

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG 10 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Danville Main Street Historic District

other names/site number 063-149-32001-047

2. Location

street & number Bounded by East, Main, Cross, and Marion Sts.  Not for publication

city or town Danville  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Hendricks code 063 zip code 46122

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

*Peter R. Pette*

8/5/94

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

*for*  
*Edson H. Beall*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the National Register 9-8-94

Danville Main St. H.D.  
Name of Property

Hendricks County, IN  
County and State

**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
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
37	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
37	2	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Queen Anne

American Four Square

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other SYNTHETICS: vinyl

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1844 - c.1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Main Street HD  
Name of Property

Hendricks County, IN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approximately 9

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | 1 | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | 1 | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant for

organization Main Street Historic Association date November 2, 1993

street & number 422 1/2 Fifth Street telephone 812/378-0800

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name see attached list

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

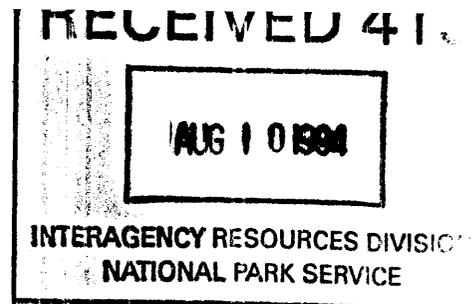
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7      Page 1      Main Street Historic District



The Main Street Historic District is located in Danville, the county seat of Hendricks County, in west-central Indiana. Hendricks County is located in the Tipton Till Plain region of Indiana, an area favorable for farming. Danville is located roughly in the center of the county on U.S. 36 (Rockville Road).

The Main Street Historic District is located immediately west of Danville's downtown commercial area. It includes both sides of Main Street between Cross Street on the east and East Street on the west, and both sides of Marion Street between Cross Street on the east and roughly the point where Marion turns to the southwest on the west.

There are 37 contributing buildings, and two noncontributing buildings in the district. All buildings included in the resource count are houses. The two noncontributing buildings are houses which were built after the period of significance.

The east half of the historic district is located in the original plat. The west half consists of small plats, and some unplatted lots. Main Street comprises a section of an historic road between Danville and Rockville, designated a state highway in 1920, and now part of U.S. 36. The road was widened in the 1930s, and today, is a busy highway (photos 6 and 8). Marion Street, located one block to the south, is a narrower, quiet, tree-lined street (photos 12-17).

Architectural styles represented in the district include Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, American Four-square, and Bungalow. Some vernacular types, including gable-front, and cross-plan cottage are also seen. A greater number of 19th century houses are located in the eastern part of the district, nearer the courthouse square, and more 20th century houses are located in the western part of the district.

The Main Street historic district is cohesive, and outside its boundaries is a different character of architecture. To the east of the is the commercial center of Danville. Photo 6 shows a view looking from within the district boundaries towards the courthouse square. Photo 18 shows a view of Cross Street, the eastern boundary, between Marion and Main Streets. The western boundary of the district has the character of a town edge. Houses outside the district generally have larger lots and more of a rural character (photos 8 and 19).

Following are examples of representative and pivotal buildings.

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**Henry Underwood House, 454 W. Main Street, American Four-square, 1913 (photo 1).** This is a two-and-a-half story, wood frame house with clapboard siding, and a hip roof. The foundation is brick. A one story porch extends the width of the facade. The porch has limestone supports. The main entry is a paneled wood and beveled glass door flanked by beveled glass sidelights. Windows are double-hung, wood, with two lights in each sash. There are two, three-sided, bay windows, one each on the east side of the first story, and the south side (front) of the second story. There is a hip roof dormer on the south side. The house has its original box gutters. Interior features include oak woodwork and floors, a large oak pocket door between two parlors, and a ceramic-tiled fireplace. In the early 1920s, a one car detached garage was built to the rear of the house.

Henry Underwood and his wife Laura Kurtz Underwood purchased the property in 1912. Construction on the house was completed in 1913. A journal of construction costs was kept, and is in the hands of the current owner. The house was built for \$3,758.58. Henry Underwood was a farmer and horse dealer. With John Ader, he formed the firm of Ader and Underwood, a large horse dealing company. Laura Underwood died in 1923. Henry died in 1935. Their descendants occupied the house until 1990, when it was purchased by the current owner.

