

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. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly Walnut Street between Sugar and Poplar Streets and Main Street between Cross and Spring Streets

City or town: Brownstown State: IN County: Jackson

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>16</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

DOMESTIC: Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

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

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District is a small historic commercial area lining Main and Walnut Streets that developed around the Jackson County Courthouse and Public Square. The district features mostly two and three-story brick buildings constructed between about 1880 and 1910, and the courthouse that was reconstructed in 1911. Most of the roughly two dozen buildings are constructed in the Italianate, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival or Classical Revival styles.

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Narrative Description

The Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District is composed of about two blocks lining Main Street and two blocks lining Walnut Street intersecting at the northwest corner of the Jackson County Courthouse Public Square. This is the historic commercial area of Brownstown that developed around the courthouse and public square. A large majority of the buildings are brick, mostly two-stories tall, with storefronts that face the square. Some one-story and three-story buildings are included in the district, as well as two wood-frame buildings at the east end of Walnut Street (photo 0005). Because of a fire in the mid-1890s, several buildings lining the west side of Main Street were constructed in a short period of time and reflect the Romanesque Revival style (photo 0009).

The Jackson County Courthouse and Public Square is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (photo 0006). The listing includes several objects and structures located on the lawn, mostly monuments placed in memoriam of pioneer settlers or war veterans. This nomination includes a few objects on the square not included in the original nomination, both contributing and non-contributing due to their age.

A few buildings in the district are considered non-contributing because of significant changes to their facades, such as the building at 119 W. Walnut St. (left side of photo 0001). These buildings have either had their facades reconstructed (in the case of brick walls) or covered with wood. Other non-contributing resources are buildings constructed after the period of significance, such as the Peoples Bank 1964, photo (0010). The concentration of historic commercial buildings is contained to this district, beyond which are modern buildings constructed in the second half of the 20th century. The street grid of the town around the public square is laid out at approximately 45 degrees to cardinal points on a compass. Street directions are North and South Main and East and West Walnut, therefore, these accepted directions are used to describe facades of buildings (i.e. the front façade of the courthouse is identified as “west” but faces northwest).

A complete list of the resources follows:

Walnut Street

North side, going east

119 W. Walnut St. Commercial Building/Jackson County Community Theater, c. 1880/1985.

Non-contributing

Left side of photo 0001-contains two storefronts

The one-story brick building has two bays with separate entries. The west entry features a pair of aluminum storefront doors. The east bay's parapet wall is taller than the west bay. Its entry is composed of a pair of aluminum storefront doors with side-lites. The entry features a wide full-round arch with a fabric canopy in the large transom area above the entry. The building has been remodeled including rebuilding of the front facades. This renders the building non-contributing.

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The building has a long history as a theater. It was used as a room for moving pictures prior to 1916. The Royal Theatre occupied the same space in 1950. It is currently used by the Jackson County Community Theater group.

100 W. Walnut St. Commercial Building/Brownstown Chamber of Commerce, c. 1880.

Contributing

Right side of photo 0001

The two-story brick building features a storefront with wood entry door centered on the façade. The door has a full window and is flanked by side-lites composed of glass block. The entry is flanked by cast iron pilasters and large wood display windows. The wall below the display windows is brick and brick pilasters flank the storefront. The transom area is covered by a metal awning and the storefront is topped by a metal cornice. The second story features a wide, segmental-arched former window opening with a stone sill. It has been filled in with brick. The parapet features a row of brick corbels. A low-pitched gabled roof was added over the previous flat-roofed building; it is just barely visible above the front parapet.

The storefront was used as a dry goods store in 1887, then for notions in 1899 and a variety store in 1907. In 1950, the Public Service Company of Indiana used the storefront for their office in Brownstown. The second floor was used for an attorney's office during the late 1800s into the early 1900s. By 1916, the second floor was used as a club room.

