

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001416 Date Listed: 12/27/93

Rushville Commercial Historic District Rush IN
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia S. Chinnich

Signature of the Keeper

12/29/93

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Minor technical oversight corrected. The incorrect resource category was checked on the nomination form. The correct resource category is "district." State has been notified. The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1416

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NOV 12 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Rushville Commercial Historic District

other names/site number 139-36001-090

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Fourth, N. Morgan, First, N/A not for publication
and N. Perkins streets

city or town Rushville N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Rush code 139 zip code 46173

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.)

Patrick R. Rebb

11/8/93

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patty S. Chrisman

12/27/93

Rushville Commercial HD
Name of Property

Rush County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
54	18	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
54	18	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional financial institution, specialty store, restaurant, department store
SOCIAL: meeting hall
RELIGION: religious facility
(see attached continuation page)

DOMESTIC: apartment building
COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, restaurant
SOCIAL: meeting hall
RELIGION: religious facility
(See attached continuation page)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, Neo-classical Revival, Collegiate Gothic, 20th Century Commercial, Art Deco

foundation STONE: limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: limestone
roof ASPHALT
other METAL: cast iron, aluminum, bronze
TERRA COTTA

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.)

- X 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.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1847-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

A.W. Rush & Co.; McGuire & Shook; Allen & Kelley; Williams & Otter

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:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

Rushville Commercial HD
Name of Property

Rush County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 18 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 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 Hugh Smith, Graduate Student
organization Ball State University date June 3, 1993
street & number 52 West Summit Street telephone 216/247-6783
city or town Chagrin Falls state Ohio zip code 44022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Various private owners, the City of Rushville, Rush County (see attached)
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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Rushville Commercial Historic District

Historic Functions (continued)

GOVERNMENT: fire station, municipal building, post office

GOVERNMENT: county courthouse

EDUCATION: library

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, auditorium, music facility, monument/marker

INDUSTRY: factory, telephone company facility

HEALTH CARE: private hospital, doctor's office

Current Functions (continued)

GOVERNMENT: municipal building

GOVERNMENT: county courthouse

EDUCATION: library

RECREATION AND CULTURE: movie theater, monument/marker

HEALTH CARE: doctor's office

LANDSCAPE: city park, gazebo, parking lot

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Description

The Rushville Commercial Historic District is located slightly south and east of the geographic center of Rush County. Rushville, the county seat of Rush County, sits north of the Flatrock River which bisects the county from the southwest to the northeast. The commercial district centers along two primary transportation routes: U. S. Route 52, traveling southeast from Indianapolis to Cincinnati, passes through the district along Second Street; and State Route 3 travels south along Main Street connecting Fort Wayne to Louisville.

The Rush County Courthouse, situated in the center of a city block bounded by Second, Perkins, First and Main Streets, provides visual focus for the district. Contributing commercial buildings line Main Street four blocks north ending at Fourth Street, and part of one block south of First Street. Additional contributing buildings bound First, Second and Third Streets one block west of Main to Morgan Street; and parts of blocks east of Main on Second and Third Streets. The entire commercial district lies within the bounds of the original 1822 plat, which established the grid street pattern, street and alley widths.

Of the district's 76 total resources, 54 are buildings contributing to the district's integrity. Eighteen noncontributing buildings consist of eight built after the period of significance, and ten historic buildings have been altered so that no integrity of the original building exists. In addition, the district contains three previously listed buildings, and two contributing objects which were previously listed along with the courthouse.

Trees border two blocks of North Main and West Second Street. A small park honoring former Rushville resident Wendell Willkie has been created on the site of a demolished building in the first block of North Main. The landscaped area features a noncontributing wood gazebo structure and is identified by a memorial marker. Historic photographs illustrate several types of light fixtures and paving surfaces used in the district, but no evidence of these remain.

The district contains a profuse collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings, with a number of Italianate, Neoclassical and early twentieth century vernacular examples represented. The district's contributing architecture begins with three vernacular Greek Revival examples, and ends with one 1939 example of a modernistic Art Deco facade. Contributing buildings were individually verified against 1926 and 1947 Sanborn Insurance Maps, and commercial structures existing on these maps helped justify the district's boundaries.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

GREEK REVIVAL

Three buildings exhibiting elements of this style are found in the district, and date from before the Civil War. Two structures originally functioned as churches. The former Methodist Episcopal Church, located on the southwest corner of Morgan and Third Streets was built between 1847 and 1850. Alterations and additions from later industrial, social and commercial uses included the removal of the bell tower before 1900. The front elevation facing Morgan Street, with parapet cornice and projected corners, retains the church's basic configuration. Although window openings have been bricked in, the attenuated second story maintains the historic appearance. Three original six-over-six sash windows with wood lintels facing the side facade illustrate the Greek Revival style's simplicity. A sizable 1910s addition appears to be a separate building, and a second wing with a loading dock from the same era adjoins the building to the rear (Photos 5, 6). The most recent alteration consists of a c.1950 one-story commercial extension with plate glass and aluminum framed windows on the side elevation facing Third Street (203-207 West Third Street). A large second floor interior space of the original sanctuary retains the historic door and window casings. Murals added around 1890 by a social organization enhance the room.

The building's commercial spaces are rented, but the second floor is vacant. The exterior, especially on less visible facades, is experiencing severe deterioration (Photo 6). Inside, the weight of a roof air-conditioning unit added in 1988 endangers the historic notched beam roof timbers, visible through a rapidly deteriorating ceiling. The owners plan to repair the roof and rehabilitate the second floor.

The former Church of Christ sanctuary built between 1850 and 1853 is the second oldest building in the district. As the present Boys' and Girls' Club, the brick, two story structure is located at 201 West Second on the southwest corner of Morgan Street (Photo 9). Greek Revival elements include articulated bays between windows imitating pilasters in a vernacular expression of a temple. A stepped parapet of the rear gable also evidences the original building. The Knights of Pythias added a Neoclassic North Morgan Street facade in 1909, delineated by a central semicircular cornice and attic fanlight, limestone bands and carved panels. Further changes were made to the building in 1943. Plans for moving the club facility threatens the building's future.

Despite alterations, both buildings' presence within the district provides a beginning reference for architectural significance as well as a boundary point. The Boys' and Girls' Club and the former Methodist Episcopal Church are the last buildings in the district on West Second and Third Streets respectively.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

The Durbin Hotel, the third building constructed prior to Civil War remaining in the district, is located across the street from the Boys' and Girls' Club at 137 West Second Street (Photo 11). Opened as the Carr House in 1856, the building was operated continuously as a hotel until the mid 1980s. Although the front elevation has altered commercial areas and suffered from the addition of a 1950s limestone rubble-faced facade, the stepped-parapet cornice and the central doors containing sidelights of the second and third floors are original. (The Durbin Hotel was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 19, 1982.)

ITALIANATE

Melodeon Hall, one block west of the courthouse at 132-138 West Second Street and across from the Durbin Hotel, is one of the more outstanding buildings in the district. Finished in 1872, the two-story building contained a theater above four commercial spaces. Although two spaces have been altered with 1970s and 1980s storefronts, two storefronts retain their original configuration (Photo 12).

The primary facade facing Second Street is twelve bays long. The commercial level featured a continuous brick arcade above brick pilasters, and was accentuated by dressed keystones and stones representing capitals. Original storefronts contained two windows flanking a central entry. Twelve windows of the second floor follow the rhythm begun at the commercial level and are attenuated sash windows with round arched lintels and matching smaller stone accents. A bracketed cornice separated at intervals by five larger brackets typify the Italianate style. A wood frieze with accentuated molding flows between brackets.

