

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Story Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Elkinsville Road at IN 135

City or town: Story State: Indiana County: Brown

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

Richard ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF
PRESERVATION SERVICES 1.18.2019

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain.) _____


Signature of the Keeper

3-11-2019

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

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Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

7

4

buildings

1

0

sites

6

0

structures

1

1

objects

15

5

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/department store _____

INDUSTRY/processing site _____

DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding _____

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel _____

COMMERCE/restaurant _____

DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

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AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD/Weatherboard

METAL/Steel

roof: METAL/Steel

other: STONE/Sandstone

WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Story Historic District in Van Buren Township, Brown County, Indiana, is an unincorporated rural village at the intersection of State Highway 135 and Elkinsville Road, the latter of which bisects the district. Encompassing approximately 15 acres, the district is 12 miles from the county seat of Nashville. Its northeastern boundary is adjacent to Brown County State Park following the Ten O'clock Treaty Line. The rural setting consists of primarily flat land rising to a small hill at the northwest corner and consists of 15 contributing resources and 5 noncontributing resources. There are 7 contributing buildings, 6 contributing structures, and 1 contributing object. The remaining acreage containing the buildings and cultivated areas constitutes a contributing

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site. There are 4 noncontributing buildings and 1 noncontributing object constructed or erected outside the period of significance.

Narrative Description

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

Over time the acreage associated with the district has fluctuated as land and buildings were bought and sold. The 173.74 acres purchased by the first Euro-American settler, Dr. George P. Story, was reduced to 73.71 acres by the time of formal founding of the village in 1882. The current approximately 15 acres outlined within the district represents the most intact combination of buildings and farmland historically associated with the district. The primary buildings face Elkinsville Road which runs northeast to southwest. One building in the south half of the district faces State Highway 135 and another building faces north toward the remainder of the district. For ease of descriptions, the building elevations will be labeled as north, south, east and west. Since the resources do not have individual address numbers, they have been numbered with corresponding letters to denote building, structure or object and its status as contributing or non-contributing. Storage sheds, a covered outdoor cooking facility, small covered bridges and garden arbors have not been included in the resource count due to their impermanent nature.

SETTING

The southern Brown County area in which Story Historic District is located is part of the Hoosier National Forest region. Originally forested, the hilly land was cleared for farming and logging for forest products. Creation of Brown County State Park and surrounding national forests have returned much of the area around Story Historic District to forest land. Some parcels of farmland remain, the largest of which is east of the district along the south side of the highway. The Middle Fork of Salt Creek borders the farmland to the south. Scattered home sites of varying eras and levels of use line the narrow two-lane roads leading to and from the district.

The Ten O'clock Treaty Line runs northwest to southeast and forms the north half of the east boundary of the district, while the west side of State Highway 135 forms the south half of the east boundary. A fence row enclosing house sites and farmland creates the south and southwest boundaries where it meets Elkinsville Road. The northwestern boundary runs along the

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remaining open land where it meets new-growth forest. Within the district open areas for gardens, orchards, pasture and parking is coupled with heavy tree cover from large deciduous trees near the historic buildings. The primarily flat land of the district becomes more rolling to the north, east and west, but flattens as it heads south to the creek bottomland. A tributary to the Middle Fork of Salt Creek meanders through the district from north to south near the east boundary. Gravel drives and parking areas are primarily accessed off Elkinsville Road, with only the south exit of the main parking area leading onto State Highway 135. Access to the buildings are either concrete and stone walkways.

RESOURCES

Wheeler-Hedrick General Store, 1916; Photos 1, 10 (center), 13 (right side through trees) and 14 (center), Building CB1

The most prominent and important building in the district is the Wheeler-Hedrick General Store. It is the second store on the site, erected in 1916 by Alra and Mary Wheeler (Figure 1.) The first store was established by Dr. Arnold S. and Emily Griffitt in 1882. The Wheelers were the third proprietors and expanded the first store building sometime between 1910 and late 1915 before it burned in November 1915. The Wheeler family owned the current store until 1922. In 1924, it was purchased by Albert Hedrick and his son, Ralph, and the family owned and operated it until 1969 (Figure 2.)

The store is a two story frame building sided with pressed metal panels with wood corner boards. The foundation is poured concrete. At the primary (south) elevation poured concrete steps of varying periods lead beneath a full-width shed roof porch. A pair of c.1937 gasoline pumps with Standard Oil glass globe crowns, are in their nearly original locations on the steps. The centered and recessed, double, wood and glass entry doors are flanked by four wood frame plate glass windows. Three evenly-spaced one-over-one wood sash windows define the second floor and two evenly-spaced wood attic louvers are above the windows. A parapet roof extends a full story above the gabled roof sheathed with corrugated metal.

On the east elevation of the building poured concrete steps provide exterior access to the basement. Attached to the building above the stairway is a new timber-frame, gabled roof. It supports a second floor balcony accessed by double glass doors. A period one-over-one wood sash window at main floor height is north of the basement stairway. Near the southeast corner of the store along Elkinsville Road, the c.1935 blade sign is in its original location. On the east side of the building between the store and mill, a c.1985 metal sculpture by a local artisan sits atop a stone wall base.

The north elevation is minimally visible and all fenestration except the two wood attic louvers has been altered. A two story, shed roof, frame kitchen and inn room addition is attached to the northwest half. A single story shed roof, frame dining room addition is attached at the northeast corner. A paved patio seating area extends from the dining area addition and an outdoor cooking area is covered with a simple timber frame roof.

Within the north half of the west elevation a single light wood entry door is accessed by an ADA-accessible ramp. Within the south half of the wall are two evenly spaced, wood frame, fixed glass windows at what is the ceiling height of the main floor interior. Three one-over-one

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wood sash windows and a single light wood door accommodate the interior inn rooms. A single story, shed roof kitchen addition is attached to the northwest corner and wraps around to the north elevation. Between the west and south entrances is a c.1920 kerosene pump with glass globe. It was originally situated at the south elevation of the store at the southwest corner and was later moved to the west side of the store.

The first floor interior retains the period 3" wide wood flooring, bead board wall paneling, metal ceiling panels and seven pendant ceiling light fixtures. The chimney breast and original wood stove are at the north wall and shelving and cabinets line the east and west walls.

Grain and Saw Mill, c.1917; Photos 2 and 14 (far right), Building CB2

The grain mill is likely at least the second such building within Story. When the general store burned in 1915, nearby outbuildings and a home also went up in flames. Thus the present building was likely constructed after the fire and construction of the new store was completed. The construction date is further established by the minimal Craftsman style exterior elements. Historical documentation coupled with the configuration of the interior suggests it served dual milling purposes, with lumber milled in the west bay and grain in the east bay.

The mill is a 1 1/2 story front gable frame building with a poured concrete foundation, double ogee profile clapboard and a corrugated metal roof. A knee bracket is on each gable end, at the roof peak and corners. The south elevation has a transomed entry door at the southeast corner. A piece of milling equipment is mounted next to the door from ground to roof height. A wide service doorway infilled with sidelights and a standard size door is at the southwest corner. Centered in the gable is a four light, wood sash hopper window. Five matching windows are on both the east and west elevations. A shed roof dormer has been added on the west side at the north corner. The north elevation is an opposite mirror of the south, with a wide doorway in the northeast half and a human-scaled doorway in the northwest half. A four light hopper window is in the gable. A semi-detached shed roof restroom addition is off the north elevation. It connects west to the addition at the rear of the store building.

Inside the east half of the building remains the fully intact 1930 belt-driven feed milling equipment by Easy Manufacturing Company.¹ Stored within the same room and said to be original to the site is a Keystone Works Corn and Hay Machine, also for grinding feed, and two scales of varying size. A past owner was told that a tractor powered the mill in its last years of operation. It is likely a stationary internal combustion engine powered the mill before that.

Machine shed, c.1935; Structure CS1

The 18' x 32' frame structure rests on a poured concrete foundation. Walls are a mixture of vertical car siding and corrugated metal. The off-set side gable roof has exposed rafter ends and is sheathed with corrugated metal. On the east side is an enclosed storage shed roof addition with an attached, open-sided shed roof storage area. Paired hinged and braced wood doors provide access on the south elevation. A flush wood door is at the northeast corner on the east elevation.

¹ <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov> Viewed 23 Mar 2017. The patent was filed 29 Jan 1929 and issued 1 Apr 1930. The inventors were C.D. Ammon and E. W. Wilcox. Interestingly, three patent numbers are imprinted on the machine, all issued in 1929. One patent number is for a land and water vehicle and the other is for a brake mechanism.

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Salvaged wood window sash have been inserted into the walls, one on the south elevation and another on the north.

Scale shed, c.1890; Photo 3 and 9 (left building), Structure CS2

The shed is a 14' x 16' frame, front gabled structure. Corner and center posts rest on wood blocks at grade, the walls are vertical boards of varying width—some up to 13 1/2" wide—and the roof is covered with V-seam metal panels. Paired, replacement vertical wood doors fill the notched corner south opening, while the notched corner north opening is without doors. A scale with a wood floor and metal frame rests on the ground inside the structure, filling most of the interior.

Hand water pump, c.1925; Object CO1

The Ward-Love Pump Company hand water pump is mounted to a round, concrete well cap on a round, raised concrete well base.

Transverse frame barn, c.1885; Photo 4 and 9 (center), Building CB3

The barn was used for agricultural purposes into the 1990s. Although altered, the barn retains its basic form. The timber frame building has a poured concrete foundation and the gabled roof is covered with flat-seam metal roofing. The south elevation is covered with vertical boards. The notched corner central passageway has replacement paired doors of diagonal boards. To either side an opening cut into the wall has paired fixed glass. Paired attic louver vents are above the doors.

The west elevation is covered with board and batten. A flat roof, open-air service bar is attached at the midpoint in the wall. On the north elevation is a covered pavilion addition close in length to the barn. The floor is a raised wood platform. Three timbers on both the east and west sides support a gabled roof placed subservient to the original structure. The exaggerated notching of the open gable end and vertical board sheathing mimic the original barn. The central passageway of the original barn remains open but has been narrowed. A fixed glass window is on either side of the passageway at second floor height. An exterior double stairway under the pavilion provides access to the second floor of the barn. The east elevation has a new shed roof service kitchen addition covered with vertical boards.

The interior of the barn has been altered to accommodate event space and use, however, much of the original timber framing remains intact and visible.

Outhouse, c.1930; Structure CS3

This outhouse originally serviced the general store and was situated north of the building. It was moved to its current location in the 1980s. The 4' x 6' shed roof structure faces north. It rests on the ground, the walls are car siding and the roof is corrugated metal. A narrow hinged door is at the northwest corner. Two individual concrete base stools with wood seats remain inside.

