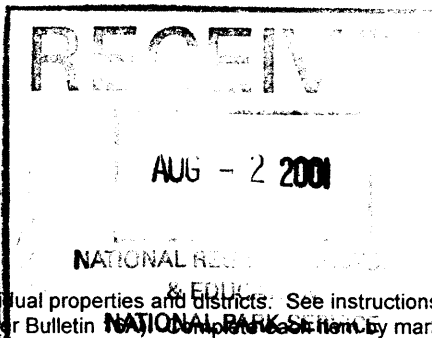


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



991

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 ~~NATIONAL PARK SERVICE~~ 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 Argos Downtown Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 099-022-41000

2. Location

street & number West side Michigan St. between Smith & Williams; East side between Smith & Walnut N/A  not for publication

city or town Argos N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Marshall code 099 zip code 46501

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 36CFR 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.)

J. St. D-SAPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7-23-01  
Date

State or 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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

9/16/01

**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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	4	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
21	4	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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

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

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall  
 GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
 RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
 DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

**7. Description**

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

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
 LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque  
 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival

foundation BRICK  
 walls BRICK  
 STONE: Limestone  
 roof ASPHALT  
 other METAL  
 WOOD

**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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1867-1942

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographic 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:

Marshall County Museum

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 Zone 16 Easting 563290 Northing 4565250

3 Zone 16 Easting 563220 Northing 4564960

2 Zone 16 Easting 563370 Northing 4565020

4 Zone 16 Easting 563140 Northing 4565190

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 Kurt W. Garner/President  
organization Wythougan Valley Preservation Council, Inc. date 03-01-2000  
street & number 308 South Michigan telephone (219) 936-7517  
city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563

**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  
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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7. Description

Materials

Foundation Stone: Granite

Concrete

Walls Wood: Weather Board

Ceramic Tile

Stucco

Roof Synthetics: Rubber

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

### Narrative Description

#### Summary

The Argos Downtown Commercial Historic District comprises approximately three of four blocks of the original business district, laid out in 1851. The town is situated along the north-south alignment of the Michigan Road. Original free-standing frame structures have given way to generally continuous facade lines of masonry constructed commercial structures built from 1883 to 1942. A single frame residence on Smith Street lies behind the only frame commercial building at the north end of the district; both of these structures were built prior to 1870. With few exceptions, the buildings retain a high level of character defining features of their original appearance. As with most historic commercial structures, the upper story facades are generally intact with a smaller number of storefronts retaining their historic appearance. Only a small number of first floor interiors have been preserved or restored; however many of the second and third floor spaces remain intact.

A downtown revitalization effort in 1998 resulted in restoration style lighting, street trees, and partial brick sidewalks along Michigan and Walnut Streets. The Argos Public Library is currently funding a study for the adaptive-reuse of the Schoonover Building at 118 N. Michigan St. into its new home. The current uses of the structures remain primarily commercial in nature, but retain approximately the same mix of uses as what once historically existed in the district.

#### Description

The district's relationship with the surrounding town is distinctively commercial in use and appearance, but integral in its historical relationship as part of the original town plat. Adjacent blocks to the north and south of the downtown district, along the Michigan Road, are residential historic districts with large numbers of contributing and notable structures dating to the same era as the period of significance. The adjacent blocks west of the district on Walnut Street have some remarkable early bungalows in the Arts and Crafts style lining the north side of the street, across from the Marshall County Fair grounds. A mix of commercial and residential structures line Walnut Street, east of the district to the railroad.

The Michigan Road forms the center axis through the downtown and is the principle commercial corridor. The road bends slightly northwesterly through the length of the entire town. The Michigan Road right of way is 100 feet, and nearly all buildings are built to that line as it passes through the district. Wide sidewalks and angled parking are provided for

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off the wide two-lane Michigan Street. About two-thirds of the buildings on Michigan Street are two story structures, about thirty to forty feet in height. The facade line is mostly continuous with a single gap occurring in the south block where an alley leaves Michigan Street. Walnut Street (State Road 10) and Smith Street are much narrower roadways with parallel parking provided on Walnut.

Traffic is usually moderate on Michigan Street. The other two district streets see a lower level of traffic. A large feature on the east side of the Michigan Road, two blocks south of the downtown, is the Argos Town Park. The park is a full block in size and was the original town cemetery site established in 1838, and school grounds. The cemetery was razed in the 1930's and the 1892 school building was razed after the completion of the new building in the 1950's in the northwest area of town.

With the period of significance ranging from 1867 to 1942, the building styles are principally Italianate and 19th and 20th Century functional, with some individual examples of other traditional midwestern styles of the period also existing. The northern most blocks were developed originally and appear mostly as they did during the period of significance. One exception is the bank's acquisition and renovation of a 1920's cafe for expansion space to the north in 1962. The corner lot on which the bank building is located was the original site of a frame flouring mill constructed in 1863. This structure was moved to the railroad when the bank was built and is still in existence. Just outside of the district, two frame buildings were demolished at the north end of the east side of North Michigan Street; one was the original two bay fire station with hose tower. Various frame warehouses and outbuildings once existed on the back sides of the business blocks.

