

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See **NATIONAL REGISTER** in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functional styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Brady Street Historic District  
other names/site number 045-025/681-07000

### 2. Location See continuation sheet

street & number See continuation sheet  N/A not for publication  
city, town Attica  N/A vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Fountain code 045 zip code 47918

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>108</u>	<u>38</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>121</u>	<u>38</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: J. T. Costello Date: 7-23-90  
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.

Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrews 12/7/90

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Italian Villa

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls WOOD/weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Attica, the largest town in rural Fountain County, is located on the northern fringe of the county along the south shore of the Wabash River. The Brady Street Historic District covers a large portion of the original plat of the town. It is bordered on the north by Jackson Street, which divides the commercial and residential districts at Perry Street. This major thoroughfare carries U. S. Route 41 and State Roads 28 and 55. On the east, the district is bordered by Council Street, also a major thoroughfare as the continuation of U. S. Route 41 and State Road 55. Perry Street handles more localized traffic and is classified as a "medium-duty" road.

With the exception of one commercial building and four institutional buildings, all primary buildings within the district are residential in function, and the vast majority of these are single-family homes. More than three-fourths of the houses are frame, equally divided between one- and two-story buildings. Most of the brick houses are two stories tall.

The original plat of 1825, resurveyed in 1841, determined the orthogonal grid street pattern as well as the uniform lot size of 82-1/2 feet wide by 165 feet deep. (The lots of the later McDonald, Spears & Company Addition are only 66 feet wide. See map.) For the most part, the rule of one primary building per lot prevails, giving a uniform density to the district. Occasionally a 20th-century house was built at the back of a corner lot along an east/west street, replacing the original outbuilding. There are also instances of houses occupying a double lot, such as 302 E. Washington Street and 303 E. Monroe Street, where a sense of spaciousness prevails. Although there is no uniform setback, the 19th-century houses generally were built within 20 feet of the front lot-line, giving a small front yard. There have been no public open spaces or parks since the library's construction in 1904 on the site of Washington Park at the corner of Perry and Washington Streets. However, due to the public nature of this building and its relatively small size on a double lot, the site is maintained as a park-like setting.

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1840-1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fallis, Edward; Detrick, Peter; Johnson, Louis

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary of Criteria and Areas of Significance

Few towns in Indiana were so changed by the Wabash and Erie Canal as was Attica. Its rapid growth during a 10-year period in the 1840s and 50s was directly linked to the heyday of the canal. Attica has managed to retain a large number of homes of the 1840s and 1850s. Particularly noteworthy in the Brady Street Historic District are some fine examples of the Greek Revival style, which are comparatively rare in northern Indiana. These buildings are symbolic of the prosperity experienced in a relatively short period prior to the Civil War. Because this residential area continued to be popular throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there are also good examples of a wide variety of architectural styles.

The Brady Street Historic District therefore possesses statewide significance in the area of "exploration/settlement" and meets Criterion A, being associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history. It also possesses statewide significance in the area of "architecture" and meets Criterion C, embodying distinctive characteristics of type and period as well as representing a significant and distinguishable entity.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 27

UTM References

A	1,6	47,873,0	4,46,019,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	47,896,0	4,45,952,0

B	1,6	47,912,0	4,45,993,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,6	47,858,0	4,45,960,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian & Consultant to  
organization Fountain County Historic Landmarks date March 31, 1989  
street & number 4431 N. Illinois Street telephone (317) 283-5668  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46208

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Roughly bounded by S. Perry Street on the west, E. Jackson Street on the north, S. Council Street on the east, and E. Pike Street on the south.

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The slope of the Wabash River Valley is reflected in the elevation change of approximately 50 feet between the eastern and western boundaries of the district. A 19th-century description of the town recounted that "every rain that comes to freshen the beautiful lawns also washes the dirt from the streets and alleys, leaving them clean and pure." To accommodate the downhill drainage toward the river, the east/west streets such as Washington, Monroe and Pike have excavated ditches running along the rights-of-way between street pavement and sidewalks. At some locations, such as the northeast and southeast corners of Brady and Pike Streets, or the northeast corner of Brady and Washington, there exist iron flyover ramps produced by the Wallace and Graves Foundry in Lafayette. These are scored in a diamond pattern around drainage holes. Some of the ditches, such as those bordering the south side of Monroe Street between Brady and MacDonald, are lined with brick. Others, such as the ones on the north and south sides of Washington between Brady and MacDonald, are lined with cobblestone. All streets are paved in asphalt with the exception of MacDonald Street, which is covered with brick pavers (Photo 23). This street improvement dates to 1909 and is one of the earliest examples of the use of brick pavers manufactured locally by the Poston Brick Company. Most of the 16-1/2 feet wide alleys are unpaved.

The Brady Street Historic District retains many amenities that add to its historic character. Its most important natural assets are its street trees, predominantly mature maple trees that tower over the houses. In the fall, the foliage color is very impressive, rivaling a New England village in its sheer quantity and intensity. (This wealth of street trees is conspicuously absent in most Indiana towns.) The district also retains many elements of its 19th-century "street furniture," which adds greatly to historic associations. For example, eight homes retain large sections of their decorative cast-iron fences, which often encircle the entire property. On Brady Street, several adjacent homes displayed the very same fence (see Photos 11, 12 and 13 for 403, 405, and 407 S. Brady Street). At the curb line at 407 S. Brady, there is also a surviving concrete carriage step marked with the raised letters HUGHES. Judging from its material and style, it may well have been the last carriage step to be placed in the district. Three "objects" worth noting are a commemorative sculpture and two fountains on the grounds of the library (described with the building). There are no "sites" among the historic resources.

Contributing resources have reasonable integrity, are associated with the history and/or architecture of the district, and were built during the district's period of significance. Of the 91 primary buildings within the boundaries of the amended area, 84 can be considered as contributing to the overall historic and architectural character of the

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district. This high percentage of contributing buildings has been fieldchecked and verified against a Sanborn map surveyed in 1927, near the end year of the district's period of significance. This process has also been followed in evaluating the 55 outbuildings, only 24 of which can be considered as contributing. Most of the district's old carriage houses and barns have been replaced by modern garages. Notable, 19th-century out-buildings are located along the rear alley of 402, 506, and 606 S. Brady Street and 308 E. Monroe Street.

There follows a description and integral brief history of 17 structures selected as "pivotal buildings" largely because of their architectural merit. The descriptions address scale, structure, plan, materials, design and stylistic features. (A general account of architectural styles represented in the district can be found under the heading "Architectural Significance" under Section 8.) The opening paragraph summarizes the history, focusing upon the original construction and major owners and/or tenants. For the convenience of viewing the accompanying photographs while reading the descriptions, the buildings are listed numerically by map number. Starting at the west of the district, the numbers run from north to south along the streets and progress eastward.

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305 S. Perry Street

Photo 1

The two lots at the northeast corner of Perry and Washington Streets were known as "the Public Square" in 1865 and later as Washington Park. The 1869 bird's-eye view of Attica shows the site to have been heavily wooded. Following application for funding to Andrew Carnegie, and the 1901 enabling legislation for a municipal library, construction on a new public library building was begun in 1902. Thus, Attica's library is one of the earliest Carnegie libraries in Indiana. It was officially completed in November 1904 at a cost of \$10,000. Officers of the library board during construction of the building were Rachel Levor, president; Katherine Ziegler, vice president; and H. C. Martin, secretary. Katherine Fisher was the first librarian here and had a 35-year tenure in this position.

Architect E. O. Fallis of Toledo, Ohio, chose a restrained classical design for the new structure. The building is rectangular in plan, 34 by 69 feet, except for the entry pavilion and the projecting rear office of 9 by 17 feet. The buff-colored brick is accented by a concrete foundation and terra-cotta trim. The original windows were double-hung units of nine-over-one lights with dark sash and muntins. These were replaced by the current glass brick. The entrance portico, which is reached by a flight of seven concrete steps, is the focus of the building. Paired Ionic columns support a classical entablature with "CARNEGIE LIBRARY" inscribed in the frieze. Paired Ionic pilasters flank the Roman archway of the entrance. Although the original, solid oak doors were replaced by modern glass and aluminum doors in 1979, the original classical grillework survives in the semi-circular transom. The pediments of the six front windows echo that of the entry portico. At the south and north elevations, the classical temple form is recalled. The three windows are set between Ionic pilasters which are surmounted by a dentilled pediment. The roofline parapet echoes these pediments as well as that of the entry portico. One of the notable qualities of the library's interior is the 17-foot ceiling height. On the building's site, a commemorative bronze statue, "Spirit of the American Doughboy" by F. M. Viquesney of Spencer, stands atop a stone pedestal on the entrance sidewalk. Two identical 19th-century cast-iron fountains are located on the front lawn.