The building extends to a narrow alley on the west elevation facing Morgan Street, and the sloped parapet cornice follows the shed roof. Two ocular windows further light the commercial space, and four second floor windows display simpler window treatments. Two commercial storefronts feature intrusive remodeling from the 1970s and 1980s. The second floor has been nominally maintained. (Melodeon Hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 15, 1973.)

The Italianate style of Melodeon Hall continues with the adjoining commercial block east. Although not as high, 126-130 West Second employs identical design features evident on the upper floors and cornice. Originally twelve bays in length containing four commercial areas, the east most section (124 West Second Street) was demolished within the past decade for parking. Although the storefronts at 128-130 West Second have been altered, enough of the building's

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

historic integrity is evident to facilitate a sensitive restoration. Narrow second floor window openings have been partially infilled with plywood and aluminum sash windows, but feature original sills of finished limestone and round arched lintels with stone accents. Both structures retain the original bracketed cornice over an accentuated frieze. 126 West Second Street was renovated within the past decade. The second story windows were shortened using the original materials and treatment, and the cornice was partially covered with aluminum siding (Photo B).

A third notable Italianate style block faces east at 237-245 North Main Street (Photos 40,41). Eleven bays wide, the building included five commercial spaces. The brick, two story high block has tin-pressed brackets resembling acanthus leaves. Larger end brackets are topped with lions' heads, a motif repeated on several other buildings in the district. None of the original storefronts survive, and have been individually altered to meet occupants' needs. Second story window openings feature limestone sills and pressed metal lintels with brackets and a semicircular central decorative piece. The facade of 237 North Main retains the original wood two-over-two sash windows, but the upper story of the rest of the block has been painted and the windows boarded over with painted plywood. 237 North Main also differs by consisting of a narrower commercial composition beneath two narrower, symmetrically placed second floor window openings.

A number of smaller Italianate buildings survive throughout the district. The two story, brick commercial building at 223 North Main is one of several notable examples (Photo B). Constructed around 1880, the storefront retains elements of a turn of the century cast iron Mesker storefront, displayed in the fluted and decorated end columns and storefront cornice. The c. 1920 storefront configuration retains a recessed entry and plate glass windows with copper surrounds below fixed transoms of luxfer prisms. Three second floor windows have segmented arched lintels topped by pressed metal hoods. The pressed metal cornice consists of larger brackets divided by a coffered frieze containing a central lozenge beneath a band of dentils. Two heavy end brackets feature hipped caps. Round first floor windows and simpler segmented arch second floor window openings punctuate a side alley elevation which, like most buildings on the block, continues 165 feet to a rear alley. The present owners recently restored the storefront and painted the building's exterior.

Other Italianate style buildings in the district, concentrated on North Main Street, have suffered over the years. 301-307 North Main, a nearly identical block to 237-245 North Main, has survived with much less integrity on the northwest corner of Main and Third Streets. The seven bay wide structure was once thirteen bays wide, and only the southern end two bays hint at the

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

original building (Photos 49, 50). This section retains the upper story window hoods, identical to those of 237-245 North Main, and has a similar bracketed cornice, also with lions' heads at each end. On the elevation facing Third Street, three ocular windows survive, although covered over, near the ceiling of the first floor. Second story window openings feature limestone sills and segmented arch brick lintels. One longer opening evidences the original placement of an exterior door. All upper story openings are boarded over. Spalled bricks above the first floor, and discolored bricks at the curb level illustrate problems associated with water. The section of the building at 307 North Main has been significantly altered, with poorly matched upper story window brick infills, removal of window hoods, and the addition of a 1950s stacked brick storefront with an angled entry. Three asymmetrically placed metal casement windows illuminate the second floor.

QUEEN ANNE

Completed in 1883, the three story, brick Beher-King Block at 213-217 North Main is the only building in the district to display Queen Anne style elements (Photo 36). Attenuated brick pilasters bolstering the third floor rest on articulated second floor projections. A central segmented arched window of the second floor with limestone bands and yellow brick lintel provides visual focus, as does a central terracotta plaque displaying the date "1883" in the third floor wall. Above a terracotta architrave once containing the building's namesakes "Beher" and "King," a jerkin gable once contained a tripartite fanlight, now boarded over. Two bay windows at the second floor were removed around 1950 and replaced with glass blocks. Two sets of coupled windows of the top floor are also boarded over.

Somewhat hidden beneath drop ceilings, the commercial spaces of the first floor retain pressed tin ceilings. Used for storage, much of the second floor retains original wood trim and room configuration. A large room used for lodge functions on the third floor remains essentially unchanged and in good shape.

ROMANESQUE REVIVAL

Bounded by a city block, the Rush County Courthouse is the largest building in the district. Designed by A. W. Rush & Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the building was constructed between 1896 and 1898 and clearly reflects a French Romanesque style popular in late nineteenth century civic design. The tower, 196 feet above ground level, rises from the center of the three-and-a-half story building, faced with coursed rubble-faced limestone and topped by a tiled roof (Photo 24).

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Each elevation contains a bilaterally symmetrical series of articulated and recessed bays ending at projecting towers with hip roofs. Smaller towers flank the north and south entrances. A carved cornerstone depicts two corn plants and a bundled wheat sheaf above a ribbon containing the building's construction date. Laid in alternating wide and narrow courses, the rubble-faced walls are supplemented by finished limestone bands, pilasters, and cornices. Dentils line the tops of walls beneath corner tower cornices and adjoining wall sections.

Windows are double hung sash, and those above the ground floor are topped by transoms. The second floor bays of each tower feature paired double hung sash windows beneath a semicircular transom enclosed by paired columns. The design is continued in the third floor bays where finished limestone pilasters separate windows below individual semicircular transoms. Similar gabled bay sash windows originally gracing each elevation of the towers' roofs were removed before 1950.

Entrances are centrally placed beneath a projecting four-story gabled bay in each elevation. Each entry features a mosaic floor and is finished with differing carved or polished limestone elements. Three are at ground level, but the North entrance, designed to be the primary entry, is elevated half a story. The recessed space beneath a broad semicircular arch, flanked by coupled columns, is approached by limestone steps from the sidewalk bounding East Second Street. Wide concrete walks approach the entrances, and a low concrete wall accentuated at corners by limestone pedestals separates the lawn from the walk. The courthouse is surrounded by a landscaped lawn containing two contributing and one noncontributing memorials.

Much of the courthouse interior is original, which retains marble and mosaic floors, fireplaces, wood trim, furniture and fixtures. The grand staircase retains original floral metal railings. Alterations unfortunately include the addition of drop ceilings, paneled walls, new furniture and carpeting to the third floor circuit courtroom and offices. The courthouse remains a primary focus for the district, Rushville and Rush County. (The Courthouse was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 10, 1975.)

The district's best surviving commercial example of the Romanesque Revival is located at 105 West First Street (Photo 16). The two story building retains elements of a cast-iron commercial storefront beneath a coursed, rubble-faced limestone upper story. The commercial area has been altered with bedrocks, vertical siding and aluminum doors, but original end pilasters and narrow attenuated columns remain, as does the storefront cornice. Three bays wide,

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the second story consists of two double hung windows flanking a wider central window. In a curious mix of eclecticism, classically inspired lintels of finished limestone with angled voussoirs and articulated keystones top the windows, as does a continuous limestone band doubling as a sill. The romanesque elements are clearly evident in the cornice treatment: Hanging buttresses projecting from the corners are topped by spherical bosses. Two central hanging buttresses project end above the cornice at pyramidal shaped caps and are supported by pressed metal or limestone pieces. The central cornice section extends above a limestone architrave containing dentils. Two pressed metal fan brackets frame each side of the central hanging buttresses, and a simple limestone plaque inset into the wall beneath the cornice is above the central window.

