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**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Mooreville Commercial Historic District**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **Roughly, one block N, S, E, and W of the corner of Main and Indiana** N/A not for publication

city or town **Mooreville** N/A vicinity

state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Morgan** code **109** zip code **46158**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

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)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	building			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	34	4	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	site	0	1	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	structure	0	0	structures
	object	1	0	objects
		35	5	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
 in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 GOVERNMENT: City Hall
 EDUCATION: Library
 RELIGION: Religious Facility
 DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
 GOVERNMENT: City Hall
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
 RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
 19th & 20th c. AMER.: Commercial Style
 19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsma
 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival
 LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

foundation STONE: Sandstone
 walls BRICK
 WOOD: Weatherboard
 roof ASPHALT
 other WOOD
 METAL: Cast Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

c.1872-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brookie, True L.

Traub, N.F.

Monaghan, J.R.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	553680	4384660	3	16	553510	4384830
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	553510	4384750	4	16	553680	4384840

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joann Raetz Stuttgen for
organization Morgan County Historic Preservation Society date 12-19-2001
street & number P.O. Box 1377 telephone 765/349-1537
city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps**
- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Various
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 Mooresville Commercial Historic District, Morgan Co., IN

The Mooresville Commercial Historic District, as mapped out in this nomination, was omitted from the *Morgan County Interim Report*. In a site visit in May 2001, Paul Diebold, architectural historian for the state of Indiana, identified potential boundaries for the district. These have been extended to include buildings #31, #32, and #33 at the southeast corner. This nomination has a total resource count of 40, consisting of 34 contributing buildings and one contributing object; and four non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing site.

The Mooresville Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C. It encompasses approximately four blocks at the intersection of Indiana and Main Street, the two main thoroughfares. The district is representative of and associated with the founding, development and maturity of a typical Indiana small town, especially in the areas of commerce, politics, and transportation. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a variety of types of commercial architecture ranging from Italianate and nineteenth-century vernacular through early- and mid-twentieth century academic and popular styles.

A discussion of architectural styles and development is found in Section 8: Statement of Significance.

The following architectural descriptions begin with resource #1 and continue through resource #40. Site numbers correspond to the site map. Historic names are in bold type. Current occupants are in parenthesis. Resource designations are in brackets at the end of each entry.

1. **18 N. Indiana St.** (Sunrise Counseling Services) This vernacular, one-story gable front, brick building features Italianate cornice brackets. The roof is asphalt. The front window has been reduced, and the north windows filled in. A later addition is found at the rear. The building is painted green. [C]
2. **14-16 N. Indiana St.** (Indiana Farmer's Insurance and Bob and Don's Barber Shop) One-story in height, this concrete block and tile brick building has a limestone block facade. There are two business units that were originally two separate buildings. The north unit has its original wood door with single light; two single pane windows that have been reduced from their original size; and a pent roof awning. The south unit has a recessed entrance (altered from the original flush entrance) and replacement display

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dart molding. Unlike that of the former bank building next door, the face of the second story wall is adorned only with decorative corbelling. A remnant Ionic cap is found at the upper west corner; perhaps, there was once a full pilaster found here. The bold limestone frieze of dentils, garland, and cornice brackets is continued from the building next door. The corbelled roof line is similar to that of the adjacent building. [C]

7. **8 W. Main St.** (Yellow Moon Antique Mall) Now home to a single business, this two-unit, one-story building is joined to the unit at 10. W. Main Street. The east unit at 8 W. Main St. retains its original cast iron columns. Windows have been filled with solid panels, the entrance brought out flush with the wall face, and the doors replaced with two nine-light steel doors. The upper wall has been covered with plastered panels framed in wood. [C]
8. **10 W. Main St.** (Yellow Moon Antique Mall) Now home to a single business, this two-unit, one-story building is joined to the building at 8 W. Main Street. The west unit at 10 W. Main St. retains its glass show windows and recessed entry. The upper wall has been covered with plastered panels framed in wood. [C]
9. **12 W. Main St. • Nelson and Son Hardware** (House of Treasures) The front of this vernacular one-story brick commercial building was remodeled in 1958, at which time the original cast iron columns and plate glass windows were replaced by new windows framed in aluminum. The storefront retains a mid-twentieth-century appearance, with a recessed entry and large display windows, and an exposed brick upper facade. A green cloth awning shades the windows and entrance. Inside, the store boasts an original wood floor and unbroken interior space. [C]
10. **24 W. Main St. • Mooresville Carnegie Library** (First Indiana Bank) Designed by True L. Brookie and built in 1916, the Mooresville Carnegie Library is a notable example of Craftsman style architecture. The one-story, multi-colored brick library is built over an elevated full basement. It features two large multi-pane fixed sash windows on the main floor and a central entrance with sidelights and fan light framed in Bedford limestone. The low-pitched roof is complemented by an ornamental fachwerk-style frieze and decorative brackets. A limestone drip mold surrounds the building. In 1987, the library was purchased by a neighboring community bank, Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan, and

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the two buildings were connected with an atrium. The bank building was remodeled to match the library. [C]

11. **15 W. Main St. • Taggart's Bakery (Pat's Tavern)** Originally built as a bakery, this vernacular two-story brick building features decorative corbelling at the roof line and on the second story facade between ornate iron attic vents and windows, which are infilled with wood. Four terra cotta tiles with four-leaved flowers are found between the second story windows. Pilasters are found at the outside walls on the second story; they meet cast iron columns at street level. The storefront is little altered from the original, the exception being the replacement of the recessed entry with a solid glass door flush with the front wall. The building is painted a blue-green, and the storefront windows are shaded by a green fabric awning. [C]
12. **11 W. Main St. • Thompson Drygoods/Auto Supply (Carl Crowe's Appliances)** One-story in height and vernacular in design, this brick building has been considerably altered from its original appearance. However, the distinguishing features--three tall arched openings with limestone keystones and plinths--are still evident. Two large, single pane windows and a central entrance date to the 1960s. A decorative corbel course is found at the roof line. The building is painted white. [C]
13. **9 W. Main St. • Carlisle and Gilbert Building (Steve Harris and Tim Currens, attorneys)** This building is among the most notable in the Mooresville Commercial Historic District. Two stories in height with a large attic space, the brick building features an Italianate-style cast iron cornice with name and date plaque that reads CARLISLE & GILBERT 1895. Five second floor windows are one-over-one double hung sash in recessed panels; the windows have decorative tin pedimented hoods. The hood on the middle window is larger and reflects the line of the plaque above. The storefront, with its recessed central entrance, cast iron columns, plate glass windows, and striated black marble lower panels, was probably remodeled from the original in the 1930s, but it appears to follow the lines of the original design. Three modern steel framed glass doors replace the originals. The entrance is remarkable for its exterior sidewalk laid in white, green, and gray tiles, in which is spelled out the name FRANK E. CARLISLE. The building is painted buff, cream, and ivory with accents of dark green and rust. [C]

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14. **1 W. Main St. • Pure Oil Service Station** (Coffee, Tea, and Potpourri) Formerly a service station, this one-story concrete block building has a corner entrance and a facade of sandstone block and painted blue wood panels. [C]
15. **16 S. Indiana St.** This brick building was originally two stories in height. Today, its only distinguishing early elements are its cast iron columns framing two replacement doors and a central bay window. [NC]
16. **18-20 S. Indiana St. • A. H. Scruggs Building** Italianate in style, this two-story brick building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Decorative corbelling is found at the roof line. The building consists of two separate business units. The north unit features three arched windows on the second story, all filled with corrugated steel panels. The storefront has an elevated, recessed, central entrance and display windows. The south unit consists of three bays delineated by corbelled panels and narrow arched windows on the upper floor. Three original first floor windows have been altered and filled, with the center window made into a door. [C]
17. **No address. • Mooresville Municipal Building.** Originally one-story in height, the municipal building is constructed of buff brick with columns of limestone block. Today it has a second story covered with aluminum. Windows and doors are replacements. A projecting bay with a limestone facade is found in the north front wall. At the rear, facing the east-west alley on the north, is a concrete block garage. [C]
- 18-19-20.
No address. • Mooresville Methodist Episcopal Church complex consists of a Gothic Revival-style church and two later annexes. The church is impressive for its raised corner entrance in the large bell tower and lancet stained glass windows. Constructed of red brick with a hewn limestone block foundation, the church is rectangular in form with a gable roof. Buttresses with limestone caps are located at the corners and between the windows. Decorative Queen Anne-inspired shingles are found in the gable peak. The roof is brown asphalt. The door is solid paneled oak.

The first, 1923 annex is built onto the southwest corner. It is a two-story Neoclassical-style building of red brick, with six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The second

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annex dates to 1957 and is located on the east ends of the first annex. It, too, is a two-story building constructed of red brick and features windows of glass block. [C, C, C]

21. **31 S. Indiana St.** (Nichols Insurance) This is a beautiful little one-story building of red brick dating from 1907. It is Neoclassical in influence, with three brick pilasters with limestone capitals and plinths, and a band of limestone molding across the front below roof level. The roof line is adorned with corbelled panels with limestone inserts. Two recessed entrances are located in the front wall near the outside walls; doors are paneled steel with 12-light windows. Two large two-light front windows have leaded glass transoms. Identical transoms are found above the doors. [C]
22. **27 S. Indiana St.** (Churches in Mission) One story in height, this brick building has been altered, with the original windows reduced and filled in with red brick. It has a crossbuck wood door and a heavy shingled mansard awning. [C]
23. **25 S. Indiana St.** (Atwell Interiors) This one-story red brick building was once three stories in height; this explains the limestone window sills that still exist just below the roof line. The building is rather plain, with brick pilasters at the outside corners and alongside the front entrance. Original first floor window openings have been infilled and modern, vinyl-clad bay windows installed. The half-gabled roof is asphalt; the half gables on the sides of the building are covered with vinyl. The paired entrance doors are modern wood framed glass. [NC]
24. **19 S. Indiana St.** (Robert K. Neilson, CPA) This one-story, red brick building has corbelling at the roof line, two front entrances and three windows. The south door is vintage—an oval light framed in wood--and may be original. The north door is modern. [C]
25. **No address.** One-story in height with a corbelled cornice, this red brick building has three window openings reduced from their original size. It is likely that the center window was originally a door. The north wall has been removed so that the interior merges with that of the building at 17 S. Indiana St. (see below). [C]

