



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **Instructions: 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 Attica Main Street Historic District

other names/site number 045-025-08001-041

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city or town Attica N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Fountain code 045 zip code 47918

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.)

*Richard R. Roberts* 4-25-94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register Date of Action 6.10.94

Attica Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Fountain Co., IN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
37	5	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
40	5	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

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

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGIOUS: church

RECREATION AND CULTURE: park

EDUCATION: library

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGIOUS: church

SOCIAL: civic

SOCIAL: meeting hall

COMMERCIAL: specialty store

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Federal

Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

1840-1940

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Brown, Norman

Johnson, Louis

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Attica Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Fountain Co., IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 acres approximately

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	478900	4460350
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	479400	4459920

3	16	479300	4459820
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	16	478800	4460020

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 Linda Weintraut and Jane Nolan

organization Weintraut and Nolan date 2-17-94

street & number 800 Sugarbush Ridge telephone 317-873-6692

city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

#### 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.

Section 2-Location

Roughly bounded by the north side of Main Street, Jackson Street, and the west side of Brady Street.

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## 7. Description

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*Architectural Classification:*

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance

LATE 19TH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

LATE 19TH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

LATE 19TH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Colonial Revival

*Narrative Description:*

Attica Main Street Historic District is located in the town of Attica in Fountain County in westcentral Indiana. Fountain County is bounded on the north and west by Warren County, on the east by Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties, and on the south by Parke County. Attica is located in the northern portion of the county along the Wabash River.

Fountain County is set on a plain that is transversed by the Wabash River. Geologically formed during the last Ice Age, glaciers scoured and flattened much of the land that is today known as the Tipton Till Plain. The Wabash River forms the northwestern boundary for the county.

The Attica Main Street Historic District is a district of single-family dwellings and community buildings (churches, a library that became a city council building, and a park) that is distinct from that which surrounds it. East Main Street forms the central corridor that rises from the commercial district (identified as Attica Downtown Historic District) to Canada Street on the hill on the east side of town. (See accompanying map). To the south of the district lies the Brady Street Historic District and modern commercial buildings, including a bank and a fast food establishment. To the north and the east of this district are located worker's housing, modern dwellings, and scattered high-style homes. In sum, Attica Main Street Historic District is a entity that is separate and distinct from the areas that border it; its character is a result of its feeling of cohesiveness and community rather than of individual buildings themselves.

Only significant properties appear in the resource count and on the map. Most of the garages and sheds have been added in the twentieth century and are non-contributing and as a result, are not included in the map. These buildings are located to the rear of the property and they in no way detract from the historic character of the district. The ratio of contributing to non-contributing buildings is 37 to 5. McDonald Park is the only site and the drainage ditch along East Main and the brick street (McDonald Street) are the only structures.

The Main Street Historic District has a mixture of architectural styles that date from the antebellum era to the modern era. Much of this district was originally platted in 1851 as the northern part of McDonald and Spears

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Addition. It has several excellent examples of Federal and Greek Revival buildings, including a church in the latter style. The clustering of buildings of Greek Revival architecture along the northern side East Main Street in the 200 and 300 block provides a good streetscape. (See photo 1 for a partial scape). Similarly, the streetscape in the 200 block of South Brady Street is particularly nice. (See photo 2 for the eastern side of South Brady Street). One's gaze flows from a small Queen Anne library at the northwestern corner of the street to a group of three large brick Italianate houses that face each other to a modest home of Federal style; two churches--a Gothic Revival and a Renaissance Revival--anchor the southern end of this block.

Other streetscapes in the district are more modest. Farther east on Main Street, high-style homes give way to a mixture of styles that date from the antebellum era, but are less well maintained or have modern alterations. The eastern half of East Main Street exemplifies this. (See photo 3). The streetscape along the northern edge of East Jackson Street, too, contains a variety of architectural styles that range from a white clapboard Prairie (c. 1910) to an Italianate (c. 1870) covered with green vinyl siding to a modest bungalow (c. 1920). (See photo 4). Likewise, the streetscape along the southern side of East Main Street displays less imposing one- and two-story dwellings of clapboard and painted brick in styles that range from a Federal (with modern additions) to an I-House with Greek Revival details to a Prairie style house. Thus, this district is not uniform of terms of style, but it does exhibit a good blend of architecture from the earliest era to the end of the period of significance.