The west side of the 100 block of South Michigan Street appears as it did during the period of significance with the exception of a ca. 1970 building at 138 South Michigan Street. Construction of frame buildings downtown was outlawed in 1887 after a fire in 1886 destroyed all the frame buildings on the west side of South Michigan Street. Consequently all buildings in this block date after the fire. Later additions to this block were two municipal buildings built about 1940: one on Michigan Street and one on Walnut Street; and a ca. 1940 garage built at the corner of Williams and Michigan streets at the south end of the district block. Various frame warehouses and outbuildings also once existed on the back side of this block.

Although only part within the district, a description of the southeast block bordered by South Michigan, Williams, and Walnut streets is needed because of its original function as a fourth block to the commercial district. Historically a single story, masonry bank building, dating to about 1882, was located at the corner of South Michigan and Walnut. A three story masonry building called the Reed Block (1891) was located to the south of the bank. The Williams Inn, a frame structure dating to about 1838 and converted to the Kelly Hospital at the turn of the century, lies at the south end of the block at Williams and Michigan Streets. A single residence was located between the brick block and inn. The masonry buildings and residence were razed around 1970 when a gas station (non-

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contributing resource within the district boundary) was constructed in their place. The Williams Inn retains much of its appearance from its turn of the century renovation into a hospital. As the secondary commercial artery, Walnut Street once had ca. 1870's buildings line its eastern arm from Michigan Street. Two historic buildings remain from this commercial corridor on the south side of Walnut Street. The old Argos Reflector building (inside the district boundary), constructed about 1898, is a masonry, single bay, two story building. The National Retail Hardware Association Building was a Neo-Classical style, two story building dating to about 1910; it has since had its second story removed and lies outside of the district boundary.



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## 7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES (C-contributing, NC-non-contributing)

Bay, as used here, is a commercial unit.

Beginning east side of North Michigan Street

1. 121 North Michigan Street (C) c. 1910 (photo 1,2)  
Two story, brick, single bay building. The storefront is non-historic ashlar veneer and aluminum storefront glass. The stairwell entry location is at the south end of the building. A wood shake awning extends over the sidewalk above the storefront. The second floor facade of the building has three equally spaced 1/1 rectangular windows with smooth-faced limestone sills and lintels. Between the windows are recesses formed into the masonry facade. There are three brick framed rectangles in line with the windows, just below the heavy masonry bracketed parapet.
2. 117-119 North Michigan Street (C) 1901<1907 (photo 1,2)  
**I.O.O. F. #263 Hall**  
Italianate - Three story, brick, two bay building. The storefronts are comprised of non-historic wood paneling and glass with an asphalt shingled canopy extending over the sidewalk. The stairwell entry is located at the north end of the building. The upper front facade of the building has a row of four half-round, brick arched historic wood 1/1 windows on each floor. The spacing between windows at the center of the building is slightly larger than between the other windows on the facade. The building is capped by a simple bracketed metal cornice with "IOOF" and "263" in raised lettering in the center. The masonry remains unpainted.
3. 115 North Michigan Street (C) 1892<1898 (photo 1,2)  
**Slayter Hardware Building**  
Italianate - Two story, brick, single bay building. The storefront bay is constructed of non-historic wood paneling and glass with an asphalt shingled canopy above. The stairwell entry is located at the north end of the building. The upper front facade is unpainted brick. There is a row of four equally spaced window openings with bracketed metal hoods. The windows align with recessed brick panels below with bricks set at right angles to the face of the building. A brick soldier course at right angles to the facade runs horizontally above the window openings and below the metal cornice. The bracketed metal cornice is broken in the center along its lower fascia where another recessed brick panel is located with brick set at right angles to the facade. A metal sign board once extended above the cornice in the center where the break occurs.
4. 101-107 North Michigan Street (C) 1883 (photo 1,3)  
**Corner Hardware Building** - Melvin Corey, patron - A. Smiley, builder

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Two story, brick corner building with three storefront bays facing Michigan Street and two bays facing south on Walnut Street. As the building wraps the corner to Walnut Street, the second floor steps in and back out to the sidewalk line. The particular reason for this non-conformity to the street edge is unknown. The individual storefront bays of the building are separated by brick pilasters. Elongated cast iron pilasters with fluted shafts and ornate capitals separate window and door openings within the bays. The stairwell entry is located between two bays on Michigan Street and retains its historic transom window. The entry for the south bay is located on the corner, angled toward the intersecting streets. The historic recessed entry is behind aluminum storefront material. Low framed panels infill window openings between brick pilasters on the Walnut Street bays. Another stairwell entry is located at the eastern-most end of the building on Walnut Street. An asphalt shingled canopy extends over the sidewalk and covers much of the historic upper storefront material on most of the building.

The second floor facade of the building has a single row of half-round brick arched window openings with limestone sills, equally spaced around the facade of the building. The existing windows are non-historic. Near the top of the building is a repeating raised brick pattern resembling triangular crenelation around the entire facade. A simple recessed cross repeats between triangles. The parapet is terminated with a mostly flush brick wall.

5. N/A East Walnut Street (C) 1892<1898 (photo 3)

Two story brick, single bay building. This narrow building's storefront appears to be mostly intact with a single large display window at its west end and recessed store entry on its east end. An asphalt shingled canopy is directly above the storefront, covering the upper portion of the bay. A large, segmental arched brick opening, approximately ten feet across, is the only opening in the upper facade. It has been infilled with wood paneling and aluminum windows. The existing limestone parapet cap replaced the original simple brick parapet cap and wall.