A more vernacular presentation of the Romanesque Revival, is the two story brick building at 124 East Second Street (Photo 27). Constructed between 1901 and 1908 by Dr. Lot Green for his family's medical practices, the second floor contained Rushville's first private hospital between 1919 and 1944. A Mesker storefront in its original window configuration is beneath a row of four double hung windows accentuated by continuous rock-faced limestone bands traversing the facade at sill and lintel level. The central section of the corbelled parapet extends above the cornice and is divided by articulated pilasters symbolizing buttresses. Presently vacant, the owner has begun to renovate the second floor of the building into an apartment. Another, larger example of vernacular interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style is found two doors east at 130 East Second Street, constructed as newspaper headquarters for the Rushville Republican between 1901 and 1908 (Photo 25). Converted to apartments, the building's painted exterior is peeling and belies other evidence of water damage and neglect.

The Presbyterian Church, across from the library at the southeast corner of Morgan and Third, remains the only religious building in the district. Constructed in 1892 and 1893, the building was completed at a cost of \$25,000 and was designed by the Dayton, Ohio firm of Williams & Otter (Photos 3, 8). The cross-gabled structure is visually focused on a five-story high corner tower which roots the building to its site. Constructed of brick above an elevated foundation of coursed, rubble-faced limestone, wide limestone courses accentuate the round arched lintels of the large, stained-glass windows of the transept gables. Hip-roofed bays are attached to cross-gabled ends, and an arcade between two projecting bays shields the entry on the west elevation. The tower contains three levels of recessed slit windows. Above this, each side of an open bell chamber consists of one limestone column centrally placed between brick corners. A steeply pitched hip roof was removed at some point, and an unobtrusive educational wing was added south of the church in 1973.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL

Three buildings revealing Neoclassic elements are associated with banks, two sited at the intersection of Main and Second, the district's most prominent corner. The former People's Bank at 201 North Main, a two story, limestone-faced structure completed between 1914 and 1915, faces North Main and is three bays wide (Photos 30, 34). Two engaged columns rise from above the main entrance, which was modified with a plate glass storefront after 1933. Column capitals of the Main Street elevation have been severely damaged, and once matched the pilaster capitals of the seven-bay-wide elevation facing West Second Street. A limestone cornice with roundels above each capital is beneath a parapet with articulated coping. In the parapet above the main entrance, a carved "P" is framed by an angular shield. Bronze casement windows feature angled Roman muntins. The first floor has a level of similarly finished swivel transoms, divided by bronze lintels. An entrance accessed on Second Street features a bronze pedimented doorway, doors and hardware.

The interior reflects the building's original functions. Pilasters and coffered beams decorate the large space of the two-story high main banking room. From a mezzanine floor at one end, a shallow, balustraded wood balcony containing a clock overlooks the main floor. Two offices open from the balcony and survey the bank floor through casement windows. Marble stairs with a brass handrails ascend from the side entry to a central mezzanine landing before continuing to the top floor. Interior walls of the second floor office spaces have been removed to create one large open space. Currently unused and for sale, the building has suffered from water damage. Sections of first floor plaster interior decorations have deteriorated, and some ceilings and walls have decayed to reveal the brick interior wall. A restoration of this building would well benefit the district and community.

Across the street at the northeast corner of Main and Second, the former Rushville National Bank building, completed in 1911, features more modest neoclassic decoration (Photo 29). Also faced with finished limestone, the two story building exhibits articulated pilasters and dentils beneath a full cornice and parapet. Floral and geometric motifs decorate first floor pilasters, and "Rushville National Bank" is inscribed into an architrave dividing the floors.

Another fine example of Neoclassical detailing is one block north on the former Farmers Trust Company building at 240 North Main (Photo 42). The c. 1915 cream-colored architectural terracotta facade was probably added to an earlier building. Pilasters flank the elevation and rise two stories to fanciful Corinthian capitals. Two egg-and-dart bands surround an architrave with

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lettered tiles containing the name of the bank. Above the projecting cornice supported by a row of incised brackets, a coffered parapet rises to a level matching the building adjoining it. The unchanged commercial level contains a recessed entry adjoining a small picture window. A continuous band of four windows at the second story are divided by terralotta casings and share a terracotta sill. The windows are wood, six over one double hung sashes. The building remains in excellent condition despite minor cracks found on tiles near the curb.

An eclectic neoclassical interpretation is found at 130 East Second Street. Constructed as offices and an upholstery plant between 1901 and 1908, the two story building features delicately pointed orange-colored face brick above a raised finished limestone basement (Photo 28). The parapet roof is topped by a pressed metal open balustrade surrounding a closed central section with a raised panel. Larger one-over-one sash windows of the first floor are beneath coupled windows of the second story. The primary entrance is elevated from the street, recessed behind a semicircular entry lined by a narrow limestone band and topped by a narrow accentuated keystone. Above the entry, coupled windows continue the theme with semicircular lintels. An accentuated brick band encases the windows, ending at a finished limestone sill running across the facade. The well maintained building is utilized as offices.

Two doors east, refined neoclassic detailing is present in the building at 126 East Second Street, a two story brick and limestone structure built as an automobile service garage between 1908 and 1914 (Photo 26). Yellow brick accentuates red brick on end pilasters. Limestone cornices between the floors and a continuous second floor lintel band enhances a horizontal feeling. Limestone triglyphs with guttae anchor the ends of a dentilled limestone cornice. The garage entrance has been altered with limestone and brick in an interior conversion to office space. The second story fixed casement windows beneath a square transom are metal replacements matching the historic wood frames. End bays containing individual windows of this type flank a central bay containing a band of four windows.

TWENTIETH CENTURY COMMERCIAL/CHICAGO SCHOOL

Several buildings in the district built after the turn of the twentieth century adapt on a smaller, more vernacular scale the technological advancements displayed by the Chicago School group of architects. Characteristics include expansive use of glass, often expressed in horizontal bands, on both commercial and upper floors levels; and simplified geometric decoration, often utilizing limestone or terracotta contrasted with brick.

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Constructed in 1913-15, the Phoenix Lodge at 328-330 North Main is an impressive two story brick structure with projecting corner towers, terracotta tile details and a parapeted cornice (Photos 54, 55). Two bays wide, the projecting corners are quoined and flank a central space six bays wide. The parapet is capped with limestone. Between first and second floors, geometric brick designs are bordered at corners by tiles. Additional terracotta tiles situated in the central bay contain masonic symbols and identify the building's organization.

Most of the four original first floor commercial openings have been infilled with wood and smaller plate glass openings, but one bay survives. It features a wood-framed plate glass window beneath a fixed transom of vertical panes. A large portion of the first floor has operated as a movie theater since the 1920s, however the historic marquee and entries were replaced with more contemporary aluminum, glass and plastic elements. Second floor openings have been completely or partially bricked in. Six windows of the central facade have been partially replaced with glass blocks.

More vernacular interpretations of the Chicago School include two story brick commercial buildings at 221 North Main, and the Oddfellows' Hall addition to the former Methodist Episcopal Church at 208 North Morgan (Photo 5). The second story of 221 North Main Street features two double hung sash windows on either side of a wide central coupled picture window with fixed transoms, the window widths repeated in decorative rectangular bands in the parapet above the windows. The storefront retains decorative stamped metal end columns and a transom band of luxfer prisms. The Oddfellows' Hall addition featuring a shallow hipped tiled roof gave the structure a Spanish feeling. Wide window openings of the second floor contain wood casement sashes and transoms. The storefront levels contain fixed casements matching the second floor.

