. One of the dentils is missing. The east wall is covered with cementitious stucco. Two arched window openings are filled with wood panels. The rear (north) wall has a window and door opening, both of which are reduced in size and infilled. The east wall is unpainted brick.

36 Graham Building (1909) • 145 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

This one-story brick building with brick foundation has a front façade laid in stretcher bond. The display window and entry door are replacements; the entrance has been reduced in size and filled with wood. A limestone lintel divides the upper and lower wall. The upper wall features a decorative panel surrounded by a header course, a inner dogtooth course on the top and bottom, and in the middle, a single row of basket weave bond. The cornice is stretchers lain in corbel bond. On the rear, a commercial kitchen addition is under construction.

37 Lyon Building (1909) • 147 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10.

Constructed of brick with a glazed brick veneer of stretcher bond on the façade, this two-story building features a corbelled cornice, oriel, and original storefront. Oriel windows are replacements. Centrally located paired paneled wood doors with one-over-one lights are flanked by single pane display windows with wood sashes and bulkheads. Transoms over the windows and entrance consist of paired panes. Carriage style brass lights appear on either side of the entrance. The east wall is unpainted brick. Three upper windows, two first floor windows, and a first floor entrance are original size

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but replacements. Window sills are limestone. The west wall is also unpainted brick, with a single second story window. On the north (rear) wall is a wood deck. Windows and doors are replacements.

38 Knights of Pythias Building/Opera House (c.1873) • 151 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12.

Italianate in style, this two-story, seven-bay brick building with limestone foundation is the stateliest in downtown Gosport. Each bay is defined by a panel consisting of an arched window framed by pilasters on the second story and limestone piers on the first. The wide overhanging cornice is bracketed. On the upper story, tall, attenuated windows are replacements, with one-over-one wood sashes and arches filled with wood painted black. All windows appear to have cloudy one-piece fiberglass panels on the outside. Unpainted limestone hoods have pendants and a keystone that supports a short brick pilaster. All other limestone elements on the front facade are painted black. Pilaster bases are limestone. Limestone sills sit directly on a limestone cornice. On the lower story, four display windows consists of a wood bulkhead topped by four rectangular panes of glass in a two-over-two pattern, a semi-circular, two-pane transom, and a projecting curved limestone lintel with relief carved mock keystone and incised linear ornament. Square piers have chamfered corners and chaste square capitals and plinths. There appears to have been three original entrances; all three have lintels identical to those of the display windows. The central entrance, flush with the front wall, now consists of a pair of fixed door-like panels, each with paneled bulkhead, one-over-one lights, and wood frames. A copper light fixture with eight glass panels and curved bracket with Neoclassical motifs—acroterion, anthemion, acanthus leaves—is mounted on the left pilaster. The west entrance, also flush with the front wall, consists of two narrow single-light wood frame doors. The 45 degree recessed east entrance appears to be the original configuration, with one-over-one angled side windows with paneled bulkheads and a wood frame door with paneled kick plate, single large light, and brass hardware.

The building's windowless west wall is brick covered with unpainted stucco. Original upper floor windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash; the upper two panes are curved to form an arch. Stuccoed sills are presumed to be limestone. The entrance to the second floor lodge hall is found near the south corner. These are paired paneled wood doors, painted green, with eight lights each and a six-light rectangular transom over both. The lintel and threshold are limestone. On the north (rear) wall are three concrete block, shed-roof additions. An original window opening has been infilled. The original flat sloping roof has been adapted to a pitched roof evident from the rear but not seen from the building's front or sides.

39 Campbell Building (c.1900) • 153 E. Main St. (C)

40 Campbell-Moore Building (c.1902) • 155 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 13, and HP 15.

These nearly identical buildings were erected within a few years of each other. A telltale seam is seen in the upper façade. The side, rear walls, and foundation of both are believed to be brick. Constructed of rock face limestone, the combined six-bay façade features five piers of rock face block.

The original west half of the building (resource 39) has two narrow piers framing the entrance and one wide pier at the east corner. The west corner is supported by the limestone pier of the east half of the building (resource 40). The east half has wide piers framing the entrance and a narrow pier at the east corner. The four bays containing display windows are identical in configuration, with paneled limestone bulkheads with flower-filled roundel, wood framed windows and two-pane rectangular transoms. The windows in the building's west half are slightly narrower than those in the east half. Both entrances have been modified. The west entrance has been brought out flush with the wall face, reduced in size, and infilled with vinyl, and the door itself has been replaced with a solid steel door. This alteration led to the loss of the elevated interior display area. The original 45-degree recessed east entrance, with single light wood door, wood-framed side windows, and elevated interior display area survives, but the transom is filled. An aluminum security door and windows have been added to form a vestibule. At the top of the front façade, the stepped parapet is finished with limestone coping. The roof of the west half has been altered from flat to pitched. The roof ridge runs parallel to the street, with vinyl used to fill in the intersection of the framing and parapet. The roof is dual-pitched at the rear, extending to the original north (rear) wall. At the rear of the building's east half is a concrete block garage addition.

41 Commercial Building/west part of VFW Post 7850 (c.1900) • 157 E. Main St. (C)

42 Commercial Building/VFW Post 7850 (c.1840/c.1900) • 159 E. Main St. (C)

See Photo 6 of 14, HP 14, and HP 15.

These conjoined buildings were constructed many years apart. The older east half features a corbelled cornice, a flat panel on the upper façade, and limestone storefront piers and cornice. The four square piers have square plinths and capitals and faces with carved oval panels with a center roundel. The display windows have been infilled with brick and small rectangular fixed windows. The entrance is also altered from the original by being brought out flush with the wall. The door is solid steel and the transom has been filled. The long east wall has a single entry door near the middle. On the

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front half of this wall is a restored advertising mural for Cash Grocery (referring to the payment method and not an owner named Cash) and Washburn-Crosby's Gold Medal Flour. The building's west half is similar but not identical. The corbelled cornice extends across the upper façade, which lacks the panel, and the storefront piers are cast iron rather than limestone. The display windows have been infilled with brick and two small fixed windows. The central entrance retains its 45-degree configuration, with its original one-over-one side windows and beaded board ceiling. The door is replacement steel, and the transom is filled.

43 Gosport Town Park (1908/1942) • [no address] E. Main Street (C)

See Photo 7 of 14.

Established as public space in the original plat of Gosport, the Gosport Town Park is a grassy parcel one-quarter of a block in size. The park is bound on the north and east by a public sidewalk and on the west and south by an alley. Concrete sidewalks lead from the northwest and northeast corners to the octagonal band shell. The structure has a pyramidal roof with bellcast eaves. The ceiling is beaded board. Six columns of concrete block molded to resemble cobblestones hold up the roof; two metal poles substitute for the remaining columns. The bandstand itself is open, with lower walls of rock face concrete block capped with concrete slabs. The floor is poured concrete. A recently constructed elevated concrete platform extends the floor surface to the north and provides stair access on the east and west sides and an ADA ramp at the northwest corner. At the Park's northwest and northeast corners are two contributing turned limestone planters on square bases. Layers of paint indicate the age of these historic objects. Centrally located along Main Street is a brass fire bell mounted to a concrete or limestone block base. It was retired for use and located here in 1959. A sidewalk constructed in 2010 encircles the bell and connects to the public sidewalk along Main Street. Six new limestone benches are scattered throughout the front half of the park. At the rear are two horseshoe courts.

The park contains objects not counted as resources but shown on the site map. Two concrete planters at the northwest and northeast corners placed by the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to beautify the park (and perhaps as a thorn in the side of the tavern next door). The former town fire bell along Main Street has a copper plaque that reads: "Gosport Fire Bell, retired from use, 1959. J. V. Wampler, Chairman, Gosport Town Council". In addition, the park includes three limestone benches and two horseshoe courts.

44 Gosport Tavern (1835) • 130 E. Main Street (C)

45 Commercial Building/west part of Gosport Tavern (c.1900) • [no address] E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 12 of 14.

Built of frame construction, the Gosport Tavern today consists of two conjoined buildings. The primary streetfront entrance is in the east part, which consists of an original building with a later rear extension. The foundation is limestone. The ridge of the gable roof is centered over this part, with the west plane extending over the west unit. Vintage standing seam sheet metal covers the original building, or roughly the front two-thirds of the roof. Corrugated sheet metal covers the rear one-third. The c.1920 facade of the east part has a false parapet front of brick veneer featuring a corbelled cornice with limestone cap, full height brick piers framing the outer corners and central entrance, and a soldier course above the display windows and entrance. Window openings are filled with wood panels and aluminum double-hung sash oriented horizontally. The entrance is also reduced in size, infilled, and the original door has been replaced with a solid steel door. A projecting wood sign hangs from a metal pole affixed to the west pier.

This west section of the Gosport Tavern has a front wall covered with aluminum siding; a central solid steel door appears to be non-functional. The east wall is covered with white vinyl. The west wall is covered on the front two-thirds by wood siding painted green and on the rear one-third by white vinyl. The rear wall is covered with white vinyl.

46 House (c.1896) • 132 E. Main St. (C)

Facing east, this one-story gabled ell house is covered with white aluminum siding. The foundation is concrete block, and the roof is asphalt. A screened porch is located at the southeast corner. A second porch at the southwest corner has been enclosed and an addition constructed along the rear; consequently, the original side gabled roof of the house's main mass now resembles a catslide. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood. On the front elevation, the cross gable is decorated with plain, narrow bargeboard and a wood grille.

47 Value Market (1971/1990) • 118 E. Main St. (NC)

See Photo 11 of 14, 12 of 14, HP 16, and HP 17.

The Value Market features brick walls of varying elevation, large display windows, and a corner double entrance topped with limestone arches. Windows are shielded by structural bellcast red metal awnings, above which is a frieze with dentilled cornice. A blank portion of the west wall has pilasters recalling those on the east part of the Gosport Tavern (resource 44). At the southwest corner is a large loading bay.

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48 House (c.1900) • 6 S. Fourth St. (C)

This rectangular plan, side-gabled, single story house with rear ell has a foundation of yellow rock face block, exterior walls clad in white vinyl, and an asphalt roof. The chimney emerges from the roof ridge slightly right of center. A full-width front 20th century enclosed porch is the dominant feature of the front façade. The porch entrance door is left of center. The door itself is a solid steel replacement. Porch windows to the right of the entrance are paired four-light wood casements. Porch windows to the left of the entrance are one-over-one double hung wood sash. House windows are vinyl replacements, with several wood double hung sash remaining from the period of construction.

49 Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (1923) • 5 S. Fourth St. (C)

See Photo 10 of 14.