South side and east end, East Walnut Street

6. 109 East Walnut Street (C) c. 1898  
**Argos Reflector Building / GAR Hall**

Two story, brick, single bay building. The storefront bay is constructed of c. 1940 glass and aluminum storefront framing with central recessed entry. The second floor staircase entry is on the far right of the building facade. Wood paneling covers the transom window line above the storefront. The second story facade remains unpainted and has three equally spaced non-historic windows. The outline of the original half-round brick arched window openings and the limestone sills are still visible. The facade parapet is a simple corbeled design of stepped horizontal lines. This building, although free-standing now, was flanked on each side by other similar masonry structures. Its side walls have had some window openings cut into the masonry.

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7. 103 South Michigan Street (NC) c. 1970

Single story partial masonry/partial aluminum storefront and glass building. The building sets to the rear of the lot, off the sidewalk and is non-contributing to the district.

West side and south end, Michigan Street

8. 154 South Michigan Street (C) c. 1940 (photo 6)

Single story, free-standing brick garage with three service bays and single office bay. The front facade of this corner building has a large service bay opening in its center with an equal size service bay opening immediately to its right. Another smaller service bay opening is at the north end of the building. The office door and viewing window is at the south end of the building, with the window wrapping the corner to the south facade of the building, facing Williams Street. The Williams Street facade has another office door in its center and a small service bay opening at its west end. The front facade of the building has a high brick parapet wall, stepped down from the center to each side.

9. 152 South Michigan Street (NC) c. 1940 (photo 6)

**Argos Police Station**

Single story, brick, modified L-shaped tan brick building. The building has a series of masonry openings, some of which have been partially infilled with brick, with non-historic aluminum storefront windows and doors. The facade has a continuous two course band of light colored block between the storefronts and the stone parapet cap.

10. 150 South Michigan Street (C) c. 1898<1907 / c. 1930 (photo 7)

**Argos Theater**

Two story, single bay brick building with plaster cement on upper front facade. This building originally matched the brick building existing on its north side, though added shortly after the north building was constructed. The storefront bay and first floor facade portion of the building is constructed of non-historic plywood and glass. The theater marquee has been removed. The upper facade has a plaster cement covering and is divided by five vertical bands which appear to maintain their historic painted finish. The outside and center band is slightly raised and capped by a rectangular extension at the parapet. The center band is the largest of the five and has an historic three-vent steel window slightly below the vertical center of the facade. The two remaining bands are capped by a half-round extension at the parapet. There is a single steel window in each of these bands, aligned with the center window.

11. 144-146 South Michigan Street (C) 1892<1898 (photo 7)

**Sarber Building**

Two-story, brick, two bay building. This building originally had a matching bay on its south end; it was converted to a theater about 1930. The current south bay of the building has been covered over with vinyl siding. The north bay also has non-historic windows and covered with vinyl siding. The stairwell entry is at the southern-most end of the building and has a non-historic door in its opening.

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The second floor front facade has a row of four equally spaced windows. The upper part of the original openings are filled with brick; however the half-round brick arches are still in place. The existing windows are set on the original smooth-faced stone sills. The brick parapet is a simple corbeled design of stepped horizontal courses with equally spaced vertical "brackets".

12. 142 South Michigan Street (C) 1898<1907 (photo 7)

Two-story, masonry, single bay building. The existing storefront is a non-historic construction of plywood, stone, and aluminum storefront glass. A wood shake canopy extends over the sidewalk, below the second floor window openings. The upper portion of the building is constructed of concrete block with rusticated face. Two rectangular window openings are equally spaced at the second floor level. The existing windows are non-historic. The parapet is terminated with a formed concrete cap.

13. 140 South Michigan Street (NC) c. 1930

Two-story, brick, single bay building. The building is about eight feet shorter than the adjoining building to its south. The storefront is covered with plywood and glass. The second floor facade is covered with aluminum siding. A series of three joined windows is located in a common central window opening. A tile parapet cap terminates the building facade.

14. 138 South Michigan Street (NC) c. 1970

Single story, free standing, masonry building with large single bay. The building has a low gable end facing Michigan Street with a dark brick veneer front facade.

15. 130 South Michigan Street (C) 1887<1892 / c.1940 (photo 8)

Single story, brick, single bay building with partial ceramic block front facade. The south half of the building has a central recessed opening with flanking aluminum storefront windows. The north half has a series of three aluminum storefront windows in a horizontal band in a common masonry opening. Masonry openings in both halves are capped by a continuous ribbed aluminum hood. The storefront appears to be original material. The cream colored ceramic block facade terminates approximately three feet below the parapet; revealing the earlier brick facade. A tile parapet cap terminates the brick wall. An historic Kreamo Bakery sign/mural is painted in the upper right-hand corner of the south brick wall.

16. 126 South Michigan Street (C) 1887<1892 (photo 8)

Italianate - Two story brick, single bay building. The storefront bay is constructed of ashlar veneer and aluminum storefront glass material. Where three original window openings were located on the second floor front facade, two were enlarged to create only two non-historic masonry openings. The half-round brick arches are still visible from the original openings. A simple bracketed metal cornice is located at the building's parapet line.