Hedrick House, c.1920; Photo 5, 10, (first building on left), 13 (blue gable in center through trees), and 14 (far left), Building CB4

Alra and Mary Wheeler purchased the original house on this site just prior to the fire which consumed it, the general store and several other buildings. So it is possible the current house was constructed for their son, Leonard and his wife, Ida. By 1930, the house was occupied by Ralph Hedrick, son of Albert and Susan Hedrick, and his wife, Brunell. They lived in the house for the

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next thirty years. It was a rental for many years until Cynthia Schultz and Benjamin moved their family into the house c.1985. The house was originally sided with diamond shaped asphalt shingles. The clapboard was installed c.1975 and the porch was enclosed c.1985.

The center gable cottage has a poured concrete foundation, 6" reveal clapboard siding and a corrugated metal roof. A shed roof dormer with four one-over-one, single hung wood sash windows is on either side of the gable. The entry porch on the south elevation is enclosed with screening. It connects to an addition that wraps around to the west elevation. A one-over-one wood sash window is centered in the gable. The east elevation has a single one-over-one wood window and a triple unit immediately adjacent to a sandstone chimney shaft. A single light wood door provides entrance into a shed roof addition off the north elevation.

A one-over-one wood window is in the north gable. Along the north elevation the rooflines of multiple additions are visible but are obscured by a tall privacy fence. Much of the view of the west elevation is also obscured by a privacy fence and vegetation in the side yard.

Story-Griffitt House, c.1858; Photos 6 and 13 (far left on hill through trees), Building CB5

Despite alterations over the years, close examination of the house coupled with property research reveals clues to its early construction date. Later alterations as evidenced by stylistic change can be attributed to the time periods of ownership by Dr. Arnold and Emily Griffitt and Icel and Chloe Carmichael.

From Elkinsville Road up the hill to the house are original large, rough stone steps infilled with some concrete replacements. A stone walkway, nearly overgrown with grass, continues around the east side of the house to the back door. The three bay center hall I-house has a stone foundation, 4" reveal clapboard, and corrugated metal roofing with a metal ridge cap over wood shingles. The plain rafter ends are exposed. The south elevation porch has replacement turned posts, spindle railing and flooring. A centered, single light wood door with bulls-eye corner surround and decorative lower panel is at both first and second floor level. The windows to either side are four-over-four light wood sash with plain narrow trim. However, c.1930 the first floor west window was removed and the wall enlarged to accommodate a three-bay breakfast nook. The clapboard siding of the bay has metal corner caps. A centered three-over-one window has a two-over one window to either side. A pair of two-over one windows is in the east wall facing the porch.

The east elevation of the original house has a centered four-over-four window at both the first and second floor. To the north a c.1930 single story shed roof addition has car siding and three evenly spaced one-over-one wood windows. The addition was attached to a c.1890 two story wing to the original house which displays Queen Anne style elements. The siding is chamfered wood and the rafter ends are decorative. There are two four-over-four wood windows, taller than those of the original house, that have plain board trim with bulls-eye corner blocks. The north elevation has a new four light wood door accessing the shed roof addition. The two windows at the second floor of the wing are more recent and are fixed panes of stained glass.

The west elevation has a raised, shed roof porch at the northwest corner of the wing. The floor, entry posts and railing are more recent and support the original wide board ceiling with exposed rafters. An original chamfered pilaster is at the northeast corner and the V-groove, arrow-cut band board is original. A single light wood door is in the north half of the first floor wall and a

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four-over-four window is in the south half. A c.1930 shed roof bathroom addition is to the south of the window. It has a concrete block foundation, clapboard with metal corner caps and a centered window infilled with glass block. The second floor of the wing has two windows matching those of the east elevation. The original house has a more recent, exposed shaft brick chimney and one four-over-four wood window at the second floor to the south of the chimney. A pair of two-over-one windows is in the bay.

The first floor interior retains the 3 1/4" painted wood floors, plain 5 1/2" high baseboards, and 5" wide beaded-edge ceiling boards. A Tudor arch doorway dividing the two primary rooms retains the unfinished and paired period wood doors. An Art Deco style, flush mounted ceiling fixture with exposed bulbs is in each room. A 1930s-era paneled wood door at the north wall has three layers of plain casing with bulls-eye corner blocks.

Horse stable, c.1880; Structure CS4

Across Elkinsville Road from the Story-Griffitt House, the stable is a small, wide front gable frame structure. It rests on the ground, the walls are vertical boards and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The notched corner opening on the north elevation has been modified with a narrowing of the opening, and a pair of half-height hinged doors have been installed. A pent roof spans the facade.

West of the stable structure the land transitions to a sloping, grassy hill planted with fruit trees.

Carriage shed, c.1880; Structure CS5

Very closely adjacent and east of the stable, the carriage shed is more narrow in width. The front gable structure rests on the ground, has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A pair of vertical board doors are on the north elevation and a pent roof spans the facade. To the east of the shed and directly across Elkinsville Road from the steps to the Story-Griffitt House, a small wooded area is the former location of the doctor's office.

Pruitt House, c.1976; Photo 11 and 13 (far left), Building NCB1

The house was built for Jim and Ann Pruitt on the site of Lizzie Wilkerson's log house, which burned a few years after her death. The current house was first rented and then purchased by Cynthia Schultz and her husband, Benjamin, around 1985 and became their family home for a time before its conversion to inn accommodations.

The T-plan house has a concrete block foundation, board and batten siding and corrugated metal roofing. Windows are single or paired one-over-one wood sash except for the picture window groupings, one on the north elevation and one on the south elevation of the west gable. At the north gable end a single light wood door is accessed by a small porch with an at-grade poured concrete floor, wood posts and railing, and gabled roof. A four light wood door in the west gable end is covered with a bracketed and gabled awning.

Horse barn, 2015; Photo 11 (center) Building NCB2

Unlike a historical counterpart that may have accommodated a hay loft, the gabled barn is comparable in height and dimension to a small single story house. It sits at grade, the walls are narrow vertical boards with horizontal boards in the gables, and the roof is corrugated metal. Pass-thru sliding doors are on the east and west elevations, and a human-scaled braced door is on

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the south elevation. Two paired, hinged stall windows are on the north elevation and a single stall window is on the south elevation.

Horse fencing connects to the west side of the barn and encloses the pasture which extends west and south. Beyond the pasture the remainder of the district is cultivated field.

Wheeler-Hedrick House, 1894; Photos 7 and 13 (center), Building CB6

The house was constructed in 1894 by Charles Fulks but only four years later it was the home of Alra and Mary Wheeler (Figure 3.) The Wheeler family lived in the house until 1922. It was purchased by Albert and Susan Hedrick in 1924 and the family occupied it until 1969.

The south gable of the T-plan, Queen Anne-style house was extended c.1915. Later shed roof additions were added to either side of the south gable end, c.1930 on the east and c.1950 on the west. The foundation is concrete block, the siding is 4" reveal clapboard, and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The windows in the original house are one-over-one replacement wood sash except for the original one-over-one wood sash window in the east gable. The trim is plain boards with a beaded drip cap. The water board is 8" high, the corner boards have a beaded edge, and the east, north and west gables have scroll work with a drop pendant. The original brick chimneys were removed and replaced with a single metal exhaust pipe near the gable cross. The north gable has a three-bay window supported by a rubble stone foundation.

The shed roof porch on the east elevation has a poured concrete floor, clapboard outer wall with square posts and later applied ornament. Original turned pilasters remain at the outer corners and the V-groove, arrow-cut band board is original. Accessed from the porch are two single light Queen Anne style wood doors with bulls-eye trim around the glass and paired vertical panels below. In addition to the original window in the east gable, the addition has a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows facing east and a single window facing north. The wall of the east addition is car siding.

The south gable end is accessed by a raised wood deck. The siding of the early gable extension is double ogee and has a single light wood door. The siding of the later shed roof addition is clapboard with a pair of narrow, fixed light windows. The west elevation of the addition has a picture window with sidelights and a one-over-one wood window that replaced a door opening. A window is in the west gable of the original house and another is in the west wall of the north gable.

Outhouse, c.1920; Photo 13 (between Pruitt house and Wheeler-Hedrick house), Structure CS6

The 4' x 5' structure is southwest of the Wheeler-Hedrick House and faces north. It rests on the ground, has vertical board siding and a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. A narrow hinged door is on the north elevation. A wood seat with two holes is inside.

Limestone sculpture, 1990s; Photo 14, Object NCO1

The sculpture depicting images from Story's history is east of the Wheeler-Hedrick House at the intersection of Elkinsville Road and State Highway 135. The carving was accomplished over a period of time by Bill Galloway while Story Inn was owned by Cynthia Schultz and Benjamin. The hardscape plaza surrounding the sculpture was added under current ownership of the inn.

Woodworking workshop, c.1970; Photo 13 (far left), Building NCB3

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The workshop is situated north to south on a poured concrete foundation. The siding is split edge planks and the skylight roof is covered with corrugated metal. The north elevation fenestration was originally a sliding workshop door, now infilled with a human-scale door with sidelights. The west elevation has a metal entrance door, a picture window and two one-over-one wood sash windows. A door on the south elevation accesses a raised deck.

The open land south of the workshop and north of the raised bed edibles garden was the location of Story School.

Ayres House, c.1930; Photo 8 and 12 (left side), Building CB7

Mick Ayres, one of the last children born in Story, grew up in this house. His parents continued to reside in the house until they moved to a newer residence just outside the district. Mick's maternal grandparents were Grover and Lizzie Wilkerson.

The side gable house faces northwest toward State Highway 135 but is set back at a distance from the road with the tributary to the Middle Fork of Salt Creek running between the house and the road. Small in size, the house displays minimal elements of the Craftsman style. The foundation is concrete block, the siding is aluminum, and the roof is flat seam metal. A sandstone exterior chimney is on the south gable end and a gabled addition extends off the north gable.

On the east elevation, a single light, period wood door is in the north half of the main house and a pair of three-over-one wood sash windows are in the south half. The addition has a smaller pair of three-over-one wood windows, a horizontal three-light wood door, and a single three-over-one wood window. A shed roof porch with a wood floor just above grade and wood posts covers the door and paired windows of the main house. A similar porch with a flat roof covers the door and single window in the addition.

Two evenly-spaced, single three-over-one wood sash windows are in the south elevation and a fixed glass window has been inserted between them. The west elevation has two evenly-spaced single, three-over-one wood sash windows in the main house with a glass block window inserted between them, and a one-over-one wood sash window is in the addition. Two fixed glass picture windows are in the north gable end of the addition.