Facing east, this two-story rectangular building has front and rear parapets, creating the illusion of a tall second story. The cornice is capped with limestone. The foundation and exterior walls are brick. The corrugated, wire-cut, multi-colored bricks were manufactured by the Poston Company in Martinsville. All walls are laid in stretcher bond, with alternating headers and stretchers in every sixth row in the blank west (rear) wall. Soldier courses wrap the east and south walls below the first and above the second story one-over-one double hung wood sash windows and at ground level. The front façade features a 45-degree recessed central entrance with paired paneled wood doors with two lights and flanked by identical sidelights. This entrance, which leads to first floor units, is surrounded by decorative colored brickwork: header and soldier courses frame an overhead basket weave panel and upper corner blocks laid in a herringbone pattern with cut brick center squares laid on point. A second entrance with recessed, paired, solid paneled wood doors with two-light transom of pebbled glass is found at the southeast corner; it leads to the second floor lodge hall. Above this entrance is a relief carved limestone panel with the Masonic emblem, name of the lodge, and the date of construction. This panel is framed by a single row of stretchers that have been cut to shorten them. Located on an east-west alley, the south façade is the secondary façade. Entrances are found near the east and west walls. The east entrance door is solid steel; the west entrance door is the original paneled wood door with single light and vinyl clad aluminum storm. To the right of this entrance is a double hung wood window. Because it faced a vacant lot on Main Street when the lodge hall was built, the north façade features decorative brickwork. The upper and lower soldier course continues from the front façade, and a square panel defined by a soldier course of green brick outlined by two rows of red headers is located at center.

50 Hale-Stierwalt House (1897) • 9 S. Fourth St. (C)

51 relocated iron fence (NC)

See Photo 10 of 14 and HP 18.

This one-story, roughly T-plan Queen Anne cottage has a brick foundation, walls clad in asbestos siding, and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. Overhanging eaves have exposed rafter tails and soffits of beaded board. A large one and one-half story rectangular wing is found on the rear. Windows are double-hung wood. The leg of the "T" on the front façade features cut-away corners with windows in the wall planes. A porch in the north leg shelters two entrances, one in the south and one in the west wall. The porch has turned posts with scroll-sawn brackets supporting a spandrel of beaded spindles.

The iron fence with single loop uprights and paired rails located along the public sidewalk on the north lawn is architectural salvage relocated to this site. Wyatt Holsapple acquired it from the Gosport Feed Store. He does not know where it originated.

52 Morehead-Wampler House (c.1892) • 10 S. Fourth St. (C)

This house has been altered many times, so that it is scarcely possible to identify the original building. Today it has a prominent gable front that extends beyond the original side walls. Additions are found on the north, east, and south sides. A front (east) porch has a hipped roof and brick columns. The front first floor wall appears to be original, with an entrance located west of center and tall one-over-one replacement windows. The original fenestration may have been that of a double pen, with a second front door to the right of the existing one.

53 Campbell-Spoonamore House (c.1897) • 14 S. Fourth St. (C)

54 garage (NC)

This one and one-half story vernacular cottage has an irregular plan with a cross gabled asphalt roof. Covered with a concrete parge coat, the foundation is most likely brick. Siding is asbestos cement. The main mass of the house is side-gabled, with a front gabled ell with cutaway corners located left of center. The corners are decorated with scroll sawn brackets, turned spindles and pendants. All vergeboards are plain. A screened full-width front porch partially hides the two entrances, one in the south cutaway corner and the other in the west wall facing the street. At rear are at least two one-

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story additions. All windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash, with the exception of paired fixed sash attic windows in the gables.

The modern garage is a gable front rectangular building consisting of single bay. The foundation is concrete block, siding is vinyl, and the garage door is steel. The garage was built by owner Bud Spoonamore about 1960 as workspace for furniture repair.²

55 Gosport Park Shelter (2007) • no address (NC)

Designed by Gosport native Craig Brighton, the brick shelter consists of an open cruciform structure with central gabled roof intersected on the east and west by a hipped roof. Each corner is supported by and enclosed storage area. The floor is concrete.

56 Gosport Town Hall (1956) • 13 S. Third St. (NC)

See Photo 7 of 14.

Constructed of concrete block, this former flat-roofed service garage has been converted into a municipal building with gable roof. The gable end walls are covered with vinyl siding. Paired pilasters buttress the side walls. The north (front) wall has a central pilaster, with an aluminum framed entry door located right of center. A metal awning sheltering the door extends to the northwest corner, where a concrete post is topped with a siren. In the south (rear) wall is a service door downsized slightly from its original size, a center pilaster, and an infilled window. The east wall has a central entrance door and two infilled windows. The west wall has three windows, the outer two of which are filled. A paved parking lot extends from Third Street across the front of the park shelter and to a north-south alley.

57 Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House (c.1895) • 130 E. South St. (C)

58 garage (NC)

See Photo 8 of 14 and HP 19.

This north-facing, two-story T-plan has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and brackets or false rafters at the intersection of the roof and outside corners of the north leg of the T. The house has a brick foundation, Dutch-lap wood siding, and a cross-gabled asphalt roof. The first floor portion of the T's north leg has cutaway corners. A two-story rear portion grew from the original one-story extension. All windows in the T-plan portion are downsized vinyl replacements, with those on the first floor reduced by nearly one-third; infill is painted wood panels. A front porch wraps the north leg of the T, intersecting with the east and west legs at the outside corners. The porch roof features cross gables with imbrication at the outside corners. Between the turned posts with scroll sawn and beaded spindle brackets are spandrels of turned spindles. The porch floor is concrete. An entrance is located in the north wall of the T's west and east legs. The east door is a replacement; the west door may be original. Originally a single story, the boxlike rear portion of the house is now two stories in height.

Built in 2005, a wide rectangular plan garage covered with vinyl siding is located off the southwest corner of the house.

59 Criss-Dittemore House (c.1862) • 126 E. South St. (C)

See Photo 8 of 14.

This central passage, Gothic Revival-influenced house consists of a one and one-half story gable end main mass with one-story rear ell. The ell has a twentieth-century addition on the east side and a late-nineteenth century addition on the southwest corner that has been converted into a garage. The foundation is limestone; siding is vinyl, and the roof is asphalt. All original windows are two-over-two double hung wood sash. The first floor of the façade features a central entrance and four rectangular windows. The entrance has a paneled wood door with single light, transom window, and attenuated sidelights of four panes and solid wood lower panel. The central gable contains a doorway flanked by smaller three-light sidelights. Paired windows are found in the upper end gable walls. The Eastlake lower porch has turned posts with scroll sawn brackets and spandrels with cut spindrels and quatrefoils, and turned pendants. The upper porch balustrade dates to 2010. Vergeboard on the front intersecting gable, side gables, and rear eave features scroll sawn scallops, turned pendants, and circles with interior crosses. The west wall of the rear ell has a central gable in which is located an entry with single-light wood door and three-pane transom. Flanked by windows, the entry is sheltered by a nearly flat-roofed, bracketed hood adorned with scroll sawn spandrels and corner pendants. The garage has a single paneled wood door with windows and a single window in the north wall. A concrete driveway leads from South Street to the garage and meets the east wall of the house's main mass and rear ell.

² Shirley Burke, interview with Mike Dean, August 4, 2011.

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60 Fred and Aline Shumaker House (c.1920) • 118 S. Fourth St. (C)

61 garage (C)

This rectangular plan bungalow has a foundation made of molded concrete block resembling cobblestones. Walls clad in asbestos siding, and a brown asphalt gabled roof. Brackets under the eaves have been boxed in. A dormer with a band of three windows is found on the north elevation. A full-width, screened front porch has walls and piers of cobblestone-type block and a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Original wood double-hung windows have multiple lights in the upper sash and a single light in the lower sash. A wood accessibility ramp has been built onto the porch. At the rear is an elevated stoop covered with an aluminum canopy.

A garage made of smooth-faced concrete block is located at the property's northeast corner. It has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles, six-light fixed sash wood windows and an entrance door in the west wall, and paired auto doors made of vertical boards. A rectangular concrete slab behind the garage is what remains of a corn crib that was removed after complaints by neighbors about mice.

62 Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (1920) • 122 S. Fourth St. (C)

63 garage (C)

64 garage (NC)

This rectangular plan bungalow has a foundation of concrete block molded to resemble cobblestones. Siding is aluminum. Original windows are 30/1 double hung wood sash. The roof is asphalt, with brackets boxed in with aluminum under the eaves at the front gable and on the north dormer. A brick bungalow porch closed in by windows extends the full width of the house. The central entrance is reached by a flight of three concrete steps with brick side walls. Rectangular bays are found on the house's north and south elevations. At the house's southeast corner is a filled in porch. Concrete corner piers and the concrete floor are evident. An entrance is located at ground level in the center of the east (rear) wall. A cistern with concrete slab and a concrete cover is located off the southeast corner.

There are two garages. The original rectangular, tile block garage with open eaves is located at the southeast corner of the lot. A large door on a sliding track opens to the north-south alley. In the north and south walls is a single fixed light window. An entrance door is found in the north wall near the west corner. The second garage was built c.1970. It has a modern garage door facing the alley, vinyl siding, and an entrance door in the south wall near the west corner.

65 Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House (1858) • 126 S. Fourth St. (C)

66 iron fence (C)

See Photo 9 of 14 and HP 20.

This I-house has an integral north ell. Instead of being centrally located, the main entrance is south of center, with two south window openings on the first and second stories and three first- and second-story openings on the north. Obscured by a concrete skim coat, the foundation is believed to be brick, as brick peeks through in various spots. Exterior walls are clad in vinyl. Original windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash. The main entrance consists of a paneled wood door with single light and three-light transom. The roof is asphalt.

On the rear (east) elevation of the main mass, an original two-story, full width open porch has been enclosed. A new roof covers the porch's pent roof and the rear plane of the house's roof. On the rear (east) elevation of the ell there are two additions: a one-story room addition and a single bay garage with an east entrance.

The most striking feature of the house is the Italianate-style front porch, which spans the entrance and one window on each side; its bays correspond to these openings. Round arches are formed by curved lintels heavily ornamented with openwork tracery between the chamfered square posts. The posts are topped with molded capitals at the spring line of the arches and decorated between post and roofline with ornate scrolled brackets. In the center of the arches are hanging pendants.

Along the public sidewalk is a vintage cast iron fence with round newels, three rails, and rod-like pales. Filigree work is found beneath the top rail. A central gate is topped with similar ornament.

In the south lawn near the public sidewalk is a shaped limestone block formerly used as a carriage stone. On the north side of the house, between the south edge of a concrete driveway cut and the public sidewalk is, is a narrow limestone curb. Neither is included in the resource count.

67 Brown-Brighton House (1911/1986) • 130 S. Fourth St. (NC)

68 garage (NC)

See Photo 9 of 14.

This house consists of a rectangular main mass with a north ell. The foundation is obscured by a veneer of red brick. The roof is cross-hipped. Original windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash; vinyl replacements are identical. At the northeast corner of the house, original wood siding remains exposed. At the southeast corner is a large

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two-bay garage addition. A vintage detached garage is located at the northeast corner of the property, just off the north-south alley. It has a replacement steel garage door and vinyl siding.