Four buildings of Federal style survive. Those located at 405 East Main Street (c. 1845) and 204 South Brady Street (c. 1860) are modest examples; both are small, one- and one-half- or two-story clapboard dwellings with modern porch additions. At least two other large imposing homes--at 408 East Main and at 414 East Main--each have a original wing constructed in Federal style. Both homes, the Milford House and the Parker-Clark House, illustrate the changing fortunes of the occupants through the building additions and nicely juxtapose the Federal and Greek Revival detailing of the antebellum era.

The Milford House located at 414 East Main, already listed in the National Register, was originally built in Federal style. Within ten years an addition that is actually larger than the original building was constructed using Greek Revival architectural details. (See photo 5). The two-story brick building with a low-pitched hip roof sets upon a locally quarried coursed rubble sandstone foundation. It has two distinct wings, the older one set back from the later one. The east wing (c. 1845) is four ranked; a simple entry with a single leaf paneled Christian door with a two-light transom is located in the western corner. All windows are 6/6 double-hung sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The western wing is three ranked with a main entry to the east that is flanked with pilasters with Doric capitals and features a six panel door with a three-light transom. All windows on this wing are 6/6 with segmental pediment wooden lintels and stone sills. A one-story kitchen wing was added in the late nineteenth century.

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Similarly, the home at 408 East Main Street known as the Parker-Clark House was constructed in stages. (See photo 6). A small one-story brick building with a slightly-pitched flat roof with a parapet and corbelled cornice has a porch with a shed roof supported by slender columns with simple capitals. This one-story building appears utilitarian with almost an industrial air to it; it is located on the north side of the main building and set back from the street farther than the main building. The large two-story four-ranked front-gable main building has Greek Revival details, but was apparently constructed in two stages. C. Parker built the first story and Samuel Clark the second story. The double-hung, sash windows on the second story are narrower and taller than those on the first; both have stone sills and lintels. The front gable roof has heavy brackets and a pronounced cornice return.

Several excellent examples of Greek Revival architecture are located in this district in the 300 and 400 block of East Main Street. These buildings include Attica Presbyterian Church at 304 East Main Street (1849) (photo 1) and a residences at 206 East Main (1854), 306 East Main Street (c. 1840), 100 Short Street (c. 1860), and 403 East Main (c. 1850). The property at 306 East Main Street, an I-House with Greek Revival details, is a pristine white clapboard five-ranked building with pronounced cornice return below a side gable roof of moderate pitch. (See photo 1). Each window is 6/6 with wooden sills and lintels and dentils in the lintels. The center door has full transom lights in the plain door surround; dentils mark the cornice of the entablature. This building is set upon a rough-cut sandstone foundation. This home was built by Norman S. Brown who worked on the Erie Canal prior to coming to Attica. In Attica, Brown became a contractor/builder as well as a farmer, building several homes in the area of Attica. The home at 100 Short Street is known as the "little house." Constructed by Norman Brown as a wedding gift for his son and his bride in the 1850s, this home was originally located on Fifth Street in Attica. Sometime around World War II, the home was moved to the rear of 306 East Main and used as a storage shed for nearly fifty years. Today it is in the process of renovation. The "little house," a one-and-one-half story four ranked white-painted clapboard building, has a facade with three 6/6 windows and a solid wood door with lights in the transom. Although this property has been moved, it fits within the period of significance and has always been part of the community of Attica.

The oldest home in the district, the Ziegler house at 206 East Main Street, (c. 1834) is a two-story Greek Revival building with two tone tan-painted clapboard. (See photo 7). Originally constructed as a one-story building, the second story was added before the Civil War; today slight evidence of its one story construction is evident in variations in the clapboard on the rear and side elevations. The five-ranked facade has 6/6 windows with gray shutters and a recessed central door with free-standing fluted columns with Ionic capitals supporting the simple entablature with dentils. Pilasters mark each corner of the building and chimneys are located at each end. The moderately-pitched, side-gable roof has a cornice line that is emphasized by brackets and modillions.



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The district also has fine examples of Italianate architecture, especially those in the 200 block of South Brady Street. The Rolphing-Colvert home, first owned by Charles Rolphing a local business leader who constructed the Rolphing Block on North Perry Street, is located at 200 South Brady Street. (See photo 8). This two-ranked, two-story red brick building has a low-pitched hipped roof with dentils lining the cornice. The fascia features heavy brackets that separate decorative panels. The facade of the second story is asymmetrical with a single window on the south side and paired windows on the north. Heavy hood molds and shutters define each aluminum replacement window with segmental arches. On the first floor, a bay window is located on the right side of the facade and a door opening at the left side. A wrap around side porch has double columns and modified Corinthian capitals has a spindle balustrade set upon molded rough cement block porch foundation. The foundation of the building itself is rough cut limestone that was originally fit together without mortar but since has had mortar added to some sections.