A later example displaying similar elements can be found at 131 West First Street, built in the 1920s as an automobile showroom (Photo 14). Horizontality is projected through the bands of wood casement windows, now boarded up, over a storefront level of continuous plate glass, similarly covered. Geometric brickwork decorates levels between windows and floors. Unused, the building is rapidly falling into disrepair.

COLLEGIATE GOTHIC

The district's only example of Collegiate Gothic is the Rushville Public Library, fronting the northeast corner of Morgan and Third streets at 130 West Third. Designed by the Indianapolis firm McGuire & Shook, the structure was begun in 1930 (Photo 2). The building has rubble faced limestone walls and

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finished limestone details. A south-facing reading room features a parapet bay window projecting from a buttressed gable. A sundial is inset above the bay, and a somewhat streamlined carved owl sits at the gable's crest. A rectangular two-story wing to the west has a flat roof. The front entrance, angled at the junction of the wings, contains a double wood doors recessed beneath a segmented arch lintel with a label mold and a graceful wrought-iron lantern. The windows of the reading room are grouped diamond-paned casements, while those of the remaining sections are metal casements. A wood-paneled ceiling and arched beaming of the reading room interior is reminiscent of medieval designs. A skylight illuminates the front desk placed near the entry. The building remains virtually unchanged.

ART DECO

The former Castle Theater, located at 109 East Third Street, features a multi-colored enamel metal tile facade designed by architects J. Lloyd Allen and John R. Kelley and placed on an earlier building in 1939 (Photo 46). Concentric rectangular shapes in faded grey-greens and blacks surround narrow vertical glass block openings. The wide central bay extends above narrower end sections. Verticality expressed by the upper story is balanced dynamically with the horizontal plate glass entry, angled and recessed asymmetrically between tiled end bays containing movie poster display cases. This unique building is presently used for a printing company offices.

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

The noncontributing buildings in the district fall into two categories: buildings constructed during the period of significance which have lost substantial integrity due to alterations; and buildings constructed since the period of significance. Examples of the first type include several two story, brick buildings which may retain the general footprint or cornice levels of the historic buildings but have been modernized or remodeled with newer cladding materials. Vertically paneled corrugated metal covers the upper stories of a three story brick structure at 242 North Main Street (Photo 43). Vertical wood paneling and shed roof cover the commercial area and gabled wood hoods over the second story openings cover the front elevation of the former Rushville Firehouse and mayor's offices at 111-113 West Third Street (Photo 44). Two upper story windows retain their original four-over-four wood sash configuration, but the three remaining windows are aluminum sash replacements. Another altered building includes a group of c. 1900 one-story office buildings across the street at 114 West Third, joined together around 1970 by a vertical paneled wood facade, angled hoods over ranch-style windows above high brick

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bases, and suspended globe lamps (Photo 45). The upper story of the brick two story building at 115 North Main has been covered with corrugated steel, but the storefront retains historic elements (Photo 22).

Buildings completed since the end date of significance include the one-story cement block and corrugated metal Rushville Chiropractic Office at 312 North Main, built in the 1960s as a Western Auto Store; the one-story 1972 Rush County Bank at the southwest corner of Main and Second; the one-story c.1955 First Federal Savings & Loan bank at 315 North Main; and a c.1950 one-story brick building built as a Woolworths at 103 North Main (Photos 53, 21, 22, 52).

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Significance

The Rushville Commercial Historic District possesses local significance as the historical commercial and governmental center of Rush County. The district also contains a cohesive number of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial architectural styles such as Greek Revival, Italianate and the Neoclassic Revival. Rushville compares favorably to the county seats and commercial centers of neighboring communities in Indiana's east central region. Focused around the central County courthouse, the district's commercial buildings are important to the history of the development of Rushville and Rush County.

The Rushville Commercial Historic District can be evaluated within the historic context of county seats and commercial activity in the east central region of Indiana between 1847 and 1940. Rushville, county seat of Rush County, can be compared with the county seats of surrounding counties which include Shelby, Hancock, Henry, Fayette and Decatur counties. All but Henry County have published Interim Reports as part of the Indiana historic Sites & Structures Inventory.

Before statehood, the area comprising Rush County was a dense hardwood forest populated by Delaware Indians and the occasional squatter. Rush County's fertile lands were available for purchase following the opening of the Federal Land Office in Brookville approximately 26 miles southeast of Rushville, in adjoining Franklin County in 1818. The National Road, surveyed just north of Rush County's northern boundary, was completed by 1835 and also promulgated regional settlement.

Timber processing supplemented the early agriculture economy which developed and characterized the region. Railroads provided a first wave of prosperity for area farmers after 1850, as agricultural and timber products were exported to eastern and southern markets. Many of the Italianate buildings date to this era and reflect this aspect of the town's development.

Although an abundance of natural gas was never found as in more northern counties, regional prosperity surrounded Rush County. Discovery of natural gas in Delaware and Henry Counties north of Rush County after 1886 contributed to Rushville's and Rush County's prosperity and industrial development. A number of factories were established in Rushville during this time and the community experienced healthy growth. New Castle, in neighboring Henry County to the north, became known as "Little Detroit," producing eight types of automobiles.

Shelbyville to the south, was known as the "Furniture City of the Midwest." Rushville's classification in promotional literature as "the garden spot of the

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midwest," reflects its rich, well-drained soil conducive to agricultural productivity. Industry included a tile-manufacturing and a pump factory, and furniture factories were once Rush County's largest manufacturing employers, flourishing from around 1885 to the Great Depression. Buildings in the district constructed between 1885 and 1930 clearly display the region's industrial prosperity, demonstrated best in the third Rush County courthouse, an imposing three and a half story rubble-faced limestone structure with a peak-roofed clock tower completed in 1898. The building's unique Franco-Romanesque Revival design competed favorably or surpassed similar courthouse projects completed in other gas-belt counties in the region. For most of the twentieth century, Rush County has remained a comparatively prosperous regional agricultural center, borne in continuing state and national statistics reflecting the county's importance in farm produce, particularly corn and pork.

The Rushville Commercial Historic District is significant for its association to the history of Rush County government and the commercial development of Rushville and Rush County. European Americans first settled the area in 1818. Dr. William B. Laughlin entered the tract which would become Rushville in 1820, constructing a house and a mill on the north bank of the Flatrock River. In April, 1822, the Indiana State Legislature approved the creation of Rush County. Laughlin, a state legislature member, suggested the names of Rushville and Rush County after Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He and Zachariah Hodges donated 60 acres to establish a county seat. Conrad Sailor was hired to survey Rushville's original plat of 151 lots based on the grid pattern established in Connersville, the county seat of Fayette County to the east, and lots were available for purchase by June, 1822. A log jail finished that year was followed by a two story brick courthouse completed in 1823. Rushville grew slowly but steadily: The settlement's first addition was platted to the west along the Indianapolis Road by Laughlin in 1836, and records indicate citizens were petitioning the county commissioners for incorporation as a town in 1838.

As documented in an 1888 county history, the earliest buildings were log or frame buildings often combining commercial and residential functions. The community's commercial focus early centered on the north- and south-west corners of the courthouse square, which included taverns and dry goods stores. Grain and lumber mills utilizing the Flatrock River's waterpower thrived on lands east and south of the courthouse. As Rushville grew, development spread west, and later north, from the corner of Second and Main Streets. Brick commercial structures were replacing the initial wood buildings by the 1840s: None of these log or frame buildings built in the district survive.