INVENTORY

Resource #	Address	Name/Description	Rtg.
1	1 W. North St.	Tom and Hattie Dodd House	C
2		garage	C
3		concrete retaining wall <i>structure</i>	C
4	3 E. North St.	Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House	C
5		garage	NC
	11 E. North St.	Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood House	<i>previously listed</i>
		carriage barn	<i>previously listed</i>
		privy	<i>previously listed</i>
6	122 N. Fourth St.	Willoughby-Stouder House	C
7	123 E. North St.	house	NC
8	123 N. Third St.	Jennings-Brown House	NC
9	125 N. Third St.	Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House	C
10		limestone private walk <i>object</i>	C
11		limestone newel (4) <i>object</i>	C
12		limestone retaining wall <i>structure</i>	C
13	19 N. Third St.	Brighton Poultry House	C
14	[no address] N. Third St.	relocated WPA privy	NC
15	[no address] N. Third St.	concrete slab <i>structure</i>	NC
16	[no address] N. Third St.	garage	NC
17	17 N. Third St.	Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable	C
18	126 E. North St.	George D. and Mary Dunagan House	C
19	18 E. North St.	Express News	NC
20	no address	Gosport Ice House	C
21	18 N. Fourth St.	Gosport Feed Store	NC
22	19 N. Fourth St.	Nazarene Church	C
23	14 N. Fifth St.	Fox-Hart-Hoadley House	C
24		garage	C
25	15 N. Fifth St.	Smith-Fox House	C
26	11 N. Fourth St.	Gosport Post Office	NC
27	19 E. Main St.	IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146	C
28	21 E. Main St.	commercial building	NC
29	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of 23 E. Main St.	C
30	23 E. Main St.	commercial building	C
31	31 E. Main St.	Bank of Gosport	C
32	7 N. Fourth St.	commercial building/rear part of Bank of Gosport	C
33	125 E. Main St.	McClure's Service Hardware	NC
34		relocated coal shed	NC
35	141 E. Main St.	Gosport Banking Company	C
36	145 E. Main St.	Graham Building	C
37	147 E. Main St.	Lyon Building	C
38	151 E. Main St.	Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House	C
39	153 E. Main St.	Campbell Building	C
40	155 E. Main St.	Campbell-Moore Building	C
41	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of VFW Post 7850	C
42	159 E. Main St.	commercial building/VFW Post 7850	C
43	[no address] E. Main St.	Gosport Town Park <i>site</i>	C
		band shell	
		planter (2)	
		fire house bell	
		horseshoe court (2)	

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Resource #	Address	Name/Description	Rtg.
		limestone bench (6)	
44	130 E. Main St.	Gosport Tavern	C
45	[no address] E. Main St.	commercial building/west part of Gosport Tavern	NC
46	132 E. Main St.	house	C
47	118 E. Main St.	Value Market	NC
48	6 S. Fourth St.	house	C
49	5 S. Fourth St.	Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92	C
50	9 S. Fourth St.	Hale-Stierwalt House	C
51		relocated iron fence <i>structure</i>	NC
52	10 S. Fourth St.	Morehead-Wampler House	C
53	14 S. Fourth St.	Campbell-Spoonamore House	C
54		garage	NC
55	no address	Gosport Park Shelter	NC
56	15 S. Third St.	Gosport Town Hall	NC
57	130 E. South St.	Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House	C
58		garage	NC
59	126 E. South St.	Criss-Dittemore House	C
60	118 S. Fourth St.	Fred and Aline Shumaker House	C
61		garage	C
62	122 S. Fourth St.	Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House	C
63		garage	C
64		garage	NC
65	126 S. Fourth St.	Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House	C
66		iron fence <i>structure</i>	C
67	130 S. Fourth St.	Brown-Brighton House	NC
68		garage	NC

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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.)

- 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.
- 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

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1835-1952

Significant Dates

1891

1909

1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carter, George

Cramer, Ira

Cramer, Julian

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is marked by the opening date of 1835, the date of construction of the east half of the Gosport Tavern (resource 44), the oldest building in the district. The closing date of 1952 marks the construction of the Nazarene Church, the last contributing resource to have been built in the district.

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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 Gosport Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criteria A and C. The district represents the founding, development, and maturity of a typical Indiana small town. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a variety of types of commercial and residential architecture ranging from nineteenth-century vernacular forms and stylistic influence through early- and mid-twentieth century bungalows and Neoclassicism. The period of significance is 1835-1952.

The Gosport Historic District is not identified in the *Owen County Interim Report* (1994). However, it was identified as part of the 2009 Gosport Revitalization Plan prepared by RATIO Architects and corroborated by the Indiana SHPO. The northwest and southeast boundaries were expanded slightly to include five additional resources that historical research showed to be closely related to others in the district. The Gosport Historic District is one of three identified districts in the county—one of two with a commercial component. The other districts are the Spencer Courthouse Square Commercial District and the residential Hillside Historic District in Spencer.

Significant Dates (continued)

1946

Architects and Builders (continued)

Cramer, Leonard
Cramer, Julian
Dyer, Clayton L.
Goss, Edgar
Goss, Robert

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

Areas of Significance

Architecture

The Gosport Historic District is significant for its collection of typical Midwest small town buildings representing various special functions. Private residences are intermixed with public and commercial buildings, the construction of which spans more than a 130-year period between mid-nineteenth-century vernacular and mid-twentieth-century functional styles. The district is predominantly characterized by post-railroad vernacular forms with minimal high-style decorative influences. Vernacular house forms reflect the Tidewater South and Upland South heritage of the earliest settlers, with central passage and I-houses among the earliest extant examples. Gabled-ell and T-plan forms are also found in the district. Commercial buildings range in style from Italianate to Neoclassical and include functional unstyled buildings constructed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The introduction to Gosport in 1853 of the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago railroad made possible the transport of construction materials manufactured at distant mills, especially pre-cut dimensional lumber and high styled wood ornamentation. The manufacture and popularity of these items was the result of an explosion in the invention and perfection of wood- and metal-working machinery in the latter half of the nineteenth century in America. Especially important for the construction industry was the development of and later improvements in the band saw, which cut lumber, and scroll saw, which cut the delicate ornamental gingerbread elements popular in the Victorian era.

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Built about 1850, the Smith-Fox House, an I-house with Greek Revival details located at 15 N. Fifth St. (resource 25; Photo 3 of 14, HP 4, and HP 5) is the district's oldest documented residential property. With origins traced to traditional types of British folk houses, the I-house—two rooms wide, one-room deep, with a central hall and stair—was often chosen by affluent local gentry, with elaborate additions of porches, chimneys, and extensions.³ The Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House at 126 S. Fourth St. (resource 65; Photo 9 of 14 and HP 20), built in 1858, is another I-house, as is the c.1870 Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House at 3 E. North St. (resource 4; Photo 3 of 14 and HP 1). Both feature elaborate Italianate-style porches with scroll-sawn ornament.⁴

Related to the I-house is the central passage house. It is two rooms wide and one room deep with a center hall. There are two examples in the district: the c.1879 George D. and Mary Dunagan House located at 126 E. North St. (resource 18) and the Criss-Dittemore House, built c.1862, at 126 E. South St. (resource 59; Photo 8 of 14.) The Criss-Dittemore House exhibits Gothic Revival influence in its steeply pitched central gable and decorative vergeboard and later Eastlake influences in its elaborate porch. Originating in England, the Gothic Revival style was popularized in the United States by the pattern books of Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing, who championed it as best suited for rural settings. Although the Picturesque movement spanned the years 1840-1880, its popularity was in decline by 1865.⁵ With its irregular forms, varied wall surfaces, intricate scrollwork, and spindlework, Queen Anne was a dominant style of domestic building in America from about 1880-1900. In Gosport, the style is best represented by the Hale-Stierwalt House (1897) located at 9 S. Fourth St. (resource 50; Photo 10 of 14 and HP 18).

Other post-railroad vernacular examples from the period 1860-1880 include the Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House, a gabled ell built c.1854/1877, at 11 E. North St.; (Photo 3 of 14 and HP 1) and the T-plan Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House at 130 E. South St. (resource 57; Photo 8 of 14 and HP 19), built c.1860. The Osgood House, despite being built in several phases, has the regularity of fenestration seen in the vernacular I-house, with a central opening (door on the first story, window on the second) flanked by pairs of windows on both stories. It also exhibits subtle high style influences. The Greek Revival style is seen in the complex main entry composition, with its full side and upper lights, the corner boards with simple capitals, and wide frieze band at the cornice. The Italianate style, in particular the informal, rural model of the Picturesque movement, is reflected in the subtly pedimented window hoods and the ornate, bracketed porch supports with arched openings. Archaeological investigation in Greece in the early nineteenth century inspired an interest in classical inspired architecture that was spread by carpenter's guides and pattern books. Greek Revival was the dominant style in American architecture from about 1830 to 1860. The largest concentrations of extant examples are in areas that saw a large population growth during this period, including the state of Indiana.⁶ The Italianate style originated in England, with the earliest American houses built in the late 1830s. Popularized by pattern books, especially those by Andrew Jackson Downing, the style dominated American houses built between 1850 and 1880.⁷ The most significant example of the Italianate style in a domestic building is the Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (1881) at 125 N. Third St. (resource 9; Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2), but even this is a traditional hall-and-parlor form with applied Italianate ornament reflecting the builder's profession as a stone mason.

The hall-and-parlor vernacular house is thought to be a precursor to the central passage. It is a two-room house but lacks a central passageway; the entrance typically is located slightly off center. The hall is a large multipurpose room while the parlor is a more private and smaller room. Other examples of the hall-and-parlor in the Gosport Historic District include the c.1900 house located at 6 S. Fourth St. (resource 48) and the extensively remodeled Morehead-Wampler House (c.1910) at 10 S. Fourth St. (resource 52).

Because the Gosport Historic District was well-developed by 1900, with few residential building sites available, the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles, especially the popular Colonial Revival and Tudor revival styles, are unknown. The first truly twentieth century houses to be constructed are examples of the Craftsman style. The first, a bungalow, was the Willoughby-Stouder House (1913) at 122 N. Fourth St. (resource 6). The house was built on a lot separated from a larger parcel, a gift from parents to their newly married daughter. Two other bungalows followed seven years later: the Fred and Aline Shumaker House (c.1920) at 118 S. Fourth St. (resource 60) and the Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (1920) at 122 S. Fourth St. (resource 62). The Craftsman style drew upon the English Arts and Crafts movement. Features in popular magazines familiarized Americans with the style. The one-story Craftsman house quickly became the most fashionable and affordable smaller house in the country.⁸

³Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1992): 96-97.