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17. 116-118 South Michigan Street (C) 1887<1892 (photo 8)  
**Old Argos Opera House / Huff Block**

Italianate - Two-story, brick, two bay building. This building's front facade dominates the block due to its height. The storefront area is comprised of aluminum and glass with a large sign board covering the transom area. The stairwell entry is located at the south end of the building. The second floor facade has a row of six equally spaced masonry openings with half-round brick arches; the northern-most opening has a much lower sill, most likely to create a doorway to a porch that once extended over the sidewalk. The sills are smooth-faced limestone and the brick arches form hoods slightly raised from the face of the facade. The existing 1/1 windows are not historic. The high brick parapet is a simple corbeled design of stepped horizontal courses with equally spaced vertical "brackets". In the center of the building at the parapet line is a brick half-round extension measuring approximately six feet wide and two feet high.

18. 106-108 South Michigan Street (C) 1887 / 1892<1898 (photo 8,9)  
**Pickerl Block**

Two-story, brick corner building with three storefront bays facing Michigan Street, a single bay on the corner, and service bay facing north on Walnut Street. Each storefront bay is constructed of ashlar veneer and aluminum and glass. No entry exists in the southern-most bay on Michigan Street. A stairwell entry is located between the south bay and middle bay of the building. The middle and north bay each have central, recessed entries. The building steps back from the intersecting corner about eight feet before extending north to the sidewalk line on Walnut Street; this was an addition to the original building shortly after it was constructed. The storefront bay at the corner faces east and is also constructed of ashlar veneer and aluminum and glass. As the building continues west on Walnut Street, it angles slightly south at its mid-point with the road. A large rectangular window opening is at the east end of the north facade with limestone sill and lintel; it is followed by a window opening with a half-round brick arch just before the angle in the wall. Near the west end of the north wall is a larger service bay masonry opening with half-round brick arch. The doorway is raised about four feet above the sidewalk due to the elevation change from Michigan Street. A stoop and canopy are located at the doorway.

The transom area of the south bay is covered by a large sign board from the adjoining building to the south. Square metal panels cover the transom area of the storefronts around the remainder of the building. They extend from an aluminum canopy over the storefronts to flush with the bottom of the window sills on the second floor. Only the upper facade of the south bay on Michigan Street remains unpainted. A row of seven window openings in the south and middle bays are equally spaced, three over each bay and one over the stairwell. A wider space lies between the last window of the middle bay and the first of the north bay. The north bay has three equally spaced window openings on its second floor facade. Two closely spaced like window openings are located in the east wall of the intersection recessed area; a single window opening is located in the north wall of the recessed area. Two window openings occur on the east half of the north wall; four equally spaced window openings are located on the west half of the north wall facing Walnut Street. All window openings on the second floor have smooth-faced limestone sills and

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raised brick half-round arches, slightly broader than typical. The brick parapet is slightly corbeled with equally spaced brick recessed panels. A circa 1930 rectangular green and white porcelain enamel sign that has "SODAS" printed on each side, extends from the center window of the middle bay on Michigan Street.

19. 119 West Walnut Street (C) 1942 (photo 10)

**Argos Municipal Building**

Single story, free-standing masonry building. The front facade faces north on Walnut Street with similarly detailed facades facing alleys on the east and west side of the building. The west side of the building has an angled wall facing northwest. The orange/tan brick building is set on a smooth-face limestone base; and has a continuous wide limestone band around the building, just above the masonry window and door openings. A limestone cap terminates the parapet wall. A series of rectangular window openings with limestone sills wrap around the building, with a single door opening just west of center. Non-historic aluminum and glass now fill the openings and a wood ramp has been added to the front of the building. The original cast iron railing and concrete stoop still exist off the front door.

20. 102 North Michigan Street (C) 1917 (photo 11)

**Farmers State Bank Block**

Neo-Classical - Two-story, masonry corner building with limestone facades. The building appears tall due to its high base and elongated pilasters separating the facade into bays. All limestone used has a smooth-faced cut finish. The high base is constructed of two horizontal rows of large individual blocks, capped with a continuous water table that forms a plinth for the pilasters to rest on. The pilasters have simple bases and are terminated with squared Doric-style capitals. On the Walnut Street facade, the pilasters separate the building into six equally spaced two-story bays. A single two-story bay is angled toward the intersecting streets. The south half of the Michigan Street facade is the original c. 1915 structure. It is separated into three two-story bays by the pilasters; the center bay being slightly larger marking the entrance. The north half, constructed about 1960, used the exact two-story detailing as the old building although it is only a single story high. It is separated into three equal bays and a single, smaller bay at its north end. The center bay and small bay are entrances for the building. At each entrance is a metal canopy dating to the 1960 addition. The original building entrance was flanked by short Corinthian columns supporting a heavy entablature; they appeared to have been removed during the 1960 addition.

In each divided bay is located a square first and second floor window opening separated by a slightly recessed limestone panel with a raised rectangular outline. The 1960 addition has a patterned stone block screen in place of windows in the second floor openings. The existing window and entrance infills are non-historic aluminum and glass. The entablature has a single large horizontal band between two narrow limestone bands immediately above the pilaster capitals. A simple cornice extends from the face of the building, unbroken around the facades. A short limestone parapet rises above the cornice to terminate the facade.

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21. 108 North Michigan Street (C) 1906 (photo 11,12)

**Argos Masonic Lodge #399 - Grossman Building**

Romanesque Revival - Three-story, brick, single bay building. The storefront is veneered with a pink-hued polished granite veneer - c. 1950 - with aluminum and glass storefront material. The recessed entrance is centered in the storefront, with the stairwell entry at the south end of the building. The transom area is covered with plywood.