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26. **17 S. Indiana St. (B. J.'s Fashions)** This one-story red brick building has three openings, reduced from their original size. A central entrance is flanked by single-light windows. The cornice is corbelled. The south wall has been removed so the interior space merges with that of the building at 19 S. Indiana St. (see above). [C]
27. **3 E. Main St. • Bass Building (Movieland Video)** This two-story, Italianate-style brick building has two first floor units now occupied by a single business. It is located on a corner, with the main elevation facing north and a secondary elevation facing west. The upper story of the main elevation (store front) features a stuccoed brick wall with four two-over-two double hung sash windows with arched brick lintels, above which are four round attic vents. A pent roof awning covered in asphalt shades the first floor windows. The west unit has a first floor facade of cut limestone block that wraps the outside corner. The east unit has a first floor facade of wood panels that fill in earlier window openings. The west elevation reveals the original brick wall now covered with stucco. Six second story windows are two-over-two double hung sash with arched brick lintels. First floor windows that are later than the building's initial construction are filled with brick. A solid paneled wood door with wood surround and arched hood is located at the southwest corner. It leads to the original second floor hall. [C]
28. **5 E. Main St. • G. A. Keller Building (Dickinson Printing and Office Supplies)** The G. A. Keller Building is Neoclassical in design, with a parapeted roof line with stone caps, and below it, a metal cornice with dentils and pendants. The face is buff colored brick with orange bricks added for decorative interest. Second floor windows are one-over-one double hung sash with a limestone sill stretching across the entire front of the building. The storefront is altered from its original. Windows have been reduced in size and the resulting space infilled with wood. One recessed entrance is found at the east side of the front. A second entry on the west, which leads to the second floor hall, has been closed off. [C]
29. **7 E. Main St. (Hession Heating & Air)** A two-story Italianate-style brick building featuring a cast iron cornice and arched second floor windows (now filled in), this building has a shed awning with asphalt covering that shades the c1940s storefront. It features plate glass display windows and a recessed central entrance. Cast iron columns with decorative filigree are found at the outside corners. [C]

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30. **11 E. Main St. • Redmen Lodge** (vacant) Constructed of red brick, this two-story building housed the Redmen Lodge on the second floor. The cornice is of cast iron and matches that of the building next door at 7 E. Main St. Upper floor windows are one-over-one double hung sash with limestone sills and headers. The first floor has a recessed entry, display windows, and cast iron columns. [C]
31. **No address.** (vacant) This non-contributing brick building is covered with rough wood siding. The original recessed central entrance and display windows have been retained. [NC]
32. **No address.** (Marvel Title) This one-story, vernacular brick building has a recessed front side entrance, cast iron cornice, and large display window flush with the front wall. Single light transom windows are found over the display window and door. The building is painted white, with decorative corbelling highlighted in blue. [C]
33. **21-23 E. Main St. • Jake Mann Building/Regal Market and Ritz Theater** (Gregory McGowan, D. D. S. and Mooresville Times) This two-bay, two-unit Neoclassical-style building was built in 1919 by Jake Mann, who placed a limestone block with his name and date in the front wall of glazed brick. A parapeted roof line with limestone caps, as well as decorative brickwork above the two display windows, adds design interest. The west unit features a maroon fabric awning, plate glass display windows, and a central pair of glass doors. The east unit consists of a single bay of six plate glass windows and an entrance. Across the entire building, the height of the original windows has been reduced. [C]
34. **4 E. Main St. • Sam Wade Plumbing** (Creative Images) Built in 1917 by Sam Wade, who placed limestone plaques in the front wall conveying this information, this vernacular one-story brick building has a parapeted roof line with limestone caps, a wood shake awning, recessed door, and display windows. Pressed tin is found above the entrance and display windows. [C]

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36. **22 E. Main St.** (Buffalo Gal Antique Mall) Built by Sam Wade in 1925, this one-story buff brick building is vernacular in design. Paired recessed doors are centrally located, with large display windows on either side. A wood shake awning stretches across the front of the building and shades the windows. Pressed tin is found above the entrance. [C]
36. **16-18-20 E. Main St.** (A & E Sign and Biff's Pioneer House) A single building with three business units, this one-story vernacular, multi-color brick building was constructed by Sam Wade in 1927. It closely resembles the adjacent buildings built by Wade. Each unit has a recessed entrance and single display window, with the exception of the west unit, whose entrance has been brought out flush with the front wall. A shingled mansard awning runs across the front of the building. Molded tin is found above the two recessed entrances. The cornice is capped with limestone. [C]
37. **12-14 E. Main St.** (Biff's Pioneer House and Mayfield Insurance) A single building with two business units, this one-story vernacular multi-color brick building was erected by Sam Wade in 1946. Each unit has a recessed entrance and single display window. A shingled mansard awning runs across the front of the building. Beaded board is found above the entrances. The cornice is capped with limestone. [C]
38. **10 E. Main St. • Mooresville Post Office** (Mayfield Insurance) Built by J. L. Mathews in 1909, this one-story brick building originally housed the Mooresville Post Office. It has a parapeted roof line with limestone caps, a limestone name/date plaque, and cast iron columns and header above the first floor windows. Paired glass door with transom is centrally located. The display windows and entrance have been reduced in height, with the resulting space infilled with wood shakes. A limestone date plaque is found beneath the cornice, with a second limestone plaque carved with the name SAM WADE. The reverse of this plaque reads POST OFFICE: it was removed, turned over and Wade's name carved in the back side, then replaced with Wade's name facing outward. [C]
- 39-40. **No address. • Hadley Mini-Park and Samuel Moore marker** The non-contributing park is the site of two large brick buildings that were torn down in the 1960s and 1980s. A contributing object—a bronze tablet on a large boulder—placed in 1924 commemorates Samuel Moore, the founder of Mooresville, and the site at this location of his first trading post and store. A second, noncontributing object placed in the 1980s commemorates Paul

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Hadley, a Mooresville native, artist, and designer of the Indiana state flag. [NC site, C object]

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mooresville Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It encompasses approximately four blocks at the intersection of Indiana and Main Street, the two main thoroughfares. The district is representative of and associated with the founding, development and maturity of a typical Indiana small town, especially in regards to commerce, politics and government, and transportation. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a variety of types of commercial architecture ranging from Italianate and nineteenth-century vernacular through early- and mid-twentieth century academic and popular styles.

The Mooresville Commercial Historic District, as mapped out in this nomination, was omitted from the *Morgan County Interim Report*. In a site visit in May 2001, the Indiana SHPO identified potential boundaries for the district. These have been extended to include buildings #31, #32, and #33 at the southeast corner. This nomination has a total resource count of 40, consisting of 34 contributing buildings and one contributing object; and four non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing site.

The town of Mooresville is located in Brown Township in northeastern Morgan County, approximately 15 miles south of Indianapolis on SR267. The township is gently rolling, with forested areas punctuated by tilled fields and residential subdivisions. Cutting through the township are several creeks, including White Lick, which flows through Mooresville and empties into White River eight miles to the south.

Platted in 1824 by founder Samuel Moore, Mooresville originated as a "trading post" comprised of four blocks, each consisting of 16 lots, centered around the intersection of Main and Indiana Street. The original plat is today's historic commercial district. The town's first house—a log cabin—was constructed in 1824 by Asa Bales. In 1830, Moore erected a grist mill on White Lick

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Creek. According to Charles Blanchard, a historian writing in 1884, “that alone added more than any other one thing to the rapid development of Mooresville.”¹

By 1831, the population of Mooresville had almost doubled to 200. A rudimentary municipal government was established early on but died out by 1838. With incorporation of the village on 12 February 1841, and the addition of 140 lots, municipal government was revived. A town board was elected and ordinances implemented. The town hall would occupy a variety of buildings until 1932, when a permanent home was established with the erection of the Mooresville Municipal Building, which also housed the police and fire departments.

In 1842, the newly established town of “ten stores and houses” suffered a terrible blow when a fire broke out, destroying all save a single dwelling and Samuel Moore’s store at the northeast corner of Main and Indiana Street.² Rebuilt on the original plat, the town boasted a number of prominent and enterprising merchants and other business men. Among them, Samuel Moore was the most industrious. His mill produced great quantities of flour and corn meal, which were sent on flatboats down White River to New Orleans. He also shipped wheat and corn; salted and packed pork; and live hogs and horses. He traded goods and land and also participated in many civic and fraternal activities. Other leading businesses of the day included a saw mill; woolen mill; drygoods stores; a distillery; restaurants and boarding houses; a blacksmith; and so on.

The historic commercial district began to develop with the founding of the town. Early buildings were made of log or frame, with more substantial buildings following at the turn of the century. Perhaps the oldest building in the district is the c1872 gable front, two-story brick building displaying Italianate influences at 18 N. Indiana Street. The building at 9 E. Main St. was built about 1880 and features Italianate style cast iron cornices, window hoods, and storefront columns. The second wave of significant permanent building occurred around the turn of the century, with the Carlisle and Gilbert Building (1895) at 9 W. Main St.; the A. H. Scruggs Building (c1895) at 18-20 S. Indiana St.; the Mooresville Post Office (1909) at 10 E. Main St., and the Carnegie Library (1916) on West Main Street taking their places in the district. By the

¹ Charles Blanchard, *Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown* (Chicago: F. A. Battey, 1884), 105.

² Margaret W. Fogleman, *Early Mooresville—Centennial Souvenir, 1824-1924*. (Mooresville: private, 1924), no page.

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1920s, the district looked nearly as it does today, with the exception of the north side of East Main Street and the northeast and southwest corners of Indiana and Main. The development of the north side of East Main Street was completed in 1946 with the building at 12-14 E. Main Street. Sam Wade, a local plumbing contractor, built all five buildings on the north side of this block.

The southwest and northeast corners of Indiana and Main have undergone the most recent redevelopment. The frame Lindley Block on the southwest corner burned 27 December 1925 and was replaced in 1938 by a Pure Oil Service station. The IOOF building at the northeast corner of Indiana and Main was torn down in the early 1980s, with the site now occupied by bank parking and a municipal commemorative park known as Hadley Mini-Park.

The housing stock at the middle of the nineteenth-century was quite impressive, reflecting the positions and financial successes of the town's leaders far better than the commercial buildings. Among the early substantial houses that still exist is the Greek Revival-style Wash Conduitt-Samuel Moore house built c1852. The town's historic domestic—as well as its commercial architecture—reflects the economic boom that followed the completion of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad in 1867.³ Houses of the Italianate and Queen Anne styles are plentiful, as are early twentieth-century styles such as Free Classic, Colonial Revival and bungalow.

Mooresville flourished with its connection by rail to larger cities to the north, particularly Indianapolis, and the county seat of Martinsville to the south. Its proximity to White River also made it readily accessible by water. The Martinsville-Mooresville and Mooresville-Plainfield roads made travel between cities possible—if not always passable during the early years of rough, worn clay. In time these roads were incorporated into the state highway system, which established Main Street as SR67 in 1923 and Indiana Street as SR267 in 1932. Mooresville was bypassed by the new SR67 in 1959-60.

In addition, the interurban served Mooresville beginning in 1903, making daily commuting

³ Although the Indianapolis and Vincennes line had been laid in 1867, the first train did not reach Mooresville until 1 November 1869.

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between the town and Indianapolis efficient and practical. Many people rode the interurban to the state capital or county seat for work, shopping, visiting, recreation, and school. Passenger service by rail was discontinued in 1929, and the interurban saw its last run in October 1930. Both the train and interurban depots were located outside of the downtown commercial area, on the west side of town.

The Mooresville Society of Friends had a substantial impact on the community, especially in the area of education. The first subscription school in Morgan County was established in 1861 just west of downtown Mooresville in the large brick Academy Building, listed in the National Register in 1976. As the town grew, more schools were needed, and the Friends sold the building to the municipal school system. It was used until the 1970s. During the post-World War II population boom, many overflow classes were held in downtown buildings, including the Carnegie Library. In addition, the hall above the G. A. Keller Building was used as the high school basketball gymnasium until 1921, when the Mooresville High School gymnasium was built. This new gym was listed in the National Register in 1997. Keller Hall was also used for a variety of other recreational and cultural activities, including roller skating, dancing, parties, and meetings of various fraternal lodges.