⁴Three of the six I-houses in Gosport are found in the Gosport Historic District, with a fourth having been demolished since the *Owen County Interim Report* was published in 1994.

⁵McAlester, 200.

⁶McAlester, 182.

⁷McAlester, 212.

⁸McAlester, 454.

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The predominance of vernacular architecture is also seen in the commercial buildings found in the Gosport Historic District. There are only two that are today clearly influenced by high styles: the Italianate Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (c.1873) at 151 E. Main St. (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12) and the Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (1909) at 141 E. Main St. (resource 35; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10). The Knights of Pythias building, with its arched openings and limestone ornament reflects an optimism that its builder and the community must have felt in the years following the Civil War. In its original configuration, the 1867 Bank of Gosport (resource 31; Photo 2 of 14, HP 7, and HP 8)—it was damaged by fire in 1891—was influenced by the Italian Renaissance Revival style. By selecting the Neoclassical style, the founders of the new Gosport Banking Company (resource 35; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10) conveyed a confidence in the strength and solidity of the new enterprise. The style was popularized by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago and quickly became a dominant force in American architecture. A year after the new bank opened, the Neoclassical Owen County Courthouse in Spencer was completed.

The remaining commercial buildings on Gosport's Main Street are relatively modest in comparison, the product of local designers and builders who relied on experience, an understanding of the needs of shopkeepers, and a familiarity with basic building materials in developing functional and sturdy buildings that have withstood the passing years. The oldest commercial building is the 1835 east section of the Gosport Tavern at 130 E. Main St. (resource 44; Photo 12 of 14). This wood framed, gable-front building is rectangular in plan and has been in constant use for 178 years. Two other wood frame, gable-front commercial buildings are the 1889 Brighton Poultry House at 19 N. Third St. (resource 13; Photo 5 of 14) and the 1881 Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable at 17N. Third St. (resource 17; Photo 5 of 14).

Brick buildings were constructed as early as the 1840s and 1850s. The oldest existing brick commercial building is the east half of VFW Post 7850 (c.1840) at 159 E. Main St. (resource 42; Photo 6 of 14, HP 14, and HP 15). The next to be erected, in 1856, was a three-story hardware building at the northeast corner of Main and Third St. It was destroyed by fire in 1946.

Fires in 1891, 1909, 1919, 1946—significant dates listed on the nomination form—and 1970 were a major factor in redesigning Main Street. Conflagrations in 1891 and 1909 resulted in the replacement of early frame buildings with new brick buildings. Central, 45-degree recessed entrances were framed by brick piers supporting large storefront display windows. Upper stories had tall windows, corbelled cornices, and other relatively simple ornamentation, such as inset panels and decorative brickwork. Only two of the new buildings were two-stories in height. And only two utilized cast iron piers and lintels that had become popular in the late-nineteenth century. These are the 1891 IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146 at 19 E. Main St. (resource 27; Photo 2 of 14 and HP 6) and the c.1902 west half of VFW Post 7850 (resource 41; Photo 6 of 14, HP 15). The c.1840 east half (resource 42) was probably remodeled slightly earlier, with large display windows framed by carved limestone piers (HP 14) very similar to those seen in the 1881 Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (resource 9; Photo 4 of 14 and HP 2).

Brick was locally produced using traditional methods but also was purchased from factories at Martinsville and transported by train and wagon to Gosport. Thus, the brick used in these commercial buildings is of several varieties: soft, orange brick burned in beehive kilns; oversized manufactured brick used in foundations and side walls, and hard, tinted, wire-cut face brick. Local limestone was also used as lintels, sills, cornice caps, decorative elements such as columns and plaques, and wall veneer. The Neoclassical Gosport Banking Company (resource 35; Photo 1 of 14 and HP 10) and the buildings at 153 and 155 E. Main St. (resources 38 and 39; Photo 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 13, and HP 15) are excellent examples of the use of local limestone.

Rebuilding of Main Street as a result of fires occurred again in 1919, 1946, and 1970. An entire two-story business block occupying the southwest corner of Fourth and Main St. just outside the district boundary entailed a loss exceeding \$75,000. For a time, the fire threatened the entire business district. Loss of the block, which housed the Masonic lodge on the second floor, forced the Masons to erect a new building at 5 S. Fourth St. (resource 49). Loss of the three-story hardware building at the northeast corner of Third and Main St. in 1946 led to the construction of the current functional building at 125 E. Main St. (resource 33) made of concrete block. At 118 E. Main St., Value Market (resource 47; Photo 11 of 14, 12 of 14, HP 16, and HP 17) replaces a nineteenth-century business block and other smaller buildings that burned in 1970. Built as a low, functional building in 1971 and remodeled to its present appearance in the early 1990s, the market's reddish-brown brick, arched window openings, and limestone trim evokes the historic buildings that formerly stood on this site.

A third functional building, the current Gosport Town Hall at 15 S. Third St. (resource 56; Photo 7 of 14), built of concrete block in 1956, is a repurposed automobile garage. The addition of its gable roof in recent years has significantly changed its 1950s character and is therefore designated as a noncontributing resource. The Nazarene Church (resource 22) is the latest building to be erected in the district that retains its original character. Its date of construction, 1952, marks the close of the district's period of significance. The remodeling of the market in the early 1990s and the completion of the

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park shelter in 2002 mark the most recent construction activity in the Gosport Historic District, with the exception of remodeling of historic structures. An example of current remodeling is the extensive rehabilitation of the Morehead-Wampler House (resource 52), which has been turned back into a single family home after years as a multi-family rental.

Commerce

Gosport was and remains second only to the Owen County seat of Spencer for longevity and impact of its commercial enterprises in the county. Though Spencer had double advantages of earlier settlement and county seat status, Gosport had its own economic niche as a river and railroad town that served a large portion of northeastern Owen County and neighboring Morgan County. For a time, from 1853 to 1869, Gosport had a distinct commercial and industrial advantage over Spencer because it had direct rail access while Spencer had none. When the Indianapolis and Vincennes railroad reached Spencer in 1869, Gosport began to experience a slight drain in population and commerce. Throughout its history, Gosport based its livelihood on serving a geographic area by access to the river and railroads, and exploitation of agricultural and natural resources.

From its founding in 1829, Gosport's commercial businesses sprung up along a one and one-half block stretch of Main Street roughly between Third and Fourth St. Other buildings of a quasi-commercial use lined the west side of Fourth St. north of Main; these include the extant Brighton Poultry House (resource 13; Photo 5 of 14) and the Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (resource 17; Photo 5 of 14). Over the years, important representative businesses have included the Gosport newspaper, which operated under various names; banks, dry goods, and grocery stores; drugstores; millinery and clothing stores; hardware stores; and eateries ranging from confectionery and ice cream parlors to restaurants and taverns. Recreational establishments included a movie theater on the site of the current post office, pool halls, and an opera house on the second floor of the Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12). The Masons and Independent Order of Oddfellows also had lodges in the downtown commercial area. Agricultural-based businesses included Havens Brothers and Bright poultry houses, Brewer's feed store, and the town feed mill.

Architects/Builders

George Carter (1889-1974)

Carter was an independent local stone mason and builder known to have built his own limestone house at 118 W. North Street, Gosport, and the Gosport Post Office (resource 26). In addition, John King, who assisted with this nomination, helped Carter build another house at nearby Lake Hollybrook in the 1950s.⁹ Carter also laid the Baptist Church cornerstone, although he did not build the church.¹⁰

Ira Cramer (1877-1952)

Julian Cramer (1905-1986)

Leonard Cramer (1907-1976)

Ralph Cramer (1909- 1976)

The Cramers of Martinsville were a family of well known traditional and highly skilled masons, with the younger generations learning the trade alongside the older generations. They built Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (resource 49) in 1923. Archibald Cramer, the patriarch, settled in Morgan County in 1839. He was a farmer, stonemason, and preacher. His great-grandson Ira, father of eight children, was also a mason and preacher. Three of his five sons—those listed above—were engaged in the construction trade their whole lives, leaving behind an extensive collection of houses, commercial, and other buildings with their unique imprint in Morgan County and vicinity, as well as outside of Indiana. Among the most notable Indiana examples are the Grassyfork Office and Display Room and surrounding landscape (NRHP 2012), attributed to Julian, Leonard, and Ralph, and the Nashville House and other buildings in Nashville (attributed to Leonard). The large family lived frugally and struggled during the Depression when construction work dwindled; these experiences, together with an eccentricity exhibited most powerfully in Julian, resulted in buildings of unique creativity demonstrating handiwork ranging from ironwork, brick and stone mosaics, highly textured stucco and

⁹ John King, interview with author, April 29, 2011.

¹⁰ Lyle Brighton, interview with author, July 19, 2011.

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plaster, the use of recycled and odd materials, and unusual natural landscape features such as rock formations, which Julian termed "accretions."¹¹

Clayton L. Dyer (1850-1914)

Born in 1850 to Elijah and Polly (McGinnis) Dyer, Clayton L. Dyer was a stone cutter, carver, and mason, who is believed to have built his own house (resource 9) in 1881. Clayton appears to have learned the stone trade from his father, who was a marble dealer from approximately 1863-1880.¹² It is unknown how or where Elijah learned the trade. Clayton Dyer's name is found on several grave markers in the Gosport and Van Buskirk family cemeteries.¹³

Edgar Goss (1872-1945)

Robert Goss (1872-1940)

Cousins Ed and Bob Goss were widely known carpenters, masons, and contractors in the Gosport area. "They were wonderful masons and carpenters," remembers John King. "They did whatever work was necessary. They did this work all their lives." Both men never married. They lived together at the east end of North Street, at the bottom of Mars Hill. Ed died in his garden in 1945. In 1940, Bob died of a stroke from which he never gained consciousness.¹⁴ According to Lyle Brighton, the Gosses "just picked up the trade."¹⁵ A notable example of their work is the American Foursquare Gregory-Hoadley House (c.1910) located on 3965 N. County Line Rd.¹⁶

Other buildings attributed to the Goss cousins are as follows:

- Criss-Burton-Spoonamore House (resource 62)
- Fred and Aline Shumaker House (resource 60)
- Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1)
- veneer on the Fox-Hart-Hoadley House (resource 23)
- 440 S. Fourth St., Gosport

In addition, Lyle Brighton says the Gosses laid the brick on Frank Whitaker's barbershop that stood east of the tavern and is now the westernmost part of Value Market (resource 47).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Landscape Evaluation

The general layout and configuration of the town of Gosport reflects the influence of the United States Land Ordinance of 1785, which established the basis for the survey and sale of public land. The act created a methodology for a systematic survey of land based on a grid system of equally spaced east-west and north-south division lines, resulting in a generally uniform parceling of land with property lines oriented to the cardinal points of the compass and city blocks and individual parcels of land being fairly uniform in size or incrementally so. In Gosport, north-south streets between Sixth and First Street, including those within the Gosport Historic District, are skewed very slightly to the northwest, with east-west streets throughout the town also skewed to create square blocks and right-angle intersections. The regularity of the lot size is offset by the individual landowner's preference for architectural style and detailing in their house construction.