107 E. Walnut St. Commercial Building, Queen Anne, c. 1903. Contributing

W. G. Ball, Builder, Ewing, IN

Left side of photo 0004

The two-story brick building features a recessed entry in the west end of its storefront. The modern wood door features a diamond-patterned window in its top half and a wood transom. The storefront features a cutaway corner in the recessed entry and large metal display windows on top of a brick wall. Cast iron fluted pilasters with a fern and rosette motif in their capitals flank the storefront and support an entablature atop the storefront opening. The transom area is covered with a shed roof awning covered with wood shakes. An enclosed stairway is on the east side of the front façade. It features a four-panel wood door and shed roof covered with wood shakes.

The second story has impressive brick details and two oriel bays. The bays are identical except for an art glass transom that is missing from the west bay. The bays sit on projecting brick courses that form a turret-like base capped with a belt course of rusticated limestone. The three-sided bays have cutaway corners and 1/1 replacement windows in each wall. Cast iron pilasters flank the front window in each bay. The bays have flat roofs and wood transoms with elliptical-arches. The arches are composed of two courses of brick capped by a course of rusticated limestone. A tall keystone with a rusticated capstone is in the top of the arch. The top of the building features a corbel table flanked by corbels. The corbel table is topped with a brick sawtooth pattern, dentils, and a stone cornice that continues atop the corbels. The parapet wall features three diamond-shaped recessed panels and is topped by a rusticated stone cap.

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The building was constructed for a saloon in about 1903. During the middle part of the 20th century, it was used by the Robertson family for a pool room and restaurant.

111 E. Walnut St. Commercial Building, c. 1875. Contributing

W. G. Ball Builder, Ewing, IN

Right side of photo 0004

The two-story brick building features a cast iron storefront with an entry off-set to the west and a narrow wood display window west of the entry. The entry features an aluminum storefront door with a transom area covered with wood. The storefront east of the entry is composed of two large wood display windows with transoms. All of the display windows have brick beneath them. The cast iron storefront features wide, fluted, pilasters flanking the storefront with a narrower pilaster east of the entry. The pilasters have a rosette and fern motif in their capitals. The second story features a tall, former door opening centered in the façade. It is filled in with wood and features a painted stone sill and lintel. The door opening is flanked by 6/6 replacement windows with a transom area filled in with wood. The windows have painted stone sills and lintels. The top of the façade features a row of recessed panels topped by a row of dentils.

The storefront, known as the Walker & Ireland Storehouse in the 1880s, was used for a saloon during the late 1800s into the early 1900s. By 1915, the building became known as the Commercial Hotel. The second story had been used as a lodge hall for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, who built a new hall in 1906 on Main Street. By the middle part of the 20th century, the building became home to Greger Brothers Hardware Store.

South side, going west

118 W. Walnut St. Commercial Building, c. 1907. Contributing

Middle of photo 0002

The one-story building is composed of rusticated, molded concrete block. The building is divided into three storefronts. The west storefront features an aluminum entry door in its east end and a large wood display window in its west end. The other two storefronts are recessed together with cutaway corners with wood display windows. The entry doors are wood with full windows. A metal pipe column, centered between the doors, supports the wall above the recessed opening. Large wood display windows flank the recessed entries; the area below the windows is filled in with brick. The parapet wall above the two east storefronts is stepped up and capped with concrete blocks.

The building was constructed about 1903 and became the location of a doctor's office, marble cutting shop, and insurance office (west to east). By 1916, the post office had located in the east side of the building and the marble works occupied the remainder. Prior to this building's construction, a wood frame building occupied the same site and included a doctor's office and post office as early as 1887. By 1950, the building included the office of Charles Reinhold, the Stewart Electric Company, and Cake Box Junior Bakers (west to east).

120 W. Walnut St. Commercial Building, c. 1875. Contributing

Right side of photo 0002

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The narrow brick building has a gabled roof with a tall brick parapet front. The building has a rubble stone foundation, segmental arched 1/1 replacement windows and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front façade features a modern entry door flanked by 1/1 replacement windows with segmental arched tops. A fabric awning is above the door and windows.