While the Friends were dominant, a number of other congregations were established in Mooresville, including among the very earliest, the Methodist Episcopal congregation. Its origins date to the 1820s, with its first church building erected in 1839. This structure was replaced in 1882 by the Gothic Revival style building at the corner of Indiana and Harrison Street, with annexes built in 1923 and 1957.

From 1824 until the present day, the core commercial area of Mooresville has continually met the needs of the community. It was—and remains to this day--the center of commerce and professional life, home to merchants, professionals such as lawyers and physicians, and tradesmen. Its upper stories provided homes to workers and families, many of whom owned and/or tended businesses at street level. Its streets and public sidewalks served as festival grounds for national holidays and local celebrations, such as the town's centennial in 1924 and today's Victorian Christmas celebration. Its buildings provided recreational opportunities ranging from public lectures, theatrical performances, moving picture shows, and athletic contests. It was also here that educational interests were met by the library and by use of business rooms for overflow classrooms, and social interests met by clubs, lodges, restaurants and taverns. It was from this

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location that the town was run by elected members of the town board, and from here that the city spread out to accept new technologies—telephone service, electric and steam power, the municipal sewer system—and improvements such as cement sidewalks and macadam roads. Its merchants stayed in step with the changing times, offering citizens their first automobiles, their first Victrolas, their first televisions—their first computers, DVDs, and cell phones. It was in the core commercial district that the Methodist congregations worshipped in their imposing church and marked rituals of the life cycle. And it was at the intersection of Indiana and Main Street that the town was connected to other Indiana cities by means of the state highway system and the interurban.

In 2002, the Mooresville Revitalization Committee and the downtown merchants desire National Register status for downtown Mooresville in order to commemorate its heritage and promote it as an exciting and viable commercial district.

The following statements detail the history of each building in the district. Numbers correspond to the site map. Historic names are in bold type. Current occupants are in parenthesis. Resource designations are in brackets at the end of each entry.

1. **18 N. Indiana** (Sunrise Counseling Services) Perhaps the oldest in the Mooresville Commercial Historic District, this building dates to about 1872, when the Savings Bank of Mooresville owned the property. By 1902, the building housed a drugstore, and in 1910, a drygoods store. During the 1920s, it was used as a poultry and feed store by the Wadley Company. In the 1960s, Paul Henderson used it for his jewelry store. Kaye Don Haught bought the building from Henderson in 1972 and operated an insurance and real estate business. He later rented it to Ron Alexander for his insurance agency. It is now rented to Sunrise Counseling Service. The building is owned by Kaye Don Haught.⁴ [C]
2. **14-16 N. Indiana** (Indiana Farmer's Insurance and Bob and Don's Barber Shop) This

⁴ Email to author from Kaye Don Haught, 22 August 2001. Also, personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, advertisement for Henderson's jewelry shop, *Mooresville Times*, 14 January 1965. I relied on the available Sanborn fire maps for the Town of Mooresville to determine the history of uses of the various buildings. These maps exist for the years 1902, 1910, and 1920. In the following histories, all such dates reference the Sanborn fire maps.

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one-story building is actually two separate buildings. It received its unifying limestone facade by owner, John Moore, in the early 1960s. The buildings appear to be made of concrete block and tile brick. From 1902-1910, the north building housed a butcher shop and the south building a blacksmith shop. In 1920, the north building was occupied by Wadley Co. feed store, and the south room was an office. Both buildings were frame. In 1941, the Mooresville Post Office moved into the north building from its former location on East Main Street and remained at this location until October 1960 when it moved to West Main Street. During the years the post office was located here, the south building was a tavern owned by Forest Dake; subsequent owners operated a tavern until 2000. When the post office left, the north unit became Bob and Don's Barber Shop. The south unit is now occupied by Indiana Farmer's Insurance. The building's owner is Robert Stafford.⁵ [NC, NC]

3. **10 N. Indiana** (Guido's Pizza) Built in 1906 by Albert R. Cooper, this two-story building of molded concrete block was built as an office building with a second floor apartment. The apartment was connected to the apartment over Fred Cooper's drugstore at 6 W. Main Street. The occupants of the apartments were the families of the Cooper brothers; all shared a single bathroom. For a brief period before January 1909, the building was home to the Ed W. Day Grocery, which moved to 19 S. Indiana St. that month (Fig. 1). In 1920, the building housed a drygoods store followed by Art Lusty's electrical shop. During the late 1930s and 1940s, a ladies' clothing and millinery store run by Edith Shirley was located here. On 31 December 1999, the second floor apartment was damaged by fire. The building was



Fig. 1 Ed W. Day Grocery, 10 N. Indiana St., before 1909. Source: historic photograph #79, Business District, Mooresville Public Library.

⁵ The Mooresville Post Office moved to North Indiana Street in 1941, and left this location for West Main Street in October 1960. See Clara S. Richardson, *A Brief History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* (Mooresville: private, 1974), 20. Also, telephone interview with Charles Nelson, 11 December 2001. Also, personal interview with Don Allen, barber, 11 December 2001.

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purchased in March 2000 by Colleen Leffler, the current owner.⁶ [C]

4. **No address.** This two-story building was built in 1918 as a “parlor” or “consulting room” addition to the Farmers State Bank immediately to the south. Prior to this time, a one-story brick building was located here; it could be that an entirely new building was constructed in 1918, or the older building may have received a second floor. It has seen a variety of uses, including in 1928, the dental office of Dr. Paul Carson; in the mid-1960s, a beauty shop operated by Isabelle Riggan, Mary Frank Hundley, and Betty Pooler; and in 1974, the real estate office shown in Fig. 2. It is now part of the law offices of Roscoe Stovall (see below) and is owned by him.⁷ [C]



Fig. 2 8 N. Indiana St., 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

5. **2 W. Main • Farmers State Bank** (Roscoe Stovall, attorney) Built as the Farmers State Bank about 1873 (Fig. 3), this two story building faces the corner of Main and Indiana Street. In 1904, the first floor was lowered to street level and the building remodeled in a Neoclassical style (Fig. 4).⁸ Originally a free-standing building as shown in Fig. 3, it

⁶ Telephone interview with Colleen Leffler, 10 December 2001. Also, see *Mooresville Times*, 4 April 1907 and 18 April 1907, in which it is announced that O. E. Rooker will open The Reliable Store in A. R. Cooper’s new room, replacing A. H. Richardson, who relocated to other quarters. Also, see *Mooresville Times*, 1 January 1909 and 15 January 1909, in which the move of E. W. Day’s grocery into the new business room on South Indiana Street is discussed. Also, see historic photograph #79, Business District, Mooresville Public Library.

⁷ News clipping from the *Mooresville Times*, 4 October 1918, Banks file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, news clipping from the *Mooresville Times*, 6 July 1928, Banks file, Mooresville Public Library, which reads, “Dr. Paul Carson has leased the Farmers State Bank parlor or consulting room for his dental office.” See also *Mooresville Times* 17, March 1966.

⁸ On 27 May, 1904, the *Mooresville Times* reported, “Work has commenced on lowering the floor and otherwise improving the building of the Farmers Bank. At present a foundation is being built for a new vault. . . .” On 7 October, the *Mooresville Times* reported, “The Farmers bank began business in its new building yesterday morning. The new building is a great improvement over the old one and adds much to the appearance of the business part of town. It is also handsomely finished and furnished inside.”

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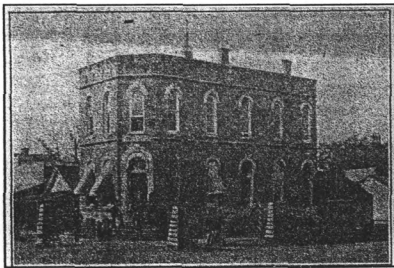


Fig. 3 Farmers State Bank before 1904 remodeling. Source: *Our Golden Anniversary*, 1923.

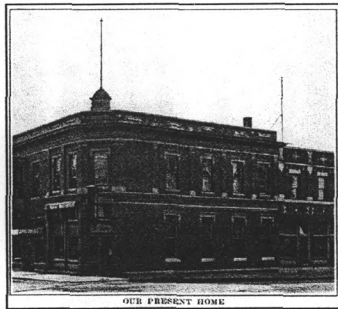


Fig. 4 Farmers State Bank in 1923, after 1904 remodeling. Source: *Our Golden Anniversary*, 1923.

received additions on the west side in 1906 and the north side in 1918. In the early years through about 1960, a barbershop was located in the basement.⁹

The original bank was organized as the Savings Bank of Mooresville in 1872 and housed in the building at 18 N. Indiana St. until this structure was completed. On 7 July 1873, the bank was reorganized and renamed Farmers State Bank.

The bank failed in 1931, and the building was occupied through the 1940s by a shoe, hosiery, and men's furnishings store owned by George Reeves, whose slogan was, "If it comes from Reeves, it's sure to please." After the building was vacated by Reeves, it became home to Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan until 1952, when the bank moved further west on Main Street. Forrest Dake then bought the building and rented it to O. E. Anderson, who operated a real estate business. In the 1960s, John Mills, an attorney, had his law practice here. Since then, it has remained a law office. The building is now owned

⁹ Zigler's Barber Shop was bought by Sam Allen in 1948; Allen moved to the old post office building on East Main Street in 1960. See *Mooresville Times*, 17 March 1966.

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by Roscoe Stovall.¹⁰ [C]

6. **6 W. Main** (Photography by Colleen) This two-story brick building was built by Albert and Fred Cooper about 1906 and was home to Cooper's Drugstore until the 1950s, followed by Hayes' Drugstore. There was once an oriel window on the second floor, which housed an apartment in which Cora Cooper, Fred's widow, lived for many years. Cooper's and Hayes's drugstores were noted for the soda fountain. After Hayes' Drugstore closed, the building was occupied by Tri-County Sports. Colleen Leffler's photography business is only the fourth business located here. Cf. Fig. 4. Colleen Leffler is the building's owner.¹¹ [C]
7. **8 W. Main St.** (Yellow Moon Antique Mall) The Yellow Moon Antique Mall occupies two legally joined but once independent buildings--8 and 10 W. Main St.--that appear to have been built in the late 1890s. The east building was used as a harness and buggy shop from at least 1902 to 1920, at which time it was also a hardware store. It then became home to a series of groceries, beginning with Burnice "Butch" Boyd's market in 1926, then Glenn Hinshaw's market, then Harold Moore's market until 1967. Moore's Market was the last on Main Street. See Fig. 5.



Fig. 5 West Main Street showing (east to west/right to left) Hays's drugstore, Moore's Market, Adler's Department Store, and Nelson Hardware, c1960. Source: undated news clipping from Mooresville file, Morgan County Public Library.

¹⁰ "Celebrate Their Golden Anniversary: Farmers State Bank at Mooresville Has a Record of Splendid Achievements For Fifty Years." 1923 newspaper clipping (no month or day) found in the Mooresville file, Morgan County Public Library. Also, personal interview with Charles Nelson, 29 November 2001. Also, "Our Golden Anniversary," commemorative booklet, 7 July 1923, found in Banks file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, Richardson, 53.