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Between 1845 and 1860, Rushville was transformed from a frontier town to an established community and county center. In 1850, the Shelbyville & Rushville Railroad opened the city to southern markets. Rushville was further connected to regional and national markets by railroads in 1867, 1868, 1881, and in 1882. In addition to hastening Rushville's industrial and agricultural development, rail accessibility spurred the town's physical growth: Between 1850 and 1860, Rushville's population doubled, growing from 742 to 1434.

Responding to the pressures of growth, a new courthouse, designed in 1846 by Indianapolis architect John Elder, was completed for \$12,000 in 1848. Old photographs show a brick, two story structure in a classically-derived design, topped by a central octagonal, domed cupola. The second courthouse reflects a community center which was becoming increasingly complex. Newspapers were being published regularly by 1840, but by the Civil War, the Rushville Republican and The Jacksonian provided Republican and Democratic party viewpoints respectively. A County Seminary dependent on subscription was established in Rushville in 1837, succeeded by a public High school in 1849. A branch of the Bank of the State of Indiana was opened in Rushville in 1857. By 1860, a town directory for Rushville boasted 6 attorneys, 3 bakers, 4 carriage manufacturers, 4 clothiers, 2 dentists and 9 doctors, 4 grain dealers and 1 flour mill, and 9 general stores. Seven carpenters and one brick manufacturing firm also advertized their services.

Rushville's population increased steadily after the Civil War, growing from 1696 in 1870, 2515 in 1880, 3475 in 1890, to 4541 in 1900. Italianate style buildings lining the district's streets reflect the growth of the 1870s and 1880s. Many maintain original storefronts and other details, contributing to a high level of integrity for the district. Most notable of these is Melodeon Hall, or the "Opera House Block," completed in 1872. The two story, brick structure contained five commercial spaces beneath a large stagehall. Visiting entertainers and speakers included Tom Thumb and James Whitcomb Riley. Other buildings include the commercial building at 101-103 West First Street, also shown in the 1871 bird's eye view, utilized for a time as Rushville's Town Hall. Two story commercial blocks at 108-118 West Second, 126-130 West Second, 237-245 North Main, and 301-309 North Main also date to this period and help provide continuity to the district in their design similarities.

Rushville incorporated as a city in 1883. In anticipation, the town approved the construction of permanent municipal quarters for a Firehouse and mayor's offices (113-115 West Third Street) in 1881. A brick, two story Italianate structure costing over \$10,000 was contracted by Robert Perry, and continued to serve as municipal offices until the mid-twentieth century.

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A few buildings in the district were constructed or utilized for manufacturing or light industrial purposes. Between about 1871 and 1885, A. S. Bowen operated a frame building used as a planing mill and an extension-table manufacturer on the northeast corner of Main and Third. Other light industry in the district included, at various times, Wingerter's "Cuban special" cigar processing, two steam laundries, a carriage manufacturer and an ice-cream maker. The former Methodist Episcopal Church at the southwest corner of West Third and North Morgan was utilized for a time as Edward Poundstone's Carriage Works.

Schrichte's Marble Works, established by German native J. B. Schrichte, first opened his stone cutting business in Rushville in 1859. In 1870, he moved to 113 South Main Street, where his marble works fronted a storage yard and his residence. As noted in an 1899 publication, Schrichte specialized in cemetery monuments and supplied orders throughout the state. The business passed to his sons at his death. The one story stucco building was finished around 1910.

Most industry in Rushville concentrated around railroad lines northwest of the district. An 1888 county history lists the F. P. Stearns & Company pump factory; the D. C. & I. N. Norris Drill factory, established in 1872; the Rushville Machine Works, specializing in tile machine manufacturing since 1876; and the School Desk Company. Grain and timber processing mills bordered the Flatrock River south of the district. Agricultural products were processed for the General Flour Mill, or stored at one of several commercial elevators. In addition there were three planing mills, and three saw mills. In 1883, Innis, Pierce & Company would construct a furniture manufacturing business, specializing in bedroom sets. After a disastrous 1892 fire, a large industrial complex including a park would be developed in the northwest section of the city, and by the 1920s, the factory would grow to be Rushville's largest employer. A. M. Kennedy & Sons were renowned locally for their skillfully crafted wood covered bridges, and for about sixty years from the mid 1880s, two once crossed the Flatrock River on South Main Street and East Second Street entering Rushville. Constructed of local oak or imported white pine, the burr arch structures typically featured bracketed gabled ends and covered pedestrian walkways.

The construction of the third Rush County Courthouse between 1896 to 1898 reflects the height of the region's industrial importance. Completed at a cost of \$257,385.38, the structure provided a new focus for the community. Rushville's population increased from 3,475 in 1890 to 5,498 in 1920. In addition to new construction, earlier buildings received updated storefronts and facades, and commercial expansion converted or remodeled former houses to boarding houses, offices and stores. An 1899 commercial pamphlet proudly

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listed Rushville's attributes: Two steam laundries, seven manufacturers, 2 lumber yards, 3 dry goods stores, 5 clothing stores, 8 doctors (and one veterenarian), 2 hardware stores, 2 furniture & undertaking establishments, 4 drug stores, 3 buggy & harness shops, 4 jewelry shops, 2 music stores and three saloons.

Examples of the turn of the century growth include the two story commercial building at 105 West First Street, with its rubble-faced limestone facade; and the row of four buildings facing the courthouse on East Second Street. Highlighting the area's prosperity, the 1911 Rushville National Bank (202 North Main), the 1913 People's Trust Bank (201 North Main), and the c.1920 Farmer's Trust Company (240-242 North Main) buildings present stolid, finished limestone or terracotta, classically-inspired facades. By 1913, primary streets in the district would be lighted electrically with globed cast-iron standards.

Elements of Rushville's commercial development is tied to a subcontext of social history. Popularity of secret organizations during the late nineteenth century stimulated construction of a number of the district's buildings. By 1888, Rushville contained two chapters of Masons, four chapters of Oddfellows, and chapters of the Knights of Pythias, The Knights of Honor, The Ancient Order of United Workmen, The Knights of Labor, and the Grand Army of the Republic. Surviving buildings associated with these organizations, often containing large social halls on upper floors, contribute to the district.

The earliest building remaining in the district tied to fraternal organization is the 1883 Beher-King Block (217-219 North Main Street). The top floor of the three story structure was used variously by the Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. E. D. Beher, a doctor practicing in Rushville since 1865, had his medical offices on the second floor above a successful drug store he operated on the ground level. Elisha King was known to be one of the wealthiest men in Rush County.

Phoenix Lodge No. 62, Free & Accepted Masons completed the large two story brick building at 328-330 North Main Street in 1915. Formed around 1840, this branch of Masons first built a lodge and commercial building on the site in 1906. The present structure replaced the earlier hall after a 1913 fire.

The two story brick building at 225-231 North Morgan was completed as a wing connecting the former Methodist Episcopal Church and commercial structures by the Oddfellows around 1915. The second floor contained social halls above commercial offices, and evidence in first floor interior wood trim and wall placement indicates the building was built around an earlier residence on the lot.

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In 1901, a right-of-way was granted for the Indianapolis & Connersville Interurban tracks, and the imposing 1876 Queen Anne residence of Captain J. H. Mauzy, located at the northeast corner of Morgan and Third Streets was purchased as Rushville's interurban office. The route was open in 1905 and supplied regular service until the late 1920s. The Mauzy house was demolished in 1930 for the Rushville Public Library.

By the 1920s, transformations created by the automobile clearly affect the district. Gas stations and parking lots replaced earlier commercial structures or residences on the district's outer sections. New construction, such as showrooms and service garages, accommodated indoor parking, and earlier structures received garage additions or storefront entrances for drive-in capabilities. The former C. H. Tompkins Ford Dealership (131 West First Street), built around 1925, has casement windows lining a second floor automobile parking area over a showroom space with plate glass windows, now covered over. Adjacent to this, on the site of the present municipal building, a two story brick Greek Revival home was demolished for a paved lot and gas station. No gas stations remain in the district.