The second story facade has a row of four 1/1 rectangular windows with the center space being slightly larger with a vertical recessed brick reveal. The window openings have smooth-faced limestone sills and rough-face limestone lintels. The third story facade has a row of four 1/1 rectangular windows aligned with the floor below with the repeating center brick reveal. The third story windows have full-round transom windows at their top with divided lites in a sun-burst pattern. The original wood windows exist in the third story but not in the second. A rough-face limestone band is set horizontally across the facade at the base of the brick and limestone arches over the transoms, broken only by the window openings. The arches are constructed with two courses of brick and outside accent course and keystone of limestone. The large brick cornice at the base of the parapet has a large brick bracket at each end of the building and one directly above each of the center two windows. Equally spaced smaller brackets occur between the larger brackets. A flush brick parapet wall extends above the brick cornice. Just below the brick cornice, framed by the large brackets, is a limestone inset with the Masonic emblems, date, and name of the building. The upper portion of the front facade remains unpainted.

22. 114 North Michigan Street (C) 1892<1898 (photo 13)

**Old Argos Post Office**

Two-story, brick, single bay building. The storefront is covered with non-historic brick veneer and wood shingled canopy. The stairwell entry is at the south end of the building. The upper front facade remains unpainted. Three masonry window openings with half-round brick arches exist on the second story facade, with non-historic aluminum windows. The windows are not equally spaced across the front of the building. Two are nearly grouped together, right of center. The third window is just left of center. The brick parapet has a high field of horizontal brick set with their corners facing out, divided by four equally spaced brick brackets. The parapet is capped with a low brick wall, flush with the face of the building.

23. 116 North Michigan Street (C) c. 1883 (photo 13)

**Old State Exchange Bank**

Two-story, brick, single bay building. The historic storefront of the building is covered by aluminum panels and metal canopy. The stairwell entry is located at the north end of the building. Three equally spaced tall half-round window openings are located on the second story facade. The historic wood windows are intact. Simple brick corbeling with equally spaced recessed panels occurs at the parapet wall. A metal cornice once terminated the parapet, but is now missing.

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24. 118 North Michigan Street (C) 1867 / 1883 (photo 13,14)

### **Schoonover Building**

Two-story, frame, two bay building. With the exception of the storefront, the building is nearly identical to its original appearance. The storefront is constructed of non-historic wood and glass. A field stone foundation is revealed on the building's north and west facades. Historic four inch clapboards sheath the entire building with a wide barge board at the soffitt line. The building was constructed in two parts. The 1867 south bay has a wide gable-front facing Michigan Street with two rectangular 4/4 wood windows placed symmetrically near the center of the upper facade. The 1883 north bay has a shed roof to the rear of the building. It has two rectangular 4/4 wood windows placed equally across the second story facade. A wood trim board separates the two buildings on the second story facade. The north side of the building has no window openings on the first story facade. A single door opening exists just west of a masonry chimney at the west end of the building. Four rectangular 4/4 wood windows are equally spaced across the second story north facade. The rear of the building has two equally spaced rectangular 4/4 wood windows on the second story facade of the south building. The north building has one 4/4 wood window near its south end on the first level and one 4/4 wood window in the center of its second level. Non-historic shutters have been added to the windows around the entire building with the exception of the rear facade.

25. 101 West Smith Street (C) c. 1870 / c. 1920 (photo 15)

### **Pickerl Residence**

Gabled-ell - Story and a half frame residence with wrap-around stone porch. The original structure appears to have been constructed c. 1870 while renovations to the home around 1920 give the residence its existing trim and porch detailing. The structure has the longer leg of the ell facing Smith Street, with the shorter leg facing east. The field stone porch wraps the structure from the east side to the north (front) side. The front facade has a large rectangular window centered on its first floor. The entry door is in an angled wall facing north-east. The wide based gable has a single rectangular opening, framed as a door to the porch roof, centered in the second story facade.

The east elevation has a grouping of three rectangular windows, right of center on the first floor and an angled wall facing north-east extending out from the face of the structure on its left side. This angled wall has a large rectangular window. The wide gable facing east has a single rectangular 1/1 wood window centered on the second floor facade. All of the historic wood window, fascia, and barge board trim exists. The body of the house is covered with asphalt shingle siding. The roof is asphalt shingled. The fieldstone porch has square, tapered columns on each corner (pilasters where the porch intersects the house). The columns are capped by limestone. The low fieldstone wall between the columns has a limestone cap. The north side has a short pilaster in the center; the east side has a short pilaster in the center with steps flanked by fieldstone walls in its north half. The columns support a slightly arched wide opening. The supporting roof structure is covered by beadboard paneling that terminates at the eave line. The porch has a low-pitched asphalt shingled roof.



