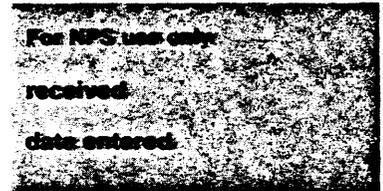


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



FOUNTAIN SQUARE HISTORIC COMMERCIAL AREA: State and Prospect District

The State and Prospect District contains eight contributing buildings situated on the four corners of the intersection. Primarily built between 1890 and 1910, the majority of the buildings are two stories and are of brick construction. The earliest building still standing is the Sommer/Roepke Bakery at 1631 East Prospect Street. A small, one-story structure located at the rear of the lot once served as a bakehouse.

The street railway was extended to this intersection in the 1880s and further in c. 1900. These extensions provided improved transportation to the area for a greater number of people and thus increased commercial activity. Coinciding with the extensions of the street railway, some buildings at this intersection experienced major remodelings. 1702-06 East Prospect was originally a one-story brick grocery store that was enlarged for apartments and additional commercial space in 1905. 1633-37 East Prospect was enlarged when a dance and meeting hall were added for a fraternal order in 1910. The original portion of the structure served as the Iris Theater after the expansion. This was the only theater in the Fountain Square commercial area outside the Virginia Avenue District.

The State and Prospect District derives its importance from the toll house which was sited at the northwest corner of this intersection. A limestone road marker still remains as evidence of this early transportation route. Because Prospect Street linked Fountain Square and the downtown with the South Michigan Road and the Churchman Free Pike, it was a well-traveled route. Lorber's Saloon was built on the site of the toll house and is one of the oldest businesses continuously operated by the same family in Fountain Square. Built in 1885 by a German brewer from Cincinnati, Ohio, but operated by Solomon Lorber, it was purchased by Lorber in 1900. Lorber and his son, Samuel, operated the saloon until 1975. Other businesses in the area were also prosperous for long periods of time as is apparent from the list of long-term businesses in Item 3.

Following is a list of the buildings in the district.

Address	Date	Name	Map
1623 East Prospect Street	c. 1890	Mitschrich /Schaefer Feed Store	56
1627 East Prospect Street	1925		57
1631 East Prospect Street	1875/1908	Sommer/Roempke Bakery	58
1633-37 East Prospect Street	1894/1910		59
*1638-40 East Prospect Street	1885	Lorber's Saloon	60
*1701-03 East Prospect Street	c. 1898		61
*1702-06 East Prospect Street	1897/1905		62
1707-09 East Prospect Street	1890-93		63

*Building described in Item 7, Description
Approx. 3 acres.