Motion picture entertainment was regularly available in the district by the 1920s. Early nickelodeons had been located as early as 1908 in the commercial block at 305 North Main, as well as in Melodeon Hall. By the 1920s, the Princess Theater, located on the first floor of the Masonic Temple at 330 North Main Street, competed with the Castle Theater in a renovated duplex at 109-111 East Third. The Castle remained in business until the early 1980s. The Princess continues in business today.

The Rushville Public Library, designed in 1931 in a Collegiate Gothic style by the Indianapolis firm of McGuire & Shook, replaced the Indianapolis & Connersville Traction Company headquarters on the northeast corner of Morgan and Third Streets. As the first permanent home for the local library, the Collegiate Gothic style was used to symbolize traditional values and spiritual growth through education.

A pair of one story brick office buildings located at 123 and 127 West Third Street were built in 1931, but little other new construction was completed during the Depression. In 1939, the Castle Theater was remodeled by the architectural firm of Allen & Kelley, giving the building its present multicolored metal tile Art Deco facade.

In 1940, Wendell Wilkie, an attorney with local roots, chose Rushville as his headquarters in his unsuccessful campaign as Republican Party Presidential candidate against Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Rushville briefly became a center

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of nationally attention, and for this reason, 1940 was chosen as the end date of significance for the district.

The district is also important for its collection of nineteenth and twentieth century buildings displaying representative commercial architectural styles. Similarity of window openings, storefront dimensions, and cornice heights unify the district. As defined in Richard Longstreth's book Main Street, a majority of buildings are two-part commercial blocks, with a few one-part commercial blocks and enframed window wall types. Although altered in varying degrees, three vernacular Greek Revival buildings survive in the district as a reminder of Rushville's pre-Civil War structures. The simplicity and vernacular building techniques available to early settlers are evident in the stepped parapets, symmetrical and regular window openings, and pared-down plan and composition. These buildings are in fair to endangered condition and need attention.

The oldest building surviving in the district is the former Methodist Episcopal Church. Organized by 1828, the congregation purchased the lot at the southwest corner of Morgan and Third Streets in 1847 and finished the two story brick building by 1850. A two story brick parsonage was built south of the church. The congregation remained in the church until 1886 when it moved to its present location north of the district on North Morgan Street. Illustrating the area's industrialization, the building was sold to Edward Poundstone, who used the buildings for his carriage manufacturing business, adding two brick buildings to the south portion of the property. Sometime between 1913 and 1926, the property became the Oddfellows Hall, at which point a large two story brick addition containing offices and a social hall connected the former sanctuary with the brick commercial structures. Despite the numerous alterations, projecting corners, six-over-six windows and a gabled roof identify the original structure.

One block south, the second oldest building in the district, the former Christian Church, dates from a few years later. The two story brick structure was built by the congregation between 1850 and 1853. The Knights of Pythias occupied the building after 1892, and remodeled the front facade in a neoclassical design in 1909. Further additions by the Boys' and Girls' Club since 1943 extended the building south to First Street. Aspects of the original building include the side elevations and the stepped parapet gable of the rear. Since 1892, the Christian Church has been situated in a Romanesque Revival facility north of the district on Main Street.

The Durbin Hotel (137 West Second Street), opened as a hotel in 1856 on the well-traveled Indianapolis Road, also represents a vernacular Greek Revival

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interpretation with its stepped parapet gable front, window arrangements and cast-iron balconies lining the central bays of the upper floors. The building remained a hotel until the mid 1980s when it was converted to housing. The Durbin Hotel is also significant as Wendell Willkie's headquarters during his unsuccessful 1940 Presidential campaign.

Buildings representing the Italianate Commercial style of the 1870s and 1880s line the district's streets. Outstanding examples include Melodeon Hall, completed in 1872, and two adjoining blocks of buildings displaying continuity of arcaded commercial levels, and vertically attenuated second story windows with round arched lintels on the north side of the street to the east. Despite storefront and other alterations, wood and pressed metal brackets of the cornice remain and also illustrate the style. Two adjoining commercial buildings at 109-111 West First street retain their arched commercial openings and upper story segmented arched windows and cornice brackets are also indicative of the earlier Italianate style. A number of brick, two story structures on North Main between Second and Third display cast iron storefronts, pressed metal window sills and lintels, decorated friezes and cornice brackets indicate advancing metal technology of the 1880s.

The 1883 Beher-King Block, 217-219 North Main, is the district's only example of Queen Anne. Terracotta details include cornice and architrave bands, and stepped blocks of the second floor, supplemented by limestone and yellow brick details. The commercial area at first served as Dr. E. B. King's drugstore beneath his second floor medical offices, and during the first half of the twentieth century, the address became synonymous with several hardware stores.

Several Romanesque Revival variants remain in the district. A small commercial building at 105 West First Street, completed around 1898, exhibits a rubble faced stone cornice with hanging buttresses and eclecticism in Colonial Revival second story window lintels. Vernacular examples include the two story brick building and Rushville's first private hospital (134 East Second Street), and the three story brick former newspaper offices (140 East Second Street), both featuring corbelled brick cornices and rock-faced limestone trim. The only religious building in the district, the First Presbyterian Church, was completed in 1892 at the southeast corner of Morgan and Third. Rubble-faced limestone foundation, sills and lintels, arcaded entry and five story corner tower illustrate an outstanding example of church design created in the Romanesque Revival. The congregation has maintained the structure and added an unobtrusive education wing to the south in 1973.

The most prolific of early twentieth century styles displayed in the district appears to be the Neoclassic Revival. Rediscovery of Greek and Roman forms

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promoted by Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition coupled with local economic stability contributed to the style's popularity. The limestone clad Peoples' Bank, completed in 1915 at the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets, imitates a temple with Ionic columns and pilasters accentuating bronze framed window and door openings. Formed with private capital in 1890, the Peoples' Bank utilized the building until being closed permanently after the 1933 Bank Holiday. A dimestore added a plate glass storefront around 1940 and remained in the building until the early 1980s. Despite nearly a decade of neglect, this distinctive building anchors the district and maintains a high degree of integrity. The former Rushville National Bank, across the street at the northeast corner of North Main and Second Streets, moved to its present home in 1911. Similar classic ornamentation in string courses, quoining and decoration articulate the two story limestone building. Bank expansion continued the neoclassic theme somewhat to the adjoining buildings on East Second and North Main Streets, although a corner clock billboard and drive through facilities are intrusive. Recently purchased by Peoples Bank, the future use of this building may be in jeopardy. The two story terracotta facade of the Farmers Trust Company building (240-242 North Main) illustrates the only extensive use of this material in the district in a Neoclassic Revival design. Probably added to an earlier building, the front elevation contains two Corinthian columns enclosing a single window storefront and a second story of banded windows beneath an entablature containing a bracketed cornice. A similar presentation in brick and limestone is the two story building at 136 East Second Street, built between 1908 and 1914 as an automobile service garage. Two triglyphs with guttae anchor the ends of a parapet cornice above a second story band of windows.

Vernacular examples of the Chicago School are also represented in the district. Banded windows, geometric brick trim with stone or tile accent blocks characterize the Masonic Temple, built between 1913 and 1915 at 328-330 North Main Street. Other examples include the two story brick building at 319 North Main Street, utilized since the beginning of the century as a furniture store, and the small, two story brick building at 221 North Main. A later example is the two story brick former automobile showroom at 125-129 West First Street.