Workshop barn, c.1988; Photo 12 (center), Building NCB4

The workshop replaced a deteriorated barn on the site which was originally associated with the Ayres house. The front gable building is sited north to south and was constructed to resemble a small barn for workshop use by Storyville Builders.

The foundation is poured concrete, the siding is board and batten with split edge planks in the gables, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A wood cupola is at the center of the roof. The north elevation has an off-center nine-light metal door and a small one-over-one wood sash window far to either side. A one-over-one vinyl sash window is in the gable. A shed roof supported by three heavy timbers covers the entryway. Two one-over-one vinyl sash windows are in the east elevation. The west and south elevations are not visible due to fence enclosures.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

☒

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

☐

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

☐

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

☐

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

Criteria Considerations

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

☐

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

☐

B. Removed from its original location

☐

C. A birthplace or grave

☐

D. A cemetery

☐

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐

F. A commemorative property

☐

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1858-1940

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

N/A

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Period of Significance (justification)

The Exploration/Settlement period of significance encompasses the time frame in which Dr. George P. Story and his family established the earliest known Euro-American settlement at the current location of Story, locally referred to as Storyville. Between no later than 1858 through 1881, the area included at least several farms and homes, a doctor's office, school and a grist mill. The Commerce and Industry period of significance begins with formal establishment of Story with a post office in 1882. A general store, church, saw mill, blacksmith shop and slaughterhouse were established in addition to the entities present during the Story family's occupation. The period of significance concludes at the end of the 1930s, the last decade in which the village was significantly economically viable to the surrounding region. Throughout the period of significance Agriculture played an important role in the daily lives of those living in or near Story, whether as a sole occupation or secondary occupation, or as a contributing part of the Commerce and Industry within the district.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Story Historic District in Van Buren Township, Brown County, Indiana, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criterion A. During the early 1850s, Dr. George P. Story and his family settled on 173 acres which encompassed the current 15 acres that comprises Story Historic District. Family farms, the doctor's medical practice, a township school and a grist mill were established over the following ten to fifteen years, prompting local reference to the area as Storyville. Formal creation of the village of Story occurred in 1882, when Dr. Arnold S. Griffitt continued operation of the medical practice and farming operations, and established a dry goods store that housed the first post office. The village's first church congregation was also founded. During the 1890s, the small subsistence businesses became more established at Story, homes were constructed on smaller parcels, and the village increasingly became a communal center for the surrounding rural community. Growth

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of the general store during the early part of the 20th century coupled with decreasing commerce and populations at similar Van Buren Township villages, established Story as a significant commercial center for the surrounding area. However, as access to Story became severely limited with the 1929 opening of Brown County State Park and later the 1960 construction of Monroe Reservoir in Monroe County, the village experienced a marked decline during the latter part of the 20th century. Under Criterion A, the district represents the founding, development and growth of a typical unincorporated rural Indiana village, as well as the development and growth of small subsistence businesses associated with a rural village. With its intact group of buildings, Story is the remaining example of an unincorporated rural village in Van Buren Township and one of the few in Brown County.

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

The Story Historic District in Brown County, Indiana, meets Criterion A under Exploration/Settlement for its representation of a typical rural Indiana village through its founding, development and growth beginning in the early 1850s. It also meets Criterion A under both Commerce and Industry for its development and growth of small subsistence businesses associated with a rural village. Within Van Buren Township of Brown County, Indiana, Story was one of the later surviving locations of commerce supported by a store. Today it is the only surviving intact group of commercial and residential buildings within Van Buren Township representative of the many small rural villages that once dotted the county.

Exploration/Settlement

Sometime between 1851 and 1855, Dr. George P. Story with his wife, Jane, and three sons moved from Ohio to Van Buren Township, Brown County, Indiana, and settled on 173 acres of land that would eventually encompass what would become Story and its surrounding environs.² Dr. Story established himself as a farmer and physician within the rural community and also served as the postmaster at the nearest village,

² Brown County, Indiana. Tax Duplicates, 1848-49, 1851, 1958-59. Original documents, Brown County Historical Society.

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Christiansburg, from 1860 until 1879.³ As they came of age and married, his sons David, Enoch, and George A., established themselves as farmers nearby on land originally owned by their father.⁴

As early as 1859 the improvement values for Dr. Story's land south of the Ten O'clock Treaty Line, called the Indian Boundary Line in land records, reflect a high dollar amount. This indicates a considerable number of buildings were present and that Dr. Story, with his son's involvement, was farming in addition to serving as a physician. The high improvement value remained in place through the time the property was sold to John Noblet in 1882. One of the buildings included Dr. Story's home and evidence indicates the I-house on the hill west of the store was built c.1858 (Photo 6.)⁵ Local sources indicate the small c.1875 doctor's office across the road from the house [no longer extant] was originally that of Dr. Story's.⁶ Two remaining small structures immediately adjacent, a stable and a carriage shed, lend credence to this history.⁷ Another building reflected in the improvement values was likely an 1870s-era grist mill owned by Dr. Story and operated by Samuel Fulks, Sr.⁸ However, there is no known record as to

³ Clipping file, Story, Brown County Historical Society. Per copy of email sent 27 May 2001 referencing Baker, Ronald L. *From Needmore to Prosperity, Hoosier Place Names in Folklore & History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995. And Clipping file, Towns and Communities, number 1, Brown County Historical Society. At the time of Dr. Story's service the post office was called Valley Hill.

⁴ Brown County, Indiana. Tax Duplicates. There are several missing years of records. However, the tax records show that by 1858, David S. Story owned a parcel originally purchased by his father in the land grant. By 1864, Enoch Story owned two parcels previously owned by his father. And by 1875, George A. Story owned another parcel previously owned by his father.

⁵ Tax duplicate information combined with structural evidence and clippings files information lends to this hypothesis.

⁶ Ayers, Helen C. *The Stuff of Legends: Tales of Van Buren Township of Brown County's People*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2006. pg. 31. A photograph is identified as what remains of "old Doc Story's office in Story." Brunell Hedrick, wife of Ralph whose family owned the store in the 1920s, said her grandmother worked for Dr. Story and then Dr. Griffitt. This would be a more likely scenario in an office setting. Dr. Story did not leave Brown County until the early 1880s so the structures more than likely date from the late 1870s. Also *Brown County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Site and Structures Inventory*. 1995. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. p. 71, resource number 013-614-15053. At the time of the survey the doctor's office was still extant and the outbuildings were identified as a buggy barn, shed and garage. The structure then labeled as a barn is also no longer present.

⁷ Clipping file, Story. Oral history with Benjamin Kelley, 7/26/1980. Benjamin R. Kelley was a long-time resident of Brown County who owned the store with John R. Morrison and served as the Story postmaster from 1922-1924. Kelley indicates that Dr. Griffitt's office was behind the store. Kelley also stated the store originally faced in the opposite direction from the current building. The Map of Brown County from 1874 shows additional roads behind the buildings now within Story prior to creation of Brown County State Park in the 1930s. Thus Kelley's statement is plausible. Likewise, if the original store building faced the opposite direction, the doctor office would have then been "behind" it. Historic photographs of the pre-1916 store building don't lend enough conclusive evidence either way.

⁸ The 1880 census indicates Samuel Fulks and his family lived near Dr. Story while Fulks was engaged as a mill rite. However, he does not appear in the tax duplicates as owning property that can be associated with a specific mill. He does not appear as a mill rite prior to the 1880 census nor does anyone else in the vicinity. Thus the grist mill was likely established during the 1870s. His son, Willard, who later became a miller, had associations with both Story and Stone Head Mill, thus his father may have had these same associations. A 1980s oral history interview with Benjamin R. Kelley, owner of the Story General Store in the early 1920s, indicates that there had been an early grist mill that burned, washed away or was torn down prior to the current building and machinery.

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the size and exact location of the mill. Fulks' appearance in the 1880 census as a millwright living in close proximity to Dr. Story is the first indication of a grist mill being established in Story. By 1850 there were seven township school districts and sometime prior to 1876 a school was constructed near what would become Story.⁹ The collection of Story family houses, farm buildings, medical office structures, grist mill and township school all present by c.1875 likely led to early reference of the area as Storyville.¹⁰

Since a post office was not established at Story until after the Story family had left Brown County, it can't be said that either Dr. George P. Story or his sons formally established what is now the village of Story. However, the family's legacy to the local community was significant enough to warrant the naming of the post office as Story even though the family had left the state by that time.

Commerce and Industry

After he mustered out of Civil War service in 1865, David S. Story established a dry goods store in the southern Van Buren Township community of Buffalo.¹¹ This is the only concrete information to date regarding members of the Story family having been engaged in operation of a store. It was not until Dr. Arnold Shell Griffitt moved to the land formerly owned by the Story family that formal creation of the village of Story and the earliest operation of a dry goods store can be definitively established.¹²

On May 25, 1882, a post office was created for the first time under the name of Story with Dr. Griffitt's wife, Emma (Ralph) Taggart Griffitt, serving as postmaster.¹³ Two years later Dr. Griffitt is recorded as "selling goods, serving as postmaster and notary public at Story, as well as medical practitioner."¹⁴ The Griffitts likely lived in Dr. Story's former home and Dr. Griffitt set up his medical practice in Dr. Story's former office.¹⁵ During this era the first known church,

⁹ *Map of Brown County, Indiana*. Reprinted from *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana*. Chicago: Baskin, Forster & Co., 1876. A school was likely constructed well before 1876, however, no documentation has been found to date that provides a more definitive time frame.

¹⁰ Clipping file, Towns and Communities, Brown County Historical Society. "Brown County Villages Past and Present." Gladys E. Ralph, 1929. Typewritten transcription by archivist Dorothy Bailey, Brown County Historical Society, 1974, from original manuscript for "Hoosier Magazine." To date, use of the name Storyville does not appear in print until the 1920s, and then only sporadically. But Ralph's account from 1929 states it was an early name for the village and one "still used by old timers."

¹¹ Brown County Tax Duplicates, 1876-77. Also Year: 1870; Census Place: Van Buren, Brown, Indiana; Roll: M593_301; Page: 363B; Image: 5544; Family History Library Film: 545800. www.ancestry.com Viewed 9 Jan 2017. Also "Down In The Hills O' Brown County." *The Indianapolis Star*. 20 Jan 1952. Clipping files, Towns and Communities, Miscellaneous, Brown County Historical Society, copy from Hohenberger Manuscripts, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University.