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401 S. Brady Street

Photo 2

In February 1863 Henry C. Schlosser received a warranty deed for this property, which had been purchased in 1859 for \$32 in delinquent taxes owed by Elias Schlosser in 1857. (Elias had left for California to find his fortune in the gold fields.) Soon after this property transaction was finalized, Henry Schlosser (d. 1878) and his wife Lucinda (1814-1895) probably began building this house. The family's old frame house that stood here was cleared from the site. The Attica inset of the 1865 wall map of Fountain and Warren counties definitely indicates the new house on the site by that time. Henry Schlosser, one of Attica's first dry goods merchants, settled in town in 1836; his wife moved from Maryland the same year. Thus they were two of its earliest pioneers. His name appears in all county histories as one of the injured parties in the 1847 Covington vs. Attica canal battle. Four of his children and their spouses variously lived at the house into their adulthood: Phocian (1843-1907); Henry G. (1849-1912) and his wife Margaret (1862-1932); William A. (1867-1920); and Josephine (1854-1926) and her husband George P. N. Sadler, chief engineer in the construction of the railroad between Attica and Veedersburg. In 1895 following Lucinda Schlosser's death, the property was deeded to Josephine Sadler, the last family member to occupy the house.

The Schlosser House presents an interesting amalgam of styles due to its period of construction being a transitional time in Attica. Harkening back to the Greek Revival style of the 1840s and 50s are the two-story, box-like form of the brick structure; the main door enframement with its sidelights, transom and classical pilasters; and perhaps the most interesting feature of the house, the stone window lintels carved in classical motifs. Breaking out of the tradition is the low hipped roof form and the paired Italianate brackets that support a wide roof overhang. A large cupola originally sat atop the decked roof, as is documented by the 1869 bird's-eye view of Attica. This illustration also shows an iron gallery that extended at second floor level along the entire north facade of the house. Its floor joists are still visible. A two-story gallery also existed along the south side of the two-story extension at the rear of the house. (Only a small, upper portion survives.) As the central window/door on the second story of the main facade would indicate, an iron balustrade sat atop the front porch. This porch was likely updated to its Italianate design in the 1870s. The one-story rear wing that extends north to Washington Street had been built by 1905. The large, modern addition adjoining the south side of the house was constructed in the 1960s for the Freed Clinic.

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405 S. Perry Street

Photo 4

From the early 1850s when Irish canal builders settled in Attica, there was a Catholic population in town. In 1862 Father Stephan built the first Catholic church on this site: a frame building clearly visible in the 1869 bird's-eye view of Attica. Under the direction of Father Charles Lemper, who came to Attica in 1880, foundations for a new church were begun on May 14, 1890. The bricks for this building were fired at the Charles Smith farm and laid by John C. Bell. The \$10,000 construction cost of the church does not reflect significant amounts of volunteer labor and donated building materials, such as the foundation stone. The new building was dedicated on June 21, 1891. The two-story brick rectory to the immediate south (partially visible in Photo 4) was built in 1895.

Architect Peter Detrick of Detroit chose elements of the Gothic style in the design of the new structure. From the center of the main facade, a 60-foot-tall, square bell tower, with spire rising another 30 feet, projects from the gabled main basilica, 40 feet wide by 104 feet long. At the east (rear) end, a three-sided apse projects. All door and window openings are in the form of pointed arches except for the oculi in the tower's gables. Projecting buttresses with stone caps occur at the corners of the tower and the basilica and between the five windows of the side elevations. The facade is enlivened by the corbel table below the eaves and the horizontal banding at stages of the tower. The doorway is recessed behind a compound arch of brick voussoirs. The tracery of its transom, produced locally, is the most elaborate of the building. The octagonal spire retains its original patterned slate roofing and gilded cross. Around 1900 colorful stained glass windows were installed. The 20-foot-tall vaulted interior space was originally lit by oil lamps. In 1962 the church interior was completely remodeled, eliminating nearly all of the rich ornament, the Gothic altarpiece and painted ceiling.

James and Mary E. McClaflin House  
500 S. Perry Street

Photo 5

A mechanic's lien filed against Lot 55 of the resurveyed town plat in November 1904 documents the construction date of "the two-story frame dwelling house recently erected thereon." James M. McClaflin (1837-1918) and his wife Mary Elizabeth (1851-1918) had purchased the property in January of that year. The couple built their new house late in life following retirement from their farm in Warren County.

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After their deaths in July 1918, the property passed to their grandson, J. Clarence Anderson, who had lived here with them. He in turn sold the house in August 1922 to Herbert J. Braden, Mrs. McClafin's son by her first marriage.

As originally built, this two-story, frame house was basically rectangular in plan with a large, three-sided bay on the north side. The dormers that project from the east and south sides of the hipped roof are typical of the Classical Revival with pedimented gables and small-paned windows. Sometime prior to 1927, probably after the house left McClafin family ownership, a one-story addition was made to the south side, generally sympathetic to the original design of the house. At the same time, a back porch was converted to a connecting link to a new attached garage. In later years, a large, one-story porch, which wrapped around the entire original east elevation and bowed front to the north bay, was taken off. (Here the foundation is brick rather than glazed blocks.) Therefore the present, small entrance porch is of relatively recent vintage.

Alanson and Amelia Greenwood House  
508 S. Perry Street

Photo 6

Alanson A. Greenwood (b. 1828), a native of Oxford County, Maine, came to Fountain County in 1860 to operate the Shawnee Creek flouring mill of his uncle Harley Greenwood. Five years later he and his partner, F. W. Macoughtry, purchased the mill and operated it successfully until 1877, at which time he retired from this business and moved to Attica. He then continued his career as a livestock dealer. It seems most probable that this house was constructed in 1877. Greenwood had purchased the unimproved lot in 1868, the year of his marriage to his second wife Amelia. She continued to live here after his death with their daughter Ida, who was the manager of the local Western Union telegraph office.

The boxy massing of the Greenwood House is somewhat atypical of the Italianate style at this date. A two-story original section projects from the west (rear) elevation; at its north and south sides, there are original, one-story wood porches with basket-handle arches. The wide overhang supported by paired brackets masks the low hipped roof. All window and door openings are of segmental arch form with simple, header brick arches. The original wooden front doors with incised, geometric detailing still survive behind later screen doors. Stone accents are very spare and confined to window sills and the dressed watertable. The most interesting features of the house are the frame, one-story bays at the front (east) elevation. The iron porch at front

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undoubtedly was topped by a balustrade for the second-story, center bay door. Some modifications may have been made to it when the concrete platform at front was built.

Poole-Colvert House  
300 S. Brady Street

Photo 7

In April 1849 Joseph Poole (1798-1878) purchased the land upon which this house was built and presumably erected his house that same year. He retained ownership for nearly 30 years. Poole was one of the first schoolteachers in the county as well as one of the first postmasters. In 1849 when Attica was incorporated, he was one of the first five trustees and presented the city's first ordinance: a sanitation measure regarding the approaching cholera epidemic.

Although this house is locally known as the Colvert House, it was not purchased by Hester Jane Colvert (1837-1908), widow of Dr. William Colvert, until August 1895. In the years between Poole's death in 1878 and the Colverts' purchase, John Yeager and later the Judy family operated a boarding house here. Following Mrs. Colvert's death, her son Will (b. 1863), a farmer, and his wife Ella gained ownership of the house. At various times the four other Colvert brothers--Charles, Armstrong, Corwin and Walter--also resided here.

As originally built, the Greek Revival house consisted of two gabled, two-story, rectangular units intersecting at a right angle. This photo shows the unit parallel to Brady Street, while the other extended for three bays along Jackson. Two-story-tall pilasters, which connect the stone water table and the wide cornice, divide the bays of the original building's Brady Street facade. The only example in Attica of this architectural feature, these pilasters create a rich articulation of the brick facade. Some time between 1869 and 1886, probably after the house left Poole family ownership, a third unit similar to the one parallel to Brady was added to the west end of the original structure. Then circa 1900 another two-story brick wing, also closely matching materials and general style, was added to the south side of the house. In March 1916 nearly the entire roof of the structure burned in an electrical fire. The quarter round lights in the front, pedimented gables and the enormous fanlight in the rear gable are modern and probably date to after the fire. The small Eastlake porch at the east entrance undoubtedly dates to the house's boarding house era in the late 19th century.

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Daniel and Zeda Reed House  
304 S. Brady Street

Photo 8

When David Castleman Reed (1871-1929) purchased Lot 21 of the resurveyed town plat from Charles and Emma Colvin in December 1903, there was a one-and-a-half-story dwelling at the front of the property. This house was cleared from the site prior to construction of the Reed's new home around 1912. A native of Fountain County, Daniel Reed was one of the county's leading raisers of hogs and cattle. During the administration of President Wilson, he was offered a cabinet position as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture but declined the appointment. He did, however, serve as vice president of the State Board of Health. He also served one year as a state legislator in 1908 and was a director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Although he and his wife had no children, their niece and nephew, Genevieve and Daniel Carpenter, lived here with the couple during the 1920s.

The architect of this house, who remains unknown, took inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement in this distinctive and eclectic design. The two-story structure is built of structural tile faced with smooth stucco. The main gable roof, as well as the roofs of the one-story wings, extend to wide overhangs and are covered in the original green tile. The casement windows--grouped in sets of four on the first floor and in pairs on the second floor--feature leaded comes in an interesting pattern of intersecting ogive arches. Design attention is focused on the center bay of the main facade. Here the front door is recessed within a horseshoe arch. Above it, French doors, also recessed within an archway, lead to a sculpted, curved balcony ornamented with diamond tile insets. A broad, chalet-like gable roof tops the entire composition. Examples of fine detailing include the soldier course of brick at grade level, the copper gutter system, and the bronze entry lamps. The exterior of this house has changed very little in its 77-year history.