Across the street from the Rolphing-Colvert home at 201 and 203 South Brady Street are a pair of Italianate homes that are mirror images of each other. (See photo 2). Constructed in the early 1870s, both had identical one-story additions in the late nineteenth century. Like the Rolphing-Colvert home, both are two-story, two-ranked asymmetrical brick dwellings with low-pitched hipped roofs; both homes present a narrow facade, but extend deeply into their lots. They each have entrance doors paired with bay windows at the first floor facade. The home at 201 South Brady has more alterations than the other; its cornice with brackets has been replaced with a plain one, and its wrap-around porch has been removed.

In addition to the Italianate buildings, the late nineteenth century saw the construction of two buildings of Queen Anne architecture (410 East Main Street and 101 South Brady). The "Ladies Library" at 101 South Brady (1889) is <sup>an</sup> exemplar of the reform movement ideals that manifested itself on the local level in literary clubs and cultural buildings. (See photo 2). In the 1890s, men appropriated the building and the concept of the library; the building was transformed into the city council building when the library was moved elsewhere. This one- and one-half-story white-painted clapboard building is small in scale, yet it exhibits the basic characteristics of Queen Anne architecture. Three steps lead from the sidewalk along South Brady Street to the one story porch that extends from the left side of the facade and has a plain balustrade and covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. Plain columns extend to lattice work under the gable roof of the porch. The right side of the facade is marked by a pair of single light windows of leaded stained glass. The attic story has by a single horizontal ribbon window with a border of small panes set into fish scale siding below the steeply-pitched, hip-on-gable roof.

Two Gothic Revival buildings are located at 424 East Main Street and at 208 South Brady Street (Church of Christ). The building once occupied by the Church of Christ testifies to the ornate simplicity of Gothic Revival architecture, sometimes called High Victorian Gothic. The exterior covering

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of white stucco over brick church constructed in 1891 has achieved the patina of age. (See photo 9). The building has two prominent visual elements, a center cross gable highlighted by a projecting wing and a castellated tower. All windows are arched tracery windows connected by a belt course that extends into their drip-mold crowns. The gable end of the facade is three-ranked with a larger central window that extends into the gable and points toward a triangular pattern of dentils containing a small masonry crucifix. The tower rises to the left of the gable and contains the same visual elements as the arched windows of the gable--double wooden entrance door and arched transom with a drip-mold crown. The arched door points upward toward an ocular and a castellated roof. To the right of the gable between the front and side gable, located below the cornice of the roofline, is a gable that projects at a forty-five degree angle and that once contained a recessed arched niche with a drip-mold crown connected visually to the cross gables by a belt course. All windows are stained glass. This building has been abandoned by its congregation and is now an antique store; the deterioration of the building suggests some of the difficulties involved in adaptive uses of religious buildings.

By 1900, virtually every lot in the district had a home on it, as evidenced by Sanborn Insurance Maps. Several houses apparently burned or were torn down to make way for more modern--and modest--dwellings. The district has several examples of the Prairie, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival that are interspersed among the nineteenth century homes. There is a rather good example of a bungalow (Craftsman) located at 400 East Main Street. (See photo 1). A one-and one-half-story cross gable, light gray-painted clapboard dwelling (c. 1920) with low-pitched front-gable has a one story, full front-gable porch with painted brick supports and side railing, and iron railing at the front broken by central steps leading to the porch. A central door is flanked by paired 9/1 windows. All windows are 9/1 except a pair of single-sash windows with nine lights in the attic story.

Integral to the feeling of community are the four churches located within the district. As already noted the Attica Presbyterian Church (Greek Revival, 1849) is the oldest. The Church of Christ, described above at 208 South Brady, was built of Gothic Revival architecture in 1891. Within fifteen years the Attica Methodist Church, a Tudor Revival, replaced the church built in the 1870s. The Methodists rebuilt their church in 1921; it is a large Renaissance Revival building. (See photo 7). It is important to recognize the importance of these churches over time as places of communal interaction for the district and the town.