**J.W. Morgan House, 396 W. Main Street, Italianate, 1868 (photo 2).** The Morgan House is a two-and-a-half story brick structure, with a three-bay facade. The foundation is stone. The house has a low-pitched, hip roof. Windows are tall and narrow with round-arched openings. These openings have heads consisting of a raised course of brick with stone keystones, and stone sills. Sashes are double-hung, wood, with one light in each sash. The main entry, located in the first bay on the west of the south facade, is recessed and has a round-arched opening like those of the windows. There are double, paneled wood and glass doors surmounted by a round-arched transom. A decorative rope motif is seen in trim around the windows. Attic windows are oblong and are located in a wide, bracketed frieze at the top of the house. The house has two chimneys. The house previously had a wide, wrap-around porch which ran from the east side around to the front doors on the southwest corner of the house. This was a wood porch with scroll-work. When Main Street was widened in the 1930s, the front part of the porch was removed, and the east part was enclosed. The house originally had a slate roof and a widow's walk. These were lost in a 1948 tornado.

The interior of the house still has much of the original woodwork, including an open, curved staircase to the second floor.

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A distinctive feature of the stairway is a "coffin corner" built into the curve of the stairs. Alcoves of this type were built so that a coffin could be carried down the stairs without tipping the body. Painted inside this "coffin corner" is the original painting depicting a horse cart and driver taking a coffin away. The rope motif seen in exterior window trim is also used on a smaller scale on interior windows and doors.

J.W. Morgan was a large land owner near New Winchester, west of Danville. He raised cattle and hogs. In about 1865, he platted a section of land along W. Main Street, adjacent to the west side of the original town plat. This section, known as Morgan's addition, reflected a period of growth and prosperity in Danville. The house was built between 1867 and 1868. The second owner was Oren Hall, another Putnam County farmer. The house remained in the Hall family until it was sold to Clyde A. and Alta Fay Goodwin in 1936. Mr. Goodwin was a baker in Danville. Mrs. Goodwin continued to live in the house until 1969. The house was then sold to John and June Edwards, who occupied it until 1976, when it was sold to the current owner.

**John Shirley House, 368 W. Main Street, Queen Anne, c. 1885 (photo 3).** The house is a two-and-a-half story, wood-frame structure with an irregular plan and a hip/gable roof. The foundation is brick. Siding is clapboard, except in the gables, where it is wood shingles. There is a wrap-around porch which has brick piers atop a half wall, added in the 1930s. Windows are wood, double-hung, with one light in each sash. There is a central, two-story bay window on the south side (front) of the house. This has a front gable roof with cornice returns. Window openings have wood, Stick style surrounds. The main entry door is a paneled wood and glass door, with a transom above. An outbuilding at the rear of the house has been connected by an enclosed breezeway. Inside the house is elaborate woodwork, two large pocket doors, and three original fireplaces. At the rear of the house is a sun room with three French doors. There are hardwood floors throughout.

John Shirley was a prosperous businessman who owned a 640 acre farm north of Danville, and a dry goods store on the northwest corner of the courthouse square. Shirley died in 1910. His will provided \$3,500 for the construction of the Danville Christian Church, constructed in 1913, at the corner of Main and Cross streets. Shirley's son, Edgar, later occupied the house.

**340 W. Main Street, vernacular cottage, c. 1860/c. 1900 (left in photo 4).** The original house was a one-and-a-half story, timber frame structure built about 1860. A one-and-a-half story wood frame extension was added on the front about 1900. The foundation

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is brick. The roof is a hip/gable roof. A one-story porch extends across the front and wraps around the east side. Windows are wood, double-hung. The front door is a paneled wood and glass door. The house has synthetic siding. The interior features the original woodwork, oak floors on the first story, and pine floors on the second story. The original plaster walls and ceilings are intact.

The original house may have been built by Simon T. Hadley, a prominent local attorney. Hadley was Hendricks County Recorder for 22 years, and the first president of the Bank of Danville, organized in 1863. The house was later owned by Raymond and Carrie King, owners of an important local business, King's School Supply, which originally operated in this house. The Kings rented upstairs rooms to students of Canterbury College.