Zimmerman-Purnell House  
305 S. Brady Street

Photo 9

Philip Zimmerman (1815-1869), a tailor by trade, purchased Lot 8 of the resurveyed town plat in August 1850. It is presumed that he and his wife Mary (1815-1891) built their house that year. The building remained in the family until 1882, when it was sold to Joseph Fisher (1826-1889), a carriage manufacturer, who apparently rented the house to tenants. In June 1913 Fisher's daughter Katherine sold the property to attorney Frederick S. Purnell (1882-1949), the best-known resident of the house. Purnell was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

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in 1915 and served eight consecutive terms in office. After his death, his wife Elizabeth sold the house to Charles and Margaret Smith.

In his book Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Wilbur Peat called attention to this brick house as one of the state's notable, small, Greek Revival houses. The original building consisted of the one-and-a-half-story section, rectangular in plan, with its longer side and gable ridge parallel to the street. The broad gable ends feature Greek returns and fascia boards. The five-bay-wide symmetrical facade consists of a recessed central entryway flanked by pilasters with two rectangular six-over-six windows at each side. The proportions of the front door's narrow sidelights and tall transom lights are somewhat unusual. A dressed stone watertable rests above a coursed stone foundation at the front elevation only. By the early 20th century, there were already several one-story additions made to the rear of the house. When Purnell took ownership, he engaged local architect Louis Johnson to add the roof dormers, rework the interior with a center hall, and design a dining room addition at the southeast side.

Peacock-Poston House  
307 S. Brady Street

Photo 10

In 1829 Job Peacock (b. 1791) of Burlington, New Jersey, and his son Joseph (b. 1814) pitched a tent in what is now Ravire Park in Attica and were among the first dozen families to settle in town. Joseph followed his father's trade in blacksmithing and was elected as the first councilman of the city's first ward, serving seven consecutive terms. According to local tradition, he built this house in 1847. Of the second generation of Peacocks to reside here, Albert S. Peacock (1853-1919) is best known. For over 30 years he was an owner and editor of the Attica Ledger; he also served as postmaster for 13 years and was active in community affairs. His spinster sisters--Jennie, proprietor of a millinery shop, and Mary, a schoolteacher--were the last family members to live here. In 1930 the house was sold to Floyd Poston, a partner in the Poston Herron Brick Company in Attica, founded by his father Charles in 1907. It has remained with descendants of the Poston family ever since.

This house represents one of the most popular expressions of the Greek Revival style for large town homes in the Midwest. Eschewing the temple front with portico, the house nonetheless reflects the style in its classical proportions. The gable end facade facing the street emulates the temple front particularly at the roofline, where the low pitched roof and the returns of the wide entablature boards under the

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eaves combine to suggest a pediment. The recessed doorway exhibits the typical transom and sidelights of the style. Wide stone lintels above the six-over-six windows are now masked by paint. As originally built, the two-story brick structure extended back along Washington Street forming an L-shaped plan. Between 1910 and 1927 a one-story addition was made to the north side of this wing, filling in the rectangle. After the Postons purchased the property in 1930, a new brick garage and connecting breezeway were built at the east end of the house. These new additions are entirely sympathetic to the house and may have taken their archway motifs from the one-and-one-half-story stable formerly at the northeast corner of the lot.

Daniel and Sarah Keefer House  
403 S. Brady Street

Photo 11

Daniel Keefer (1833-1917) purchased an unimproved lot in May 1869 and probably began building his new house soon thereafter. Keefer was a cabinetmaker by trade, trained in Philadelphia, who had come to Attica in the early 1850s. He first worked for a local furniture business, Kullmer and Martin, and then established his own shop on Sixth Street, where he worked until 1916. He and his wife Sarah lived here for over 40 years. For many years, their daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Dr. A. M. Rupert, a retired physician, shared the house with the Keefers. (Dr. Rupert maintained an office at the northeast corner of the house.) During the 1930s, their son Major Archie Rupert resided here with his son Tom.

The facade of this two-story brick house is only three bays wide, but the house extends back deeper to a one-story brick section at the rear that was original to the house. The tall proportions of the segmental arch window and door openings are typical of the Italianate style, just then coming into popularity in Attica. Undoubtedly the finest feature of the house is its front porch, which Keefer himself probably designed and executed. The intricately carved wagon wheel motifs of the porch's frieze as well as the incised stars and reeded carvings of the porch brackets suggest an uncommonly fine craftsmanship. The excellent state of the porch's preservation attests to this. (Two houses on N. Brady Street may have copied Keefer's work.) At roof level, large, carved brackets extend below the narrow cornice line to support a wide overhang of the hipped roof. Original doors with pronounced Italianate moldings survive at both first and second floors, there probably having been a second floor railing above the porch originally. In recent years, a large, new, one-story, frame addition incorporating a garage has been made to the north of the one-story brick rear section. Another wing that extended from the rear of the one-story brick portion south to the alley was demolished in 1960. The original wrought-iron fence survives at the west and south property lines.

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407 S. Brady Street

Photo 13

In April 1889 Edward B. Hughes, his widowed sister-in-law Ella and her daughter Alma (1869-1927) jointly purchased Lots 3 and 4 from the estate of Harley Greenwood. At this time, there was no house at the northeast corner of Brady and Monroe Streets, and the Hughes family was living next door at 405 S. Brady Street (Photo 12, built in the 1850s on Lot 4). Construction was probably begun immediately on this home and completed by 1890. Edward Hughes and Ella's husband William H. Hughes, who died in 1884, were the sons of settlers who had come to Indiana from Maryland in the 1830s. Edward became one of the richest farmers in Fountain County, having over 1,600 acres of land under cultivation in 1913. When he erected a new Colonial Revival house on the outskirts of town around 1910, his sister-in-law Ella continued to reside here alone. Dr. J. C. Freed and his family then lived here.

The mansard roof of this three-story frame residence is the hallmark of the Second Empire style; however, the house includes a great variety and mixture of stylish elements of the late Victorian period. Its basic asymmetricality alone would disqualify it as a true example of the Second Empire. A one-story Eastlake porch in an excellent state of preservation wraps around the southwest corner of the house. The balustrade above the flat-roofed entryway is somewhat unusual to the design. The clapboarded walls are enriched by a gridwork of horizontal and vertical trim boards, designed around the windows and painted in a contrasting color. Below selected windows, an apron of beaded boards with dogtooth edging adds texture to the wall surfaces. At one room on the second floor, the upper parts of the double-hung windows feature a colored-glass border typical of the 1890s. Also of note are the intricately carved brackets of the cornice, a bull's-eye window at the north side, and the diagonally scored foundation stone. A large one-and-one-half-story carriage house at the northeast corner of the lot was torn down prior to 1927 and replaced by the present garage. An iron fence encircles more than half of the lot.

Robinson-Wilson House  
503 S. Brady Street

Photo 14

When Joseph and Indiana Robinson sold Lots 1 and 2 of the original town plat to Thomas Hemphill for \$2,000 in July 1853, they had apparently constructed this house during the year that they owned the property. Very little is known about these early settlers of Attica, who probably moved from Fountain County soon thereafter. Thomas and Elizabeth



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Hemphill also moved on, for at the time they sold the property in 1868, they were living in Des Moines, Iowa.

The family of Dr. William Laurie Wilson (1809-1887) then resided here for a period of 50 years and thus is the longest-term occupant of the house. Dr. Wilson and his wife Elizabeth (1817-1916) had come to Indiana from their native Pennsylvania in 1857, first settling in Lafayette and then in Attica. He developed a practice in medicine that included early experimentation in what today would be known as plastic surgery. Following his death, the house passed to his son James Allen Wilson (1846-1918), who was prominent in promoting Attica's business interests. For many years he was vice president of Farmers and Merchants Bank (the oldest and largest banking institution in Fountain and Warren Counties at that time) and through personal investment was instrumental in locating several new businesses in Attica (including the Sterling Remedy Company). His sister Virginia Wilson Todd (1851-1930), who lived here until her marriage in 1887, enjoyed a local reputation as an artist. Following J. Allen's death, the house was sold in 1919 to Dan R. Young, the City's Civil Engineer, and his wife Mabel.

When constructed in 1852, this two-story, brick house followed an L plan with intersecting gable roofs. Over the years, various additions have been made to (and removed from) the original structure. For example, the small, one-story wing at the south side was made in the late 19th-century, judging from the windows of the three-sided bay at the front. The porch on the north side and the attached garage at the rear were added after the Youngs acquired the property. At the same time, the front entry was entirely redesigned by architect Louis Johnson, who added the new portico of curved pediment and fluted columns. The recessed door and its enframing of sidelights and transom were also new. A large, one-story porch, which had existed across the center three bays of the house, was removed at this time. Other than the basic massing of the house, the gable end returns of the simple cornice are one of the few identifying characteristics of the Greek Revival style to survive.