¹¹ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 29 November 2001. Also, telephone interview with Colleen Leffler, 11 December 2001.

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Jeana Cohen owns the conjoined buildings. [C]

8. **10 W. Main St. (Yellow Moon Antique Mall)** The Yellow Moon Antique Mall occupies two separate buildings—8 and 10 W. Main St.-- that appear to have been built in the late 1890s. In 1902, the west building was a grocery and hardware store; in 1910, a hardware store; and in 1920, a drugstore. It was also home to Chet Francis's photography shop and Sellars drygoods store. From the late 1930s through the 1960s, it was occupied by Adler's Department Store. See Fig. 5. Jeana Cohen owns the conjoined buildings. [C]



Fig. 6 Nelson Hardware, 1949. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

9. **12 W. Main • Nelson and Son Hardware (House of Treasures)** This two-story brick building was built about 1906 by Howard (H. W.) Lindley, a hardware merchant. It replaced an earlier one-story brick building. In 1944, Lindley sold the business to W. B. "Brake" and Charles Nelson, father and son (Fig. 6). W. B. had worked for Lindley since 1918. Nelson and Son Hardware operated until 1981, when Charles Nelson sold the business. It remained a hardware store for two more years, then was sold and became a pet shop. It has been a gift shop since 1998. The building is owned by First Indiana Bank.¹² [C]

Parking lot. The Federal-style Moon House stood on this site. Joseph Moon's mill was located on White Lick Creek south of town. The house was torn down by Mooresville Savings and Loan in 1951.¹³ [NC]

¹² Telephone interview with Charles Nelson, 29 November 2001.

¹³ Almira Harvey Hadley, *A Brief History of Mooresville* (Mooresville: private, 1918), 12. Also, personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, Mch. 1951, found in Banks file, Mooresville Public Library.

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10. **24 W. Main • Mooresville Carnegie Library (First Indiana Bank)** A house on this lot was torn down and a limestone or concrete block, one-story, flat-roof Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan building was completed in 1952. When the library moved to its present location in 1987, the bank bought the library building and expanded. The atrium occupies a former alley. The old bank building was absorbed by the new. The former library now consists of offices on the main floor and meeting rooms in the basement. Each floor has a central corridor with offices on the north and south walls. The upstairs retains its fireplace. In the late 1950s, the schools were overcrowded, and classes were held all over town, including in the library basement.¹⁴ In earlier years, the basement was used as a meeting hall by women's club and other social clubs, as well as a private kindergarten taught by Katherine Ferguson Roberts during the 1930s. A stage area was used for dance classes and a variety of amateur shows.¹⁵

Mooresville's first library was established on July 14, 1855, as the Hovey Institute and Working Men's Library. In 1911, a Public Library Commission was organized and a year later, a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Foundation was received. These funds were supplemented by local donations. The library building was designed by architect True L. Brookie of Indianapolis. Builders were Mooresville residents and contractors, Marine and Charles Henry Ferguson, with Sam Wade employed as the heating, electric, and plumbing contractor. The building was dedicated 27 January 1916. In the early 1960s, the library received new front steps, sidewalks, and a new front entrance. The wood floor in the basement was replaced with concrete, and a new wide staircase was constructed, replacing the original staircase. In 1972, the basement auditorium was adapted to a children's library.¹⁶

¹⁴ Personal interview with Cheryl Edwards and "Big Al" Tutewiler, 6 September 2001.

¹⁵ Comments by Wanda Potts and Rachel Ruona written on their draft copies of the nomination, 23 January 2002.

¹⁶ Clara S. Richardson. *A Brief History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* (Mooresville: private, 1974), 34-5. See also Randy Haymaker and Rachel Ruona, "Mooresville Library Observes 70th Birthday," undated news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, Mooresville file, Morgan County Public Library.

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A new library building was completed in 1987, and the Carnegie building adapted for use as bank offices. See Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. The building is owned by First Indiana Bank.
[C]

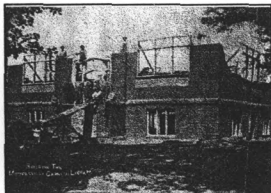


Fig. 7 Building the library, 1916. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 5 February 1986.



Fig. 8 Mooresville Carnegie Library, date unknown. Source: *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 31 December 1966.



Fig. 9 Mooresville Carnegie Library, 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.



Fig. 10 Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1964. Source: *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 31 December 1966.

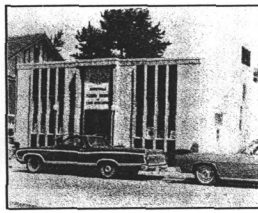


Fig. 11 Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

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11. **15 W. Main • Taggart's Bakery** (east half of Pat's Tavern)

This two-story commercial building was built in 1896 as a bakery by John Taggart, a native of the Isle of Man. Taggart and his wife, Lena, came to Mooresville in 1888 "and bought the small bakery that had been built a year or two previous by the Hornaday brothers. The little wooden building, now only a part of the bake building, was their store room and in the rear a small oven."¹⁷ The 1902 Sanborn fire map shows a two-story brick building with a one-story frame rear appendage and a separate frame bake house with brick oven and woodshed at rear. John Taggart died 12 December 1907, just seven months after completing a kitchen addition on the west side of the building.¹⁸ Lena Taggart continued operating the business until she sold out to Ross "Dinty" Moore in 1913. Moore lived in the second floor apartment. Upon Moore's death in the late 1920s/early 1930s, Frank Hadley, who had long been the head baker, and his sister Mae operated the business as Hadley Restaurant. In the 1940s, Lee Head and Bill Taylor operated the Head In Restaurant here. It has been a bakery and/or eating establishment throughout its history. It is now home to the east half of Pat's Tavern. See Fig. 12. The building is owned by Hosten Bible. [C]

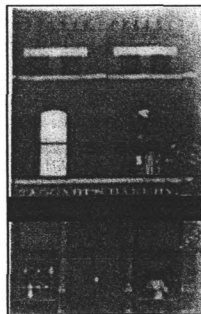


Fig. 12 Taggart's Bakery, date unknown.
Source: *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 8 December 1972.

¹⁷ "Taggart Bakery and Restaurant Changes Hands." Newspaper clipping dated 1913. See historic photograph #158, Business District, photograph archives, Mooresville Public Library.

¹⁸ In the *Mooresville Times*, 16 May 1907, it is reported, "J. A. Taggart has begun the building of an addition to the west side of his restaurant to be used as a kitchen. He will then extend his dining room further in the room to be vacated." Interestingly, Taggart's west addition does not appear on the 1910 Sanborn fire map. Also, personal interview with Wanda Potts, 12 September 2001.

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12. **11 W. Main • Thompson Drygoods/Auto Supply** (Carl Crowe's Appliances) This building appears as a one-story brick building housing a general store on the 1902 Sanborn fire map. Pace Thompson operated a drygoods business here from perhaps at least 1902 to about 1920; after a brief period of vacancy, the building became home to Thompson Auto Supply, operated by Pace and his son, Walter, until 1952. Theirs was the first store in Mooresville dealing exclusively in auto parts. The Thompsons also had a gas pump out front. The business was sold several times before finally closing in the 1980s. The building has been occupied by Carl Crowe's appliance store since 1989. See Fig. 13. The building is owned by John and Martha Wissner.¹⁹ [C]

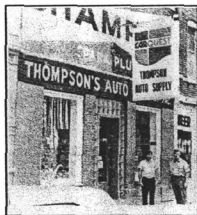


Fig. 13 Thompson's Auto Supply, Inc., 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

13. **9 W. Main • Carlisle and Gilbert** (Harris and Currens) In 1895, Frank E. Carlisle and Daniel Gilbert remodeled an older building erected by Holman Johnson, a merchant of drygoods and groceries. The undertaking and furniture firm of Carlisle and Gilbert originated in 1893 with partners Frank E. Carlisle and J. H. Rusie. Rusie retired in 1895, selling out to Gilbert. The two-story Carlisle and Gilbert building housed the undertaking portion of the business on the second floor and the furniture business in the west unit of the first floor. Originally, the building consisted of two first floor units with a central staircase leading upstairs to one business unit and two apartments; thus, there were three front entries. From time to time, other businesses leased the east first floor unit, including groceries run by Keller Kitchen and his wife and Geneva Park and her husband in the late

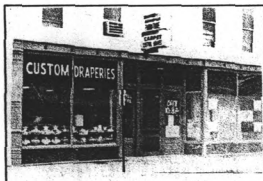


Fig. 14 Mooresville Furniture Co., 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

¹⁹ Sanborn fire maps 1902, 1910, 1920. Also, personal interviews with Cheryl Edwards, 6 September 2001 and Wanda Potts, 12 September 2001; and telephone interview with Carl Crowe, 29 October 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 13 April 1976, in Auto Dealers file, Mooresville Public Library.

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1930s.²⁰ The Carlisle undertaking/furniture business is remembered for its horse-drawn hearse, which was stored in the front window. Frank E. Carlisle was joined by his son, Milford; Milford's son, George, and George's son, Sam, also joined the business. Sam is the fourth generation of Carlises engaged in the mortuary profession. Carlisle and Son moved to its current location on East High Street in 1948. The West Main Street building then became home to Mooresville Furniture Company (see Fig. 14), which closed during the late 1970s. The building was purchased by Steve Harris in 1980 and renovated into a modern law office. The building is owned by Steve Harris.²¹ [C]



Fig. 15 Mason's Pure Oil Station, c1950. Contributed by Paul Mason.

14. **1 W. Main • Pure Oil Service Station** (Coffee, Tea and Potpourri) This corner lot was occupied by the Italianate-style, two-story frame Lindley Block, owned by Fred Lindley, from about 1870 until it was destroyed by fire on 27 December 1925. At that time, its second floor contained offices and apartments. Its first floor was home to Wadley Creamery Co.; Milhon's Watch Shop; Mrs. Lyon's Millinery; Bill Woods's Barbershop; and Kroger Grocery. In the basement was William Moore's pool room.²²



Fig. 16 Pure Oil Station, January 1985. Contributed by Karen Rogers.

The lot stood vacant until 1938, when Harry Wilson built

²⁰ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 23 January 2002.

²¹ Holman Johnson's building and dry goods business was sold to George R. Scruggs in 1890. See Almira Harvey Hadley, *A Brief History of Mooresville and Vicinity* (Mooresville: private, 1918), 10. Also, personal interviews with Cheryl Edwards and Al Tutewiler, 6 September 2001; and Wanda Potts, 12 September 2001. Also, telephone interview with Sam Carlisle, 10 December 2001.

²² Richardson, 24.