The small building has a long history as a professional office building. It was an attorney's office by 1887 through the early 1900s. It had become a doctor's office by 1907 through the 1910s. By 1950, it was the dentist office of Roy Clark.

Main Street

West side, going north

136 S. Main St. Markel Building, 1956/c. 2000. Non-contributing

Far left side of photo 0007

The one-story brick building features large metal storefront windows in the north and south ends of the façade. The windows are divided into two panes and have stone sills. A modern entry door is north of center in the façade. A row of soldiers forms the top of the storefront wall. The parapet features two belt courses of rusticated limestone. It is topped with a row of soldiers and capped by limestone. This small building is the last contributing building constructed in the district, in 1956, and took the place of a dwelling that had been constructed on the site c. 1900. That dwelling took the place of other one-story frame commercial buildings that fronted the square. The 1956 building was substantially altered with new brick veneer c. 2000; this renders the building non-contributing.

132/134 S. Main St. Washington Lodge Masonic Hall, Romanesque Revival, 1896.

Contributing

Second from left in photo 0007

Cast iron storefront attributed to George Mesker & Co. Iron Works

The wide, two-story brick building features a cast iron storefront of fluted pilasters that flank wood display windows and entries. A modern metal stairway door is in the south end of the façade. There are three large display windows between the stairway door and recessed entry to the storefront in the north half of the façade. The entry is composed of a pair of wood doors with full windows and a wood transom. The recessed entry has cutaway corners with wood display windows. A large display window is between the north end of the building and the recessed entry. The wall below the display windows and above the stairway door (former transom area) is covered with metal to appear like wood planks. A shed roof canopy extends across the entire storefront; it is covered with metal. The top of the cast iron storefront forming the entablature is visible above the canopy at the top of the first story.

The second story features six former window openings that have been filled in with brick. The openings feature rusticated limestone beltcourses that form sills and lintels across the façade. The stepped parapet features a thin beltcourse of rusticated limestone at the bottom and a rusticated limestone cap. Small arched-top stones form finials that flank the façade and stepped up section of the parapet wall. A building stone is centered in this section and is carved with the masons' symbol and "Washington Lodge No. 13 F. A. M. A.L. 5896 A.D. 1896".

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The Washington Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons constructed this building in 1896. They had previously been located in a building further north on the same block that later burned in the 1898 fire. The lodge was reorganized in 1849 and was the first Masonic lodge organized in Jackson County. The storefronts included a restaurant and drug store in the late 1800s and early 1900s. By the middle part of the 20th century, the first story was used by the Western Auto Association as a store for auto accessories.

128 S. Main St. Clements Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1902. Contributing
George Mesker & Co. Iron Works storefront
Second from right in photo 0007

The two-story brick building features a cast iron storefront and patterned brickwork on the second story. The stairway entry is on the south end of the façade. It features an aluminum entry door with transom and is flanked by fluted cast iron pilasters. A c. 1970 storefront was constructed behind the cast iron storefront, recessed into the façade. It features a low wall of Roman brick, large aluminum display windows and an aluminum storefront door and transom at the north end. The storefront transom area is covered with metal.

The second story is flanked by tall corbels with dark colored brick quoins. Six courses of brick in a Flemish bond, alternating with rusticated brick, are between the storefront and second story window's stone sills. The sills and tall stone lintels form beltcourses between the corbels. There are four 1/1 wood windows in the second story. The top of the second story wall features a tall corbel table between the corbels. This table is broken in the center by two narrow pilasters, matching those flanking the second story, and a building stone carved with "CLEMENS BLOCK". A row of five full-round blind arches trimmed in rusticated brick are between the narrower pilasters above the building stone. The table is capped by several courses of rusticated brick, the topped by another corbel table with a rusticated stone cap. The parapet is capped by rusticated limestone in the center and smooth limestone on each end.