Swedish Lutheran Church  
204 E. Pike Street

Photo 16

On August 23, 1858, Swedes who had settled in Attica in the 1850s gathered to organize a new church. Within five days, \$900 was subscribed for a new building; however, construction was not begun until the following year. Reverend A. Andreen, chairman of the 155-member congregation, personally took a role in developing the plans and specifications of the new building. B. Pearson was awarded the

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building contract. The church was completed and dedicated on Christmas Day, 1859. The combined cost of the lot, new structure, and most of its furnishings (pulpit, altar, benches and carpet) was approximately \$2,000. In 1867 a parsonage was built on a nearby lot; it survives today as 605 S. Brady Street. For its first 50 years, the congregation's membership held constant, and services were held in Swedish until the 1920s. Today it is known as the First Lutheran Church.

Attica's Greek Revival Presbyterian Church at 304 East Main Street, built in 1849, was no doubt a source of design inspiration for new Swedish Church. The 35 feet wide by 50 feet deep frame building is rectangular in plan with a rectangular apse at its north (rear) side. The main facade faces Pike Street. Its pedimented gable with wide entablature and its pilaster at the corners simulate a temple front. From the south end of the gable ridge, a two-story, square tower (now shingled) rises. Originally a tall, pyramidal spire, sheathed in clapboards, rose from the tower. The entry retains its simple classical entablature as well as its original four-panel, double-leaf doors. The two large windows at front as well as the three along the east and west sides originally were multipaned, double-hung units. In the 1930s, the present art glass windows were installed. In 1953, a new basement was excavated and only a portion of the original stone block foundation survives at the west side. The interior has undergone numerous renovations, the first as early as 1875 when Mr. Schlosser's plaster ceiling was torn down and replaced by a lower board ceiling.

Briggs-Jones House  
604 S. Brady Street

Photo 17

When Herman W. Briggs purchased Lot 130 from Horace and Martha Hetfield in March 1899, several months before his marriage, there was a mid-19th-century, one-story house then on the site. A construction worker's inscription found in the attic of this house documents 1903 as its year of construction. Herman Briggs (1873-1947) managed a number of farms in Warren County which, according to the 1913 county history, "brought about a well-deserved prosperity." His tenure in his new house, however, was relatively brief. When his wife Carrie Louise (1877-1912) died in childbirth, he sold the house to Isaac and Alta Jones, who resided here with their seven children. Mr. Jones was a partner in Jones Brothers' grain elevators at Washington and Union Streets. His descendents have continued to own the house to the present.

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The large, two-story, frame house is basically rectangular in plan with a projecting, two-story bay at the south side and a one-story bay at the north. The tall, decked, hipped roof has dormers on all four sides. The most prominent dormer, the front (east) one, features three windows with diamond-patterned mullions in the upper sash and a semi-circular fanlight in the pedimented gable. The first and second stories are distinguished by a variation in its siding: the lower story has a narrow clapboards, while the upper is shingled. This difference was once accentuated by a two-tone color scheme with a light color first story, corner boards, and horizontal trim boards, and a dark color upper story. Originally there was also a balustrade above the front porch which was the most prominent design element of the Classical Revival style in this transitional house. Elevated flower boxes once existed where railings are now located between the porch's Tuscan columns. The entire house rests upon a foundation of limestone blocks. A large, two-story stable existed at the southwest corner of the lot, but this was demolished circa 1920. The present cinderblock garage was built between 1905 and 1910.

Finney Family House  
302 E. Washington Street

Photo 18

In September 1858, when Samuel Finney purchased Lots 31 and 32 of McDonald, Spears and Company's Addition from Henry and Hester Ann Brant, a small, two-story brick house then existed on the property. Over the next few years, Samuel Finney (1815-1886) and his wife Elizabeth (1820-1871), greatly expanded the original house. Mr. Finney, a native of Philadelphia, had moved to Attica in 1848 and is therefore considered one of its early pioneers. For the first 17 years in town he was a merchant; in 1865 he became cashier of the First National Bank and held this position for 20 years until the bank's dissolution. He was also the city's first treasurer. Of his three children, his unmarried daughter Kate, a schoolteacher, resided here the longest. His grandson Charles Digby Finney, son of Dr. C. J. Finney (see 207 E. Monroe, Photo 20), then inherited the property. Today, the house is in its fourth generation of Finney ownership.

From the main (south) facade of this house, it is not possible to discern the original house built in 1857. However, from the north, the jog in the rear wall clearly indicates the building's evolution. The west section, which still has a massive stone chimney at its west end, was built first. Sometime after the eastern part was built, an all new hipped roof was constructed with a unifying cornice and Italianate brackets. The earliest addition made to the new house was constructed by 1865. A portion of this one-story wing, which curves at the front

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and extends to the north, is visible in the photo. Its north gable end with returns and the modillioned cornice are of the Greek Revival style, making it appear to be earlier than the house itself. From 1900 on, a great number of small additions were made to the east end. In recent years, a large garage and a major one-story addition have been made at the rear. In the early 1950s a large front porch, which extended across the entire five bays of the main facade, was removed after a fire. The present porch was relocated from a house at 307 E. Jackson Street (demolished around 1968). A 19th-century iron fence extends around more than half of this double-lot property. A large stable and two-adjointing outbuildings at the rear alley were removed after 1927.

Charles and Margaret Finney House  
207 E. Monroe Street

Photo 20

Dr. Charles J. Finney (1859-1918) purchased Lot 76 in McDonald, Spears and Company's Addition in August 1899. He and his wife Margaret probably built the house the following year. Dr. Finney, son of pioneer Samuel Finney (see 302 E. Washington Street, Photo 18), was a graduate of Wabash College and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Except for his post-graduate work at Bellevue Hospital in New York, he practiced in Attica for 32 years and specialized in diseases of the eye. At the time of his death, Margaret Finney was living in Phoenix, Arizona, for her health. The couple's five children--Thomas, Samuel, Charles, Louise and Arthur--then sold the house to Harry Schwartz.

Typical of many turn-of-the-century houses, this large, frame, two-and-a-half-story building exhibits many eclectic design elements, defying any single style label. Although basically rectangular in plan, there are projecting bays or overhangs on all four sides. Gabled dormers also occur at all four slopes of the hipped roof. One of the most interesting features of the house is the differentiation between the two stories: the first story has narrow clapboards accented by corner trimboards, while the second story is shingled. A line of dogtoothed shingles runs along the flared base of the upper story. Curved angle struts decoratively support the overhang at the corners. The front porch with its fluted Doric columns and second-story balustrade is the most classical feature of the house. Of medieval inspiration are the diamond-patterned muntins of all the small, fixed windows and the dormer fronts' simulated half-timbered effect.

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Jordan-Nave House  
303 E. Monroe Street

Photo 22

In January 1854 Daniel S. Jordan purchased Lots 78 and 79 of McDonald, Spears and Company's Addition for \$225. Jordan was in the saddle and harness-making business with his brother. Less than two years later, he and his wife Nancy sold the lots for \$3,000 to Dr. William L. Leyman of Tippecanoe County, indicating construction of the house in 1854-55. Dr. Leyman and his wife Rebecca resided here for 12 years before selling the property to John Nave (1825-1872), a farmer, in 1867. The house has remained in the Nave family ever since. Joseph Shannon Nave (1850-1937) was a prominent attorney who served one term in the Indiana House of Representatives. His name is remembered locally as the real estate developer of the Southside Addition, platted in 1884. He and his wife Jennie's eldest daughter Margaret (b. 1882), widow of architect Louis Lee Johnson (1873-1950), still resides here today.

The early Italianate style just becoming popular in the East in the 1850s undoubtedly inspired the designer of this house. Such pre-Civil War examples are rare in Indiana. The low, decked, hipped roof with its broad overhang supported by shallow brackets is the most characteristic feature of the style. Originally a cupola sat atop it. The brick house is a simple rectangle in plan, banked into the slope at the front. (From the rear, it is three stories tall.) The main (north) facade is only three bays wide and presents an unusual shift in proportion between the first and second floors. Above the tall entrance, a wooden balcony with carved balusters projects from the central bay. To either side of the entry, there are tall, floor-to-ceiling windows. A large porch that wrapped around the northwest corner of the house was added in the late 19th century. (This was removed sometime after 1927.) The tall door in the center bay of the west facade originally gave access to a side flight of steps, similar to the one on the south side.

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relative to Brady Street Historic District

Nine months before the creation of Fountain County from the partition of Montgomery and Wabash Counties in December 1825, the original plat of the town of Attica was laid out by Daniel Stump.<sup>1</sup> The plat covered the area roughly bounded by the Wabash River on the west, New Street on the south, the alley east of Brady Street on the east, and Mill Street on the north. The land south of Pike Street (then called Ohio) and east of Union (then called Stump) was divided into outlots. Although several street names of this first plat were later changed, both Perry Street and Brady Street retained their names. Brady Street was named after John Brady, who had first purchased a portion of Section 6 of Township 21 North, Range 7 West, from the United States government in January 1825.<sup>2</sup> Stump established the orthogonal grid with streets 82-1/2 feet wide, alleys 16-1/2 feet wide, and lots 82-1/2 feet wide by 165 feet deep. His stamp upon the pattern of land development survived the December 1841 resurvey by William Crumpton, which replatted the outlots and established the lot numbering system that has survived to the present day.<sup>3</sup> Crumpton became Attica's first businessman when he opened a store at the corner of Perry and Mill Streets in 1825.