¹² Baker, Ronald L. and Marvin Carmony. *Indiana Place Names*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1975. pg. 159. The authors state the village was once known as Storyville but relate that it was a local anecdote referencing storytelling and that there was "only a general store" there at the time of the name's use. When a post office was established in the village it was under the name Story.

¹³ Clipping file, Towns and Communities. Brown County Historical Society.

¹⁴ Blanchard, Charles, Editor. *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana: Historical and Biographical*. Chicago, IL: F.A. Battey & Co., 1884. pg. 795.

¹⁵ The Queen Anne style, two-story rear wing of the house is attributed to Dr. Arnold Griffitt and his wife, Emma, who owned and occupied the home from 1886 until 1898.

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Story New Light Church, was founded in the community.¹⁶ The congregation met in the schoolhouse and remained active for only four or five years.

Between 1889 and 1898, Dr. Griffitt began selling portions of his acreage encompassing the village. The 3 acres that included the store and post office were first sold in 1889 to Phillip King and Horace Taggart, the latter of whom sold out to King who then sold the store to Willard Fulks in October 1890.¹⁷ Fulks became the postmaster in May 1893.¹⁸ In 1895, Willard and Sarah Fulks deeded 3/8 acre to Van Buren Township for the school grounds.¹⁹ Willard's brother, Charles, owned a very small parcel with a high improvement value, likely a house, and worked as the grist mill engineer.²⁰ The mill operation included a small structure housing a drive-through scale which is still in existence (Photo 3 and 9, on left.) Meanwhile, their brother, Samuel Fulks, Jr., was living and farming nearby in Johnson Township while also operating a saw mill, likely located in Story.²¹ Previously written narratives indicate Story also had a blacksmith shop and a slaughterhouse, both of which were commonly found in small rural villages. However, no clear evidence has yet surfaced to establish either a time frame or location for the operations within Story. By 1920, Samuel Fulks, Jr. was living in Van Buren Township while operating the saw mill.²² In 1896, Nancy Ogle deeded a small parcel to the trustees of Story Methodist Episcopal

¹⁶ Anthony, Cloyd. "Early Churches in Van Buren Township, Brown County, Indiana." Brown County Genealogical Society, 1997. pg. 3.

¹⁷ *Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. And *Brown County, Indiana; Marriage Records 1853-1901, Books 2-4, Books 2 - 6; Part I Index of Grooms, Part II Index of Brides Com*; Book: 4; Page: 541. www.ancestry.com Both viewed 22 Feb 2017. Willard Fulks was born in Indiana on 9 Nov 1856, to Samuel Fulks and Minerva Gardner Fulks. He married Sarah Louisa Carmichael on 25 Mar 1883, in Brown County, Indiana. She was born 21 Feb 1858, to Andrew Carmichael and Mary Waggoner Carmichael. Sarah died 14 Jul 1911, at their home in Stone Head and was buried in Christiansburg Cemetery.

¹⁸ Additional acreage was sold to Thomas H. Brown who sold 3 acres to Elisha Brown in 1902 and 67 acres to James Sullivan in 1905. Sullivan sold his land to Thomas C. and Sina Ayers in 1909. The Ayers sold the land to William Anthony in 1910. Additional land owners in the vicinity included George L. Carmichael, Samuel Folks, Sr., A.M. Noblet, Thomas L. Ping, and John M. Plummer.

¹⁹ Brown County Abstract Company. Original abstract of title. Story Inn, Story, Indiana. The land conveyance by the Fulks indicates the location of the school may have changed, perhaps at the time a new building was constructed. The land was conveyed to the private ownership of Clarence and Stella Davis in 1953, and then Lizzie Wilkerson in 1954.

²⁰ Year: 1900; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 361; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 0028; FHL microfilm: 1240361. www.ancestry.com Viewed 10 Jan 2017. Charles Fulks first appears in the 1895 tax duplicates indicating his house was constructed in 1894. The researcher hypothesizes that the current Queen Anne style T-plan house in Story was that of Charles Fulks and his family. The Fulks only lived in the house until 1898, at which time Alra and Mary Wheeler moved in.

²¹ Year: 1900; Census Place: *Johnson, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 361; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 0027; FHL microfilm: 1240361. www.ancestry.com Viewed 24 Feb 2017. One nearby neighbor of Samuel Fulks, Jr. was working as a blacksmith in a custom repair shop while another worked as a grist mill laborer. Given the distance between Story and Elkinsville, it is probable the neighbors were working in Story.

²² Year: 1930; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 574; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 0004; Image: 483.0; FHL microfilm: 2340309. www.ancestry.com Viewed 24 Feb 2017. Samuel is widowed and living with his daughter, Lena, and her family. She was married to William Hedrick who was a grain farmer.

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Church.²³ Dr. Griffitt, who sold his last parcels and left the village in 1898, was the last physician associated with Story.

Alra Wheeler began working for Willard Fulks in the Story dry goods store sometime during the 1890s. In 1898, Alra and his wife, Mary, moved into the Queen Anne style home across from the store (Photo 7 and Figure 3.) On March 10, 1900, Alra and his father-in-law, Thomas N. Floyd, purchased the store and grist mill with Thomas selling his share to Wheeler in 1905. Alra was appointed the postmaster in 1913 and Mary supplied the store with millinery goods she produced in their home.²⁴ In 1915, the Wheelers purchased an additional 3 1/3 acres of land in Story and two years later they conveyed a portion of their land to a new church congregation.²⁵

Sometime between 1911 and late 1915, the Wheelers expanded the store with an addition on the west side. At this point advertising indicates the store was a distributor of Weber Wagons in addition to the Selz Royal Blue Shoes they had been selling.²⁶ Early clerks included Tom Ayers, who also taught at the school, Sherman Meeks, and George W. Anthony.²⁷ A huckster wagon driver for the store was Van Sullivan.²⁸

On November 18, 1915, the general store burned.²⁹ It was a total loss that also consumed a small house and outbuildings nearby. Following the fire, one report claimed of Wheeler's store that

²³ Anthony, pg. 3. The author indicates the conveyance can be found in Brown County, Indiana, Deed Book 18, page 76 with the trustees listed as William T. Carmichael, Wilson Harden and Willard Fulks. The author knew both Carmichael and Fulks. He did not remember a building having been present but stated others told him there was one. The conveyance of land indicates a building was at least intended to be built. There is no clear indication as to the conclusion of the congregation or land. And Ayers, pg. 79-81 and 103-104. Nancy Ogle was the mother of Lizzie Ogle Wilkerson and Flora "Toy" Ogle Robertson. In her later years, Lizzie lived in the house in Story on the location of Jim and Ann Pruitt's house, built in the 1970s after Lizzie's home burned several years after her death. Flora's son, Sherman, married Clotha Hedrick after her mother's death in 1964.

²⁴ During the time of ownership transition of the Story general store and other properties owned by Willard Fulks, local resident Winfield S. Noblet was appointed postmaster 10 Nov 1897. Also 1900 Census, www.ancestry.com Viewed 9 Jan 2017.

²⁵ Original abstract. It is unclear what transpired with the Story M.E. Church land; it is possible the land and building were one and the same. The trustees of the new church, Union Church of Story, were Albert Hedrick, Henry Brown, Samuel E. Hatton, L. N. Carmichael and William T. Anthony. The land was later conveyed to Albert Hedrick via a reversion clause and the building was removed by 1950.

²⁶ Examination of historic photographs owned by Story Inn show the expansion of the earlier building. This is most noticeable in the changes to the entrance porch and parapet roof.

²⁷ The original abstract indicates Anthony's brother, William, purchased the 67 acres from Thomas and Sina Ayers on 1 Sep 1910. George W. Anthony was born in 1874 in Van Buren Township, lived in Story until 1947, and died in 1984. The clipping files for Story at the Brown County Historical Society include a 1980 interview with him.

²⁸ Year: 1910; Census Place: Van Buren, Brown, Indiana; Roll: T624_340; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 0034; FHL microfilm: 1374353. www.ancestry.com Viewed 17 Jan 2017. And Bailey, Dorothy Birney, editor. *Brown County Remembers*. Indiana: Revere Press, 1986. pg. 267. Sophia Lucas Vossmeier, born 1893, in Johnson Township, recalled the huckster wagons, or peddlers, of 1890-1900. She said his "starting point was Storyville, now called Story" and that Van Sullivan was the driver. Sullivan also appears in the census records of Van Buren Township within the vicinity of Story with his occupation listed as "wagon driver." He also appears with the Wheeler family in the photo taken in front of their home. (Story Inn)

²⁹ "Alra Wheeler's Store Reduced to Ashes." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 18 Nov 1915, pg. 5; www.newspapers.com, Viewed 31 Jan 2017.

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“his stock was one of the largest in the county.”³⁰ The setback was short lived, however, as a new, two-story store building was soon constructed and business continued to be successful for the Wheelers (Photo 1 and Figure 1.) The store supplied several huckster wagons that traveled the region each week and the business included operation of the grain mill. Oral interviews claim the store served as the wool-buying center for the county, with Wheeler taking the wool to mills in Seymour, Indiana, and that it employed six full time employees. Two of these employees included Mary Wheeler and the Wheeler’s grown son, James Leonard, both of whom were clerks in the store.³¹ Leonard also assisted with the grain mill while the saw mill was operated by Samuel Fulks, Jr. In 1920, Alra Wheeler purchased the flour mill owned by Willard Fulks in Stone Head and re-named it “Wheeler and Son Stone Head Mill.”³² Leonard and Ida Wheeler moved to the mill to oversee the operation.³³

Two early sources indicate a second store was opened across the street from the current store building and operated until c.1930. One of the sources from 1929 states, “the village is now a prosperous little town containing two stores, a non-denominational church, school, and several residences in the midst of fertile farming land.”³⁴ Although the exact location of the store is not clear, the 1920 and 1930 census does lend additional details to the story. The 1920 census shows a nearby neighbor of the Wheelers, James Mathis, as a general store merchant of his “own account,” meaning he owned the business. The 1930 census list James Hamblen in the same role. He also operated a huckster truck between 1924 and 1932. The signage on the truck was *Hamblen’s Store At Your Door. Dry Goods - Groceries - Notions. Story, Ind.*³⁵

Alra Wheeler died in 1921 and Mary Wheeler took over as postmaster. That same year the surrounding 67 acres originally owned by the Story family was conveyed from William and Effie Anthony to Otto K. Carmichael, whose descendants would continue to own the property into the 1970s.³⁶ In January 1922, Mary Wheeler and her son sold the general store and associated business buildings, about 6 acres total, to John S. Morrison. He operated the store with his son-

³⁰ “One Pair of Shoes All That Is Saved From \$18,000 Fire.” *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 25 Nov 1915, pg. 5; www.newspapers.com, Viewed 31 Jan 2017.