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National Park Service

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ARGOS DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Marshall County, IN  
East side, North Michigan St c. 1900



*Former Hardware  
Later became Masonic Hall*

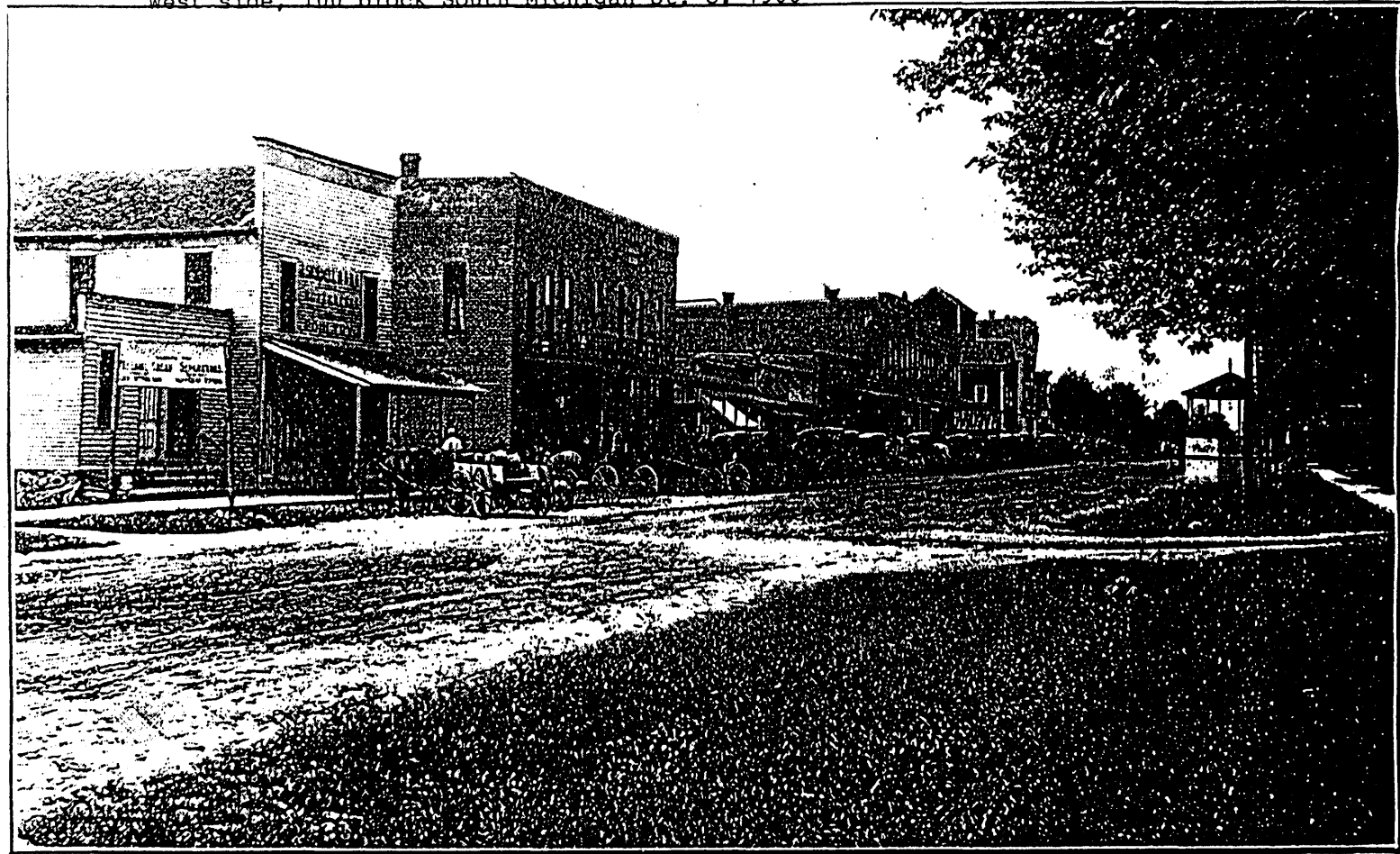
*Main Street looking south, Argos, IN*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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ARGOS DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Marshall County, IN  
West side, 100 block South Michigan St., c. 1900



MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH, ARGOS, IND. 1909

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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ARGOS DOWNTOWN Historic District  
Marshall County, IN  
West side, 100 block North Michigan St. 1908

1908



7912E-6

West Side Michigan Street, Looking South, Argos, Ind.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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ARGOS DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Marshall County, IN  
West side, 100 block North Michigan St. c. 1920



STATE EXCHANGE BANK BLOCK, ARGOS, IND.

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### Summary

The town of Argos lies in Walnut Township, Marshall County, Indiana, along the Michigan Road where it intersects with State Road 10, formerly known as the Wabash Road and now known within the town limits as Walnut Street. The Argos Downtown Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its local commercial significance to the community of Argos. The district is comprised of three blocks lining Michigan Street. Historically, these blocks were primarily commercial in nature with development radiating from the intersection of Michigan and Walnut Streets (primarily eastward on Walnut to the railroad and the plat of Fremont). The Michigan Road was the primary route, with Walnut being the secondary route. The district's continued use as the commercial center validates its significance to its surrounding community. Good examples of 19th and early 20th century architecture are also an important part of the character of the historic district. The district is therefore eligible under Criterion C for its compact and reasonably intact collection of vernacular commercial buildings. The district's architecture ranges from simple, unadorned blocks to craftsman interpretations of high styles. These reasons make the district a good representation of a small midwestern downtown commercial area during the designated period of significance, from 1867 through 1942.