The Town of Gosport and Owen County

The town of Gosport is located on White River in Wayne Township, in the southeastern part of Owen County in south-central Indiana. Settlers to the area that would become Owen County began to arrive in 1817 and 1818, among them

¹¹ Joanne Raetz Stuttgart, National Register of Historic Places nomination for Grassyfork Fisheries Farm No. 1, 2010. Also, Bob Cramer, letter to 'Ced' [last name unknown], March 2 and 4, 1992. Copy in possession of author. Bob Cramer writes that Ira, Julian, Leonard, and Ralph also built the Masonic building in nearby Spencer. A complete list of all buildings known to have been built by or attributed to Julian Cramer and/or Cramer family members can be found in the Grassyfork nomination. Additional buildings continue to be identified.

¹² Elijah's occupation varies from census to census. In 1850, he is a farmer. In 1860, he is a silver smith. Tax assessment lists for 1863-1866 record income as a "retail dealer" and from "monumental stone." The 1870 census identifies him as a marble dealer, while the 1880 census identifies him as a watch maker and jeweler.

¹³ Patsy Powell, ed., *Focus on Sweet Owen* (Spencer, IN: Owen County Preservations, Inc., 1995): 100.

¹⁴ Obituary of Ed Goss, *Gosport Reporter*, August 16, 1945. Obituary of Bob Goss, *Gosport Reporter*, October [day unknown], 1940.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ "Mrs. Hattie Dodd Dies." *Owen County Leader*, February 2, 1950. Copy on file in Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum, Gosport.

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those who would plan and populate the town of Gosport, The county itself was organized in 1818, although Wayne township was not included within the boundaries until 1821-22. Gosport gained population and commercial success as a result of its location on White River. The pork curing, packing, and shipping industry engaged several entrepreneurs, including Ephraim Goss, after whom the town was named, and Abner Alexander. The two men instigated a survey of 36 acres which they then purchased, platted as the town, and recorded June 1829. Gosport was laid out on a sloping tract of land in sections 31 and 32, Township 11 North, Range 10 West. The original plat included 16 blocks and 112 lots, with Adams, Market, and Jackson Streets (later changed to numbered streets) running in a north-south direction and North, Main, and South Streets in an east-west direction. The town was bounded on the east by White River, with a bluff donated by the founders for use by the public. The town site was located on this bluff and the high ground to the west and north, bringing it well above the flood plain. The Gosport Historic District is contained within the original plat.¹⁷

The land on which Gosport is situated, along with most of Owen County, is graced with dramatic topography, the result of underlying old limestone strata which was uplifted in geologic time and slowly eroded to its present conformation. Across White River on the south is Monroe County, and south of it is Lawrence County; the two counties are home to the state's famed Oolitic limestone quarries, which provided much of the nation's supply of fine-grained building stone. Oolitic limestone, used for architectural details on Gosport commercial buildings, was available at the Hoadley family quarry across White River at Stinesville in Monroe County, just a few miles from Gosport. Nearby beds of Keokuk limestone provided very durable stone for Gosport foundation walls, cellar walls, and other rough rubble masonry. In addition, St. Louis limestone was quarried at Spencer, a distance of 10 miles. Known as "Spencer stone," it also appears in foundations throughout Gosport. The poorer quality Kaskaskia limestone was used primarily for road material in Owen County. Chester sandstone, which was durable for buildings, was also quarried in the county, along with other extractable materials.

Gosport's earliest industries were based on the abundant natural resources in the area. The rich alluvial bottom lands of White River were highly productive for agriculture. The river also provided water power for flour and saw mills before the active use of steam-powered engines. Timber was harvested in large quantities, and both building and finish lumber such as that produced at the J. L. Rumbarger mill, were popular products. Underlain with limestone, the rolling blue grass hills of Wayne Township were perfect for raising cattle, horses, and pigs. The latter were instrumental in Gosport's early financial success. Other natural resources in the township included some coal (in the southwest) and vast amounts of clays for brick, pottery, and tile manufacturing. In 1884, a positive future for the growth of fruit trees was predicted, and pure spring waters were said to be found in almost every quarter section. Wells within the town of Gosport, such as that found on the Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood property, were renowned for their cool, sweet water.

Due to its river access, Gosport became a prominent regional livestock market in its early years. Salt and sugar curing of pork and its packing and shipping was the primary industry from about 1830-1855. Perhaps because the industry was concentrated in the hands of only a few individuals, the town was slow to grow until after 1853, when the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago railroad (later the Monon line) was completed through the village. Incorporated in 1865, Gosport was the first town in the county to host passenger and freight travel, and it quickly became a prime trade town in the area. A second railroad, the Indianapolis and Vincennes, was completed in 1869. Gosport Junction, a crossing of the two railroad lines just northeast of the town, became an important commercial and industrial hub. The railroads quickly surpassed river traffic because they were more reliable, faster, and could operate during all seasons of the year. From 1869 to the early 1920s, 12 daily passenger trains passed through Gosport on the two lines. By the mid-1890s, a large industrial district soon developed near the railroads east of downtown and along White River. By 1890, there was a flour mill, saw mill, bell factory, and hub and spoke factory. There were also seven hotels to serve travelers and salesman who were required to stay overnight.

Another important transportation system was the network of roads linking communities both near and far. As roads improved and traffic increased, river crossings were upgraded from ferries to bridges. In 1871, a covered bridge was built over White River between Gosport and Mt. Tabor in Monroe County made the crossing easier, although a ferry continued to operate. In 1895, it was joined by a new iron truss bridge. Though the railroads and roads drained people and business activity to the Owen County seat of Spencer, Gosport continued to prosper. By the 1920s, however, Gosport's fortune began a downturn. Construction of the new State Road 67 bypassing Gosport began in 1929 and was completed in 1936. Although road construction provided jobs during the first year of the Depression, the increasing popularity of the automobile made it easy for residents to do business elsewhere and for visitors to slip by. And though

¹⁷ The following brief history of Gosport and Owen County is adapted from the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House (resource 5) prepared by Camille B. Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc., 1998, and from a walking tour brochure titled "Historical Points of Interest, Gosport, Indiana" prepared by the Fortnightly Club in 1979.

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passenger trains continued to run through Gosport into the 1950s, they no longer stopped after 1945. By the time the covered bridge was burned by vandals in 1955, White River was a barrier to the town rather than a lifeline.¹⁸

The commercial core of Gosport as it appears today began to develop in the mid-1830s. The earliest buildings were frame construction and include the east part of the Gosport Tavern (resource 44; Photo 12 of 14), built in 1835. The town's peak commercial growth occurred between 1850 and 1930, a period marked by the building and rebuilding of its commercial core due to fires on July 18, 1891; January 20, 1909, and November 30, 1919. Subsequent fires on January 24, 1946, and January 7, 1970, also led to rebuilding, but the motivation was less confidence in a prospering town than an attempt to invigorate and sustain the community against a slow decline that had begun in the 1920s and 1930s. Consolidation of Owen County schools in 1966 led to the closure of Gosport High School, a center of community life. The elementary classes were spared, however, and a new Gosport Elementary School was built in 1971. The 1970s brought other changes—both significant and symbolic—with the demolition of the Monon railroad station in 1976 and the closing of longtime businesses, including Moore's Variety Store (resource 40) after 57 years. Yet the decade inspired optimism as well. The 1970 fire that destroyed nearly a quarter of a block at the southeast corner of Main and Third Streets launched a creative redevelopment strategy. A small group of residents established the Gosport Development Corporation and sold shares to finance the construction of a grocery store to serve the community.

In the early 1990s, community leader John King, new property owner John McFarlane, the Gosport Business Association, and the Gosport Development Corporation plotted a revitalization strategy that resulted in the partial restoration of the Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 38; Photo 1 of 14, 6 of 14, HP 10, HP 11, and HP 12) and façade facelifts on several buildings. In the late 2000s, the availability of Community Focus Fund grants through the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs, made further revitalization possible. The Gosport Revitalization Plan was prepared by RATIO Architects, Inc., in 2008-2009. In 2010-2011, grants and other funding led to installation of the town's first storm water system, new downtown streets, sidewalks, and street furniture. Other infrastructure and façade improvement projects are planned.

In regards to infrastructure, Gosport has had electricity since 1898 or 1899; a privately owned light plant was built in 1897, but it was another year or more before town officials accepted service and agreed to pay for it. By 1929, it was a holding of Wabash Valley Electric Company.¹⁹ A town water system was completed in 1926, three years after citizens petitioned for one to the town board.²⁰ In 1909, the town boasted "miles of cement walks."²¹ In 1924, concrete sidewalks and curbs in the commercial area were installed, according to several deeds that noted assessments that were due.²² By 1931, a writer for the local paper boasted that Gosport had a "city water system, concrete sidewalks, curbs, and ditches, and macadam streets."²³

Other Observations of Note

While transportation is not included in this nomination as an area of significance, it should be noted that there are a number of transportation-related resources in the Gosport Historic District that reflect the transition from the horse and buggy to automobile as a means of travel. The Benjamin F. Hart Livery Stable (10; Photo 5 of 14) and the carriage barn behind the Dr. H. G. and Hattie Osgood House are excellent representations of the former. Hart was a commercial liveryman, renting horses, wagon, and buggies for others to use. His business also boarded horses for overnight visitors and travelers. The livery barn has horse stalls on either side of a center aisle and a hay loft overhead. Dr. Osgood's carriage barn reflects his upper-middle class lifestyle and his profession. His practice as a physician required him to travel throughout and minister to patients in several counties. A third resource associated with horse and buggy travel is the carriage stone (HP 20) on the south lawn of the Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House (resource 65).

As the horse and buggy gave way to the automobile, garages began to appear in rear yards. At first they were just large enough to accommodate a family's sole automobile. Some garages, such as the wood frame building at the Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1), appear to have been rather quickly built and reflect a status clearly secondary to the house. Other garages, such as the 1950 glazed tile block model at the Fox-Hart-Hoadley House (resource 23), reflect the garage's increasing importance within the domestic sphere. By the last quarter of the twentieth century, the attached garage has literally become a part of the house itself. The Brown-Brighton House (resource 67; Photo 9 of 14) at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Street is a good example. The original 1911, single bay garage on the north-south alley has been replaced by a large two-bay attached garage at the house's southeast corner.

¹⁸ *Owen County, Indiana—A History*, 98-99.

¹⁹ "Electric Light Plant Installed Here in 1897", *Gosport Reporter*, June 13, 1929.

²⁰ Notes on Gosport by Bill Marley Dictated to Mary Edith Marley, December 1993. On file in Owen County Public Library, Spencer.