³¹ Year: 1920; Census Place: Van Buren, Brown, Indiana; Roll: T625_424; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 29; Image: 687. www.ancestry.com Viewed 12 Jan 2017.

³² “Local Brevities.” *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 18 Mar 1920, pg. 1. www.newspapers.com, Viewed 31 Jan 2017.

³³ “Poultry Culling Demonstrations.” *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 20 Jul 1922, pg. 1. www.newspapers.com, Viewed 21 Jan 2017. The brief article states the demonstrations will “be at the home of J.L. Wheeler (Stone Head Mill).” Ida Newmister Wheeler was the daughter of William H. Newmister, born in Stone Head in 1863.

³⁴ Ralph, “Brown County Villages Past and Present.”

³⁵ Benjamin. *A Family Almanac: The Ancestors of Benjamin Price, Jr. and Helen Craft and the Times in Which They Lived*. Self-published, printed by Metropolitan Printing Company, Bloomington, IN, 2016. pg. 208.

³⁶ Original abstract. Otto Carmichael died in 1942 and his wife and six of his children conveyed the land to son, Icel. He and his wife, Chloe, deeded 1.7 acres to the State of Indiana in 1964 as part of Brown County State Park. The remaining land was conveyed to their daughter, Lillian Maxine Carmichael Fleetwood, in 1975. Also Ayers, Helen C. *The Stuff of Legends: Tales of Van Buren Township of Brown County’s People*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2006. pg. 112 — Icel and Chloe Carmichael lived in the Story-Griffitt House on the hill. And Plat Books of Indiana Counties, Volume 1, pg. 91 <http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/cdm/ref/collection/IndianaPlat/id/2334> Viewed 3 Mar 2017. The map indicates the land east of the village was owned by members of the Noblet family.

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in-law, Benjamin Richard Kelley, who was named postmaster in March and served in the position until the post office closed in May 1924.³⁷ By the time Morrison and Kelley took over operation of the store, advertising prominently indicates that DeLaval Cream Separators were sold and a gravity fed kerosene pump had been installed along the road at the main elevation. The year after purchasing the store Morrison and Kelley had it painted by John E. Taggart of Nashville.³⁸ In February 1924, Albert (Pink) and Susan Hedrick purchased the general store, saw mill, the Wheeler home and a small amount of additional land surrounding the buildings.

The Hedricks purchased the store and associated businesses in partnership with their oldest son, Ralph, and the store was re-named Hedrick & Son Grocery (Photo 1 and Figure 2.) The 1920s into the 1930s were the busiest years for the general store and its associated operations during the Hedrick family ownership. The store sold a wide assortment of necessities including farm equipment, clothing, shoes, local produce and meat. A March 1924 ad shows the store was one of only a handful of Brown County locations offering Certified Seed Potatoes.³⁹ Meat sold in the store was also processed onsite, with thirty-five hogs butchered in one year alone. By 1930, Ralph and his wife, Brunell, and their young son, Robert, were living in the c.1920 house immediately adjacent to the store (Photo 5 and 14, far left.)⁴⁰ Among other duties, Ralph was operating the saw and feed mills and his youngest sister, Clotha, was a sales person in the store. She became known for her pickled bologna.⁴¹

It is unclear when the grain mill ceased operation, however, the 1930 feed grinding machine in the mill building indicates the Hedricks were still grinding grain through the decade. But like many others, they had switched from grinding flour to grinding feed. The post office at Story closed in 1924. The Hedrick's continued to operate the saw mill at least through the 1930s. Accounts indicate that by the 1920s and into the 1930s, the non-denominational church did not have a regular minister.⁴² Use of the building ceased during the 1940s, the land reverted to ownership by the Hedrick's, and the building was removed by 1950. By 1953, the school had

³⁷ *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. www.ancestry.com Viewed 13 Jan 2017. Also Year: 1930; Census Place: *Bloomington, Monroe, Indiana*; Roll: 619; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 0027; Image: 124.0; FHL microfilm: 2340354. www.ancestry.com Viewed 13 Jan 2017. The sources indicate James Leonard Wheeler and his family moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1923 where they owned and operated a grocery store during the 1920s and 30s.

³⁸ "Story." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 23 Aug 1923, pg. 1. www.newspapers.com, Viewed 3 Feb 2017. Also Hofstetter, Rick and Jane Ammeson. *Images of America: Brown County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010, pg. 29-30, 33, 35. Two photographs of the store during the Wheeler's ownership appear to have been taken soon after the new building was constructed as the front porch has not yet been added. The exterior metal wall panels also appear much lighter in color allowing the brick pattern to be visible, as opposed to photos taken later during the Morrison and Kelley years. There is also not yet any signage on the building indicating the name of the proprietor and location of the store.

³⁹ "Story." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 27 Mar 1924, pg. 6. www.newspapers.com Viewed 3 Feb 2017.

⁴⁰ 1930 Census www.ancestry.com Viewed 24 Feb 2017. Brunell Hedrick's parents were Charles H. Moore and Cora Deaver. The "grandmother Deaver" who worked for Drs. Story and Griffitt would have been her mother's mother.

⁴¹ Reed, Richard F., "Brown County Folks." Brown County Genealogical Society, 1995. pg. 66-68, from original printing in *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 3 Jul 1974.

⁴² "Story." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 23 Aug 1923, pg. 1 and "Story." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 17 Nov 1938, pg. 2. www.newspapers.com Viewed 3 Feb 2017.

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consolidated and the small parcel of land was also deeded to private ownership. The building was removed and converted into a store five miles from Story.

When Albert Hedrick died in 1940, his will conveyed to his wife, Susan, and son, Ralph, half interest each in the acreage which included the general store and saw mill. Susan was given full interest in the Wheeler house where she and Clotha still resided.⁴³ With creation of Brown County State Park immediately north of Story in the late 1920s, and later Monroe Reservoir in the late 1950s which closed the road west through Elkinsville and on to Bloomington, road access to Story became very limited. Many local residents and former customers were also displaced by both projects. Commerce at the general store slowly diminished, beginning in the later 1930s but particularly in the decades following. Clotha operated the store until 1969, installing a lunch counter to serve park visitors and passing motorists, and operating the only fuel service for the surrounding area.⁴⁴

In 1969, Albert and Susan Hedrick's family sold a 4.33 acre parcel containing the store and associated buildings to three couples—H.C. and Geraldine Hatton, James and June Hatton, and Morris C. and Eva Stutz. In 1976, the village was purchased by Lutz Schulz and associated newspaper accounts provide early glimpses of various building renovations and new construction that had been taking place in Story during the 1960s and into the 1970s.⁴⁵ However, throughout the period the general store continued some degree of operation. In 1978, just over 4 acres of land containing the store and several other buildings was sold to Cynthia Shultz and her husband, Benjamin. Over the following 14 years, with the acquisition of additional buildings and land that eventually totaled around 23 acres, they undertook the collective remodeling of the village into its current operation as Story Inn and Restaurant.

Agriculture

Beginning with settlement of what became Story Historic District by the Story family, agriculture played a significant role in the daily lives of the area inhabitants. The sizable amount of land and resources owned by Dr. George P. Story indicates he was farming in addition to serving as a physician. Between 1858 and 1875, his three sons also appear as farmers on land originally purchased by their father. The census indicates most others who were living in close

⁴³ Original abstract. Albert Hedrick's will, written a month before his death, indicated he was operating what was known as the George Roush farm, the saw mill and the grocery store. Also <http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/cdm/ref/collection/IndianaPlat/id/2334> Viewed 3 Mar 17. The G. Roush farm appears on the 1920 Plat Map as within Sections 21 and 22 of Van Buren Township. It became Ralph and Brunell Hedrick's primary focus by the 1960s.

⁴⁴ Ayers, pg. 70-80. Locally, operation of the store is now most closely associated with Clotha Hedrick Robertson, known as Clothie. The hand water pump once near the exterior southwest corner of the building provided water to motorists and others, the Standard Service gasoline pumps provided fuel to the surrounding area, and Clothie became known for her pickled bologna. Her lunch counter consisted of chili and simple cheese or peanut butter sandwiches. By the 1960s, most of what was in the store was old and out of style

⁴⁵ Clipping file, "Story." Brown County Historical Society. From *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 16 Aug 1978. And Ayers, pg. 88-104. The store, nearby house, feed mill, some outbuildings and 4 1/3 acres of land were being sold. During his ownership Schulz had renovated the buildings including the "old peg barn." The David C. Mosiers had renovated the Dr. Story house, the Phillip Browns had renovated the Wheeler house, and the Ayers constructed a home for Jim and Ann Pruitt (now called Schultz House) on the site of Lizzie Wilkerson's house, which burned several years after her death.

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proximity to the Story family were also listed as farmers. When Dr. Arnold S. Griffitt moved to the former property of Dr. Story it is said he did so specifically to farm while also serving as a physician. Likewise, the probate records of later owners of the general store in Story, both Alra Wheeler and Albert Hedrick, listed agricultural resources as part of their possessions indicating they were engaged in farming in addition to operating the general store and grist and saw mills. Historical documentation further indicates that others who also lived within the district pursued agriculture as either a primary or secondary means of self-sufficiency or income. Much of the land originally owned by Dr. Story and later subdivided from the boundaries of Story Historic District was also cultivated fields and pastures throughout the district's period of significance and later.

It was not until the latter half of the twentieth century that farming dwindled in the district and forests began to overtake the open fields. However, an area of still-cultivated field and pasture remains within the west and southwest part of the district. With regard to contributing built resources, the c.1885 Transverse frame barn in the north portion of the district most directly represents the agricultural history of Story. However, the c.1917 grist mill and saw mill and c.1890 scale shed are additional resources that speak to the district's agricultural past and importance of that agriculture to Story Historic District's commercial and industrial development.

Comparative Qualities

As a property type, Story Historic District most closely compares to the villages that developed around grain mills as documented in the *Grain Mills of Indiana Multiple Property Listing* (National Register, 23 Jul 1990). However, in Story, as in most other Van Buren Township villages, the grain mill appears as secondary or equal in importance to other commercial activities. With the abundance of forests in Brown County, saw mills feature prominently in the founding of various villages and in several locations continued in operation long after the grain mills and other businesses closed. Today a handful of saw mills continue to operate within the county.

Grain and saw mills were a necessity to Euro-American settlers and were established not long after people moved into an area. As natural gathering places and one where farmers had either money from the sale of raw goods or the raw goods with which to barter, the mills were usually accompanied by general stores. Depending on the location, the grain and saw mill may have occupied the same building. Or the grain mill may have accommodated other operations such as wool carding or banking, while the store buildings often housed a post office. Blacksmith shops also served as communal places of necessity and were usually also found in close proximity to the mills and stores.