The district has one outstanding example of Collegiate Gothic, found in the 1931 Rushville Public Library. The modernistic Art Deco influence displayed in the 1939 metal tile facade of the former Castle Movie Theater at 109 East Third provides a clear end point for the architectural context of the district.

The noncontributing buildings in the district fall into two categories. buildings built during the period of significance that have lost substantial integrity due to alterations; and buildings built since the period of

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significance. A majority of buildings which have lost historic integrity have been covered with intrusive materials such as vertical wood paneling or aluminum, and may contribute to the historic fabric of the district in the future if these nonhistoric materials are removed. Old photographs illustrate the building's historic appearance, and some structures retain visible historic elements, such as cornice brackets, cast-iron columns or other original storefront details.

Increasing interest is expressed in preservation, and individual storeowners have sensitively cleaned or restored their exterior facades. Previous individual listing of three buildings in the district to the National Register of Historic Places (the Rush County Courthouse, Durbin Hotel and Melodeon Hall) have supplemented the work of active organizations such as Rush County Heritage Inc. and the Rush County Historical Society to promote the historic importance of the area. Ongoing changes to storefronts may detract from a building's integrity, but a cohesive scale and continuity remains to provide a sense of historic place to the district.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the south curbline of West Fourth Street and the west property line of 331-335 North Main Street, follow the west property line of 331-335 North Main Street south, east on the south property line of 331-335 North Main Street to a point intersecting with the west curbline of North Main Street. Proceed south along the west curbline of North Main Street to the north property line of 309-313 North Main Street, proceed west along the north property line of 309-313 North Main Street; and the north property line of 120-126, and 130 West Third Street to the east curbline of North Morgan Street. Proceed south along the east curbline to the south curbline of West Third Street, proceed west to the west property line of 203-207 West Third Street, and proceed south along the west property line of 203-207 West Third Street; and 225-231, 223, and 221 North Morgan Street. Follow the south property line of 221 North Morgan Street east to the west curbline of North Morgan Street and proceed south to the south curbline of West Second Street. Proceed west along the south curbline of West Second Street to the west property line of 201 West Second Street, follow the property line of 201 West Second Street south to the south property line, proceed east on the south property line of 201 West Second Street to the east curbline of North Morgan Street. Proceed south along the east curbline of North Morgan Street to the south property line of 133 West First Street, and proceed east on the south property lines of 131 West First Street and 113 South Main Street to the west curbline of South Main Street.

Proceed north from the west curbline of South Main Street to a point intersecting the north curbline of First Street. Proceed east along the north curbline of East First Street to the west curbline of North Perkins Street. Follow the west curbline of North Perkins Street north to the north property line of 140 East Second Street, west along the north property lines of 140, 136, 134 and 130 East Second Street, south along the west property line of 130 East Second Street to the north curbline of East Second Street. Proceed west to the east property line of 115 East Second Street, and then follow north along the property line on an alley between North Main and Perkins Streets to a point intersecting the east property line of 330 North Main Street and the north property line of 328-330 North Main Street. Proceed west along the north property line of 330 North Main to the east curbline of North Main Street, then north to the south curbline of East Fourth Street, and west along the south curbline of East Fourth Street to the point of beginning.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Boundary Justification

A commercial district of historic resources was identified as the "Rushville Commercial Historic District" in the Rush County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory published in 1988. All but six buildings within this district have primary commercial functions; therefore, consideration of historic context concentrates on a commercial theme. Six buildings have been demolished since 1988, and the boundaries were altered accordingly.

The aim in delineating district boundaries was to define a district containing the greatest concentration of contributing historic resources of a commercial function. This includes the courthouse and the buildings along the main commercial thoroughfares: Second Street and North Main Street. Historically single family dwellings are found to the East, North and West of the district. When necessary, the boundary excludes noncontributing buildings or vacant lots. For example, vacant lots located on the West side of the third block of North Main Street have been omitted. A few contiguous buildings built during the district's period of significance on the south and east sides of the courthouse square have been substantially altered or modernized, and have therefore also been excluded.

The west side of the district includes commercial buildings on the west side of Morgan Street between First and Third Streets, excepting a parking lot at the northwest corner of Second Street. The southwest boundary includes the contributing Boys' and Girls' Club, but excludes the adjoining one-story wing added by the organization after 1943.

Excepting one residence now used as a funeral home, the north boundary divided by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad running the length of Fourth Street separates the historic commercial from a residential district on North Main Street. Residences are maintained one block east of North Main Street, providing the basis for the eastern boundary.

The Flatrock River provides a natural boundary one block south of the courthouse square, but newer development including a shopping plaza has demolished most historic buildings, lumber yards and mills once occupying this area. Therefore, the south boundary of the district omits buildings lining the south side of East First Street and the east side of South Main Street. The boundary partially extends to include the first block of historic buildings on the west side of South Main Street.

Noncontributing buildings in the district are shaded on the accompanying map.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Photograph Information

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Subject: Rushville Commercial Historic District
Location: Rushville, Rush County, Indiana
Photographer: Hugh Smith
Location of negatives: Hugh Smith

1. General view, north elevations of West Third Street; March, 1993; North elevations of West Third Street, camera facing southwest
2. 130 West Third Street (Rushville Public Library); March, 1993; South and west elevations of 130 West Third Street, camera facing northeast.
3. 226 North Morgan Street (First Presbyterian Church); March, 1993; North, West Third Street elevation, and west elevation, camera facing southeast.
4. 123, 125, 127 West Third Street; March, 1993; North elevations of 123, 125, 127 West Third Street, camera facing southeast.
5. 203-207 West Third Street (former Methodist Episcopal Church), and 206 North Morgan Street (Oddfellow's Hall addition); March, 1993; East and north elevations of 203-207 West Third Street, and east elevation of 206 North Morgan Street, camera facing southwest.
6. 203-207 West Third Street (former Methodist Episcopal Church); March, 1993; South and west elevations of 203-207 West Third Street, camera facing northeast.
7. 200 even block North Morgan Street, looking south; March, 1993; general view of west elevations of buildings, camera looking south.
8. 220-224, 226 North Morgan Street; July, 1992; West elevations of 200 even block buildings, camera facing northeast.
9. 201 West Second Street (Boys' and Girls' Club); March, 1993; East and north elevations of 201 West Second Street, camera facing southwest.
10. Looking west on West Second Street; March, 1993; Looking west on West Second Street outside of district, camera facing southwest.

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Photograph Information (continued)

11. 100 odd block of West Second Street (Durbin Hotel on right); March, 1993; North elevations of buildings, camera facing southeast.
12. 132-138 West Second Street (Melodeon Hall); July, 1992; South elevation of 132-138 West Second Street, camera facing northwest.
13. 126, 128, 130 West Second Street; July, 1992; South elevations of buildings, camera facing north.
14. 131 West First Street (former C. H. Tompkins Ford Dealership); March, 1993; North elevation of 131 West First Street, camera facing south.
15. 121-123 West First Street; March, 1993; North elevation of 121-123 West First Street, camera facing south.
16. 105 West First Street; July, 1992; North elevation, camera facing south.
17. 101-103 West First Street; March, 1993; North and east elevations of 101-103 West First Street, camera facing southwest.
18. 101-103, 105, 109 West First Street, 109 South Main; July, 1992; North elevations of buildings on West First Street, east elevation of buildings facing South Main Street, camera facing southwest.
19. 113 South Main Street (former Schrichte Marble Works) and South Main looking outside of district; July, 1992; East elevation of 113 South Main Street, camera facing southwest.
20. 113 South Main Street (former Schrichte Marble Works); July, 1992; South and east elevations of 113 South Main Street, camera facing northwest.
21. 103 North Main Street (former Woolworths); July, 1992; South and east elevations of 103 North Main Street, camera facing northwest.
22. 113, 115, 117 North Main Street; July, 1992; East and north elevations of buildings, camera facing southwest.
24. Rush County Courthouse; July, 1992; West elevation, camera facing east.