For its first 20 years, Attica's development was slow and was not distinguished from other towns in the region that were founded in the 1820s along the shores of the Wabash River. Rob Roy, established the year after Attica and only four miles down river, was an early rival. The main means of commercial transportation was via rafts, which carried agricultural products down the Wabash, then the Ohio and the Mississippi, to the major market in New Orleans. In the early 1820s, George Hollingsworth, who played a role in Attica's founding, had established a pole ferry across the river near the mouth of Pine Creek, which had long been a Kickapoo Indian settlement. In the early 1840s, this transportation link was improved by the establishment of a horse ferry. Attica was also located along two stage routes in its early years.

By far the most important single factor in Attica's growth and prominence over its fellow river town was the arrival of the Wabash and Erie Canal in 1846. Places like Rob Roy and Portland stagnated while Attica experienced a boom period that forever left its mark. Its frontier era can be considered to have come to an end with this transportation link, which gave it a competitive edge over its rivals. Originally planned in 1836 as part of the state's ambitious scheme of internal improvements, the canal was to extend 458 miles from Toledo,

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Ohio, to Evansville, Indiana, thus linking the Great Lakes with the Ohio River. The drought of 1846 accidentally made Attica the western terminus of the canal that year, connecting it to Toledo, 267 miles away by only 2-1/2 days of travel on a packet boat. Of far greater consequence than the passenger traffic, however, was the freight traffic. Canal shipping rates were two-thirds cheaper than the old river rates. Farmers found a new avenue of transportation for their crops, primarily corn. Business at Attica's docks, warehouses and grain elevators doubled in the first year, commensurately stimulating all other businesses. New flour mills sprang up, utilizing the locks' waterpower. This growth spurt was all that was needed to propel the frontier settlement forward to one of the leading towns of north-western Indiana, and for a period of about 10 years, a rival with Lafayette for supremacy in the region.

In 1849 construction of the canal had progressed as far as Terre Haute, opening up even more traffic passing through Attica. The canal was a boon to settlement of the entire county, and with Attica's convenient packet boat landing at the foot of Main Street, many newcomers to Indiana decided to settle in the prospering community. In June 1849 Attica had attained sufficient population to incorporate for the first time as a town. (The first official census taken by the new Town Council in March 1850 enumerated 1,006 people.<sup>4</sup>) The town was divided into five districts, with the entire area south of Jackson Street designated as the first district. This designation for the residential portion of town south of the commercial area was the first distinction of the area now being delineated as the Brady Street Historic District. Substantial new homes were just beginning to be built here among the early pioneer dwellings. Among the earliest of the new generation of fine new homes was the house built in 1849 by Joseph Poole at the corner of Jackson and Brady Streets (Photo 7). Indeed Poole was the first town trustee to represent the first district. Other nearby homes of this period include the house built by Philip Zimmerman at 305 S. Brady Street in 1850 (Photo 9) and the house next door built by Joseph Peacock in 1847 (Photo 10).

The first and only platted addition to Attica to fall within the boundary of the Brady Street Historic District was the McDonald, Spear & Company Addition of August 1851.<sup>5</sup> McDonald, Spears & Company, a partnership of James McDonald, Ezekiel McDonald, and James Spears, had directly benefitted from the canal's promotion of one of Attica's most important early industries: pork packing. They processed hogs raised in the surrounding agricultural district for markets in the East. The new plat extended from the alley east of Brady Street east to Orchard Street, which was later eliminated when platted into lots on the west

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edge of College Street. The plat also extended as far south as the northern right-of-way of Monroe Street. However, since an 1861 survey of this plat unofficially extended the plat one block south to Pike Street, the entire area of the district was essentially divided into lots by 1861.

The 1850s continued to be a period of significant growth in Attica. Between 1850 and 1860, the population increased by 70 percent.<sup>6</sup> Two new hotels were built in the commercial area to accommodate the large number of people traveling through town: the May House in 1852, and the Revere House (now the Attica Hotel) in 1853. Many fine new homes were built in the 1850s within the district including the Robinson-Wilson House at 503 S. Brady Street (Photo 14); the Hatton House at 402 S. Perry Street (Photo 3); the Finney House at 302 E. Washington Street (Photo 18); the Jordan-Nave House at 303 E. Monroe Street (Photo 22); and the Harley Greenwood House at 405 S. Brady Street (Photo 12). The First Lutheran Church, 204 E. Pike Street (Photo 16), is the only public building in the district to survive from the 1850s; the brick Baptist Church of 1855 at 304 E. Monroe Street, also a Greek Revival structure, was demolished in the 1970s.

Attica's flourishing during the first 10 years of the canal was so great that the community rejected proposals that the New Albany and Salem Railroad be routed through town. Instead the railroad passed through Lafayette and became the first line towards creation of a hub in that city. In effect it was the first major step in Lafayette's ascendancy over Attica. (Today Lafayette's population is 10 times that of Attica.) The canal began to become beset with inherent problems such as poor engineering that necessitated constant repairs, as well as an unpredictable supply of water--sometime floods closed the canal, while in the summer and fall, water shortages resulted in halted traffic. The competing Toledo, Wabash & Western Railway, which ran along the shore of the Wabash River connecting Toledo with St. Louis, started a rate-cutting war with the canal from its inception. By 1857 receipts from canal tolls amounted to only about 50 percent of the cost of canal repairs.<sup>7</sup> Fortunately for Attica, the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad was routed through the town and arrived by 1858. Although the community was slow to accept the advantages of the age of rails, it was spared total isolation when the canal became obsolete. After 1860 canal traffic south of Terre Haute was no longer possible due to structural collapses and flooding. The Civil War years extended the life of the canal beyond its normal life expectancy by the sheer volume of military goods and supplies transported during these years. However, its heyday was over, and in 1873, the state declared it abandoned.



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In general the post-war years in Indiana constituted a period of great prosperity throughout the state. Attica did not share in this prosperity to the extent promised by the growth of the 1840s and 1850s; however, it retained its prominence as the largest marketplace town for Fountain and Warren Counties throughout the second half of the 19th century, taking precedence over both county seats, Covington and Williamsport. The commercial district of Attica, centering at Perry and Main Streets from its beginnings, experienced renewed development in the 1870s and 80s, even though population stagnated from 1870 to 1890. (It hovered at around 2,300 people for these two decades.<sup>8</sup>) Industries remained small, employing an average of about one dozen employees. They included such enterprises as a flour mill, a carriage manufactory, a wagon shop, and a sawmill. Attica's summary in an 1882-83 directory stated: "the manufacturing interests of the place are as yet in their infancy."<sup>9</sup> Services to the outlying agricultural district continued to be important to Attica. A number of grain elevators were located at the west side of the city between the river and the railroad tracks that ran down Union, Cross, and Second Streets. In addition to the original railroad, later known as the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, by 1872, Attica had a second north/south rail line which served the coal fields around Brazil, Indiana. Last known by the name Chicago, Attica and Southern Railroad, this line provided a link to the Big Four Railroad junction in Veedersburg.

The town corporation had foundered in the late 1850s. Following the Civil War, a new city charter was obtained in 1866 and the city was divided into wards. The area now delineated as the Brady Street district was a part of the first ward, represented by trustees Joseph Peacock (307 S. Brady Street) and L. B. Linsley. It continued to be a popular residential area with vacant lots still available for building as late as 1890. With every decade, prominent new homes were built: the Schlosser House at 401 S. Perry in 1863 (Photo 2); the Keefer House at 403 S. Brady in 1870 (Photo 11); the A. A. Greenwood House in 1877 at 508 S. Perry (Photo 6); and the Hughes House in 1889-90 at 407 S. Brady Street (Photo 13). Many of the homes constructed during this period were built by prosperous farmers who wished to have a town home. Often Fountain and Warren County farmers chose to retire in Attica, but just as frequently, large land holdings in outlying areas were managed by people whose chief place of residency was in Attica.

In the late 1890s a new era of larger industries and businesses had an important impact upon Attica's economy. In 1896 Harry L. Kramer of Lafayette decided to locate the Sterling Remedy Company in the old May House (also known as the St. Charles Hotel and the Merchants Hotel). This medicine company had a phenomenal mail order business, thanks to

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its most popular product: "Cascarets" laxative pills. The volume of postage enabled Attica to have free city mail delivery. Indeed it was the smallest city in the country to enjoy this privilege. In 1899 Sterling Remedy employed 150 people; by 1908 200 people held jobs here.<sup>10</sup> The company's success prompted it to seek a new site of expansion in the East, and sadly for Attica, it moved to West Virginia in 1909. (Sterling was the forerunner of the company known today as Sterling-Winthrop, a pharmaceutical concern located in Rensselaer, New York.) Another company with a parallel history was the Attica Bridge Company, which produced the spans of iron bridges. It located in the city in 1897 and employed 100 people. Its ever-expanding business prompted a move to St. Louis in 1913.