Although farming remained the primary industry in the Hoosier National Forest region, timbering became an important economic activity during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In addition to hoop and stave factories, manufacturing facilities for shingles, various types of furniture, and other wood-based products were established in several southern Indiana towns. Much of the products were shipped to other areas of the country via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Also farming did not experience the advances in technology found elsewhere in the state due to the isolated nature of the Hoosier National Forest region. This coupled with the rough

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terrain and slow advance of the railroads into the area meant the growing of grain to support large mill operations was not as prevalent as in other areas of Indiana. By the 1920s, flour milling was becoming centralized in Indiana. This caused smaller operations to either cease operations or switch to feed grinding, particularly in more rural areas.

Isolation in the region also meant other services were slow to advance or become commonplace. In Brown County, personal automobiles were rare even into the 1950s and electricity didn't arrive into many of the outlying regions until two or three years after WWII. So hucksters continued to travel throughout the county during the first half of the 20th century and many of the village stores remained open into the 1960s through 1980s. However, other small industries began to fade from the landscape by the 1920s and with it most villages saw a decline in population and the loss of associated buildings.

Story Historic District is the most intact commercial village in Van Buren Township. Although the uses have changed, the current buildings and structures in Story remain in their original locations with sufficient historic integrity as to ascertain their original uses. As an unincorporated village, Story Historic District is second only to Helmsburg in northern Brown County in its current collection of representative buildings and structures.

Story's beginnings as a village of commerce and small industry began prior to its formal creation in 1882. It grew in regional importance during the nineteen teens as other villages in the township began to fade. Due to regional prominence of the general store it continued to remain viable into the 1950s. However, the opening of Brown County State Park in 1929 eliminated many regional customers and isolated the village from much of the county, effectively halting Story's growth. The closing of Elkinsville Road in the late 1950s, which linked Story to the villages of Elkinsville and Belmont and further west to State Highway 46, caused additional isolation and decline and loss of customers due to their displacement. Today the Story Historic District is over 12 miles from the county seat of Nashville, Indiana. The district includes 15 contributing resources—houses, a barn, outbuildings, a general store, grain and saw mill, and remaining associated farmland. The district also includes five non-contributing resources—a house, barn and workshops—constructed after the period of significance, but which lend to the overall sense of place.

In contrast, Helmsburg was not a formal village until the Indianapolis Southern Railroad (later the Illinois Central) crossed northern Brown County in 1905. This was the county's first and only rail line. A train station was constructed and the area quickly became a hub of commerce. In time the village included three saw mills, a flour mill, cannery, feed store, restaurants, general stores, a post office, doctor's office, church, lodge, hotel, and eventually five gasoline stations. Despite two fires in the village's history, buildings were rebuilt and businesses continued to thrive. Though the surrounding region was dominated by agriculture, with its platted and named streets, schools and businesses, Helmsburg grew to exhibit a more urban setting than other villages within the county outside the county seat of Nashville. The growth of the automobile and slow demise of the railroads halted Helmsburg's growth—passenger trains ceased operations shortly after WWII and rail freight ended around 1960. However, the village's close proximity to Nashville and lack of isolation allowed it to remain viable. A few businesses and small industries remain in operation today, including a saw mill, sock manufacturer, metal fabricator, and a gift shop and art gallery. Helmsburg also retains a post office, church and school, though only the

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gift and art shop is located in a (re-used) historic building. Although not identified as a historic district in the *Brown County Interim Report* (1994), numerous historic buildings were present in Helmsburg at the time. However, in the ensuing 23 years, though many older homes remain, most of the resources related to commercial, industrial, social and educational resources have been lost or severely altered. Some of the historic buildings remaining include the Masonic Lodge No. 527 (013-430-07018), the Cullum Broom and Mop Factory building (013-430-07017), and a grocery store (013-430-07006). A more in-depth survey of Helmsburg will be needed to fully ascertain the remaining historic resources.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Brown County and Van Buren Township

Brown County was created in 1836 from portions of Monroe, Delaware, Jackson and Bartholomew Counties. The land had been acquired from the Native American tribes in two parts based on a treaty line that ran southeast to northwest. Known as the Ten O'clock Treaty Line and referred to in land documents as the "Indian Boundary Line," the land southwest of the line was obtained in 1809 in the Treaty of Fort Wayne known as "Harrison's Purchase. The land northeast of the line was obtained in 1818 in the Treaty of St. Mary's, Ohio, known as the "New Purchase."⁴⁶ The county seat of Nashville, first called Jacksonburg, was established at the time of the county's founding and the first courthouse was built in 1835. Nashville was incorporated in 1872 and construction of the current courthouse began the following year.

Settlement of Brown County consisted of small villages situated on flatter land, usually near streams. The villages became commercial and social centers linked by a network of roads to loosely structured neighborhoods and more isolated homesteads. Saw mills were established in Brown County during the 1830s as land was cleared for farming and the lumber was used to construct buildings or to supply hoop and stave factories. Grain mills were also established early, first as treadmills or horse mills, and then water gristmills. By the 1850s and 60s, steam-powered mills began replacing the water-powered mills. Eight leather tanneries also dotted the county by 1849; however, all had closed by 1880.⁴⁷ Dry good and general stores were another important economic activity in the county, supplying not only the immediate area near the store but also huckster wagons that traveled into the more remote regions of the county.

Van Buren Township was one of the first four townships formed in the county and was named for President Martin Van Buren. One of the earliest land owners was Daniel Hedrick who also

⁴⁶ Blanchard, pg. 679-80.

⁴⁷ Bailey Birney, Dorothy, editor. *History and families, Brown County, Indiana*. Brown County Historical Society. Paducah, Kentucky: Turner, 1991. pg. 45-46.

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served as the first township assessor and was one of the first county commissioners. Additional early township landowners included Levi Noblet, Joseph Hedrick, and Granville Hedrick.⁴⁸

In Van Buren Township as with the rest of the county, settlement began as soon as the land was opened to Euro-Americans. But formal settlement and founding of the various villages is generally traced to the establishment of post offices. Rural neighborhoods, smaller communities that were usually family-based or centered around a church or school, were not formally named but may have been named by local residents, such as with Storyville, the precursor to Story.

Although wheat and orchards were important early agricultural pursuits in the county, Van Buren Township also became known for growing tobacco and later tomatoes and similar products to supply canneries. Stone quarries were also operating in the township during the 1880s, but the operations were short-lived and receive little reference in source materials.⁴⁹

Other Van Buren Township Villages

Christiansburg was settled during the 1830s and had a church and school by 1840. The village founding is credited to Thomas Carmichael. When the post office was established in December 1850, George Roush served as postmaster. Thomas Colvin and James Mann, who also served as postmasters in 1851 and 1852, respectively, opened a large tannery. By the early 1880s, the village had grown to have at least one general store, a saw mill, stone quarry, several churches, a cemetery, and a number of families residing within the immediate vicinity.⁵⁰ However, the post office closed in 1902 and by 1930 only one church, a small store and a small collection of homes remained to mark what was once a bustling area. Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church and a few homes are all that remain today. Farmers in the area in the 1930s experienced a slight resurgence with the growing of tomatoes for the Rider Tomato Company canning factory in Freetown in Jackson County to the south, but the boom did not last past the WWII era. Christiansburg's regional prominence led to it being the location for Van Buren High School, but the school closed in 1958. High school students were then bused to the consolidated school in Nashville while elementary students in the township attend the consolidated Van Buren Elementary School.

When a post office was established at Buffalo in October 1851, it was given the name Milo. However, residents referred to the village as Buffalo or Buffalo Village well into the 1950s. The post office closed in 1861 but another was opened nearby in 1885 under the name of Lockman, and local residents treated them as the same locale. As the village of Buffalo grew, in addition to the post office, it had two general stores, a blacksmith shop, grist mill, school, Grange Hall, church, and the McKinney and Sutherland cemeteries. The last store closed c.1913 and in the early 1920s both the school and church consolidated to locations in Jackson County. Although farming families remained in the area through the 1930s, the commercial and social buildings associated with the village were gone by the close of the decade.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Ibid. pg. 747-748.

⁴⁹ *Map of Brown County, Indiana.*

⁵⁰ Clipping file, "Christiansburg." Brown County Historical Society.

⁵¹ Clipping file, "Buffalo," Brown County Historical Society. In the 1930s, farmers near Buffalo were also growing tomatoes for the cannery in Freetown and Wagoner and Winkler had a seasonal molasses mill. A newspaper clipping from 16 Jan 1936, states that the huckster, Albert Hedrick, had not come for several

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Those who settled New Bellesville in the 1830s arrived from Bellesville, Ohio. A post office was established in 1856. Once a center for hoop and stave making, New Bellesville is the only village in the township laid out in lots with streets and alleys. An 1881-83 list of county physicians shows the village had one of only three in the township, Dr. R.E. Holder.⁵² In 1891, Dr. A.J. Ralph, brother-in-law of Dr. Arnold Griffitt of Story, moved to the village. A fire in 1893 destroyed a large portion of the town but much of it was rebuilt. However, the post office closed in 1909 and one of the two churches was abandoned in the 1920s as the town slowly faded. A large packing house in the village kept farmers engaged with growing fruits and vegetables into the 1930s, but the village became a sleepy community by the WWII era.

Beck's Grove, Pike's Peak and Marble all received post offices in the summer of 1868. However, Marble's vibrancy was short-lived and the post office closed in 1879. Like the other villages, Pike's Peak had a store and church and was also one of the villages with a physician.⁵³ Beck's Grove was settled around the founding of a church in 1834. With a general store, second church, and school, additional growth of the village was due to close proximity to a stave factory in Jackson County.⁵⁴ However, closing of the post office in 1905 signaled decline of the village. The farming of tobacco and Christmas trees eventually became the primary focus for the area, as well as vegetables to supply the cannery in Freetown. Today only scattered homes remain in the area.

Long before receiving a post office (1890-1893), Stone Head was settled and named for the stone road marker erected at the location in 1851. A large grist mill was constructed by 1870 and Thomas A. Hendricks was operating a saw mill and large general store at the village by the time he built his home in 1891. Today only the home remains.⁵⁵ Kelp, located in what is now Brown County State Park, received a post office in 1891. Although the post office didn't close until 1924, nothing remains of the village.