**320 W. Main Street, Queen Anne, c. 1890 (right in photo 4).** This is a two story wood frame house with an irregular plan and a complex roof. The house has been vinyl-sided. Windows are double-hung, wood, with one light in each sash. There is a bay window on the front of the house. There are decorative brackets at cut-away corners. A wrap-around porch was constructed in the early 20th century. Among interior features are elaborate woodwork, pocket doors, and scroll-work in open doorways.

**William and Elizabeth Merritt House, 210 W. Main Street, Greek Revival, 1844 (photo 7).** The Merritt House is a two story, timber frame structure, with a side gable roof, and a five-bay facade. The foundation is brick. The house has its historic poplar siding. There is a wood porch in the center three bays of the south (front) facade. The front part of the house is an I-house in plan, with a central hallway, and a room to each side on both floors. A one-story extension on the west rear of the house is an original part of the house or an early addition. On the east rear of the house is a small, one-story section which was added in the late 1880s. Windows on the front of the house are double-hung, wood, with one light in each sash. Other windows in the older sections of the house have six lights in each sash. Among Greek Revival features are cornice returns and corner pilasters. Inside, the house has its original Greek Revival style woodwork.

William Merritt was a very successful farmer in the area. He and his wife lived in the house until 1877, when they both passed away. Subsequent owners turned the house into apartments. The current owners, who bought the property in 1988, have rehabilitated the house for use as a single family dwelling.

**Leachman-Underwood House, 497 W. Main Street, vernacular cottage, c. 1900 (photo 8).** The house is a one-and-a-half story frame

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structure with an irregular floor plan and complex roof. The foundation is brick. The original clapboards are covered with vinyl siding. The main entrance is on the north side (front) of the house. The door in this opening is a paneled wood and beveled glass door with sidelights. There is also a side door on the east side of the house, and a door at the rear. Windows are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. There is a three-sided bay window on the east side. The interior of the house has all original doors and hardware, including two sets of pocket doors, and two sets of French doors. With the exception of one room, all original woodwork is in good condition and is unpainted, with original functioning decorative hardware. Original French doors between the living room and dining room contain 24 panes of beveled glass. A remodeling of the kitchen, located in the rear of the house, was completed in 1986.

There are two outbuildings, believed to have been built at the same time as the house. A two story carriage house with a raised basement serves today as a garage. This is a wood frame building with a brick foundation. The second outbuilding is a small, wood frame shed.

The property was purchased by William W. Leachman in 1894 for \$500.00. The home is believed to have been built by Mr. Leachman. When he sold the property to John E. Call in 1907, the same acreage brought \$3,500.00. The family which owned the house for the longest period were the Underwoods. Arlando Clay Underwood, a farmer, acquired the house in 1919, and sold it in 1925. He and his second wife Carrie Weakley Underwood purchased the house in 1929. Mrs. Underwood lived in the house until her death in 1960.

**Hadley-Nichols House, 367 W. Main Street, Italianate style, c. 1870** (left in photo 10). The house is a two-story, brick structure, with a low-pitched hip roof. There is a rectangular, two-story extension on the east side of the house. The main (north) facade is three bays wide. The main entrance is in the first bay on the west. A simple, wood, wrap around porch, added recently, is in keeping with the character and scale of the house. The opening for the main entrance is segmental-arched. Window openings are also segmental arched, with brick heads and limestone sills. Windows are double hung, wood, with two lights in each sash. Interior features include a red oak staircase, a cast iron fireplace, and hardwood floors.

The house was built for Judge John Hadley. Hadley was a prominent local lawyer and judge. He owned a large farm near Danville, and was on the board of directors of the First National Bank of

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Danville. The Hadleys were related by marriage to the Nichols, who acquired the house shortly before the turn of the century. The Nichols were also a prominent local family.

**D.F. Roberts House, 253 W. Marion Street, American Four-square, c. 1910 (photo 12).** The Roberts House is a two-and-a-half story, wood frame house with a hip roof. The house has clapboard siding. A one-story porch with wood, battered piers on brick bases, extends the width of the main (north) facade. The main facade is two bays wide. The entrance, which has a paneled wood and glass door, is on the west bay of this facade. Windows, which are grouped on this facade, are double hung, wood, with one light in each sash. There is a bay window on the second story, on the east side of the main facade. Another bay window is located on the first story of the west side of the house. There are dormers with grouped windows on the roof. Inside, the house has its original oak woodwork and doors. The staircase to the second floor has decorative moldings. The chandelier in the living room is original, as are three other hanging lights. The French doors between the living room and the dining room are oak with beveled glass.