In the early 1900s, nine local businessmen who were concerned about the long-term health of the city's economy banded together as the Attica Land and Improvement Company.<sup>11</sup> Acting much like an economic development commission, this group sought out prospective industries and attempted to attract them to Attica with favorable proposals on land acquisition, labor and the natural resources of the area. Among the nine members of the Attica Land and Improvement Company were several residents of the Brady Street district, including Orrin S. Clark, a grain dealer turned banker, 305 E. Monroe Street; Martin L. Wilson, a retail merchant, 207 E. Monroe Street and later 408 S. McDonald Street (Photo 23); and George Edward Foster, a grain dealer, 508 S. Brady Street (Photo 15).

In 1906 the "Company" was successful in attracting J. W. Harrison's National Car Coupler Company to come to Attica. This concern built a steel foundry that initially employed 300 men. (Later this industry developed into the Harrison Steel Casting Company, which became Attica's largest employer.)

In 1907 the "Company" similarly induced Charles E. Poston, an experienced paving brick manufacturer, to erect a plant on the north-eastern outskirts of town. Attracted by the high quality of local shale deposits and the offer of a 27-acre site paid for by the "Company," Poston spent over \$40,000 the first year in buildings and kilns alone. Over the course of its history, one-half billion bricks were produced in Attica. Purdue University, approximately 25 miles away, has 25 buildings on its campus constructed with Poston brick, including the Hall of Music. Within the district, Poston brick was also used liberally. One of the first streets to be paved with the company's paving brick was McDonald Street (Photo 23) in 1909. Of course the Poston family's own homes were built with their product, including 502 S. Brady Street constructed in 1927 to the design of

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architect Louis Johnson. After Floyd Poston's 1930 purchase of the old Peacock home at 307 S. Brady Street (Photo 10), several compatible additions were made to the house using company brick.

The advent of two new large-scale employers to the community in 1906 and 1907 was a tremendous boost to the overall economy. A 1908 write-up on the city's advantages proclaimed 100 wholesale and retail businesses in Attica.<sup>12</sup> That same year 16 passenger trains made daily stops at Attica's station. By the first decade of the 20th century, unimproved lots within the Brady Street district were very scarce. Those wishing to build new homes in the area had to demolish existing dwellings on the site. Such was the case for Herman and Carrie Briggs, who built a new home at 604 S. Brady Street in 1903 (Photo 17), and Daniel and Zeda Reed, who built their new house at 304 S. Brady Street in 1912. Some 19th-century homes underwent total transformations in the early part of the 20th century: for example, the 606 S. Brady Street home of John T. Nixon, President of the Attica Manufacturing Company, a wagon-parts factory. The old house was redesigned by architect Louis Johnson in a Colonial Revival style.

As newer additions were developed on the east side of town, fewer and fewer new residences were built within the district in the 1920s. With the onset of the Depression in 1930, new building came to a halt and the district maintained status quo for several decades. Attica's population remained constant at about 3,500 people from 1910 until 1940.<sup>13</sup> This constancy created a continued need for the existing housing stock, so that very few old residences were demolished. Indeed, study of the 1914 city directory reveals that numerous single-family homes were being shared at that time by more than one family, or by numerous members of an extended family including married children and grandchildren.<sup>14</sup> It was a common practice to rent rooms to boarders. The continuing demand for housing, at a time when no new construction was taking place, acted as a great force for preservation in the Brady Street Historic District.

### Architectural Significance

A large number of homes in the Brady Street Historic District can be considered architecturally significant because of their excellent state of preservation. Among the 84 primary buildings that contribute to the historic character of the area (out of a total of 92 primary buildings within the district's boundaries), there are outstanding representatives of architectural styles from the 1840s through the 1920s. Although there is no single predominating style and each decade in the period of significance is represented, the Greek Revival homes of the

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1840s and 1850s are particularly noteworthy because of their relative rarity in northern Indiana.

From 19th-century county histories as well as personal collections of historic photographs, we know that there were a number of log houses built during Attica's frontier period, approximately 1825-1845. None have survived to the present day. A log building attributed to have been "the last log house in Attica" was located in the 1100 block of N. Perry Street on the northern edge of town.<sup>15</sup> This building was originally only one room in size with heavy, hewn logs laid up with wide mortar joints. When the photo was taken (prior to 1908), several frame additions had been made with a new, steeply pitched, gable roof. It is possible that there may be an early frame home in the district which incorporates a log portion within its walls; however, no examples are known.

A building identified in 1899 as "the oldest house in Attica" does still survive at 400 N. Perry Street, well outside the boundaries of the district.<sup>16</sup> It was reportedly built in 1840 by Edward Hemphill along the bank of a millrace. In addition to being noteworthy as the oldest house and therefore a "time point" to measure the antiquity of other Attica homes, it is notable for being built of stone. Despite the fact that there were good sources of sandstone in Fountain County to the south of Attica, the material was rarely used other than for foundation walls. There are no stone buildings in the Brady Street district, nor are there any known to have existed. However, the vernacular Greek Revival form of the Hemphill house was quite popular, and frame versions do exist in the Brady Street district.

The house at 305 E. Washington Street (Photo 19) is a good example. Its general proportions and front facade are nearly identical to 400 N. Perry Street, leading to the conclusion that it was built in the early 1840s and is one of the oldest houses in the Brady Street district. This one-and-one-half-story frame house with short gable end parallel to the street is currently covered with composite siding, masking much of its early character, and perhaps wide, corner pilasters. The tall central entrance door is flanked by two windows; above it, two smaller windows occur under the peak of the gable. The wide fascia boards and returns of the cornice simulate a pedimented temple front. The most distinctive characteristic of the Greek Revival style is the main entry surround with its plain entablature and side pilasters. There were probably a number of houses like this one in the district; over time they were remodeled beyond recognition or were demolished for the construction of new homes.

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A more stylistically advanced yet small-scale Greek Revival house is the Zimmerman-Purnell House, 305 S. Brady Street (Photo 9) built in 1850. In his pioneering book, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, architectural historian Wilbur Peat called attention to it as being noteworthy for its recessed door.<sup>17</sup> This one-and-one-half-story brick building is oriented differently with its longer side and gable ridge parallel to the street, although its broad gable ends also feature Greek returns and fascia boards. The sidelights and transom that surround the front door represent a large measure of sophistication over the entry to 305 E. Washington Street.

The Peacock-Poston House, 307 S. Brady Street (Photo 10), represents one of the most popular expressions of the Greek Revival style for larger houses that were sited onto town lots. The gable end here faces the street (just as the small, vernacular version at 305 E. Washington referred to earlier) so that the depth of the house could extend along the longer lot line. Although there is no full temple front at the main facade, the proportions, roofline and prominent returns all allude to a classical temple.

Another significant example of the Greek Revival in Attica is the Poole-Colvert House at the southwest corner of Brady and Jackson Streets (Photo 7). When it was built in 1849, the house consisted of two gabled, two-story rectangular units intersecting at a right angle. It is the only house in Attica to feature two-story-tall pilasters of classical inspiration which divide the bays and create a rich facade articulation.

The Greek Revival style continued to exert an influence on Attica's residential buildings well into the 1850s (somewhat later than national trends, but common in Indiana). The house built by Joseph and Indiana Robinson in 1852-53 at 503 S. Brady Street (Photo 14) is an example. The basic massing of the house actually harkens back to Federal houses of the early 19th century, but there are some Greek touches, such as the gable end returns and the cornice. A house very similar to the Robinson-Wilson House is the Hatton House, 402 S. Perry Street (Photo 3), which is believed to have been built in 1859. Its dentilled brick cornice is one of its finest features. (The frontispiece is not original and dates to after 1930, when a porch that extended across the full width of the house was removed.) Two other houses in the next block of S. Perry Street--502 and 504--belong in the same category as the Robinson and Hatton Houses. Built in 1849 as the first brick school in Attica, 502 was originally only one story tall but was later raised to a second story. The house at 504 is believed to have been built circa 1860.

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At the same time that the popularity of the Greek Revival style continued to carry over in Attica through the 1850s, there are some examples of homes that followed the very latest architectural currents. One example is the Jordan-Nave House at 303 E. Monroe Street (Photo 22), built in 1854-55. Such pre-Civil-War examples of the early Italianate style are rare in Indiana. The cupola that originally sat atop its low, decked, hipped roof may have been the first example of this architectural feature in Attica. Another architecturally significant house of the 1850s is the Harley Greenwood House at 405 S. Brady Street (Photo 12)--an outstanding example of the Gothic Revival style. Although the 20th-century front porch and changes in fenestration detract to some extent from its 19th-century character, the prominent, steeply pitched gables of the front elevation still retain their distinctive, decorative bargeboards. The most common form of the Gothic Revival house in Indiana has a simple rectangular plan and gabled roof to which a single, steeply pitched gable roof projects at the central bay of the longer side. The Greenwood House is unusual in that it has three front gables with the largest, central one over a projecting pavilion. A door leading to a balcony probably existed at second floor level in the center gable. (Another notable Gothic Revival house at 304 S. Perry Street was recently demolished.)