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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Photograph Information (continued)

25. 130, 134, 136, 140 East Second Street; March, 1993; South elevations of buildings, camera facing northwest.
26. 136 East Second Street; March, 1993; South elevation of 136 East Second Street, camera facing north.
27. 134 East Second Street; March, 1993; South elevation, camera facing north.
28. 130 East Second Street; March, 1993; South elevation of 130 East Second Street, camera facing north.
29. 202 North Main Street (former Rushville National Bank), and 112 East Second Street; March, 1993; South, East Second Street elevations of buildings, camera facing northwest.
30. 201 North Main Street (former Peoples' Bank); July, 1992; East and south, West Second Street, elevations, camera facing northwest.
31. 123 West Second Street; July, 1992; North and east elevations of 123 West Second Street, camera facing southwest.
32. 108-118 West Second Street; July, 1992; South and part of west elevation of 108-118 West Second Street, camera facing northeast.
33. 108-118 West Second Street; July, 1992; South elevation of 108-118 West Second Street, camera facing north.
34. 201, 205, 211 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevations of buildings, camera facing west.
36. 217-219 North Main Street (Beher-King Block); July, 1992; East elevation, camera facing west.
37. 221 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation of 221 North Main Street, camera facing west.

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Photograph Information (continued)

38. 223 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation, camera facing west.
39. 230, 232-236 North Main Street; July, 1992; West elevations of buildings, camera facing east.
40. 227-231, 233-245 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation of buildings, camera facing northwest.
41. 233-245 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation of block, camera facing west.
42. 240-242 North Main Street (former Farmers Trust Company Building); July, 1992; West elevation of 240-242 North Main Street, camera facing east.
43. 200 even block, North Main Street; March, 1993; West elevations of buildings, camera facing southeast.
44. 113 West Third Street (former Rushville Fire Station & Municipal Offices); July, 1992; North and west elevations of 113 West Third Street, camera facing south.
45. Looking east on West Third Street from 114 West Third Street; July, 1992; South elevation of 114, 109 West Third Street, 301 North Main Street; and north elevations of 250, 251 North Main Street, camera facing east.
46. 109 (former Castle Theater), 113-115 West Third Street; March, 1993; North elevations of 109, 113-115 West Third Street, camera facing southeast.
47. Looking northeast from 109 East Third Street; March, 1993; Looking northeast outside of district, camera facing northeast.

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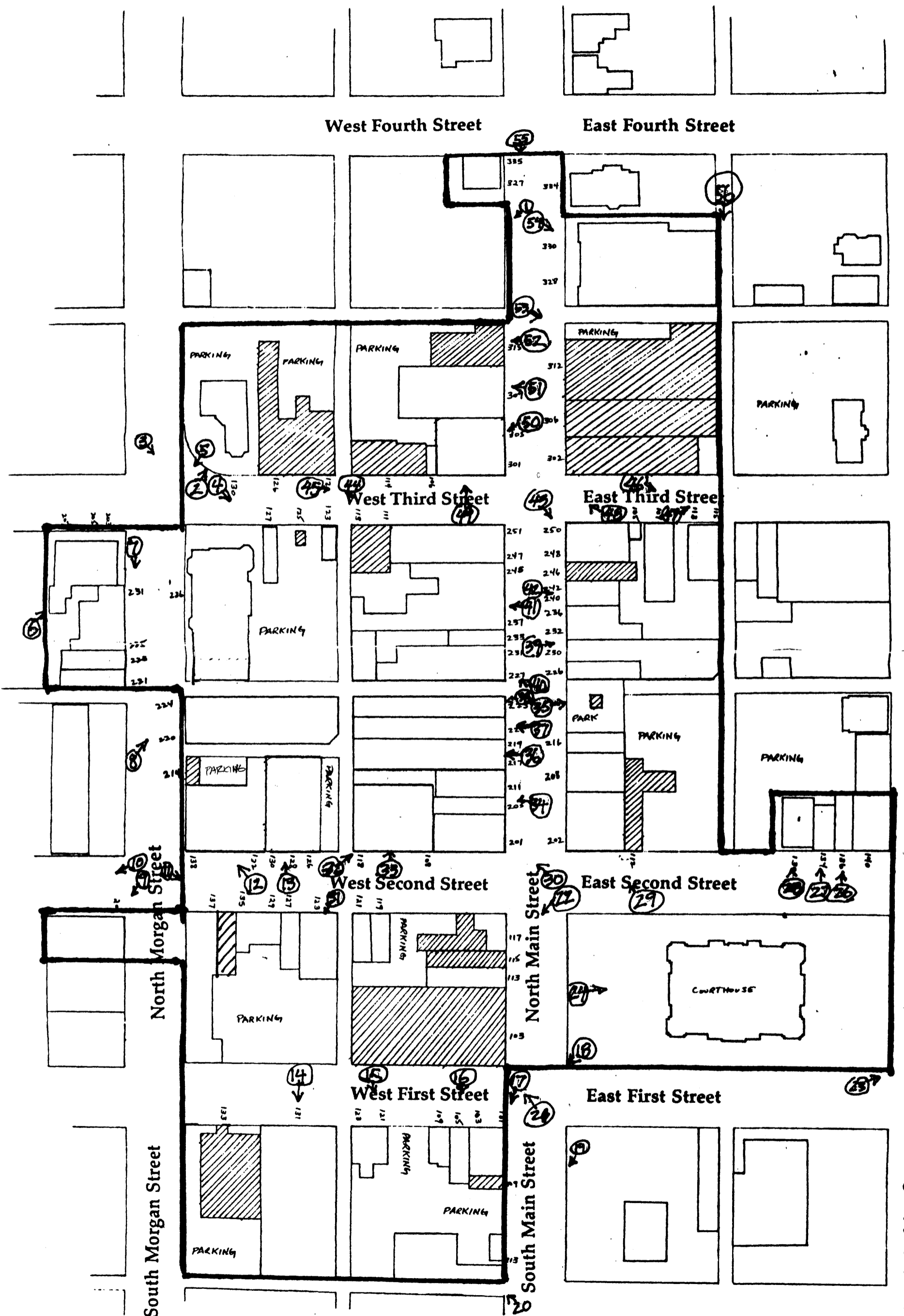
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Rushville Commercial Historic District, Rush County, Indiana

Photograph Information (continued)

48. Intersection of North Main and Third Streets from 109 East Third Street; March, 1993; Intersection of North Main and Third Streets, camera facing northwest.
49. 301 North Main Street; July, 1992; South, West Third Street elevation, camera facing north.
50. 301, 305 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation, camera facing southwest.
51. 309 North Main Street; July, 1992; East elevation, camera facing southwest.
52. 315 North Main Street; March, 1993; North and east elevations of 315 North Main Street, camera facing southwest.
53. 312 North Main Street; March, 1993; North and west elevation of 312 North Main Street, camera facing southeast.
54. 328-330 North Main Street (Masons Phoenix Lodge No. 62); March, 1993; West elevation of 328-330 North Main Street, camera facing southeast.
55. General view, North Main Street; July, 1992; West elevations of 300, 200, 100 block, North Main Street, camera facing southeast.
56. General view, alley behind 328-220 North Main Street looking south to courthouse; March, 1993; Camera facing south.

CITY OF RUSHVILLE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



Not to scale

Historic District Boundaries

Contributing Buildings

Non-Contributing Buildings