Roberts and his wife Lora purchased the house in 1912. He owned a furniture and undertaking business on the west side of the square. He died in 1949. Lora Roberts died in 1952. Their descendants continued to live in the house until 1965.

**Scearce House, 203 W. Marion Street, Free Classic, c. 1910 (photo 13).** This is a two-story, wood frame house with an irregular plan and a cross-gable roof. The house has vinyl siding. The main (north) facade is three bays wide. There is a one-story porch which extends the width of the facade. This is composed of wood posts resting on stone pillars with a spindled balustrade. Windows, which are single and grouped, are wood, double hung, with one light in each sash. The main entrance in the west bay. This is a transomed, wood and glass door with sidelights. Window and doors have Stick style surrounds. There is a dormer on the roof. The front gable has cornice returns. There is oak woodwork throughout the interior of the house, except for the formal dining room, which has native cherry woodwork. The staircase, fireplace surround, and two pocket doors are oak.

The first owners of the house were Bertha and Martha Scearce, sisters who remained unmarried and lived in the house from the time it was built until their deaths. At some point, Charles and Grace Scearce Cook (Bertha and Martha's sister) lived in the east part, and Bertha and Martha lived in the west part. Martha died first, leaving the entire house to Bertha, per a previous arrangement. Bertha died in 1968. Bertha was a secretary in the Taylor Abstract

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Company, located on the west side of the square. Martha is listed as an assistant librarian at the Danville Public Library in a 1914 publication. The sisters' father was a farmer who retired and moved to Danville in 1911.

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Section No. 8      Page 1      Main Street Historic District

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The Main Street Historic District is significant for its 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. The district, which is one of the most intact historic residential areas in Danville, is also important for its association with several prominent local families.

Danville was platted and named seat of Hendricks County in 1824. Settlement of the county increased after the National Road, which passes a few miles south of Danville, was completed in 1830. The economy was mainly based on agriculture in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Danville was the center of county government and a market town for area farmers. By the mid-1870s, Danville contained stores for dry goods, clothing, drug, grocery, boots and shoes, hardware, hats, furniture, jewelry, and books. There were blacksmith shops, flour mills, and wagon shops, and several doctors, dentists, and lawyers. There were five churches, two newspapers, a post office, a bank, a photography studio, and one public school.

Danville remained comparatively small for a county seat because of the emphasis on agricultural rather than industry. By 1880, the population had grown to 1,598. It had reached 1,802 by 1900, and declined to 1,729 by 1920, at a time when the state's population was shifting from rural to urban areas. By this time, there was a station of the Terre Haute, Indianapolis, and Eastern Traction Company, several auto-related businesses, a movie house, a high school, restaurants, and a hotel, in addition to most of the earlier businesses and institutions named above. The population started to increase again in the 1930s and had reached 2,093 by 1940.

The commercial district developed around the courthouse square, bounded by Main, Washington, Marion, and Jefferson Streets. A main road extended south from downtown Danville to Cartersburg on the National Road. The Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad came through town on the south side of downtown. The town's few industries were located along the railroad. Residential areas surrounded the commercial district. Those to the south tend to be smaller, workers' housing. Much of the housing to the north and east related to Central Normal College, later known as Canterbury College, a small, private college which was located northeast of downtown Danville from 1878 to 1951.

The Main Street Historic District consists of that portion of the western residential area of Danville which had been developed by about 1920. After about 1920, development slowed because of an economic recession in agriculture that affected the town, and few new houses were built until after World War II.

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The Main Street Historic District represents a variety of domestic styles and types. The William Merritt House, located at 210 W. Main Street (photo 7), is a Greek Revival style house built in 1844. The Homan House, located at 292 Marion Street (photo 17), is a Greek Revival style house built c. 1850. The house at 304 W. Marion Street (Photo 16) is a Gothic Revival style house built c. 1850.