In addition to the "Ladies Library" and the four churches, the feeling of cohesiveness is accentuated by the inclusion of McDonald Park in this district. Places of leisure activity and communal gathering are important attributes of community; McDonald Park provides an area of public green space where all people can congregate and interact. It is utilitarian in function with a bandstand and modern tennis courts. Only the mature trees suggest McDonald Park's longevity, although the park has been part of this neighborhood since the nineteenth century. (See photo 10).

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The Attica Main Street Historic District is a cohesive entity that strongly demonstrates an aura of the past. Besides single family dwellings with architecture dating from the canal era to the modern period, mature trees, a park, churches, the former "Ladies Library," the brick section of McDonald Street paved of Poston Bricks (an Attica company), and drainage ditch paved in field stone along Main Street all contribute to the feeling of a bygone era. Although the individual properties are important, it is the wholeness of community, that sense of unity that makes this area a district and sets it apart from the surrounding area.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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*Narrative Statement of Significance:*

The Attica Main Street Historic District is a residential district that has homes whose origins coincide with the settlement period of the town. With the arrival of the Wabash and Erie Canal in 1847, Attica quickly established its supremacy over other small towns in the area. Attica's population grew rapidly from the late 1840s to the early 1860s, the heyday of the canal. Fortunately, an unusual number of the homes that were built by the new settlers during this period have remained in continuous use. Architecturally, the Attica Main Street Historic District provides several fine streetscapes that reflect a variety of styles and suggest the aura of Attica's historic past during its entire period of significance. Particularly notable are some excellent examples of the Greek Revival, Federal, and Italianate styles.

The Attica Main Street Historic District has local significance in the area of architecture and exploration/settlement and meets Criterion A, being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The district's period of significance extends from 1840-1940.

Fountain County was formed from territory ceded to the United States government in 1818. United States commissioners and chiefs of the Potawatamie and Miami Indians signed the two treaties. On December 30, 1825, an act of the Indiana General Assembly carved Fountain County out of Montgomery and Warren counties. The new county was named for Major Fountain of Kentucky who was killed near Fort Wayne in a battle with the Miami Indians.

Attica was the first town in the county to be platted although Covington was the county seat. Daniel Stump surveyed the original plat near an old Kickapoo settlement on March 19, 1825, several months before the county was established. Stump laid out an orthogonal grid street pattern parallel to the winding Wabash River that extended from the corner of Brady and Washington streets west to the Wabash River, then north to Ferry Street and east to the alley running west of the old Revere House. (Attica Downtown Historic District, the commercial area, is contained within the original plat). While the commercial district lay close to the river, Attica residents built their homes farther east in the hilly part of town. The Main Street Historic District is contiguous to the eastern boundary of the Attica Downtown Historic District. Main Street, which runs directly through the Attica Downtown Historic District, was once the major eastern road into town.

The town of Attica grew slowly initially. Settlers arrived by means of the Wabash River and by stage routes from Williamsport and Covington. The river was the primary commercial outlet to the outside world. In high water, crude rafts loaded with corn, wheat, apples, and other surplus agricultural products from the region traveled down the Wabash to the Ohio and then to the Mississippi River to markets in New Orleans.

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Because of its convenient location on the canal, commercial enterprises marked the early development of Attica. By the end of 1825, there were three general stores, a hotel, and three saloons in town. George Hollingsworth, one of Attica's earliest residents, began operating a pole ferry service at the ford used by the Kickapoos on the Wabash River. It continued to operate until 1843 when it was replaced by a horse ferry system. Soon other businesses such as grist mills, distilleries, pork packing plants, and warehouses could be found in town. In the 1830s, the Indiana House hotel had opened and it became the headquarters of the stage lines when they were in town. William Farmer built a hotel, the Attica House, later called the Revere House, which remains.

The canal era began in Indiana when the federal government granted land for the Wabash and Erie Canal to the state in 1827. In 1836, encouraged by the promise of federal money, the Indiana General Assembly adopted a massive internal improvements plan. The canal, the longest in the world, was part of a 468 mile system that linked Toledo to Evansville connecting the navigable waters of the Ohio River to Lake Erie.

Attica came alive as a trade center with the construction of the canal that ended the isolation of the region and opened up access to markets in the East. The heyday of the canal brought prosperity to Attica, and it became one of the leading commercial towns in the northwestern part of the state, rivaling Lafayette. Numerous warehouses, grain houses, meat packing plants, and boat stores that catered to the canal barge traffic located next to the canal.