The 1840s and 1850s are clearly the most important decades of architectural significance for Attica because of the number of residences that survive from this period--a comparatively large number in the context of northern Indiana cities. However, every decade during the district's period of significance is represented by an outstanding building, starting with the 1863 Schlosser Family House, 401 S. Brady Street (Photo 2). Built during a transitional time in Attica's architectural history, the house presents an interesting amalgam of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The 1870 Keefer House at 403 S. Brady Street (Photo 11) is among the first generation of true Italianate houses in Attica. Since owner Daniel Keefer, a cabinetmaker for most of his life, was listed in an 1865 business directory as "Carpenter & Joiner," it is logical to assume that he was responsible for the design and execution of the decorative front porch.<sup>18</sup> This porch appears to have been the model for other very similar porches in Attica, including two that survive on N. Brady Street. Amelia and Alanson Greenwood's house at 508 S. Brady Street (Photo 6) built in 1877, is a larger example of the Italianate style. It is notable for the twin frame bays at its front elevation.

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The Hughes Family House at 407 S. Brady Street (Photo 13) was built in 1889-90. Although the mansard roof is usually associated with the Second Empire style of the late 1860s, this stylistic feature was popular in northern Indiana in the late 1880s for buildings that cannot be considered to belong to this style. The Hughes House is interesting for its use of this roof type with an eclectic blend of late-Victorian design features, including elements of the Eastlake and Stick styles.

St. Francis Xavier Church, 405 S. Perry Street (Photo 4), faithfully follows one style: the Gothic Revival, which was always popular for ecclesiastical buildings. Completed in 1891, this church's interior was architecturally significant for the richness of its decoration, including an elaborately painted ceiling produced by a local artisan. Unfortunately remodeling in the early 1960s removed most of the original character.

Among the buildings constructed in the district in the early part of the 20th century, two stand out for their architectural style. Attica's Carnegie Library, completed in 1904, exhibits a restrained classical influence (Photo 1). As is true for most public buildings of this period, design attention is focused at the entrance. Daniel and Zeda Reed's house at 304 S. Brady Street (Photo 8) was obviously designed by an architect influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement of the early part of the century. This circa 1912 house has been labeled "Mission Style," probably because of its stucco walls and tile roof. However, the design elements do not exhibit any Spanish colonial influence. Features such as casement windows with leaded comes, or a chalet-like roof over a sculpted balcony, derive from a variety of picturesque sources. This house is yet another example of an excellent state of preservation. Unfortunately its architect remains unknown.

Indeed very little as a whole is known about the architects, carpenters and builders active in the Brady Street district. Only two buildings have documented architects: St. Francis Xavier Church, designed by Peter Detrick of Detroit, and the Attica Library, designed by E. O. Fallis of Toledo. Detrick is known only through a local newspaper account of the dedication of the building in June 1891.<sup>19</sup> Fallis had designed the Noble County Courthouse in Albion, Indiana.<sup>20</sup> The choice of an architect from Toledo was not at all unusual since Attica was linked to Toledo by a relatively short train ride via the Wabash Railroad.

There was no lack of local talent in the building trades. The account of St. Francis' dedication reported that, except for the slate roof and the altar, all building materials and labor had been supplied by "home

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mechanics." The 1887-88 Attica directory listed 39 men under the heading "Carpenters and Builders."<sup>21</sup> (This was by far the largest listing in the classified business directory.) Several of these men lived in the Brady Street district, but the houses they worked on are a matter of speculation. The earliest known directory listing for a carpenter/builder was for James Smith, who was the only person in his trade listed in Attica's entry in the 1860 state gazetteer.<sup>22</sup>



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NOTES:

1. The plat was originally recorded in the Montgomery County Recorder's Office on March 19, 1825. See Plat Maps 4B and 22B in the Fountain County Recorder's Office, Covington.
2. Certificate of entry dated January 1, 1825 conveying east half, southeast quarter, of Section 6. Citation found in "boiler plate" of several abstracts of title.
3. See Resurvey of the Original Plat, Maps 25A and 25B, Fountain County Recorder's Office. Addition by Ormsby Green and Isaac Colman.
4. "Census of the Town of Attica... Taken by W. McK. Scott under authority of the Town Council, March 20, 1850," as published in: John Wesley Whicker, Historical Sketches of the Wabash Valley. Attica, IN: The author, 1916, p. 79. Scott's census apparently did not enumerate children under the age of five.
5. McDonald, Spears & Company's 1851 plat consisted of 73 lots with a south boundary at Monroe Street. In December 1861 R. B. Hanna surveyed this plat and added to it land one block south that was later officially platted in 1871 as J. D. McDonald's Addition. This has resulted in much confusion with the lot numbering system. Title searches must take into account two different legal lot numbers. See Plat Map 19B in the Fountain County Recorder's Office, Covington.
6. The 1850 U. S. census did not report a population figure for Attica in its statistics under Table II, "Population by Subdivisions of Counties." The only town listed among the 10 townships was Covington. The first enumeration was in 1860 under Table 3, "Population of Cities, Towns, & Co." The figures were as follows:

White Males	839
White Females	859
Free Colored Males	5
Free Colored Females	10
Aggregate	<u>1,713</u>

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7. "Vestiges of Canal Boom Still Charming in Attica," Right Here in Indiana, no. 51, p. 5. This unpublished typescript was issued by the Office of Public Information and Education, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1967. Copy at Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. The script provided figures on the canal's yearly tolls vs. expenditures on repairs, as well as general information on the canal's problems. However, it is not a reliable source of information on Attica's railroads.
8. U.S. Census figures for Attica's population:
- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1870: | 2,273 |  |
| 1880: | 2,150 |  |
| 1890: | 2,320 |  |
9. H. L. Kramer, General Business Directory for 1882-83. Lafayette, IN: Spring, Emerson & Co., 1882, p. 104.
10. General information on the Sterling Remedy Company was derived from: History of Fountain County, Indiana. The employment figures were cited in: "Historical and Picturesque Indiana--Fountain County," Indianian, vol. 4 (June 1899), p. 25 and Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church Jubilee Album. Attica, IN: Saturday Press, 1908, page with Attica Ledger.
11. History of Fountain County, 1983, pp. 93-94.
12. See Attica Ledger page cited in Note 9 above.
13. U.S. Census figures for Attica's population:
- |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1910: | 3,335 | 1930: | 3,700 |
| 1920: | 3,392 | 1940: | 3,760 |
14. Attica City Directory, 1914. Attica, IN: S.T. McConahay 1914. Copy at the Attica Carnegie Library. This publication is significant as the first comprehensive directory of Attica to include street numbers, and the first directory of any kind published since 1887. Unfortunately there is no "criss-cross" guide by address listing--only an alphabetized list of residents. Atticans Erma Walker and Paul R. Foster researched the entire book looking for selected addresses and compiling lists of residents.

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15. Photograph in the collection of Mrs. Paul R. Foster, Attica, published in: Fountain County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Indianapolis, IN: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1988, p. 16. The log house was demolished in August 1908.
16. "Historical and Picturesque Indiana," p. 29. A survey of the 19th-century Sanborn maps helped to identify the stone house illustrated in the magazine article. It stands at the northwest corner of N. Perry Street (originally N. 4th Street) and W. Columbia Street. The article stated that it was once a woolen mill but was then run by the sons of the original builder as a skirt factory. The Sanborn maps of 1886 and 1892 indicate that it was still being used as a dwelling. The 1899 map records "Thos. Hemphill & Bro./Attica Garment Co." The information on page 23 of the Fountain County Interim Report, where the building is listed among scattered sites, is therefore inaccurate.
17. Wilbur D. Peat, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, 1962, p. 46.
18. D. Keefer is listed among the five carpenters and masons in the business listings published aside the inset map of Attica in the "Map of Fountain and Warren Counties, Indiana" by D. J. Lake (Philadelphia: Stone & Titus, 1865).
19. Attica Ledger, June 25, 1891, p. 1.
20. Fountain County Interim Report, p. 15.
21. Sutton Bros. Lafayette, Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Delphi and Attica Illustrated Directory. Cincinnati, OH: 1887, p. 403.
22. Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1860-61, 2nd. ed. Indianapolis, IN: George W. Hawes, 1860, p. 17.

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Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1 Brady Street Historic District, AtticaBoundary Description

Beginning at the point of intersection of the east curb line of S. Perry Street and the north property line of 303 S. Perry Street, the boundary line proceeds east along said property line and continues across the north/south alley to the west property line of 103 E. Jackson Street. Here the boundary turns north along said property line,<sup>x0</sup> the south curb line of E. Jackson Street. The boundary line proceeds east along E. Jackson Street to the west curb line of S. Brady Street. The boundary then proceeds south to the south lot line of 300 S. Brady Street, turns east along a continuation of this line, crossing Brady Street and a north/south alley to the west property line of 205 E. Jackson Street. The line then follows north along this line and turns east again along the south curb line of E. Jackson Street.