There are a few gable-front houses which date from the last half of the 19th century. The c. 1860 house at 402 W. Marion Street (right in photo 15) is a notable example. There are several examples of the Italianate style of architecture. Among these are the J.W. Morgan House (photo 2), located at 396 W. Main Street, the Hadley-Nichols House (photo 10), located at 367 W. Main Street; and the house at 302 W. Main Street. The Queen Anne style is also well represented. Notable examples include the John Shirley House (photo 3), located at 368 W. Main Street; and the house at 301 W. Main Street. A related type, the cross-plan cottage is seen in the house at 403 W. Main Street, built c. 1890.

The house at 440 W. Marion Street (photo 14) is an example of the Bungalow style. The D.F. Roberts House, located at 253 W. Marion Street and built c. 1910 (photo 12); and the Henry Underwood House, located at 454 W. Main Street and built in 1913 (photo 1), are examples of the American Four-squares. Another representation of an early 20th century type is the Pyramidal-roof cottage, built c. 1920, located at 409 W. Marion Street (photo 20).

The district has a fairly high degree of integrity, with only two intrusions, a c. 1950 house at 202 W. Marion Street (left in photo 18), and a c. 1960 house at 357 W. Marion Street. Two recent demolitions of houses at 256 and 260 W. Main Street have created a vacant area on the northeast corner of Main and Kentucky Streets. Generally, the individual houses in the district have good integrity, although synthetic siding has been added in some cases (photo 4, right in photo 9, right in photo 11, photos 13 and 20). Most of the houses retain their original forms, openings, windows, and ornamental features, and have few interior alterations. (See Section 7, "Description," for descriptions of representative houses).

Many of Danville's leading citizens were residents of the district. William Merritt, for whom the house at 210 W. Main Street (photo 7) was built, and J.W. Morgan, the original owner of the house at 396 W. Main Street (photo 2), were prosperous farmers. John Shirley, who lived at 368 W. Main Street (photo 3), and D.F. Roberts, owner of the house at 253 W. Marion Street (photo 12), were prominent businessmen. John Hadley, original owner of the house at 367 W.

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Main Street (photo 10), was a judge and bank president.

The Main Street Historic District is identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Three other historic districts are identified in Danville. One of these is the Courthouse Square Historic District, which includes the Hendricks County Courthouse and surrounding commercial district. The Washington Street Historic District is southeast of the courthouse square. It includes 21 houses and public buildings dating from 1846 to 1922. The Broadway Historic District is located on Danville's far east side. It consists of 15 houses built between c. 1885 and 1932. Many of the houses in this district are sited on large, wooded lots.

These three districts have distinct characters which vary from that of the Main Street Historic District. The Courthouse Square Historic District is comprised mainly of commercial buildings. The Washington Street Historic District is not strictly a residential district. It is carved out of a transitional area between the commercial district and residential areas to the south and east, and includes churches, the county jail, and the public library, as well as houses.

The Broadway Historic District is a residential area which was developed outside the original plat on Danville's east side. The houses are sited on larger lots than in the older part of Danville, and the district has almost a rural character. More than half of the houses were built between 1890-1900, a decade of prosperity and population growth in Danville. The district reflects the taste of the town's affluent for larger, landscaped lots, in contrast to the smaller lots of older residential areas.

The Main Street Historic District represents Danville's growth and prosperity in the 19th and early 20th century through its variety of architecture. It has a long history as a stable, middle to upper middle class neighborhood, and has been home to many of the town's important political figures and business people. The Main Street Historic Association of Danville, Inc., was formed this year to promote preservation of this historic neighborhood. The group is seeking National Register listing for the district as part of this effort.

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Continuation Sheet

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Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana. Chicago: J.H. Beers and Company, 1878.

Hadley, John Vestal, Editor. History of Hendricks County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Bowen and Company, 1914.

History of Hendricks County, Indiana. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1885.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Chicago: Baskin, Forster and Company, 1876.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Hendricks County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

Industrial Souvenir of Hendricks County. Plainfield, Indiana: Friends Press, 1904.

A Portrait and Biographical Record of Boone, Clinton, and Hendricks Counties, Indiana. Chicago: A.W. Bowen and Company, 1895.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps for Danville, Indiana, 1886, 1893, 1898, 1907, and 1920.