The influx of money from the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal spurred the rapid population growth of Attica in the late 1840s and 1850s. Many of the Irish laborers who built the canal elected to settle in Attica, contributing to its expanding population. Other immigrants, mostly Germans and Holland Dutch, came to town on the canal packets that docked at the landing at the foot of Main Street. Today, the names of Attica residents still reflect its Irish, German and Dutch heritage. By 1849, Attica had enough residents to qualify as a town, and by the time of the first official census in 1850, there were 1,006 people living there. During the 1850s, the population of Attica increased by seventy percent. Attica's significant population growth in the 1850s is evidenced by the number of commercial buildings were constructed. A new hotel, the May House, was built in 1852, and the Revere House, rebuilt after a fire destroyed it in 1846, lodged the large numbers of travellers who came through town on the canal barges. In the business district, brick buildings replaced older wooden structures and new buildings filled in the gaps along Perry Street as commercial enterprises prospered.

Many new homes were built by Attica residents whose businesses flourished with the Wabash and Erie Canal. Three early Attica settlers, James McDonald, Ezekiel McDonald, and James Spears made handsome profits in pork packing, a highly successful business that benefitted from the canal transportation. They processed hogs from the entire region and shipped to markets in the East. Their partnership, McDonald, Spears & Company also bought land for residential

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purposes. The entire Attica Main Street Historic District is located in the northern part of the McDonald, Spears Company Addition which was platted in 1851 and includes a small tree-shaded park that occupies one block of the addition and bears the McDonald name.

Eleven structures remain in the Attica Main Street District that were built from the late 1840s until the early 1860s, the height of the canal era. Two architectural styles were particularly popular on Main Street at the time: Greek Revival and Federal. Greek Revival structures rare in northern Indiana. However, there are numerous fine examples in Attica. The earliest is the Ziegler House at 206 East Main Street that was purchased by William Ziegler in 1847. According to Ziegler's descendants, the house is the oldest one in town. Ziegler added an upper story to an earlier 1834 house and renovated it in the Greek Revival style with fluted columns topped by Ionic capitals that flanked the central front door. Soon after, in 1849, the elegantly simple Attica Presbyterian Church with its prominent cornice returns was constructed nearby in the same architectural style. Two other Greek Revival houses were built at 306 and 403 East Main Street circa 1860. There are four Federal style houses in the district from the canal period. Two outstanding examples are the Parker-Clark House at 404 and the Milford House at 414 East Main Street. They combine the Federal style of the original structures with highly compatible Greek Revival additions finished just before the Civil War.

Unfortunately, the canal boom did not last very long for Attica, ending just as the war began. The town had placed undue confidence on the waterway. However, the scandalously financed and poorly engineered canals needed constant repairs and suffered numerous water shortages. Only ten years after the canal reached Attica, the tolls collected barely covered the cost of repairs. Rate-cutting competition from the railroads loomed early in the canal era, but Attica spurned a proposal for the New Albany and Salem Railroad (later the Monon) to be routed through Attica. Instead, the railroad went through Lafayette and became part of the Big Four network. Soon Lafayette overshadowed Attica, becoming the largest town in the region and reaping the benefits of good transportation.

Fortunately for Attica, the Toledo Wabash and Western Railroad came through town in 1858, just as the canal was beginning to decline. Railroads proved to be the fastest and most efficient means of transportation during the Civil War, although the tremendous volume of men and materiel did keep some parts of the canal in service. Nevertheless, both commercial and residential construction diminished considerably during the 1860s.

The Wabash and Erie Canal company finally sold out in 1873 after a long decline in productivity, although the canal remained in public use until the mid-1880s when it closed permanently. Still, in 1872, P. T. Barnum managed to bring his circus to Attica with three elephants, a good menagerie, a band, clowns, and the famous Tom Thumb. However, the days of booming business on the canal were over. Many canal-related companies closed for good.

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In the late 1870s, Attica, as well as the rest of Indiana, experienced a period of renewed development. The commercial district expanded considerably just as the enterprises along the canal disappeared. This expansion attests to Attica's importance as the market center for the entire region, because the population of the town itself remained static. Residents of Attica alone could not have supported the new businesses.

Again, leaders in business began to build houses. Now their taste turned to the popular Italianate style of the 1870s and 1880s. Charles Rolphing's elegant home, built in 1887 at 200 South Brady Street is an excellent example. His commercial building, the Rolphing Block on Perry Street, was built in the 1870s in the same style. Two other Italianate houses face the Rolphing house on Brady Street. All three red brick structures have rectangular windows, heavy cornices, and wrap around porches. The small Queen Anne style Ladies' Library located on a triangular piece of land at 101 South Brady Street was built in 1889. The library and the houses on Brady Street create a lovely tree-lined streetscape that reflects the lifestyles of prominent families as well as the preferred architectural styles of the 1870s and 1880s in Attica.