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a Pure Oil Station for George Park. A full-service station consisting of an office and two garage bays, the business was operated by a number of different owners until about 1974 or 1975, when the gas portion was discontinued; the building was then used for tire changes and tune-ups and the lot for selling used cars. Coffee, Tea and Potpourri, owned by Gary and Karen Rogers, has occupied the former service station since 1985. See Figs. 15 and 16. The building is owned by Gary and Karen Rogers.²³ [C]

15. **16 S. Indiana St.** Originally two stories in height, this building housed Bellows and Sellars drygoods store in 1902. In 1910, it was Ross Moore's restaurant, followed by Sumner Sellars' toggery. Sellars did tailoring and alterations. From about 1934 or 1935, it became home to the Franklin ice cream store, which was "quite a loafing place for the boys, who'd then fall out into the street and play ball," remembers Charles Nelson. During this time, Claude and Frank Rariden lived in the upstairs apartment. From 1956 through 1974, the building was occupied by Copeland Appliances owned by Harold Copeland. He broke through the south wall and expanded into the building to the south. The second floor is believed to have been lost during remodeling in the early 1980s. Hosten Bible is the building's owner.²⁴ [NC]

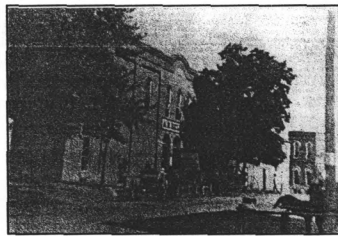


Fig. 17 A. H. Scruggs drygoods store, c1890. Source: *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 8 December 1972.

²³ Telephone interviews with Charles Nelson, 29 November 2001; Karen Rogers, 29 October 2001; and Paul Mason, 29 October 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 6 January 1966, in Gas Stations file, Mooresville Public Library. Charles Nelson remembers that the weather was so bad during construction of the station that a tent-like structure was put up around the site.

²⁴ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 6 January 1966, Appliance Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also Wanda Potts, "Franklin Ice Cream Store," *Mooresville Times*, 22 December 1999. Also, personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 23 January 2002.

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16. **18-20 S. Indiana St. • A. H. Scruggs Building** A. H. Scruggs' drygoods store was located in this c1880 Italianate-style building very early on as seen in Fig. 17. The building was likely built by the proprietor. In 1902, a general store occupied the building, and in 1910 and 1920, a grocery store run by Harve Britton. After the grocery, Walter Smitherman used the building for candling and selling eggs. He sold the building to Harold Copeland about 1956. Copeland broke through the wall adjoining the building to the north and used both buildings for his appliance store until it closed in 1974. The building was then sold and converted into an office. The building is owned today by Hosten Bible.²⁵ [C]
17. **No address. • Mooresville Municipal Building** Built in 1932 by Jacob Mann and Sam Wade, the Mooresville Municipal Building was designed by architects N. F. Traub and J. R. Monaghan. It housed the town offices, fire department, and jail. A fire truck bay was located off Indiana Street near the north wall; it was converted into use as a police dispatch station by the mid-1950s. A concrete block garage in the rear, facing Harrison Street, was then used for the fire trucks. In 1980, the second story was constructed by Bill Moon for "storage and future expansion." In 1984, the interior was remodeled; it recently was remodeled once again. See Figs 18 and 19.

Prior to the construction of the Municipal Building in 1932, this lot was occupied by a two-story frame building housing a shoe store and a barber shop. It was torn down to provide room for the new building, which is owned by the Town of Mooresville.²⁶ [C]

²⁵ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times* 4 April 1974, Appliance Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 23 January 2002.

²⁶ "Municipal Building Edition," *Mooresville Times*, 25 October 1932. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 13 June 1984, Municipal Building file, Mooresville Public Library.

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Fig. 18 Municipal Building, 1932. Source: Municipal Building Edition, *Mooresville Times*, 25 October 1932.



Fig. 19 Municipal Building, 1974. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

18-19-20.

Mooresville Methodist Episcopal Church Built in 1882, the Gothic Revival-style Methodist Church is the second building used by the Mooresville congregation, which was established in the 1820s. The first church was built on West Washington Street in 1839 on land donated by Samuel Moore. The cornerstone for the new building at Indiana and Harrison Street was laid 26 April 1882, with the dedication held 2 February 1883. The congregation was large enough by 1923 that an annex consisting of a gymnasium, stage, and kitchen was built. A second classroom annex was added in 1957. The facility was vacated in 1995 with the erection of a new church. The Town of Mooresville has recently purchased the facility and will convert it into town offices.²⁷ [C, C, C]

²⁷ Hadley, 22. Also, Alice Patricia Shields, "History of the Churches of Mooresville, Indiana." (Mooresville: private, 20 May 1948), 11. Also, news clipping about dedication of the first annex on Sunday, 1 June 1924, in Churches-Misc. file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 14 February 1958, p. unknown. Also, personal interview with Gene Young, pastor of Mooresville United Methodist Church, 12 December 2001.

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21. **31 S. Indiana** (Nichols Insurance) This one-story brick building with leaded glass windows is remembered as a longtime physician's office: first the office of partners Dr. W. L. Thompson and Dr. Magenheimer (c.1915-1925), then Dr. Stangle (1930s), Dr. Bivin (1950s-1960s); then Drs. Beaver, VanBokkelen, Bryant, Whitney and others (see Fig. 20).

The building was erected by Dr. Thompson in 1907, replacing a wooden building occupied by Bryant's marble works. In 1910, it was a physician's office, a use continued in 1920 and beyond. In the 1970s, it was occupied by Bengé Washer & Dryer Service. The current owner is Rex Nichols.²⁸ [C]

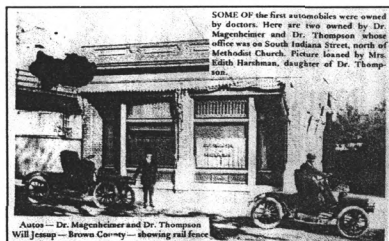


Fig. 20 The office of Drs. Thompson and Magenheimer, date unknown. Source: *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 31 December 1966. Charles Nelson recalls that Dr. Thompson referred to his car as the EMT car: "Every Morning Fix It."

²⁸ Rebecca Hardin, "First Settlers of Mooresville Located Near Water Streams," *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, 31 December 1966. Also, the *Mooresville Times*, 3 October 1907, reports, "Dr. W. L. Thompson moved into his new office Monday morning and will be glad to have his friends call and see him. His new building is a model of comfort and convenience and has been furnished with all the modern appliances pertaining to his profession." Also, telephone interview with Lula Mae Buckner, 30 November 2001. Lula Mae grew up next door to Dr. Thompson's widow and daughter and often heard them tell about how he built the office. Also, personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, see a small news item in the *Mooresville Times*, 11

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22. **27 S. Indiana** (Churches in Mission) This one-story brick building was built by Judy Crowe between 1910-1920 as a Ford dealership/service garage. The dealership closed during the 1930s. Prior to World War II, the building was occupied by SoHio fuel company.²⁹ In the 1960s, the building was used by Rushton Tire Center (see Fig. 21). The building is owned by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., and used as a food pantry.³⁰ [C]
23. **25 S. Indiana** (Atwell Interiors) The modestness of this building belies its history. It was erected as a two-story building housing a carriage and paint shop by Dr. B. H. Perce shortly after the Civil War. In 1869, a third floor was added by the Masons and used as their lodge hall; as

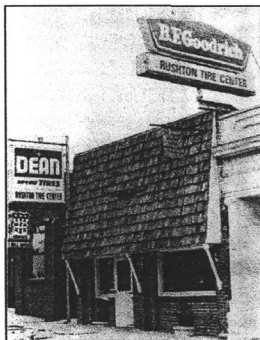


Fig. 21 27 S. Indiana St., 1974.
Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8
August 1974.

November 1904: "The wooden building that was occupied by Bryant's marble shop is to be torn away soon and a good substantial two-story brick business will take its place. The property now belongs to R. H. Mitchell of this place and his sister-in-law of Wabash. They were offered a handsome profit on the investment by persons who wanted to locate a poultry house there, but on account of the M. church, which stands on the adjoining lot, they refused to accept." Note that the two-story building appears not to have been built. The Bengé photo was found in the Appliance Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

²⁹ Telephone interview with Lula Mae Buckner, 20 December 2001.

³⁰ "Sesquicentennial Edition," *Mooresville Times*, 30. Also, personal interviews with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001 and Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001.

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a three-story building, it was the tallest in town.³¹ In 1902 and 1910, the building was occupied by a harness shop (front) and two-story tin shop (rear), with lodge rooms on the second and third floors; a frame exterior staircase was located on the south wall. By 1920, the front room was used as a plumbing/tin shop, with an oil house in the rear room, and lodge rooms on the second and third floors. The building then became home to the first floor offices of Dr. White, a general physician, and Dr. Park, a veterinarian. The telephone exchange occupied the second floor then moved into the first floor units before leaving in the 1960s. The third floor was occupied by the Knights of Pythias after 1975. The third and second floors were removed sometime in the late 1970s, but no one can remember why. Karen Atwell is the building's current owner.³² See Fig. 22. [NC]



Fig. 22 View of the Mooresville Methodist Church complex showing the three-story building at 25 S. Indiana St., about 1965. Source: Churches file, Mooresville Public Library.

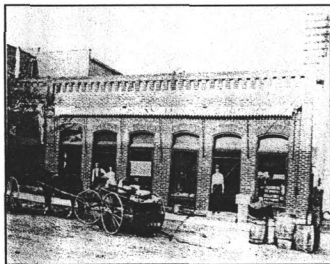


Fig. 23 Ed W. Day Grocery, 19 S. Indiana St., c1909. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

³¹ Lyndon K. Smith, "Historical Sketch of Mooresville Lodge #78, F. & A. M. for its 100th Anniversary," in dedication program, *Dedication of the Temple, Mooresville Lodge No. 78. F. & A. M.*, May 3, 1980.

³² Mooresville Telephone opened in 1901. It was reorganized as the Mooresville Mutual Telephone Company in 1908 and purchased by Indiana Bell in 1956. Richardson, 24. Also, personal interview with Charles

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24. **19 S. Indiana** (Robert K. Neilson, CPA) This one-story brick building was built between 1902 and 1910 as the Ed W. Day Grocery (Fig. 23). It replaced a two-story frame grocery, which was moved to 214 Bishop Street.³³ The Day Grocery closed and was followed from 1927-1936 by George Allison's tire shop and gas station.³⁴ In 1944, Forest Gray opened *Gray's Cafeteria here, expanding into the adjoining buildings to the north in 1950, 1955, and 1956 (see following entry). In September 1969, Gray's moved to a new building on SR 67 just south of Mooresville, where it would become nationally acclaimed.³⁵ Janet Zimmerman, an interior decorator, occupied the building in the 1980s. Since 1994, it has been home to Robert K. Neilson, CPA. Michael P. Jensen is the owner.³⁶ [C]*



25. **No address.** This one-story brick building dates to before the turn of the twentieth-century. In

Fig. 24 Graben's Paint Center, 1974.
Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, telephone interview with Karen Atwell, 17 December 2001.

³³ Cf. the Sanborn fire maps for 1902 and 1910. Also, *Mooresville Times*, 21 August 1908: "G. W. Bass is having the old frame store building on south Indiana street moved to a lot of his in the Butler addition where it will be remodeled for residence purposes. A new brick store room will take the place of the old one." Gary and Karen Rogers live at 214 Bishop St.; they have been told their house was moved from the South Indiana Street location. They possess a photograph of the frame building showing a woman standing in front of a sign reading Day Grocery. Telephone interview with Karen Rogers, 20 October 2001.