#### The Michigan Road

This road's importance to the State of Indiana is paramount in the development of the majority of land north of Logansport to South Bend. As the first north-south intrastate route constructed through Indiana during the early and mid 1830's, the road created frontier communities as it progressed northward from the Ohio River to Lake Michigan. An article from the Marshall County Historical Society Quarterly publication on the Michigan Road states that in an 1826 treaty with the Potawatomi Indians, Indiana's governor, James Ray, managed to procure concessions from the Indians for creating the road. The grant included a strip of land 100 feet wide for the road itself and one section of land for each mile of the road for its full length. (Hunter) The exact location of the road was not stated in the treaty except that it was to go from the Ohio River through the new state capital of Indianapolis, to Lake Michigan. After years of wrangling, the legislature finally picked Madison as the Ohio River destination and determined that from Indianapolis the road would go through Logansport and what was to become Rochester, Argos, Plymouth, and South Bend. From the south bend of the St. Joseph River the road went west at right angles to the lake. This

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indirect route in northern Indiana was selected in order to avoid the Kankakee swamps in the northwestern region of the state. The sections of land conceded by the Indians became known as the Michigan Road Lands; only 45 of the 267 sections actually line the road.

In Marshall County are located sections 4 through 24 of the Michigan Road lands, laid out in a general north-south corridor along the Michigan Road. Contracts were let for building the road in Marshall County in 1832. Argos became a stopping point on the road for travelers in the frontier of a developing state. In the town plat of 1851, the street grid was laid out in right angles to the road, which bent slightly west. The Michigan Road gives the town of Argos much of its character with its 100 foot right of way, and in the residential districts with the old tree-lined streetscape with deep front yard setbacks. The right of way provides a fine sense of proportion and enclosure to the mostly two story buildings that line each side of the route as it passes through the downtown district.

### Tale of Two Towns

Sidney Williams arrived in 1833 and purchased 600 acres of land on the present site of Argos. He was commissioned to clear the land and build a section of the Michigan Road. During the late 1830's, Williams constructed a tavern one block north of what would become the downtown district and an inn at the south end of the district. A post office was established and the town named Sidney. (McDonald, pg. 145) The tavern and inn became a stagecoach stop for travelers and land speculators. In 1851, Marquis Smith (who purchased William's tavern for his residence) and John Pleak laid out the plat of "Sidney" in honor of the village founder; the portion of the district north of Walnut Street lies within the original plat of Sidney. (Ibid) Williams Inn became the Kelly Hospital around the turn of the century; it is still existing as an apartment house.

The town of Fremont was platted by Joseph Rhodes in 1856, about two blocks east of the current district on Walnut Street. Fremont was named for John Fremont, Republican candidate for President on election day, November 6, 1856. (Ibid, pg. 146) Upon Fremont's loss in the election, dedication to the name subsided.

The Sidney post office, for an unknown reason, was moved about four miles south on the Michigan Road in about 1854. The town residents requested another post office be established, but a new name had to be used. Schuyler Colfax, who was at that time a member of Congress representing the district and later became vice-president of the United States, was asked to name it. Colfax had a great fondness for Greek history and consequently chose "Argos" for the new post office at Sidney. (Van Der Wheele, pg.13) This original frame post office structure was relocated in 1906 and became part of a residence on south First Street.

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Sidney and Fremont were originally part of Green Township, Marshall County. In 1859, after a meeting at Smith's tavern, residents petitioned the county commissioners to form a new township from Green. Although residents voted in majority for naming the township "Argos" for the post office site; commissioners decided upon "Walnut" probably because of the abundance of that type of tree in the area. Immediately after the formation of the new township, residents petitioned the county commissioners to combine the plats of Fremont and Sidney and name the new town Argos. (MCHS, pg. 9) Argos was incorporated under Indiana law in December, 1869.

### Events and Citizens

One tragic fire in 1886 destroyed eleven businesses lining the west side of Michigan Street, south of Walnut Street. This caused the town to adopt an ordinance against the further construction of frame buildings in the business district. (Van Der WHEEL, pg. 13) Only a single frame commercial structure, the Schoonover Building, survives as part of the business district. Railroads also added to the rapid development of the Argos business district. In 1868 the north/south line from Laporte to Peru, and later Indianapolis, was constructed between the plats of Sidney and Fremont. It was referred to as the "Peewee Line". (Ibid, pg. 12) In 1882 the south branch of the Nickel Plate line was constructed at the south end of town.

The town of Argos and the word "hardware" were nearly synonymous for many years. The first hardware in Argos was opened by Nathaniel Chapman in 1866. In 1883 the Corner Hardware Building was constructed by Melvin Corey (northeast corner of Walnut and Michigan Streets). Mr. Corey is responsible for establishing the National Retail Hardware Association and locating their headquarters in the second floor of his hardware in 1901. (MCHS, pg. 9) The offices were relocated to a new office building in 1910, one block east on Walnut Street. After Mr. Corey's death, the association relocated their offices to Indianapolis during the 1920's. Argos still boasts of one of the oldest hardware stores in Northern Indiana; Holland's Hardware was established in 1944 and is still in operation out of the old Argos Opera House first level storefronts.

Social halls for performance and fraternal organizations impacted the built development of Argos in a very concrete way. A concentration of buildings constructed for the dual purpose of commerce and meeting space still exist in the district. The Argos Theater - 150 S. Michigan, Sarber Building Gentlemen's Club - 144-146 S. Michigan, Argos Opera House - 116-118 S. Michigan, Masonic Lodge - 108 N. Michigan, Odd Fellow's Lodge - 117-119 N. Michigan, and the Grand Army of the Republic Lodge - 107 N. Michigan all either constructed buildings for their use or met in second floor spaces above the commercial spaces. Another major social group of the community was the town band, so much so that during the late 1890's thru early 1900's a frame band stand gazebo remained

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

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on Michigan Street. Located near the intersection earlier, it was later removed to the south end of the district nearer the hospital, but no longer exists.