²¹ *Owen County, Indiana—A History*, 97.

²² However, in 1909, the *Gosport Reporter* boasted that the town had "miles of cement walks". See *Owen County—A History*, 97.

²³ Rebecca Willoughby. "Early History of Gosport, Indiana." *Spencer Evening World*, June 29, 1931.

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Another observation of note is how the Gosport Historic District has been impacted by a pattern of clustering family members in close proximity to each other. This is particularly evident at the district's southern boundary, where several interrelated families built houses. Three children of Thomas and Sarah (Robinson) Criss, who lived at 126 E. South St. (resource 59; Photo 8 of 14), built their own houses near that of their parents. Three of Sarah's sisters also lived nearby in houses of their own. After sister Eliza Grimsley's death, her house at 126 S. Fourth St. (resource 65) was sold to Evander and Jesse Runyan, who had the house next door at 130 S. Fourth St. (resource 67) built for their daughter and her family. It is this clustering that redefined and expanded the southern boundary of the Gosport Historic District.

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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): 119-244-31010; 12 – 15; 22 – 26; 29 – 31; 39 – 44; 48 – 50; 58 – 60; 66 – 69; 73; 76 – 78

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.33
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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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: Gosport Historic District

City or Vicinity: Gosport

County: Owen

State: IN

Photographer: Joanne Raetz Stuttgen

Date Photographed: December 11, 2011, unless otherwise noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 of 14 | North side of Main St. looking north from Fourth St. |
| 2 of 14 | North side of Main St. looking west from Fourth St. |
| 3 of 14 | Nazarene Church (resource 22), Dr. Howard and Hattie Osgood House (previously listed), Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House (resource 4), and Tom and Hattie Dodd House (resource 1). Looking west along North St. from Fourth St. |
| 4 of 14 | Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House (resource 9) looking north from the southeast corner of North and Third St. |
| 5 of 14 | West side of Third Street looking north from Main St. |
| 6 of 14 | North side of Main Street looking west from Third St. |
| 7 of 14 | Gosport Town Park (resource 43) and Gosport Town Hall (resource 56) looking east-southeast from the corner of Main St. and north-south alley west of Third St. |
| 8 of 14 | Mullen-Whitaker-Hart House (resource 57) and Criss-Dittemore House (resource 59) looking east-southeast from the corner of South St. and north-south alley west of Third St. |
| 9 of 14 | East side of Fourth St. looking north from Walnut St. |
| 10 of 14 | Hale-Stierwalt House (resource 50) and Gosport Masonic Lodge No. 92 (resource 49) looking west from the east side of Fourth St. near the north boundary of 14 S. Fourth St. |
| 11 of 14 | Value Market (resource 47) and the south side of Main St., looking east-southeast from the northwest corner of Main and Fourth St. |

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- 12 of 14 East and west parts of Gosport Tavern (resources 44 and 45) and the south side of Main St. looking west-southwest from the northeast property boundary of the Tavern. Photo taken October 4, 2010.
- 13 of 14 Smith-Fox House (resource 25), looking west from across Fourth St.
- 14 of 14 Gosport Feed Store (resource 21) and rear of McClure's Service Hardware (resource 33), looking southeast from northwest corner of North and Fourth St.

Property Owner:

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

name John King, Vice President, Gosport Business Association

street & number P. O. Box 504 telephone 812-879-4677

city or town Gosport state IN zip code 47433

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.).

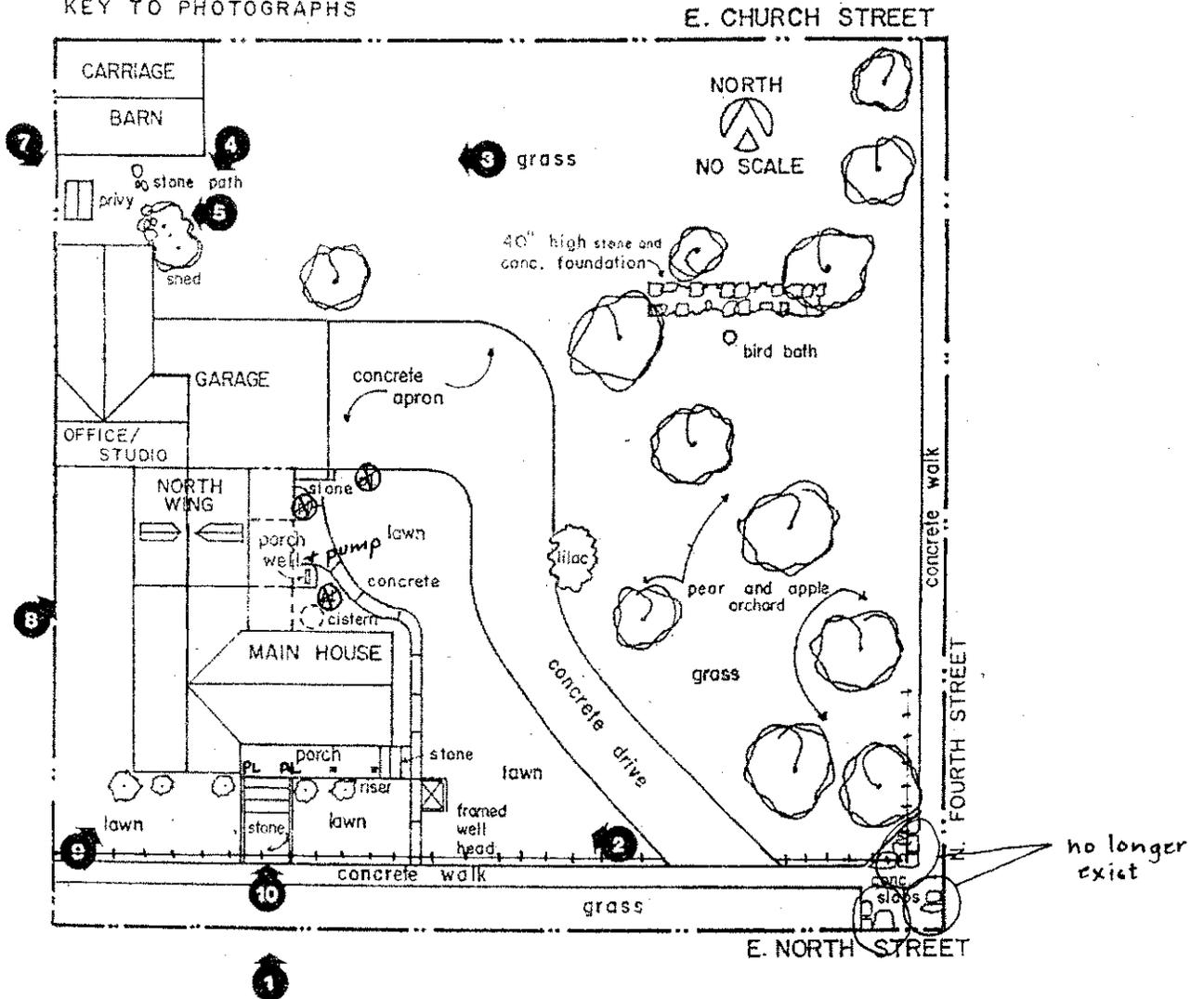
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