³⁴ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001.

³⁵ Gray Brothers Cafeteria is featured in Jane and Michael Stern, *Roadfood*. (New York: HarperCollins, 1992), 139.

³⁶ Personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 6 September 2001. Also Sanborn fire maps 1902, 1910, 1920, and "Six County Topics," in unidentified source, 10 September 1969. Also, undated news clipping in Gas Stations file, Mooresville Public Library.

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1902, it housed a notions and millinery shop, and in both 1910 and 1920, it was a barber shop operated by Claude Timmons. Gray's Cafeteria occupied it from the early 1950s to 1969; during this ownership, the north wall was removed and the interior merged with that of the building at 17 S. Indiana St. In 1974, Graben's Paint Center was located here. A photograph shows the building with doors and windows cut down and the resulting space filled with board (Fig. 24).

26. **17 S. Indiana St.** According to the Sanborn fire maps, this one-story brick building was used as a doctor's office in 1902, and in 1910 and 1920, it was home to a jeweler. Prior to that time—probably before 1899—it was occupied by the Mooresville Post Office (see Fig. 25).³⁷ From the early 1950s until 1969, Gray's Cafeteria was located here. During this time, the wall separating it from the building to the south was removed and the interior spaces merged. Graben's Paint Center (see Fig. 24) followed in the 1970s. A women's clothing store has recently opened in this building, replacing a children's used clothing store. The building is owned by Michael P. Jensen.³⁸ [C]

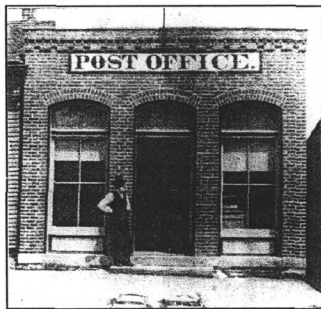


Fig. 25 17 S. Indiana St., c1895.
Source: Hardin, 95.

27. **3 E. Main • Bass Building** (Movieland Video) Prior to the erection of this two-story brick building, there stood on this site a one-story, Greek Revival, gable-front frame

³⁷ The Academy Building Museum possesses a May 1899 photograph showing a frame post office building on East Main Street adjacent to the site of the post office building erected at 10 E. Main St. in 1909. At left in Fig. 25 is the frame Bass Drugstore building that was replaced by a two-story brick building between about 1890-1902. Therefore, it is believed that the post office occupied the building at 17 S. Indiana St. before 1899. We believe the photographer of Fig. 25 is J. P. Calvert; if it was he, then Fig. 25 dates to about 1895.

³⁸ Personal interview with Wanda Potts, 12 September 2001. Also, Rebecca Hardin, ed. *Morgan County Scrapbook I*, (Mooresville: Morgan County History and Genealogy Club, 1985), 95.

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Fig. 26 “Views of Mooresville and Vicinity” showing East Main Street and the early Bass Drugstore at lower right. The IOOF building at left has lost its third floor. Photo by J. P. Calvert. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.



Fig. 27 Burch Grocery, c1909. The west storefront (Bass Drugstore) has been remodeled with cast iron columns. Source: Grocery Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

building with Doric columns supporting a portico over the sidewalk (Fig. 26). It was replaced with the existing between about 1895 and 1902. The Sanborn fire map of 1902 shows a two-unit, two story brick building housing Bass Drugstore (west business room), the Burch Grocery (east business room) and a barber in the basement. A wall divided only the first rooms; the large second floor was used as the town hall/opera house. Burch Grocery had a wood veranda or covering over the sidewalk. In 1910, Bass Drugstore and Burch Grocery still occupied the first floor, with an opera house with stage and scenery replacing the town hall on the second floor. The wood porch on Burch Grocery had been removed. By 1920, First National Bank was found in the west business room and Burch Grocery—later becoming George Allison’s and G. A. Ridgeway’s groceries—in the east room (see Fig. 27). A “Hall” was on the second floor.

In 1927, First National Bank merged with Farmers State Bank to form Mooresville State Bank, but the new organization did not survive the Depression. This location was occupied by Mooresville State Bank for several years until Citizens Bank opened on 5 March 1931. It remained until 1966, when it moved to its current location at Indiana and Washington Street. A clothing store then moved in. A barbershop was located in the

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basement. After the IOOF lost its third floor hall in the building across Main Street in an 1881 fire, the lodge moved into the hall above the Bass Drugstore. They sold out to the Knights of Pythias in 1913; the Knights moved out in 1975. The lodge hall entrance is off Indiana Street.³⁹

The current ownership of the building is interesting. Boyd and Marilyn Head and Russell J. Lockwood and Shirley Armstrong own the second floor. One unit on the first floor is owned by Andy and Anita Warthen; the other unit is owned by Boyd and Marilyn Head and Russell J. Lockwood and Shirley Armstrong. [C]

28. **5 E. Main St. • G. A. Keller Building** (Dickinson Printing and Office Supplies) The two-story brick G. A. Keller Building was erected by George A. Keller in late 1907 and opened for business in January 1909. Prior to this, two frame buildings housing a grocery and Keller's hardware store were located on this site. On the front page of the *Mooresville Times* on 23 May 1907, it is reported:

G. A. Keller will soon begin the erection of his two new business rooms on east Main street. The old frame store room now occupied by Mr. Keller's store will be moved around and located in Indiana street next to G. W. Bass' drug store and Mr. Keller will do business there until his new rooms are ready for occupancy. The town board has given Mr. Keller permission to locate his building there for that length of time. . . .

The story is continued in the 6 June issue of the *Mooresville Times*:

The work of demolishing the old buildings fronting on Main street where G. A. Keller will build his new business block, is now in progress. One old store room

³⁹ Historic photograph #89, Business District, shows Burch's Grocery at this location in 1908. Historic photograph #67, Business District--a c1915 tinted photo postcard--shows the Bass Drugstore located here. See also historic tintype #176, Business District. Also, "History of Mooresville Courtesy of the Academy Building Museum," August 2001. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 5 March 1931, in Banks file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 14 February 1913, in Knights of Pythias file, Mooresville Public Library.

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was torn down last week and the other one will be moved to Indiana street and used for business purposes by Mr. Keller until the new block is completed. A number of the neighboring business men are objecting to Mr. Keller placing the old building in Indiana street while the new building is being erected. They claim it will damage their own business, besides being unsightly and an inconvenience to the public. They blame the town board for granting permission to place the building there. On the other hand, the board claims that the inconvenience will only be temporary and that the benefits resulting to the town from the erection of the new block will more than compensate for any loss or inconvenience caused by the old building occupying a part of Indiana street. . . .

Following completion of the new brick building, the old frame hardware store was moved to 155 W. Main St. and became a residence.⁴⁰

The first floor of the new building was occupied by Keller Hardware from 1907 to 1922. The second floor, known as Keller Hall, had various uses. Before the Mooresville High School gymnasium was built in 1921, basketball games were played here. The smooth wood floor also proved suitable for a roller skating rink. In 1922, the Masons moved in, adapting the one-time gym into its lodge hall.⁴¹ During this period, the building had two front entrances: one leading into the hardware store, the other leading upstairs to the hall.

Following the closure of Keller Hardware, the first floor was divided into two units, each with its own entrance, making a total of three entrances at street level. The east unit was occupied by Jess and Willie Wilson's hardware store (known as Wilson Bros. Hardware). The Wilsons sold out to Marvin Jones in 1944, who closed the business in 1956. The east unit then became Aaron Gibbs' Regal Market. The west unit was occupied by a grocery run by Hobart Townsend, who sold out to Ernie Voelz and Son Market in the late 1930s.

⁴⁰ Telephone interview with Mitzi Forbes, 29 November 2001. Mitzi has lived in the house since 1989. She was told this story by Paul Henderson, from whom she bought the house, and also by Myrtle Keller, the niece of G. A. Keller. Kay Don Haught was told the same story by Paul Henderson and passed it on to the author via email. A site visit by the author on 7 December 2001 seemed to corroborate the story.

⁴¹ Richardson, 24.

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Voelz and Son moved into the west unit in the Jake Mann Building in 1948. Gibbs traded in the grocery business for hardware, taking over the entire G. A. Keller Building and reuniting the first floor units. After Gibbs' Ace Hardware closed, an upholstery shop owned by Jack Stevenson moved in. Dickinson Printing has been located here about 15 years.

On 18 November 1930, a fire damaged the Masonic Hall, and the second floor was completely remodeled. The Masons left for their newly constructed temple on Indianapolis Road in 1979.⁴² The building is owned by Glenn and Donna Barron.⁴³ [C]

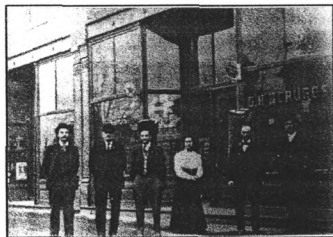


Fig. 28 G. R. Scruggs drygoods store with the Redmen Lodge at left, c1910. Source: General Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

29. **7 E. Main** (Hession Heating & Air) Allen W. Conduitt, a drygoods merchant, built this fine Italianate-style building between 1870 and 1871. The building and business was sold to G. R. Scruggs in 1891; Scruggs remodeled the store front to its present appearance in 1904 (see Fig. 28).⁴⁴ Scruggs sold out to William Henderson in 1920, and Henderson sold out to Sellars and Bellows Department Store in 1921. The Franklin Jones Drygoods store was located here in the 1940s. In the 1950s, it was a Western Auto store. In 1967, it was home to Merle Sears Heating and Plumbing, now Hession. Hession has been here

⁴² Richardson, 24.

⁴³ Personal interviews with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001; Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001. Also, news clipping about Jones Hardware from *Mooresville Times*, 27 September 1956, Hardware Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, news clipping about Voelz and Son Market, *Mooresville Times*, 30 August 1948, Grocery Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

⁴⁴A news item in the *Mooresville Times*, 16 September 1904, reads: "G. R. Scruggs will remodel the front of his business room when Dr. Reagan builds the new store room next to Mr. Scrugg's building. The fronts of the two rooms will probably be similar. Mr. Scruggs has rented the new room for a clothing department."

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since 1989. Randy and Bonnie Smith are the owners of both the business and the building.⁴⁵ [C]

30. **11 E. Main • Redmen Lodge** (vacant) Built in 1904 by Dr. Amos W. Reagan, a dentist⁴⁶, this building was occupied in 1910 by a clothing store on the first floor and the Redmen Lodge on the second floor. The clothing store closed during the early 1920s and was replaced by a scrap shop owned by a man named Burnstein. Succeeding the scrap shop was Claude Watson's drugstore, which operated from about 1930 through the 1940s. Then came Oakley Brown's drugstore. It closed during the 1970s, and its contents were sold at auction. The drugstores were noted for the soda fountain. Ward's Apparel was located here during the 1970s, and since then, the building has been home to various businesses, including a ceramics shop, a small specialty press, a computer store, and an antiques store. The building is owned by Leonard Carter and Debora L. Hutchinson, and will soon become Zydeco's, a Cajun restaurant.⁴⁷ [C]
31. **No address.** (vacant) This single-story concrete block building with a wood front facade replaced an earlier two-story frame grocery building (possibly Burnstein's Grocery) after 1920. From 1926 to 1942, it was an A & P market managed by Forest Dake, followed by Voelz and Son market until 1948. In the 1950s it was home to Western Auto, and a used appliance store occupied the building into the 1980s. The building is now vacant and was most recently used as a photography shop. It is owned by Wade-Duvall Assoc., LLC.⁴⁸ [NC]

⁴⁵ See historic photograph #165, Business District. Author interview with Wanda Potts, 12 September 2001. Also, telephone interview with Bonnie Smith, 11 December 2001. Also, undated news clipping from *Mooresville Times*, Auto Parts Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

⁴⁶ Cf. fn. 46.