Standard Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana. Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1904.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of W. Main and East Streets; thence north to the north boundary of the property on the northeast corner of W. Main and East Streets; thence east to the east side of Morgan Street; thence north to the south side of an east-west alley north of W. Main Street; thence east along said alley to the northeast corner of lot 5, block 15, of the original plat; thence south along the east boundary of said lot to the north side of W. Main Street; thence west to the southwest corner of lot 4, block 15, of the original plat; thence south, across W. Main Street, and along the east boundary of lot 1, block 18, of the original plat to the northeast corner of lot 3, block 18, of the original plat; thence east along the south side of an east-west alley south of W. Main Street to the west side of Cross Street; thence south along the west side of said street, across W. Marion Street, to the north side of an east-west alley south of said street; thence west along the north side of said alley, across Kentucky Street, to the west boundary of a property at 409 W. Marion Street; thence north to the north side of W. Marion Street; thence southwest along the northwest side of said street to the west boundary of a property at 440 W. Marion Street; thence north along said boundary to the south boundary of a property at 403 W. Main Street; thence west to the west boundary of a property at 467 W. Main Street; thence south along said boundary to the southeast corner of said property; thence west to the west boundary of a property at 497 W. Main Street; thence north along said boundary to the south side of W. Main Street; thence east to a point on the east axis of East Street; thence north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The original boundaries for the Main Street Historic District were established by a survey conducted for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. For the purpose of this application, the boundaries in the northeast corner of the surveyed district were altered to exclude three noncontributing buildings (see map). The Main Street Historic District is a neighborhood on the west side of Danville which is cohesive in building type, style, scale, materials, ornamentation, and character. To the east of the district is a commercial area. To the west, lots become larger and the character becomes more rural as the town boundary is approached. To the south and north are residential areas of a character which contrasts with the Main Street Historic District. In these areas, there are more alterations and new construction.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs      Page 1      Main Street Historic District

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Danville Historic District
2. Danville, Hendricks County, IN
3. Laura Thayer
4. July 1993
5. Laura Thayer  
422 1/2 Fifth Street  
Columbus, IN 47201

Additional information for each photograph:

Photo 1

1. Henry Underwood House  
454 W. Main Street
6. camera facing north
7. 1 of 20

Photo 2

1. J.W. Morgan House  
396 W. Main Street
6. camera facing north
7. 2 of 20

Photo 3

1. John Shirley House  
368 W. Main Street
6. camera facing north
7. 3 of 20

Photo 4

1. 340 (left) and 320 (right) W. Main Street
6. camera facing north
7. 4 of 20

Photo 5

1. North side of W. Main Street, west of Kentucky Street
6. camera facing northwest
7. 5 of 20

Photo 6

1. W. Main Street, east of Kentucky Street
6. camera facing east
7. 6 of 20

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs      Page 2      Main Street Historic District

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Photo 7

1. William and Elizabeth Merritt House  
210 W. Main Street
6. camera facing north
7. 7 of 20

Photo 8

1. Leachman-Underwood House  
497 W. Main Street (left),  
and north side of Main Street, west of East Street (right)
6. camera facing west
7. 8 of 20

Photo 9

1. Leachman-Underwood House  
497 W. Main Street (right),  
and houses to east
6. camera facing south
7. 9 of 20

Photo 10

1. Hadley-Nichols House  
367 W. Main Street (left),  
and houses to west
6. camera facing southwest
7. 10 of 20

Photo 11

1. 343 (left) and 321 (right) W. Main Street
6. camera facing south
7. 11 of 20

Photo 12

1. D.F. Roberts House  
253 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing southeast
7. 12 of 20

Photo 13

1. Scarce House  
203 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing southwest
7. 13 of 20

Photo 14

1. 440 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing northwest
7. 14 of 20

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs      Page 3      Main Street Historic District

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Photo 15

1. 420 (left) and 402 (right) W. Marion Street
6. camera facing north
7. 15 of 20

Photo 16

1. 304 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing north
7. 16 of 20