## Architecture

The architecture of the district is varied in styles, with a near full range of those styles typical to midwestern towns during the period of significance from 1867 -1942. Combined with a good level of detail and workmanship, and detail yet intact, yield a downtown commercial district with notable integrity. The high concentration of contributing buildings within the commercial portion of the old town plat provides the character which defines the town as a typical Michigan Road town; typical in its growth pattern and reliance on the route as its main commercial artery.

There are four notable buildings of different styles that best exemplify the range of architecture during the period of significance. The earliest is the Schoonover Building, 118 N. Michigan (photos 13, 14). This 19th century building is a rare, intact example of early frame commercial architecture that typically was razed to make way for brick buildings. The second notable example is the old Argos Opera House-Huff Building at 116-118 S. Michigan Street (photo 8), which is a textbook example of railroad town Italianate architecture of the late 1800's. The simple corbeled brick parapet and segmental arched windows are distinct features of the Italianate style which is the most common stylistic influence in the Argos downtown district. The Masonic Lodge-Grossman Building, 108 N. Michigan Street (photo 12), is a good example, although somewhat reserved, of the Romanesque Revival style. The masonry banding and use of brick arches and keystones are traits of a style that makes limited appearances in small midwestern downtowns. The fourth building represents a style that became a standard for early 20th Century architecture. The Farmers State Bank at 102 North Michigan Street is in the Neo-Classical style and thus joins a number of other Marshall County banks of the same period in detail and limestone construction.

Two of the four non-contributing structures date to the period of significance. One has been altered to detract from its original appearance. The second is completely covered with non-historic material, hiding its true features. The third and fourth buildings were only recently constructed as an infill in a gap along the Michigan Street business district.

1. Hunter, Juanita. Marshall County and the Michigan Road  
Marshall County Historical Society Quarterly Volume 20, No. 2, 1991
2. McDonald, Daniel. *History of Marshall County 1836-1881*,  
Kingman Brothers, Chicago, IL 1881.



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3. Van Der WHEEL, Wayne. A Story of Historical Interest,  
Argos Centennial, local publication. 1951
4. Marshall County Historical Society. *History of Marshall County  
Sesquicentennial 1836-1986*, Taylor Publishing Co. U.S.A., 1986

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Hunter, Jaunita. Marshall County and the Michigan Road  
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2. McDonald, Daniel. *History of Marshall County 1836-1881*,  
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3. Van Der Wheele, Wayne. A Story of Historical Interest,  
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4. Marshall County Historical Society. *History of Marshall County  
Sesquicentennial 1836-1986*, Taylor Publishing Co. USA, 1986
5. Sanborn maps for Argos, Walnut Twp. Marshall County, IN  
1892, 1898, 1907, 1913, 1924.
6. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. *Marshall County Interim Report:  
Historic Sites and Structures Survey*, 1990.
7. Various items from the *Argos Reflector* : January 22, 1885; March 17, 1898;  
August 2, 1900; August 23, 1900; September 17, 1931

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### *Verbal Boundary Description*

Beginning at the northwest corner of South Michigan Street and West Williams Street, follow a line north to an easterly line at the south boundary of resource numbers 6 & 7. Then proceed with a line north (east side of 109 West Walnut St.) to the north property line of 121 N. Michigan Street, then proceed with a line west to North Michigan Street. From North Michigan Street, follow a line north to West Smith Street, then proceed with a line west to an alley at the northwest corner of 109 W. Smith Street. Follow the alley line south to West Walnut Street, jog approximately 100 feet west to the alley on the northwest corner of 119 W. Walnut Street. Follow a line with the alley south to West Williams Street, then follow a line east to South Michigan Street (place of beginning).

### *Boundary Justification*

The district boundary basically encompasses the original business district of Argos. Following the Michigan Road, the district is comprised of the front halves of blocks flanking the road with a mostly continuous facade line. The district represents the highest concentration of contributing commercial resources within the township.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

3. Photographer: Kurt W. Garner
4. Date of photograph: January 30, 2001
5. Location of negatives: Indiana Department of Historic Preservation

Photographs are keyed to sketch map with preceding numbers.

1. View of east side of 100 block, North Michigan Street-looking southeast
2. View of east side of 100 block, North Michigan Street-looking east
3. View of east side of 100 block, North Michigan Street-looking northeast, and north side of East Walnut Street
4. View of east side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking southeast
5. View of east side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking northeast (not in boundary of historic district)
6. View of west side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking northwest from West Williams Street
7. View of west side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking west (south end)
8. View of west side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking west (north end)
9. View of west side of 100 block, South Michigan Street-looking southwest from West Walnut Street
10. View of 119 West Walnut Street-Argos Municipal Building-looking south
11. View of west side of 100 block, North Michigan Street-looking northwest from West Walnut Street
12. View of 108 North Michigan Street-looking west
13. View of west side of 100 block, North Michigan Street-looking southwest from West Smith Street
14. Rear view of 118 North Michigan Street, looking southeast from West Smith Street
15. View of 109 West Smith Street, looking southwest from West Smith Street

ARGOS DOWNTOWN  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
MARSHALL COUNTY IN

DISTRICT BOUNDARY



NO SCALE

⑭ = PHOTOGRAPHS

NON-CONTRIBUTING  
PROPERTIES