Elkinsville was settled by William Elkins in the 1850s. Over the course of the next ten to fifteen years the village grew to include a post office, school, church, grain mill, saw mill, blacksmith, and at least two general stores.⁵⁶ Originally in Johnson Township, Elkinsville remained a thriving village and retained a post office until 1941. However, in 1964, the core properties of the village were bought by the federal government to make way for Monroe Reservoir. Only scattered residences and a cemetery remain. Johnson Township was also eliminated and remaining portions were incorporated into Van Buren and Washington Townships.

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weeks due to bad weather. His wife, Susan McKinney Hedrick, grew up in Buffalo and her recollections were recorded in an *Indianapolis Star* article from 20 Jan 1952 by Frank Hohenberger.

⁵² Blanchard, pg. 695.

⁵³ Ibid, pg. 695. The 1881-83 compilation of county physicians lists both Dr. George P. Story and Dr. Samuel C. Wilson in Pike's Peak, as well as midwife, Amy Whitehorn. The store was operated by Thomas Hedricks, who also ran a store and owned the mill at Stone Head.

⁵⁴ Clipping file, "Beck's Grove." Brown County Historical Society.

⁵⁵ Lorenz, Alice. "Thomas A. Hendricks House and Stone Head Road Marker." National Register of Historic Places, 18 Oct 1984. The stone head marker is also no longer in existence, having been vandalized and stolen in 2016.

⁵⁶ Clipping file, "Elkinsville." Brown County Historical Society.

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Dr. George P. Story was born c.1810 in Pennsylvania. On August 29, 1833, he married Catherine Shelenberger in Perry County, Ohio. In 1835, George Story purchased land in Perry County through the United States Land Office and he and Catherine's son, David was born in July.⁵⁷ Catherine died that same year, possibly in childbirth. In 1839, Dr. Story married Jane Morrison and their son, Enoch, was born the following year in Muskingum County, Ohio, where the family had moved.⁵⁸ Their second son, George A., was born in 1845.⁵⁹ On February 11, 1847, Dr. Story deposited a warrant with the United States Land Office in Jeffersonville, Indiana, as the assignee of William Lund, a private in the United States Marine Corps, for Lot Number 3 and Lot A, South of the Indian Boundary, and the N ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 29, Township 8, Range 3 East in Brown County, Indiana. The 173.74 acres were granted on December 1, 1851, and remained in Story's possession.⁶⁰ A portion of the land would eventually become the village of Story.

The 1850 census indicates the Story family had moved from Muskingum County to neighboring Bristol in Morgan County, Ohio.⁶¹ Sometime between 1851 and 1855, Dr. Story and his family moved to Van Buren Township, Brown County, and settled on the land he had purchased.

Jane Story died in December 1872 and was buried in the Christiansburg Cemetery. By 1875, Dr. George P. Story had remarried to Sandusky Percifield, a young woman at least 40 years his junior with two daughters. During the 1870s, the Story brothers began migrating west with Enoch and his family leaving Brown County by 1874, eventually settling in Butler County, Kansas, east of Wichita. George A. and his family migrated to Kansas the following year. David S. Story and his family followed his brothers to Kansas in 1876, and he and Enoch would eventually move on to Missouri.

In late 1881 or early 1882, Dr. George P. Story and his wife moved to Illinois and the Brown County land was sold to John Noblet, another early settler, in March 1882. In February the following year, Noblet contracted a sale of the land to Dr. Arnold S. Griffitt who received full title on January 14, 1887.⁶²

⁵⁷ "Family Studies of Brown County, Indiana, Dr. George P. Story, Study No. 222," Compiled by Kenneth J. Reeve and Helen H. Reeve, Brown County Genealogical Society, 1998, pg. 1. Note: David Schelenberger Story was born 8 Jul 1835 in Perry County, Ohio, and died 29 Dec 1905 in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri. He married Cordelia Wadsworth and they had at least nine children. While living in Brown County, David was a farmer, dry goods merchant, township school commissioner and surveyor. In August 1862, he enlisted in Co. H, 82nd Regiment, IN Volunteers, was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on 24 Nov 1864, and mustered out in June 1865.

⁵⁸ Ibid. pg. 1. Enoch Story was born 20 Feb 1840 in Muskingum County, Ohio, and died 16 Nov 1908 in Pineville, McDonald County, Missouri. He married Sabra Petro and the couple had at least nine children. Like his brother, Enoch also served in the Civil War. Following his wife's death in 1899, Enoch married Amanda E. Freese in 1901.

⁵⁹ Ibid. pg. 1. George A. Story was born in July 1845 in Ohio and died sometime after 1910 in Kansas. He married Mariah Wadsworth, sister of David's wife, Cordelia, and they had at least eight children.

⁶⁰ Original abstract. The abstract references Brown County, Indiana. Deed Book 1, pg. 203, 29 May 1874. The transaction was re-recorded in Brown County following a fire at the courthouse in 1873 which destroyed the early deed books.

⁶¹ Year: 1850; Census Place: Bristol, Morgan, Ohio; Roll: M432_715; Page: 332A; Image: 672; www.Ancestry.com, Viewed 27 Sep 2016.

⁶² Original abstract.

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Dr. Arnold S. Griffitt

Dr. Griffitt was born in 1840 in Morgantown, Indiana. After many years working on a farm and teaching school, Griffitt apprenticed under a local doctor and then attended Louisville University where he studied to become a physician and surgeon. Following his 1869 graduation, Griffitt moved to Brown County and established himself as a physician in Nashville.⁶³ He also served for a time as the county coroner. In 1879, Dr. Griffitt moved to Taylorsville in Bartholomew County but returned to Nashville eighteen months later. In 1882, Griffitt moved to the land John Noblet purchased from the Story family so he could farm while also maintaining his medical practice.⁶⁴

The Fulks Family

The Fulks family was known in the county as millers and by 1880, they were living near Dr. Story. At the time, Samuel Fulks, Sr. worked as a millwright while his son, Willard, farmed. By the late 1880s, Willard and his father owned a collection of small parcels of land in Section 29 of Van Buren Township, one of which was also the water powered Stone Head Mill built in 1870. He became the sole miller in the family following his father's death c.1887. During the 1890s, Willard also owned and operated the general store and grist mill in Story. His brother, Charles, worked as the grist mill engineer while another brother, Samuel Jr., operated a saw mill in Story. In 1897, Willard transferred ownership of Stone Head Mill to Charles Saffle. With help from Thomas A. Hendricks, who operated general stores in both Stone Head and Pike's Peak, Saffle converted the mill to a steam-powered steel roller. Willard continued to operate the mill, however, with assistance from his sons Bert and John and later re-assumed ownership.⁶⁵

The Wheeler Family

Elihu and Mary Wheeler and their family arrived in Indiana between 1870 and 1872. The 1880 census shows them as farming in Washington Township, Brown County, Indiana. Their children Alra and Armina were born in Ohio, while Lewella, Martin and Lydia were all born in Indiana. On April 30, 1892, oldest son, Alra, married Mary L. Floyd, a native of the county. Their children were James Leonard and Ruth.

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⁶³ Blanchard, pg. 795.

⁶⁴ Both the original abstract and tax duplicates indicate the land was placed under contract by John Noblett to Dr. Griffitt on 2 Feb 1883. Following Noblett's death, the tax duplicates indicate Griffitt was paying taxes on the property as its owner by 1885, but the transaction of him receiving full title was not recorded in the deed book until 1886. The total received was 73.71 acres which equaled that which was conveyed to Sandusky Story in 1876.

⁶⁵ *History and Families, Brown County, Indiana*. pg. 48-49. Cited from Nagley, Lester C. "Vignettes." *Brown County Democrat* [Nashville] 17 Jan 1963. In 1910, Willard was employed as the miller at Stone Head Mill with his son, Bert, assisting. The mill burned in 1914 and was rebuilt. By 1920, Willard again owned the mill and was operating it with his son, John. That same year Willard sold the Stone Head Mill to Alra Wheeler and started a flour mill in Columbus, IN, where his son, John, and his family had moved. By the time of the 1930 census it shows Willard was living with his widowed son, John, both of whom are living with his grandson and his family on Sixth Street in Columbus. Grandson Dwight Fulks was the miller, his father, John, was a truck driver for the flour mill, and Willard was not shown as specifically employed. Willard died 7 Dec 1937. His death certificate lists his occupation as miller at a flour mill. He was buried in Christiansburg Cemetery.

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Albert (Pink) Hedrick was born in Johnson Township in Brown County in 1871, the youngest son of Benjamin Franklin Hedrick and Julia Ann Brown.⁶⁶ In 1894, Albert married Susan Catherine McKinney, who was born and raised in the Van Buren community of Buffalo. Like most of their neighbors, the Hedricks farmed while raising a family, having moved from Johnson Township to Van Buren in the vicinity of Story sometime between 1900 and 1910. The 1920 census shows the family was living near other members of the Hedrick family as well as the Wheelers and others associated with businesses in Story. Their children included Ralph, Maude, Lloyd, Lillie and Clotha.

Creation of Story Inn and Restaurant

In 1978, Cynthia Schultz and her husband, Benjamin, purchased 4 1/2 acres of land in Story that included the grocery store, grist mill, barn, and a small rented house. They occupied the second floor of the store building as their residence.⁶⁷ Though the store was still functioning as such at the time, Cynthia and Benjamin slowly ceased its operations over the course of their first year of ownership. They also installed plumbing in the building and undertook other renovations while slowly transitioning the first floor to a restaurant. Over time Cynthia and Benjamin, while raising three children increased the amount of acreage and buildings they owned. With purchase of the Pruitt home, they moved their residency from the store building and created guest rooms on the second floor of the store, thus establishing Story Inn. Between 1978 and 1992, Benjamin and his construction crew from Storyville Builders undertook further renovations to the buildings. Additional renovations and modifications by the current owners have been completed as needed to accommodate restaurant and inn use and expansions.

⁶⁶ Bachant-Bell, Danielle. "Patton-Hedrick Farm, Monroe County, Indiana." Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures Nomination, 2012 [Filed with DHPA, not listed.] and Bachant-Bell, Danielle. "'Patton-Hedrick House, Monroe County, Indiana.'" Request for Historic Designation/Monroe County, Monroe County Historic Board of Review, listed 2012. Benjamin Hedrick was one son of Peter (Jr.) who, along with other family, migrated from Virginia to the newly opening lands of Indiana in the early 1800s. Peter married Anna Zener in Clark County, Indiana, in 1817, and they made their way to Brown County, Indiana. One of Benjamin's brothers, Granville, is seen in the 1860 census as the next neighbor to David Story who was the next neighbor to Dr. George Story. Granville's descendant, Phillip Hedrick, and his wife, Juanita, purchased in 1957 what has since been locally designated in Monroe County as the Patton-Hedrick House.