⁴⁷ Personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 6 September 2001. Also, personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001.

⁴⁸ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clipping about Voelz and Son Market from *Mooresville Times*, 30 August 1948, in Grocery Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, personal interview with Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001.

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32. **No address.** (Marvel Title) This one-story brick building was built between 1901 and 1920. It served as Dale Sheet's radio and small appliance shop during the 1940s. During the 1970s, it was the law office of Steve Harris. It is currently home to Marvel Title and owned by Mitzi Marvel.⁴⁹ [C]
33. **21 E. Main • Jake Mann Building/Regal Market** (Gregory McGowan, D. D. S.) Built in 1919 by Jake Mann, a local contractor, this one-story glazed brick building first housed Maggie Boatright's market on the west and the Dreamland Theater on the east (see below). From 1940-1948, the west unit was occupied by a grocery owned by Ernie Voelz, whose wife, Mary, ran the store when Ernie was in the service. The Voelzes sold out to Aaron Gibbs, whose Gibbs Regal Market remained until 1956. Gibbs sold out to Ernie Brown, who operated Brown's Regal Market until 1965. Cheryl Edwards remembers that the first pizza in town was available at Brown's. The west unit is currently a dentist's office owned and operated by Gregory McGowan, D. D. S., and his wife, Beverly. Dr. McGowan purchased the building in 1987 from Dr. Gregory Pfau, D. D. S. It was Pfau who remodeled the former market into an office.⁵⁰

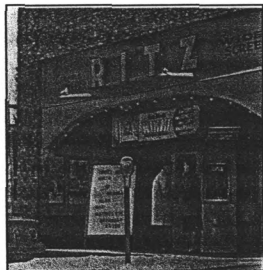


Fig. 29 Ritz Theater, 23 E. Main St., 1962. Source: Mooresville High School yearbook, 1962.

23 E. Main • Jake Mann Building/Ritz Theater (Mooresville Times) Built in 1919 by Jake Mann, a local contractor, this one-story glazed brick building first housed a market on the west (see above) and the Dreamland Theater owned and operated by Alfred

⁴⁹ Personal interviews with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001 and Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001.

⁵⁰ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clippings about Voelz Market from *Mooresville Times*, 25 August 1960, and Brown's Regal Market from *Mooresville Times*, 23 September 1965. Both news clippings from Grocery Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 9 September 2001. Also telephone interview with Gloria Ratliff, 11 December 2001. Gloria is Dr. McGowan's office manager. She relayed my questions to him, he answered them, and she gave me his answers.

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McCarty on the east. The Dreamland appears to have been a combination motion picture theater and a live theater with stage. McCarty sold the theater in 1921 to Dortha Clark, who renamed it the Idle Hour. As the Idle Hour, it remained open through several subsequent owners until about 1930. The theater stood dark and vacant for several months before being purchased, remodeled, and redecorated by Harmon Allison, who renamed it The Ritz after a citywide naming contest. The Ritz opened in July or August 1932 (see Fig. 29). The theater closed in the late 1960s-early 1970s. The east unit was acquired and occupied by the Mooresville Times, its current owner/occupant, in May 1973.⁵¹ [C]

34. **24 E. Main** (Creative Images) Built in 1917 by Sam Wade, this one-story vernacular building was used by Wade as his plumbing shop. Wade died in 1968. The building is owned by Wade's heirs, Wade-Duvall Assoc., Inc.⁵² [C]
35. **22 E. Main** (Buffalo Gal Antique Mall) Built by Sam Wade in 1925, this one-story brick building was the site of Kroger grocery store, the first chain grocery in town, at two different times. Kroger first occupied this building after the Lindley Block burned in 1925, then moved to the IOOF building at the corner of Main and Indiana Street before again occupying the building from 1948-1962. During the years Kroger was located elsewhere, D. C. Jessup and Sons hardware and implements business occupied the building. During the 1960s, the building was home to Western Auto. The building is owned by Wade's heirs, Wade-Duvall Assoc., Inc.⁵³ [C]

⁵¹ Personal interview with Cheryl Edwards, 9 September 2001. Cheryl worked for the Mooresville Times for many years, including the period during which the theater was converted into an office. Also, news clippings about the various theaters from the *Mooresville Times* on the following dates: 10 January 1919; 26 January 1923; 2 February 1923; 25 May 1923; 16 June 1932; 22 July 1937; and 10 August 1972. Also, "Mooresville's newspapers go back to 1846" in *Morgan County Scrapbook I*, 91.

⁵² Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001 and Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001.

⁵³ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, news clippings about Kroger from *Mooresville Times*, 18 January 1962 and 17 May 1973, both in Grocery Stores file, Mooresville Public Library. Also, news clipping about Western Auto from *Mooresville Times*, no date, in Auto Parts Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

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36. **16-18-20 E. Main (A & E Sign and Biff's Pioneer House)** This one-story, three-unit brick building was erected by Sam Wade in 1927. The unit at 16 E. Main St. has long been used as a bakery. Ralph Storm and George Long bought an established bakery business in the late 1920s and located here, where they produced a variety of breads, rolls, biscuits, and other baked goods. A subsequent owner, Rube Maxim, was widely famous for his Bismarks—cinnamon rolls fried in oil and coated with glaze and chopped peanuts. Eventually the business came into the hands of Charles "Biff" Hornaday, the founder of Biff's Pioneer House, which is now located here.⁵⁴ Over the years, Biff's has expanded into the adjoining units, as well as into the building immediately to the west. Copeland Appliances occupied 16 E. Main St. from about 1940-1948.⁵⁵ During the 1920s, the unit at 20 E. Main St. was occupied by D. C. Jessup's hardware and farm implements business, and the unit at 18 E. Main St. by Forest Dake's tavern. From 1931-1973, the Mooresville Times was located in these units; it then moved to its current location across the street at 23 E. Main St.⁵⁶ The building is owned by Wade's heirs, Wade-Duvall Assoc., Inc. [C]
37. **12-14 E. Main (Biff's Pioneer House and Mayfield Insurance)** Built by Sam Wade in 1946, this one-story brick building has been home to Jim Hazlett's barber shop and Biff's Pioneer House bakery and several other businesses.⁵⁷ It is owned by Sam Wade's heirs, Wade-Duvall Assoc., Inc. [C]
38. **10 E. Main (Mayfield Insurance)** Built in 1909 by J. L. Mathews as the Mooresville Post Office, which moved out in 1941, this one-story brick building was occupied by Western Auto in the 1940s and Habig's men's clothing store during the 1970s. Lula Mae Bucker remembers that the lower of the two limestone blocks was taken out, turned over, and engraved with the name "Sam Wade." The reverse of this stone—the original face--reads

⁵⁴ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001.

⁵⁵ News clipping from *Mooresville Times*, 4 April 1974, in Appliance Stores file, Mooresville Public Library.

⁵⁶ "Mooresville's newspapers go back to 1846," in *Morgan County Scrapbook I*, 91.

⁵⁷ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 23 January 2002.

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POST OFFICE.

Construction of the new post office building was just underway on 23 April 1909, when the *Mooresville Times* reported:

J. L. Matthews has leased the new building he has just begun to erect to the government for five years for the post office. The building will be on the lot next to Chambers' pool room on Main street and will be 25 feet wide by 40 feet deep. It will be a one story brick structure.

A minor setback occurred on 25 May 1909, as reported by the *Times*:

The heavy rain blown by an east wind Tuesday morning softened the earth on the west side of the excavation for the basement of the new post office and the ground gave way and slid into the basement which had not yet been walled. The crumbling away of the earth left the east wall of the Maxwell building uncovered and it was feared made it unsafe. . . .

By 6 August, the new post office was complete, with the *Mooresville Times* proudly trumpeting:

The work of putting in the new post office furniture and fixture was completed last Saturday and the old post office room was vacated Saturday night. The postmaster greeted the public in the new room Monday morning. The new room was built especially for the post office and is very conveniently and attractively arranged. It is doubtful if there is a more handsome post office in the state in any town not larger than this. The credit for the improvement is due to Postmaster Sheets, who induced the post office department to contract for new quarters here,

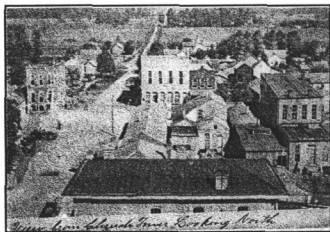


Fig. 31 "View from the Church Tower Looking North" showing the IOOF building and its neighbor to the east, c1890. Photo by J. P. Calvert. Cf. Fig. 25. Source: *Mooresville Times*, 8 August 1974.

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and to J. L. Matthews, who carried out the plans of the department in constructing and equipping the new building.

Jerry Mayfield, owner of Mayfield Insurance, says that the wood awning was added by a previous tenant—an attorney—in 1980. The original 45-degree recessed central entrance was brought out flush with the front walls at the same time.⁵⁸ The building is owned by Sam Wade's heirs, Wade-Duvall Assoc., Inc. [C]

39-40. No address. Hadley Mini-Park and Samuel Moore marker This was the site of Samuel Moore's second store, a log cabin-type building.⁵⁹ This was replaced c1870 by two Italianate-style brick buildings. On the corner stood a three-story building with the IOOF lodge hall on the top floor, and next to it on the east, a two-story building (see Fig. 31).

The IOOF building burnt in 1881, with severe damage to the upper two floors, and was rebuilt in 1884 as a two-story building with two units on the first floor.⁶⁰ In 1902, the west and east rooms were occupied by a drygoods store and a drugstore and the second floor was the IOOF hall. In 1910, the west room was occupied by Pleas Mills drygoods (c.1903-1930), the east room by a 5 & 10 cent store, and the second floor by the IOOF hall. In 1920, Thompson and Jones Drygoods occupied the west room; the occupant of the east room is not known, and the IOOF was on the second floor. Kroger was located here in the 1940s. During the 1950s, the west room was occupied by R. J. Tompkin's Jewelry. In the early 1960s, there was a pool room on the second floor. In July 1964, the

⁵⁸ Personal interview, 23 January 2002.

⁵⁹ The commemorative plaque in the park reads that this is the site of Samuel Moore's first "trading post." However, Blanchard records the first store as having been south of this location. See Blanchard, 108.

⁶⁰ Becky Hardin, "Odd fellows flourished in early Mooresville" in Morgan County Scrapbook I, 324-25. Mrs. Hardin quotes from Mrs. Likely's scrapbook in describing the damage to the building after the fire of 1881: "The walls have now fallen save those on the North and East."