APPENDIX 2: NRHP SITE PLAN

DR. H.G. OSGOOD HOUSE
GOSPORT, OWEN COUNTY, INDIANA

6
SITE - EXISTING CONDITIONS

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS



--- picket fence

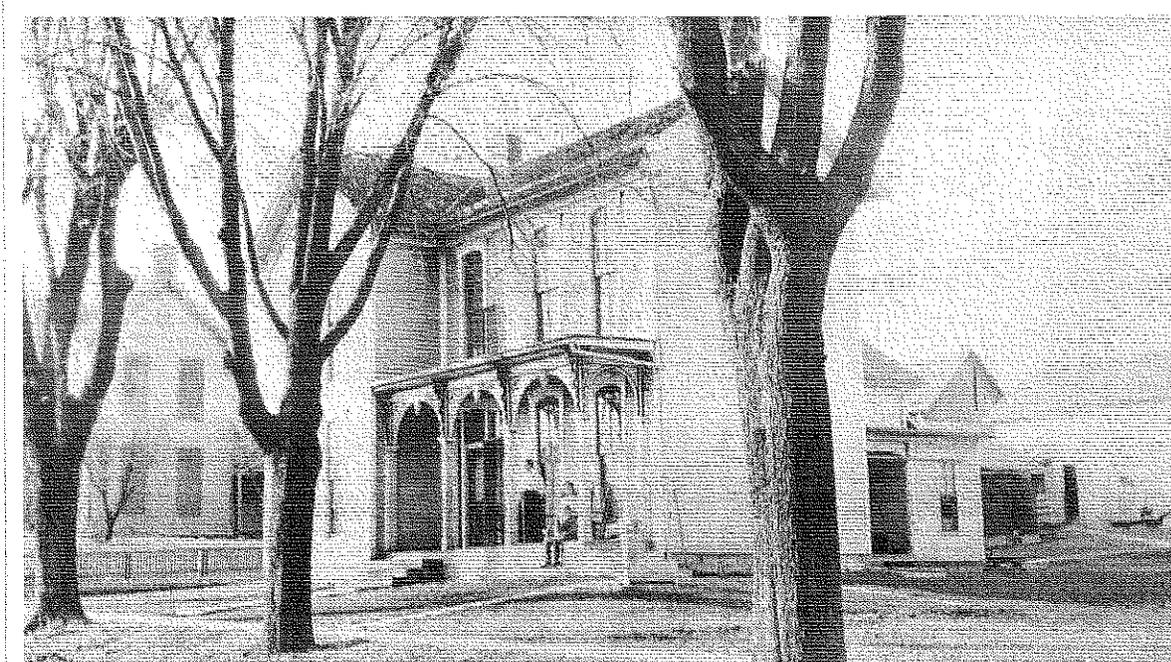
⊗ planter removed

PL planter current location

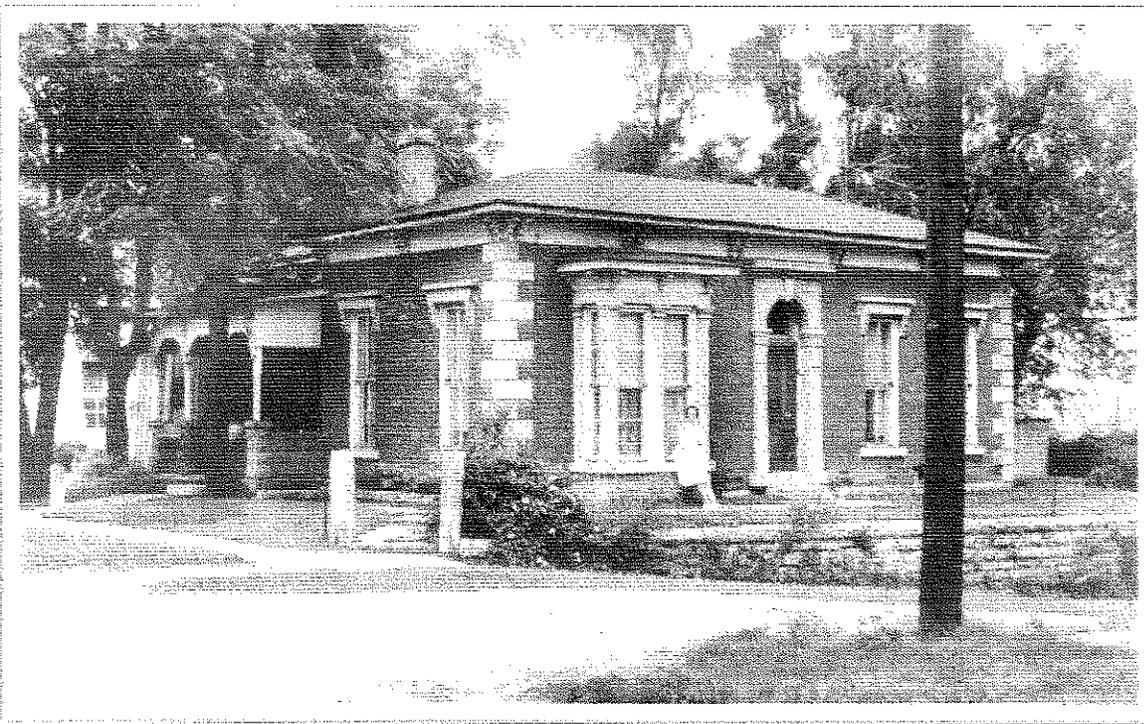
NOTE: Two of three turned limestone planters remain on the property.

PREPARED BY
THE WESTERLY GROUP INC.

APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



HP 1. Resource 4. The Spillman-Rumbarger-Smith House, at left, and Dr. Howard G. and Hattie Osgood House (previously listed) at right. Circa 1915.



HP 2. Resource 9. Clayton L. and Frances Dyer House, c. 1943. Hazel Neibel is pictured. Circa 1943.



HP 3. Resource 21. Gosport Feed Store, c. 1980.



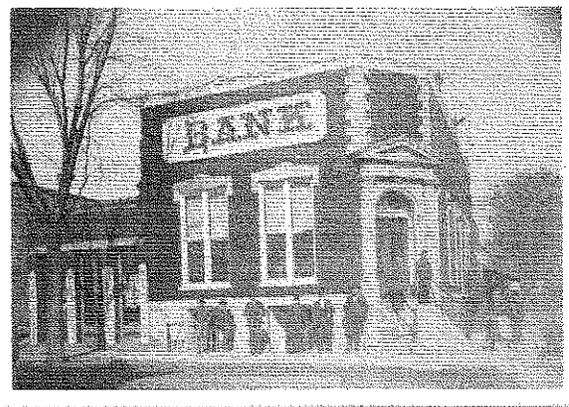
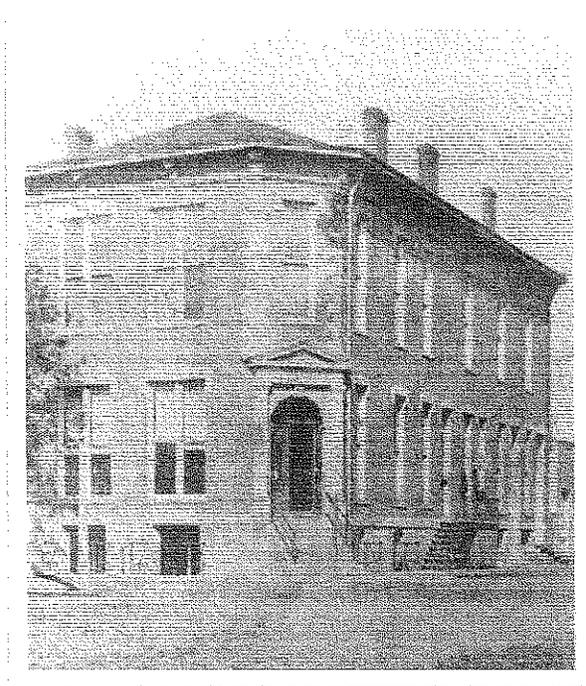
HP 4. Resource 25. Smith-Fox House, c. 1915.



HP 5. Dr. John W. Fox, c. 1895.



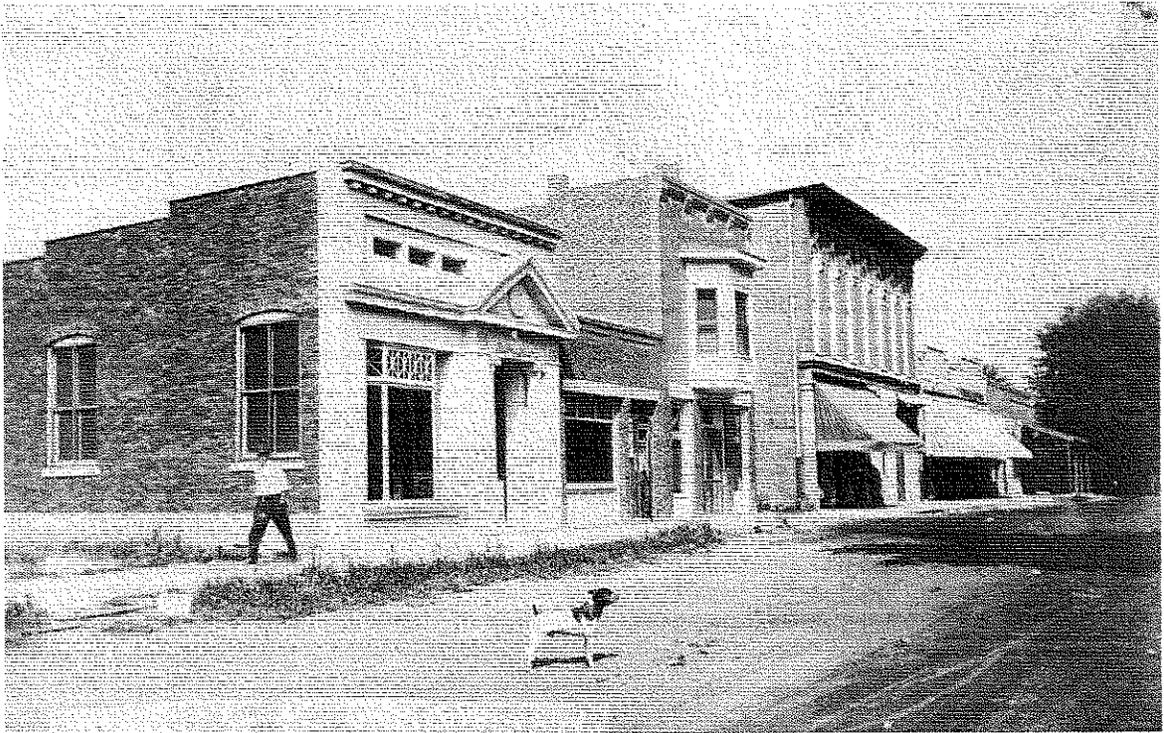
HP 6. Resource 27. IOOF Owen Lodge No. 146 at left, c. 1940.



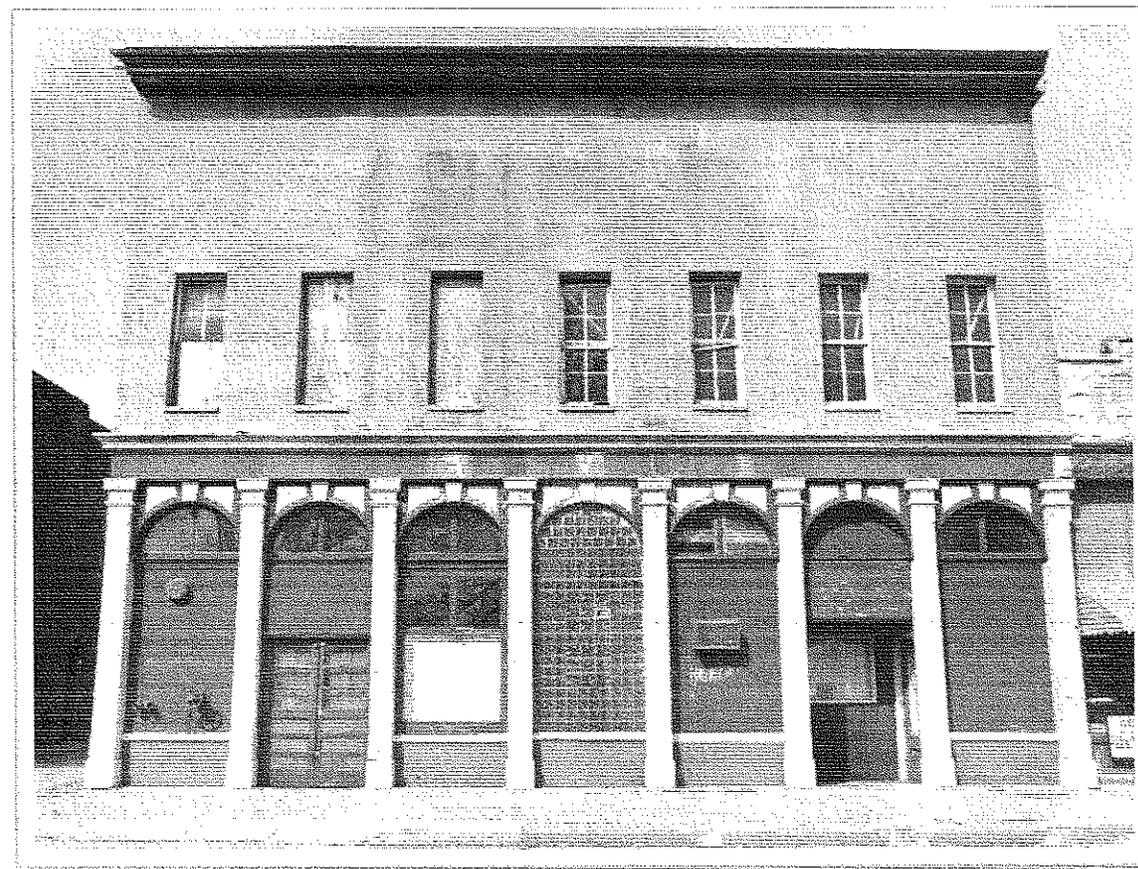
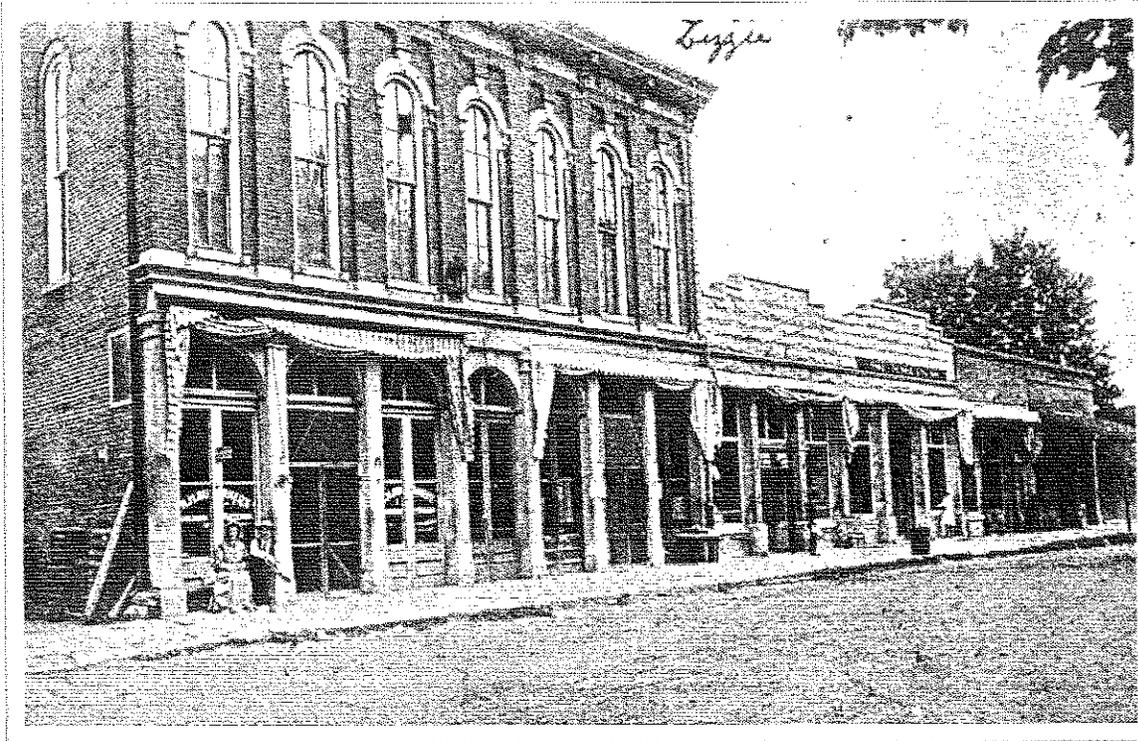
HP 7 and HP 8. Resource 31. Bank of Gosport prior to 1891 fire at left and c.1915 at right.