⁶⁷ *A Family Almanac* and Interviews with Benjamin by Danielle Bachant-Bell, 13 Dec 2016 and 29 Mar 2017. All information for this section of the narrative was derived from these sources.

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Year: 1880; Census Place: Taylorsville, Bartholomew, Indiana; Roll: 266; Family History Film: 1254266; Page: 120B; Enumeration District: 006; Image: 0022. www.ancestry.com Viewed 9 Jan 2017.

Story Historic District

Brown County, Indiana

Name of Property

County and State

Year: 1900; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 361; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 0028; FHL microfilm: 1240361. www.ancestry.com Viewed 9 Jan 2017.

Year: 1900; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 361; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 0028; FHL microfilm: 1240361. www.ancestry.com Viewed 10 Jan 2017.

Year: 1900; Census Place: *Johnson, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 361; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 0027; FHL microfilm: 1240361. www.ancestry.com Viewed 24 Feb 2017.

Year: 1910; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: T624_340; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 0034; FHL microfilm: 1374353. www.ancestry.com Viewed 17 Jan 2017.

Year: 1920; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: T625_424; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 29; Image: 687. www.ancestry.com Viewed 12 Jan 2017.

Year: 1930; Census Place: *Van Buren, Brown, Indiana*; Roll: 574; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 0004; Image: 483.0; FHL microfilm: 2340309. www.ancestry.com Viewed 24 Feb 2017.

Year: 1930; Census Place: *Bloomington, Monroe, Indiana*; Roll: 619; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 0027; Image: 124.0; FHL microfilm: 2340354. www.ancestry.com Viewed 13 Jan 2017.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Brown County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 013-614-15050 – 013-614-15053 _____

Story Historic District
Name of Property

Brown County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 14.91

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 567813	Northing: 4328173
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 568210	Northing: 4327901
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 568047	Northing: 4327678
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 567739	Northing: 4327985

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

Beginning at the south side of Elkinsville Road at the intersection with State Highway 135, heading southeast along the west side of State Highway 135 approximately 515 feet; then turning southwest approximately 230 feet, then south approximately 450 feet, then west approximately 423 feet, then northwest approximately 486 feet to the south side of Elkinsville Road; then turning northeast along the south side of Elkinsville Road approximately 341 feet; then turning northwest approximately 142 feet, then northeast approximately 176 feet, then northwest approximately 560 feet, then northeast approximately 142 feet; then turning southeast approximately 716 feet along the Ten O'clock Treaty Line/Brown County State Park boundary, crossing Elkinsville Road, to the place of beginning.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses nearly all of the current property associated with Story Inn and Restaurant, except for the northernmost sliver north of the Transverse frame barn which is the septic field. The boundary includes the contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures and objects, as well as the open garden, pasture and agricultural land currently used for such purposes around and between the buildings and structures, and that were historically used for such purposes. The majority of the pasture and agricultural land makes up the southwest portion of the district. The remnant areas of open land represent some of the few such areas remaining of what was once a heavily farmed and logged community and that is now minimally farmed with a substantial amount of return to forest land.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Danielle Bachant-Bell
organization: Story Inn & Restaurant/ Indiana Landmarks – Partners in Preservation
street & number: 605 W. Allen St.
city or town: Bloomington state: IN zip code: 47403
e-mail: lordandbach@gmail.com
telephone: (812) 336-6141
date: March 31, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Story Historic District

City or Vicinity: Nashville

County: Brown State: Indiana

Photographer: Danielle Bachant-Bell

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: General store building; at southeast corner facing north/northwest.

1 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Mill building; at southeast corner facing northwest.

2 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Scale shed; at southwest corner facing northeast.

3 of _14__.

Story Historic District

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County and State

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Barn; at southeast corner facing north/northwest.

4 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Hedrick house; at southeast corner facing northwest.

5 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 13, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Story-Griffitt house; at south elevation facing north.

6 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 13, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Wheeler-Hedrick house; at northeast corner facing southwest.

7 of _14__.

Date Photographed: March 27, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Ayres house; at southeast corner facing northwest.

8 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 12, 2016

Story Historic District

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of north area of district from northeast boundary with the scale shed to the right and the barn in the center in the distance; facing north/northwest.

9 of _14__.

Date Photographed: September 13, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of district from south side of Elkinsville Road at location of former doctor's office, with the Hedrick house on the left and the general store and mill buildings at the center; facing east.

10 of _14__.

Date Photographed: March 27, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of district from parking lot off Elkinsville Road, with the Pruitt house on the left, the horse barn in the center, and a storage shed (un-documented) to the left; facing west/southwest.

11 of _14__.

Date Photographed: March 27, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of district from parking lot off Elkinsville Road, with the workshop barn in the center and the Ayres house to the left; facing south.

12 of _14__.

Date Photographed: March 27, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of the district from the southeast boundary with, from left to right, the Pruitt house, the Story-Griffitt house visible above, an outhouse, the front gable of the Hedrick house, the Wheeler-Hedrick house, the general store through the trees, a foot bridge (un-documented), and the workshop; facing north/northwest.

13 of _14__.

Story Historic District

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Date Photographed: March 27, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: View of the district from the limestone sculpture plaza near the east boundary with the limestone sculpture in the foreground and, from the left to right in the background, the Hedrick house, general store and mill building; facing north/northwest.

14 of _14__.

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Story Historic District
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Figure 1: Alra Wheeler
General Store, c.1920
(Story Inn)

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Figure 2: Hedrick & Son
Grocery, c.1945
(Story Inn)

Figure 3: The Wheeler family at their home in Story, c.1905. (Story Inn)

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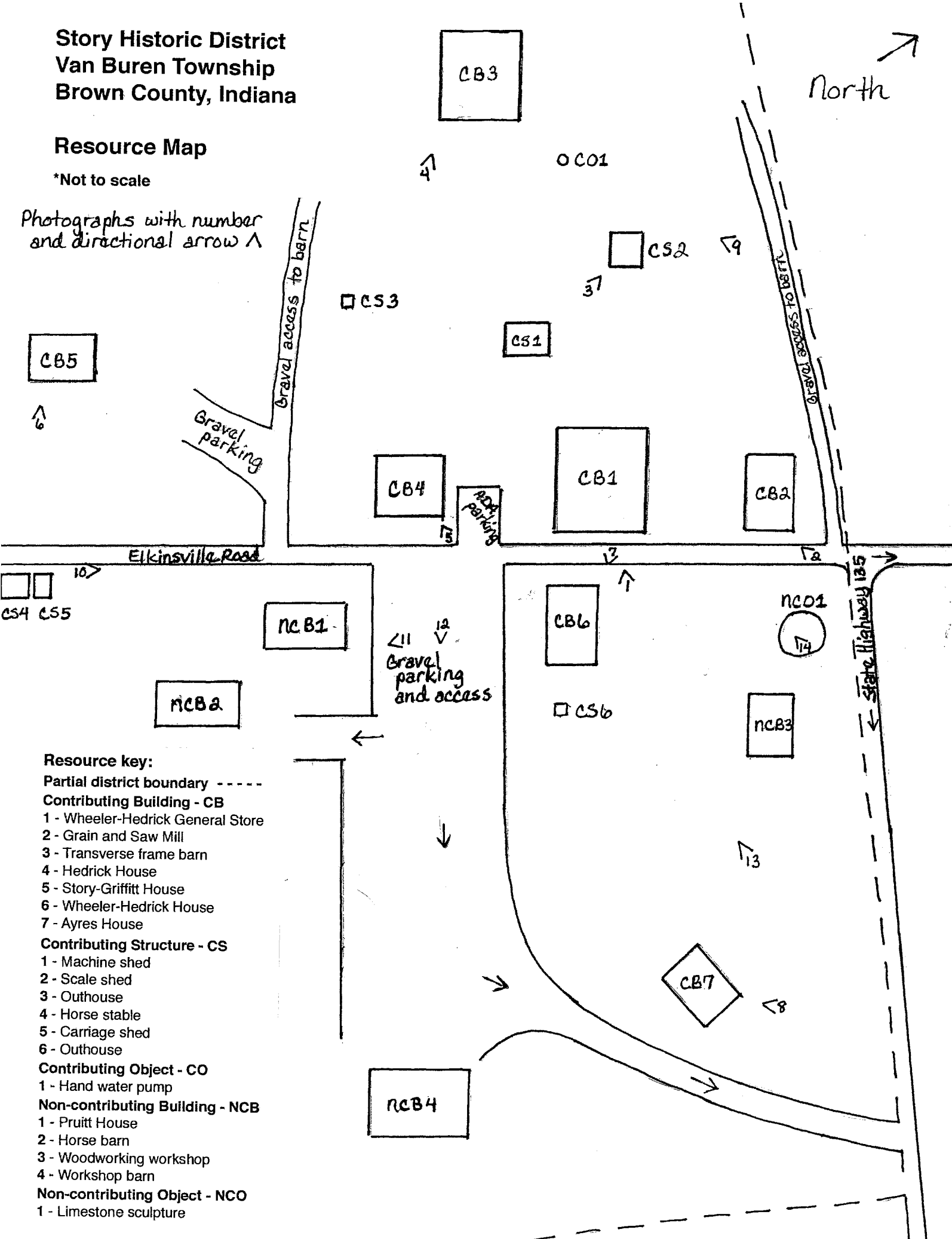
**Story Historic District
Van Buren Township
Brown County, Indiana**

Resource Map

*Not to scale

Photographs with number
and directional arrow ^

North ↗





Story Inn
1851

GENERAL STORE
RESTAURANT

TAVERN

OPEN

NO PARKING
ANY
TIME



THE OLD MILL

Old Mill
& Loft







Story Inn
Honey Hops & Harvest

Story Inn
Honey Hops & Harvest

Private

Residence

Smiley face



DOC
STORY'S
HOUSE
LOWER









STANDARD
SERVICE









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Story Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: INDIANA, Brown

Date Received:
2/1/2019

Date of Pending List:
2/12/2019

Date of 16th Day:
2/27/2019

Date of 45th Day:
3/18/2019

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100003500

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

☒ X Accept

☐ Return

☐ Reject

3/11/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Story is a rural hamlet characterized by a small concentration of buildings that housed various functions providing services to a relatively isolated population. Not served by a railroad and hemmed in by hills, the rural population in this portion of Brown County relied on the post office, the smithy, the general store that concentrated at a crossroads. Story remains relatively untouched and reflects its 19th century beginnings.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



January 30, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Story Historic District, Brown County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Story Historic District, Brown County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Story Historic District, Brown County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package