The building was constructed about 1902. The first story was used for a furniture and jewelry store while the second story was used as a lodge hall and for storage during the early 1900s. In 1950, Shepard's Variety Store was located in the storefront and the Lion's Club used the second floor for meetings. The Foster-Story Insurance Agency also had offices on the second floor in 1950.

124 S. Main St. Commercial Building, Romanesque Revival, c. 1902. Contributing
Mesker & Brothers Iron Works storefront
Right side of photo 0007

The two story brick building features a cast iron storefront and patterned brickwork on the second story. The storefront has a recessed, center entry, flanked by narrow cast iron pilasters, with an aluminum storefront door and side-lites. Wide wood display windows flank the recessed entry. The wall below the windows is divided into four narrow recessed panels. A shed roof canopy is above the storefront and is covered with asphalt. A modern stairway entry door with replacement 1/1 transom is in the north end of the façade.

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The second story features four 1/1 replacement windows with transoms. The north window is narrow. The windows have rusticated limestone sills and tall lintels that form beltcourses across the façade. The top of the building, above the windows, is flanked by narrow pilasters on corbels with dark brick quoins. Two courses of sawtooth brick, between courses of rusticated brick, are near the top of the wall. These courses are flanked by the end pilasters and narrow pilasters in the center of the wall that flank a wide panel of herringbone brick. The panel is framed by a course of rusticated brick. A row of corbels is at the top of the parapet, except over the area above the panel. It appears a signboard was once centered at the top in this area.

The building had a long history as a grocery store. It was built about 1902 and was occupied by a grocery by 1907. Newkirk's Grocery was located at the building in 1950. Allan Nierman, an attorney, had his office on the second floor in 1950.

116/118 S. Main St. Wright Vermilya Building, Romanesque Revival, 1896. Contributing
Left side of photo 0008

The wide, two-story, brick building features a modern, c. 1975, storefront with a low brick wall capped with stone under the five aluminum display windows. A recessed entry is in the south end and features two steps and an aluminum entry door with transom. The storefront's transom area is covered with a cloth awning. A metal entablature tops the storefront. The second story features six 1/1 wood windows with rusticated sills and tall lintels that form beltcourses across the façade. The top of the second story is flanked by narrow pilasters, corbelled on the bottom. Between these is a stepped area of the parapet that features a building stone carved with "WRIGHT VERMILYA". This stepped part of the parapet is flanked by narrow pilasters that are corbelled on the bottom. A rusticated stone belt course is incorporated near the base of these pilasters and extends across the bottom of the stepped parapet wall. Another rusticated belt course is incorporated in all four pilasters, but is broken in the stepped parapet wall section. The entire parapet is capped with a course of rusticated limestone. Arch-topped stones form finials atop each of the pilasters. Those flanking the building stone are carved with 18 (on the south) and 96 (on the north). Rows of narrow brick incisions are below the second to the top band of rusticated stone.

The building featured a dry goods and grocery store in its first story after it was constructed in to the 1910s. A photographer occupied the second story for a studio during the same time. The Masonic Hall was located at this site prior to the construction of their building, and the fire that destroyed the previous building. In 1950, the storefront was occupied by the Star Grocery.

108/110 S. Main St. Fassold Block, Romanesque Revival, c. 1899. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0008

The two-story brick building features a modern, c. 1970 storefront of brick and tall aluminum display windows. The aluminum display windows have infilled transoms. The windows flank a recessed entry with aluminum storefront door. A flat-roof metal canopy is at the top of the storefront. The second story features four 1/1 replacement windows in original openings that have been partially filled-in with vinyl siding. The openings have rusticated limestone sills and lintels that form beltcourses across the façade. Pilasters with corbelled bottoms flank the middle two windows, near their top, and extend to the parapet and step up to form a section of wall for a

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building stone. The stone is carved with "FASSOLO BLOCK". Recessed panels of brick in an arrow pattern are in the three bays formed by the pilasters. A course of rusticated limestone is near the top of the second story, flanking the stepped parapet section. The parapet is capped by rusticated limestone.