HP 9. Resource 33. Gosport Hardware, now McClure's Service Hardware. Erskine Hoadley with giant pumpkin. Circa 1950.



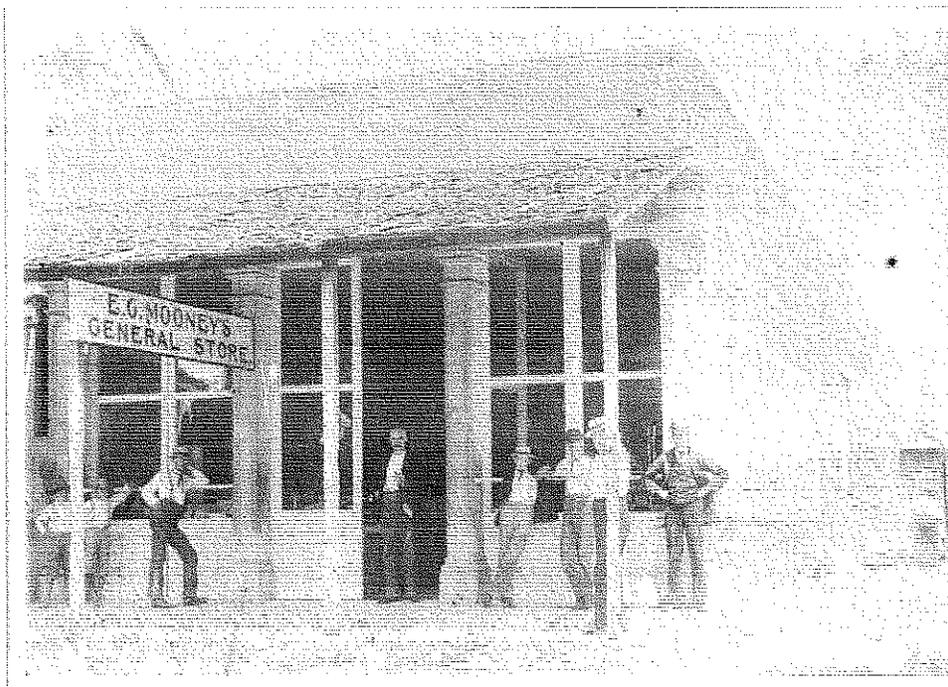
HP 10. Resources 35-42, c.1910: from left to right, Gosport Banking Company, Graham Building, Lyon Building, Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House, Campbell Building. Campbell-Moore Building, west part of VFW Post 7850, east part of VFW Post 7850.



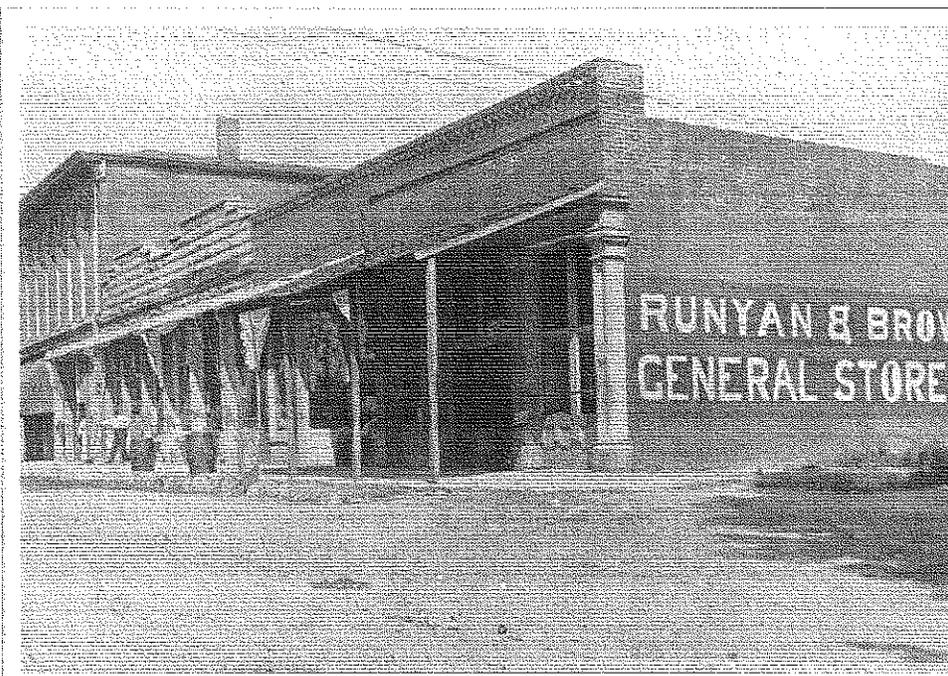
HP 11 and HP 12. Resource 38. Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House. Upper photo c.1915. Lower photo 1992.



HP 13. Resource 39. Grant Campbell's drugstore occupies 153 E. Main St. The matching limestone building at 155 E. Main St. has not yet been built; instead, the site is occupied by a frame meat market. Circa 1900.



HP 14. Resource 42 at 159 E. Main St. (VFW Post 7850). The west part of the VFW has not yet been constructed. Circa 1900.



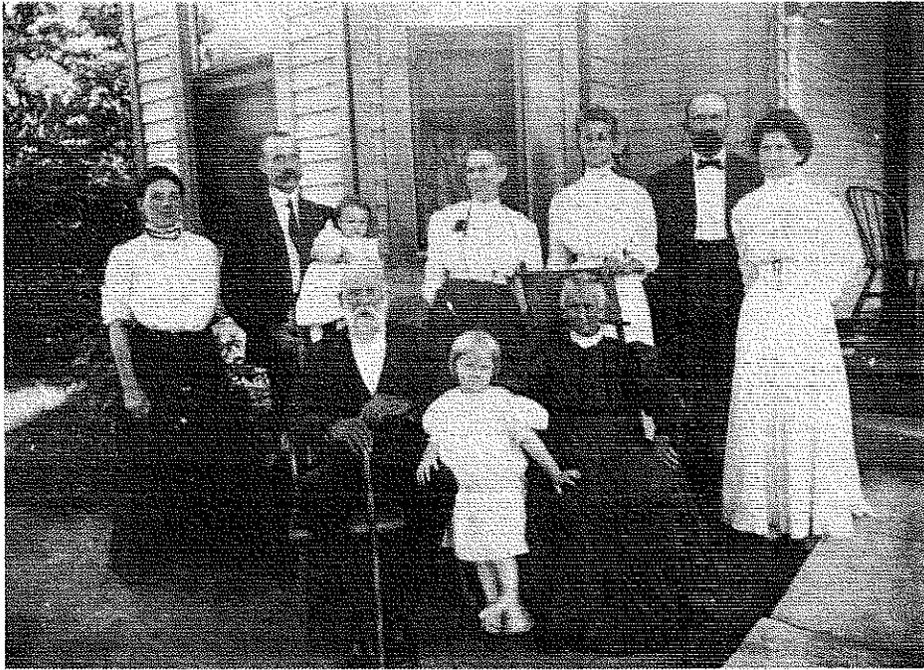
HP 15. North side of Main Street looking west from Third Street. From left to right: Knights of Pythias Lodge/Opera House (resource 38), Campbell and Campbell-Moore buildings (resources 39 and 40), west part of VFW Post 7850 (resource 41), and VFW Post 7850 (resource 42). Circa 1905.



HP 16. Site where Value Market (resource 47) would be built, showing what remains of the east wall and rear portion of the former Dittmore store, 1970.



HP 17. The new grocery store, now Value Market (resource 47), c.1970. The east wall and rear portion of the Dittmore store extend above the grocery.



HP 18. Resource 50. Philip W. and Pernina Hale (seated) pose with family members in front of their house at 9 S. Fourth St., c. 1905.



HP 19. Resource 57. Standing are Hester and Joseph Mullen. Seated at center is Katie Whitaker. To her right is possibly Eliza Grimsley. Children are from left to right: Sam Whitaker, Hester Whitaker, and Paul Whitaker. Circa 1910.



HP 20. Resource 65, the Grimsley-Runyan-Brown-Owens House at 126 S. Fourth St. The man is not identified. The carriage stone appears left of the horse. Circa 1905.



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0001



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0003



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0004



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0006



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0008



Gosport Historic District, Owen Co., IN #0013