Photo 17

1. Homan House  
292 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing north
7. 17 of 20

Photo 18

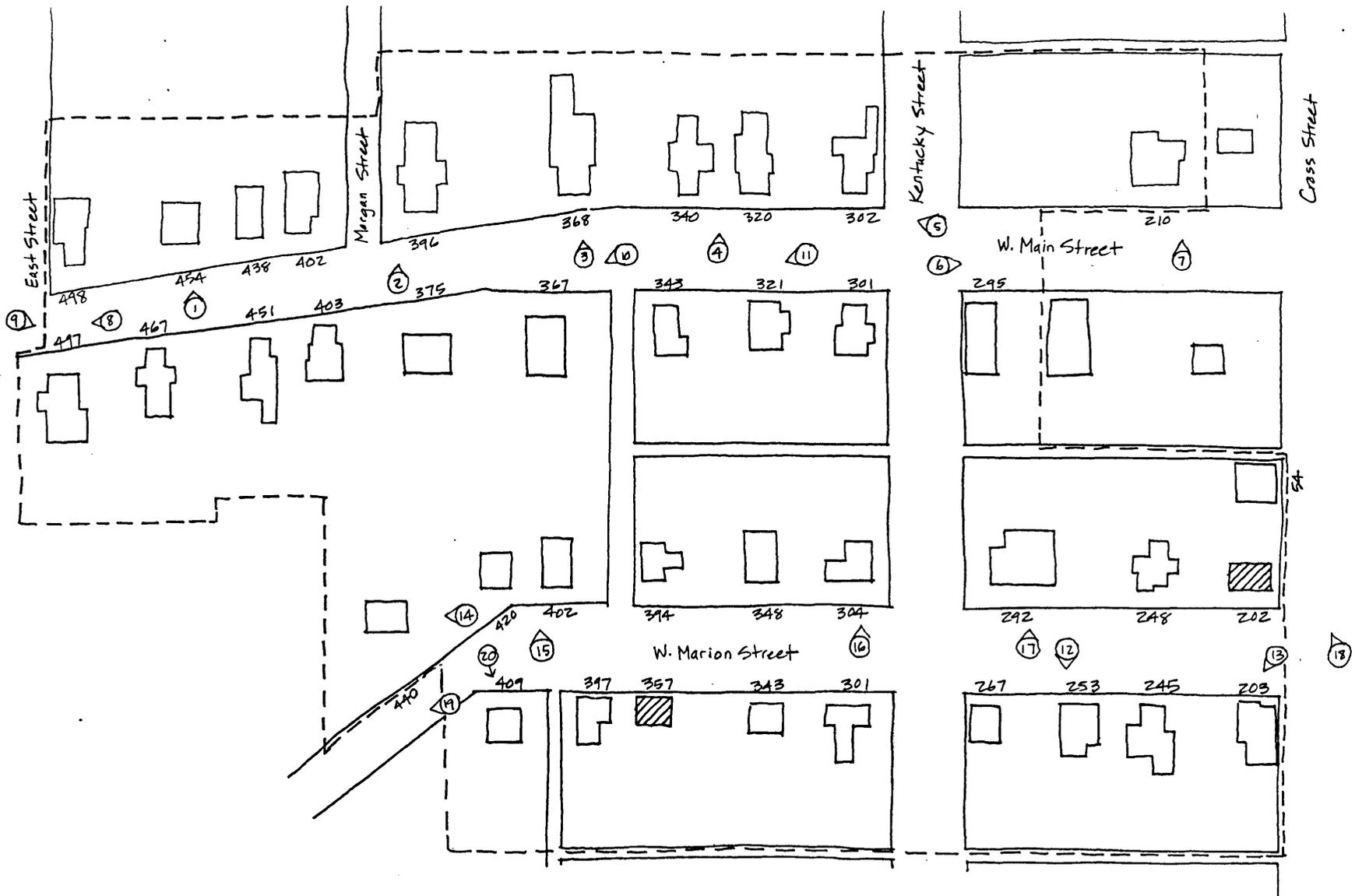
1. Cross Street from Marion
6. camera facing northwest
7. 18 of 20

Photo 19

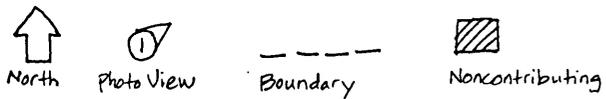
1. South side of W. Marion, looking southwest from historic district boundary
6. camera facing southwest
7. 19 of 20

Photo 20

1. 409 W. Marion Street
6. camera facing southeast
7. 20 of 20



MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
DANVILLE, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA.



LT 11/93