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second floor was removed.⁶¹ The Maxwell Building to the east housed, in 1902, a merchant of "Gro. & Queensw;" in 1910, Thompson Drygoods; and in 1920, the occupant is unknown. A 5 and 10 cent store operated by Ed Shirley and Charles Merriman was sold to Lowry Hundley in the early 1950s. Hundley's wife, Mary Frances ("Mary Frank"), ran a beauty shop on the mezzanine. Hundley 5 and 10 cent store closed in 1963. The building was torn down after that, sometime before July 1964.⁶²

Charles Nelson remembers that in the mid-1960s, the downtown merchants attempted to buy the run-down IOOF building with the goal of tearing it down for a parking lot. Some merchants contributed their allotted amount, but others did not see the value in a parking lot and did not pay. The property was lost to Citizens Bank, which held the merchants' mortgage. Citizens Bank tore down the building in the early to mid-1980s, later giving a small parcel on the corner to the Town of Mooresville for use as a park.⁶³

Today Hadley Mini-Park contains a **commemorative marker for Samuel Moore**, founder of Mooresville, and the site of the town's first trading post and store, 1822-23/1824. It appears to have been placed here in 1924 during the celebration of Mooresville's centennial.

A second commemorative marker for Paul Hadley, designer of the Indiana flag, was placed in about 1981. Paul Hadley was born 5 August 1880 in the Bethel neighborhood. He graduated from Manual Training High School where he studied under Otto Stark and

⁶¹ "In the Beginning: Historical Sketch of Mooresville." Also, see historic photograph #173, Business District, Mooresville Public Library. Also, see photograph accompanying "First Settlers of Mooresville Located Near Water Streams." Also, Richardson, 24. Also, "Top floor coming off 105 year old building," *Mooresville Times*, 23 July 1964.

⁶² Personal interviews with Cheryl Edwards, 6 September 2001; Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001; and Wanda Potts, 12 December 2001. See also *Mooresville Times*, 17 March 1966. Also, "Top floor coming off 105 year old building."

⁶³ Personal interview with Charles Nelson, 30 November 2001. Also, telephone interview with Norm Connell, former president of Citizens Bank, 11 December 2001. Warren Insurance was the building's last occupant.

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then entered the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Arts in Philadelphia. He designed the state flag in 1917. He died 31 January 1971 in Richmond, IN, and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.⁶⁴ [NC, C]

This ends Section 8.

⁶⁴ Typewritten article dated 1969 and found in the Mooresville file of the Morgan County Public Library.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Approximately four blocks in downtown Mooresville centered on Main and Indiana Streets, beginning at the northwest corner of Indiana and Main Streets; thence north along the west side of N. Indiana St. to the southwest corner of the intersection of N. Indiana St. and the east-west alley north of Main St.; thence west along the south side of said alley to the intersection of said alley and the north-south alley west of the Mooresville Carnegie Library; thence south along east side of said alley to W. Main St.; thence east to the east property line of the parking lot west of Indiana St.; thence south across W. Main St. along an axis running along the west property line of the historic building at 15 W. Main St. (Pat's Tavern) to the east-west alley south of Main St.; thence east along said alley to a point on an axis with the west boundary of the Mooresville Municipal Building; south across said alley along said boundary to the south boundary of the Mooresville Municipal Building; thence east along south boundary of said property to Indiana St.; thence east across Indiana St.; thence south along the east side of Indiana St. to Harrison St.; thence east on Harrison St. to the east boundary of the Mooresville Methodist Church property; thence north along said boundary to the north boundary of said property; thence west along the north boundary of said property to the east boundaries of the buildings located at 31-27-25 S. Indiana St.; thence north along east boundaries of said properties; thence north across the east-west alley north of Harrison Street; thence east along north side of said alley to the east boundary of the property located at 21-23 E. Main St.; thence north along said boundary; thence across Main Street on an axis with the east boundary of the property at 24 E. Main St.; thence north along said boundary to the south side of the east-west alley north of Main St.; thence west along said alley to the west (rear) boundary of the property located at 16 E. Main St.; thence south along said boundary to the north (rear) boundary of the properties located at 10-14 E. Main St.; thence west along said boundary to the west boundary of the property at 10 E. Main St.; thence west along the north boundary of Hadley Mini-Park to the east side of North Indiana Street; thence south along North Indiana Street to Main Street; thence west across Indiana Street to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is the historic boundary of the core commercial area of Mooresville.

UTMs, continued

5) 16 553750 4384810 6) 16 553790 4384760 7) 16 553730 4384620

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All photographs taken by Joanne Raetz Stuttgart on the dates indicated. 10 October 2001 and 10 February 2002. Negatives have been deposited with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

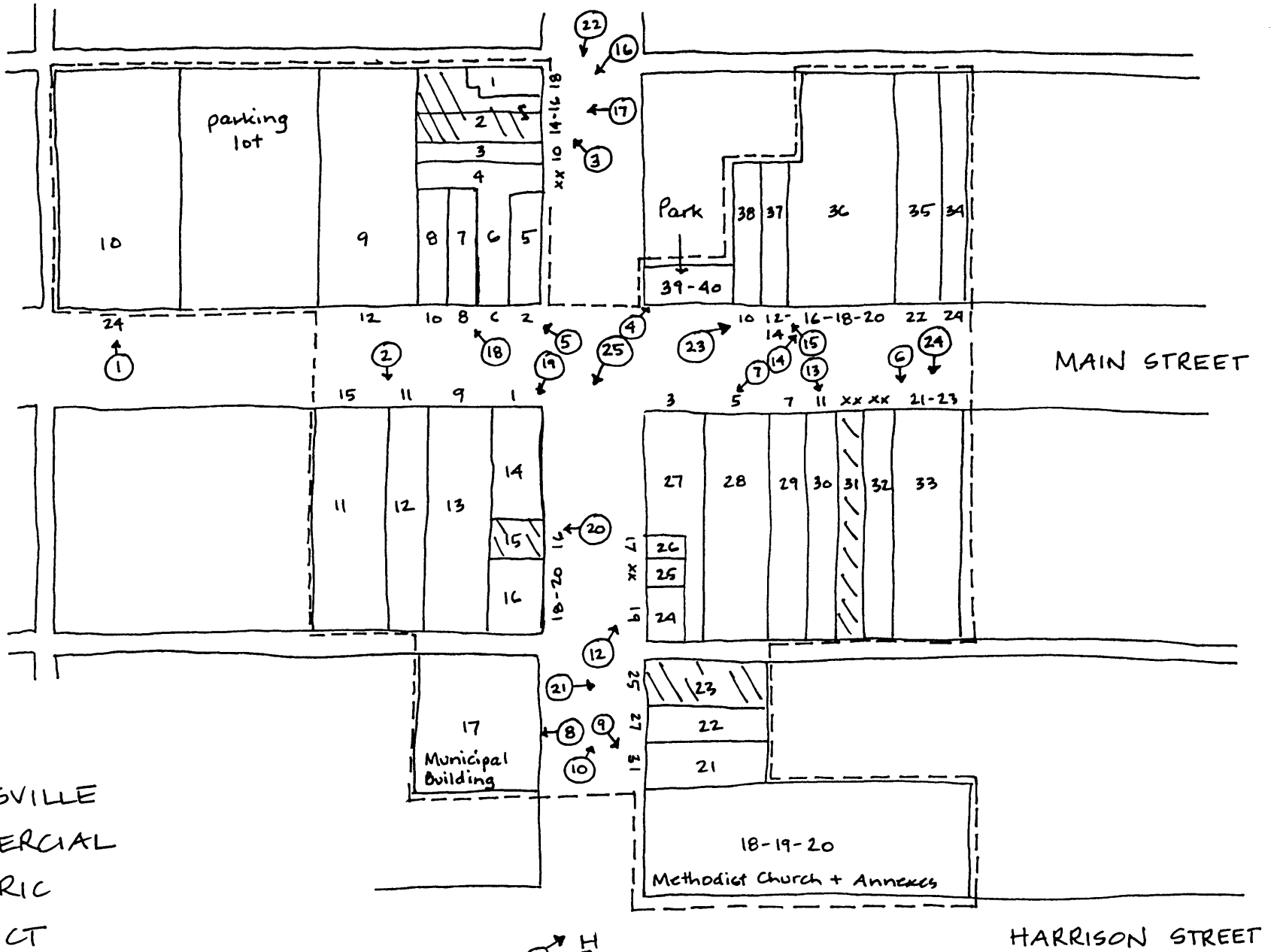
1. Mooresville Carnegie Library, 24 W. Main St., camera facing north. 10 October 2001.
2. South side of West Main Street from 9 W. Main St. to 15 W. Main St., camera facing south. 10 October 2001.
3. West side of North Indiana Street from 10 N. Indiana St. to 18 N. Indiana St., camera facing northwest. 10 October 2001.
4. Samuel Moore marker, Hadley Mini-Park, camera facing northeast. 10 October 2001.
5. Farmers State Bank, 2 W. Main St., camera facing northwest. 10 October 2001.
6. South side East Main Street from no address/vacant to 23 E. Main St., camera facing south. 10 October 2001.
7. G. A. Keller Building and Bass Building, 5 E. Main St. and 3 E. Main St., camera facing southwest. 10 October 2001.
8. Mooresville Municipal Building, camera facing west. 10 October 2001.
9. 31 S. Indiana St., camera facing southeast. 10 October 2001.
10. East side S. Indiana St. from (left to right) 17 S. Indiana St. to 31 S. Indiana St., camera facing northeast. 10 October 2001.
11. Methodist Episcopal Church and annexes, camera facing northeast. 10 October 2001.
12. East side of S. Indiana St. north of east-west alley from (left to right) 3 E. Main St to 19 S. Indiana St., camera facing north east. 10 October 2001.
13. 11 E. Main St. (Redmen Lodge) and 7 E. Main St., camera facing south. 10 October 2001.
14. North side of E. Main St.--the Wade Block--from left to right 12 E. Main St. to 24 E. Main St., camera facing northeast. 10 February 2002.
15. 10 E. Main St. (Mooresville Post Office), camera facing northwest. 10 October 2001.
16. 18 N. Main St., camera facing southwest. 10 February 2002.
17. 14-16 N. Main St., camera facing west. 10 February 2002.
18. 8-10 W. Main St., camera facing northwest. 10 February 2002.
19. 1 W. Main St., camera facing southwest. 10 February 2002.
20. 16 S. Indiana St., camera facing west. 10 February 2002.
21. 25-27 S. Indiana St., camera facing east. 10 February 2002.

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22. West side of Indiana St., from right to left 18 N. Indiana St. to 2 W. Main St., camera facing southwest. 10 February 2002.
23. North side of E. Main St. from left to right 10 E. Main St. to 22 E. Main St., camera facing northeast. 10 February 2002.
24. 21-23 E. Main St., camera facing south. 16 May 2002.
25. West side of S. Indiana St., from right to left 1 W Main St. to Mooreville Municipal Building, camera facing southwest. 16 May 2002.



MOORESVILLE
COMMERCIAL
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

12/19/2001

rev₁ 02/17/2002

rev₂ 03/11/2002

rev_a 06/04/2002