Although the Italianate style predominated in the district in the late nineteenth century, the remaining structures from the period are representative of other architectural styles. There are two Gothic Revival buildings: a home at 424 East Main Street and the High Gothic Church of Christ constructed in 1891 at 208 South Brady Street. The church is a particularly fine example of Gothic Revival with its narrow arched windows and castellated tower.

At the turn of the century, local businessmen, concerned about the city's economy, formed the Attica Land and Improvement Company. Their purpose was to create a favorable climate for business to attract new industry and business to Attica. The group successfully recruited the National Car Coupler Company in 1906 that soon had the largest payroll in town. The Poston Brick Company located in Attica in 1907. It shipped bricks all over the United States and paved most of the streets in town including McDonald Street in the District. Attica continued to be the central marketplace for the region and continued to prosper into the twentieth century, although construction slowed somewhat.

By 1900, there were few unimproved lots in the Main Street Historic District. Older structures had to be demolished in order to build in the area. Craftsman and Prairie style houses from the early twentieth century can now be seen scattered among their older neighbors. A bungalow at 400 East Main, built in 1920, and an English Cottage at 404 East Main, designed and built by Louis Johnson in 1930 are some of the better examples. In 1906, the Tudor Revival Attica-Williamsport church replaced an earlier church, and in 1921, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church rebuilt their church in the Renaissance Revival style.

The Attica Main Street Historic District has architectural significance, because it is a cohesive neighborhood in which representative architectural

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styles for almost 100 years reflect the changes in taste. The many notable examples of the Greek Revival and Federal styles from the canal era are compatible with the Italianate and late Victorian styles of the latter nineteenth century. The more modest structures of the twentieth century are not concentrated in any particular area of the district and they blend well. The churches, the Ladies' Library, and McDonald Park provide a solid community emphasis within the district that indicates a truly integrated neighborhood.

The Attica Main Street Historical District also has Exploration/Settlement significance. So many structures remain from the earliest settlement period of Attica that it is not difficult to visualize the canal era when the early residents came by horse, canal boat, and wagon to live.



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## 10. Geographical Data

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*Verbal Boundary Description:*

Beginning at the northwest corner of Council and Jackson streets, proceed west along the northern edge of Jackson Street crossing McDonald and Brady streets respectively to the western edge of the property line at 208 South Brady. Follow this property line north until it intersects with the property line at 204 South Brady. Follow this property line west until it meets the eastern side of the alley between Brady and Perry streets. Follow the eastern side of the alley until it intersects with the southern side of Mill street. Turn east and follow the southern side of Mill Street until it meets the western side of Brady Street. Turn north and follow Brady Street to the point where it intersects with the northern edge of Main Street. Turn west and proceed until it intersects with the western property line of 206 East Main Street. Proceed north along this line until it meets the northern property line of 206 East Main Street; turn east and follow this line to the eastern side of Brady Street. Follow this line north to the southern edge of the alley north of Main Street. Proceed easterly along this line, crossing McDonald Street until the point that it intersects with the northern property lines of the East Main Street properties. Follow the northern edge of these property lines easterly until the line meets the western side of Canada Street. Turn south until the intersection of the northern edge of East Main Street. Proceed westerly until this line intersects with an imaginary line extending from the western side of the alley at the eastern edge of McDonald Park; turn south following the western side of the alley until it intersects with the northern side of East Jackson Street. Turn west and proceed to the starting point.

*Boundary Justification:*

The Attica Main Street Historic District is an entity distinct from that which surrounds it. To the west of the district is the Attica Downtown Historic District, an area of commercial properties. (See commercial buildings to the rear of buildings in photos 8 and 9). To the south of the district are located nondescript residential properties, the Brady Street Historic District, and modern commercial buildings. The properties to the east and north form a non-cohesive residential area in which worker's housing co-mingles with modern and a few high-style buildings. The interim survey excluded McDonald Park from this district; it has been included in the nomination because its presence reinforces the aura of community and because the Sanborn Maps indicate that it was established as a community center in the late nineteenth century. Note that in photo 10 the relationship of the homes in the district to the park reinforces the feeling of cohesiveness in the district.