At the point of intersection of the south curb line of E. Jackson Street and the west curb line of McDonald Street, the boundary line proceeds south to the rear (north) property line of 206 McDonald Street. Here it turns east, crossing McDonald Street and running along the rear (north) property line of 302 E. Washington Street until it reaches a point where the extension of the west property line of 305 E. Jackson Street would meet it. Here the line proceeds north along said lot line to the south curb line of E. Jackson Street, then east to the east property line of 305 E. Jackson Street, then south along said line and across the east/west alley to the northeast corner of 302 E. Washington Street. The line then travels east, crossing the north/south alley, and extending to the point of intersection with the west curb line of Council Street.

From this point, the line runs south along the west line of Council Street to the rear (south) property line of 307 E. Washington Street and then turns west along said line to the intersection with the west line of this property. The line then turns south here and crosses the east/west alley to meet the rear property line of 308 E. Monroe Street. Here it turns east and travels along said line to the intersection with the west curb line of Council Street. The line then travels south to the rear (south) property line of 307 E. Monroe Street and turns west along said line to its intersection with the west property line. It then proceeds south to the alley and turns west at the rear (south) property line of 305 E. Monroe, traveling west across the north/south alley to the southeast corner of 303 E. Monroe Street. Here the line turns south, crossing the east/west alley and traveling along the east property lines of 405 McDonald Street and 300 E. Pike Street to the point of intersection with E. Pike Street.

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At this juncture, the boundary follows west along the north curb line of E. Pike Street, crossing McDonald Street, to a point where an extension of the rear property line of 601 S. Brady Street would meet it. Here the line turns south along said line and its continuation to the south property line of 603 S. Brady Street. The line then turns west along said line and crosses Brady Street to the west curb line of Brady at the southeast corner of 604 S. Brady Street. At this point, the line turns south and runs along the curb line to its point of intersection with the north curb line of E. New Street.

Proceeding westward from the intersection, the boundary runs to the east side of the north/south alley between Brady and Perry Streets and turns north continuing along this line to its intersection with the north curb line of E. Pike Street. The boundary then turns west along the curb line, crossing S. Perry Street, to the east line of the first north/south alley west of Perry. Here the line turns north and continues, crossing an east/west alley, to the southwest corner of 502 S. Perry Street. Here the line turns west, crossing the north/south alley and running along the rear property line of 105 W. Monroe Street until it meets the west line of this property. The line then turns north and extends to the south curb line of W. Monroe Street, where it turns east to the east line of the last-mentioned alley.

At this juncture, the line turns north, crossing Monroe Street, and running along the east line of the alley to the point of intersection with the south line of W. Washington Street. Here the line turns east and crosses Perry Street to the northwest corner of 401 S. Perry Street. The line then turns north, crossing Washington Street, and runs along the east curb line of S. Perry Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The Brady Street Historic District was identified in the Fountain County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, published in 1988 and known as "the survey." Taking its name from the street with the largest number of architecturally significant homes, this district contained 86 primary structures and many of the fine 1840s and 1850s homes remaining from the canal boom.

Jackson Street to the north and Council Street to the east are both major thoroughfares serving as district boundaries. Along each, some commercial development has occurred, replacing 19th-century homes with non-contributing buildings or car lots. When necessary, the boundary jogs around these non-contributing buildings with the aim of a tightly drawn district containing the greatest concentration of contributing historic resources.

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Because the October 1927 map of Attica from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas was so close to the end date of historic significance for the district (1930), it was particularly important in documenting contributing buildings. Copies of the 1927 map were taken to the field and checked building by building. Those structures existing today that were not drawn on the 1927 Sanborn, nor appearing to have been built prior to 1930, are shaded on the map as non-contributing buildings.

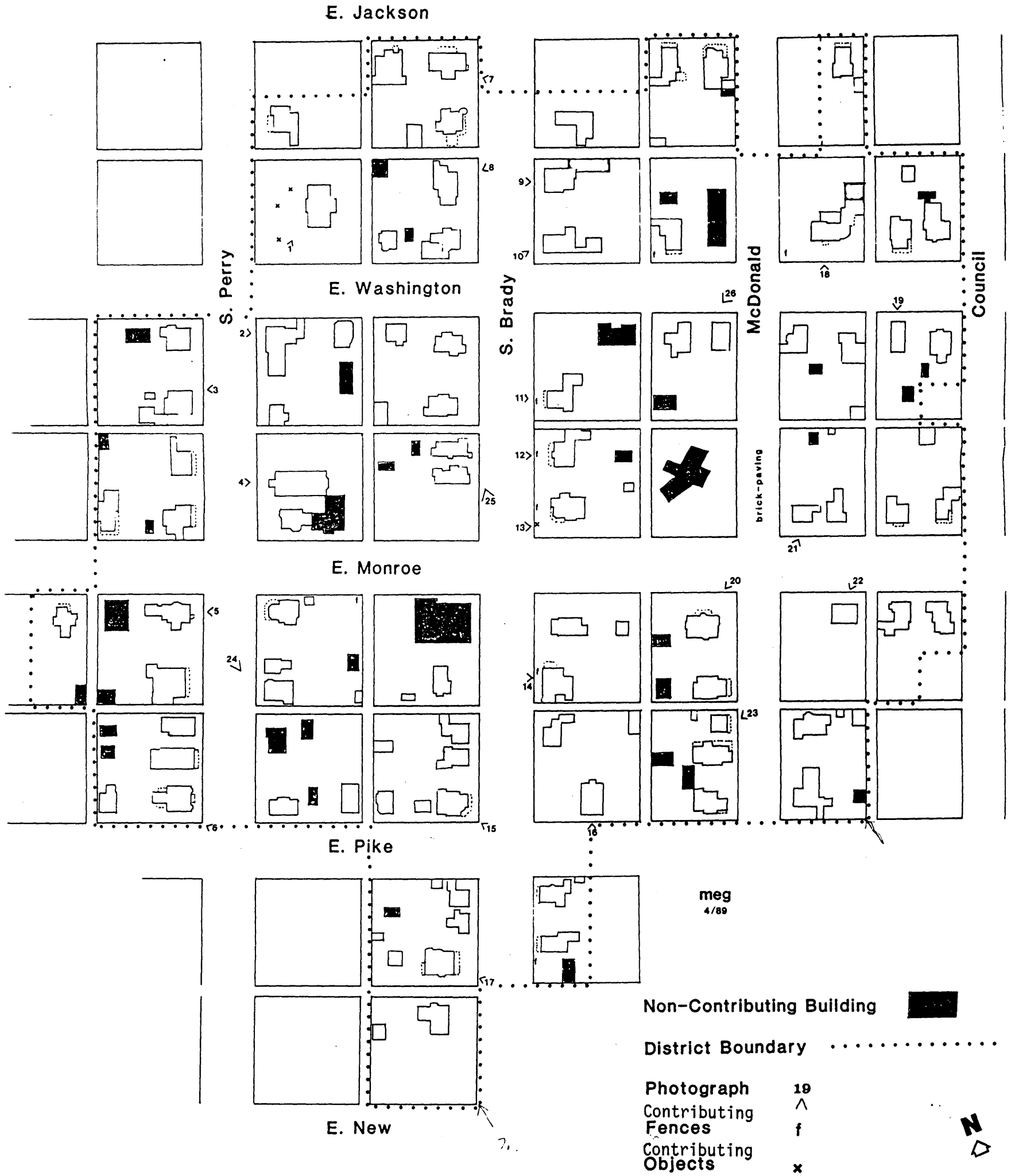
All of the area of the original plat of Attica, laid out in 1825 and resurveyed in 1841, was taken into consideration in determining district boundaries. The commercial area north of Jackson Street was immediately excluded because it still retains great integrity as an individual district distinct from the residential area. The survey district's south boundary was Pike Street. However, because the plat extended as far south as New Street, the buildings on Perry and Brady Street south of Pike were considered for inclusion. The 600 block of S. Brady Street contains a number of historically and architecturally significant buildings, including 604 (Photo 17) and 606--both identified in the survey among "scattered sites" potentially eligible for the National Register as individual listings. Therefore, the district was extended to the south on Brady Street as far as New Street. Two other "scattered sites" were also added to the district because of their historical and architectural significance and their proximity to district boundaries: 105 W. Monroe Street and 205 E. Jackson Street. It should also be noted that brick-paved McDonald Street was separately listed in the survey as a scattered site but primarily falls within the district boundaries.

One area included in the survey's boundaries of the Brady Street district has been excluded from the district as now drawn: the west side of the 300 block of Perry Street. The two remaining residences in this block, 302 and 304, were in such an advanced state of decay that they were demolished in March 1989. Both were architecturally significant buildings, one as an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style and the other a notable example of the Italianate. Their neglect and deferred maintenance, leading to "salvage" operations that destroyed them, represents a considerable loss to the district. The condition of these two buildings is surprising in view of the fact that nearly all the homes in the district are well-maintained and in a good state of preservation.



# BRADY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

## ATTICA, INDIANA



sketch  
MASTER (FOPC)