A large one-story brick addition (c. 1910) with a gabled roof (facing the alley) is between the front building and alley. It has metal windows divided into four panes and a metal roof. The gable is covered with metal.

The building has featured a hardware store since it was constructed about 1899. Brownstown Hardware Store was located in the storefront in 1950. The same year, the building was home to the Brownstown Town Board offices. The addition on the back of the building served as a tin shop during the early 1900s.

104/106 S. Main St. Knights of Pythias Hall, Romanesque Revival, 1899. Contributing
Mesker & Brothers Iron Works storefront

Second from left side of photo 0009

The three-story brick building features a cast iron storefront with modern renovations, c. 1970. The south end of the storefront is recessed and features two aluminum doors; the south door leads to a staircase. This recessed area is flanked by narrow cast iron pilasters. A metal display window with brick below is north of the recessed area. A recessed aluminum storefront door is north of the display window. A large metal display window with brick below is in the north end of the storefront. It is flanked by narrow cast iron pilasters. A long, shed roof awning is suspended by cables across the width of the storefront. Metal panels cover the transoms area. A tall steel lintel is above the panels and forms the top of the storefront.

The second and third stories are divided into two bays, trimmed with rusticated brick, by pilasters. The center pilaster has dark brick quoins. Each bay features two 1/1 replacement windows with transoms. The third story windows have tall transoms while the second story transoms are short. The windows feature a rusticated limestone sill course. Wide panels of sawtooth rusticated brick coursing is between the second and third stories, in each bay. The panels are trimmed with brick. The building has a tall parapet wall that features a large diamond-shaped panel in the center and four small triangle-shaped panels in each corner. The panels are trimmed with brick. A building stone is in the center of the diamond-shaped panel. It is carved with "K.P. HALL NO. 60. A.D.-1898." The top of the parapet is capped with a course of rusticated limestone. A historic (c. 1940) porcelain and neon triangular sign for the K of P Hall extends off the front of the building above the storefront.

The Knights of Pythias Lodge #60 constructed the building for their meeting hall in 1899 after the fire of 1898 consumed this side of Main Street. The lodge was organized in 1875 from a sister lodge in Seymour and originally met in the attic of the courthouse. The new building featured a dry goods store and a shop for boots, shoes, and clothing in its first floor storefronts by 1907. A harness shop and jeweler were located in its first floor storefronts by 1915. George H. Conner, the jeweler, continued his shop into the 1950s at this location.

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100/102 S. Main St. Benton Block, Italianate, c. 1900. Contributing

George Mesker & Co. Iron Works storefront

Left side of photo 0009 and photo 0002 (north façade)

The two-story, corner brick building features a cast iron storefront on its front (Main Street) façade. The cast iron storefront is divided into two storefront openings. The south storefront was remodeled c. 1965 and features a metal stairway door and transom in its north end, followed by a recessed aluminum entry door with side-lites, flanked by cast iron fluted pilasters in the middle, and a large metal display window with brick below in its south end. The transom area of this south storefront is covered with metal. The north storefront has a cutaway corner entry with aluminum door and side-lites, and wood transom. A cast iron fluted column is at the corner and supports the second story. Two wood display windows with brick below, flanked by iron pilasters, are south of the corner entry. The display windows have transoms composed of glass block. A cast iron entablature extends across the top of the two storefronts. The front façade's second story features six 1/1 replacement windows with rusticated limestone sills and lintels that form beltcourses across the façade. A detailed, ornamented cornice is at the top of the front façade. It features rows of brackets and wraps around the north corner of the building.

The north façade (facing Walnut Street) features the corner entry at its east end and three wood oculus windows in the first story. The windows are trimmed with three course of rusticated brick. An entry with a rusticated limestone lintel is at the west end of the first story. It has been covered with wood. The second story features seven window openings with 1/1 replacement windows. The opening in the east end and an opening in the west half feature a pair of replacement windows. The windows have rusticated stone sills and lintels that form beltcourses on the façade. A beltcourse of soldier brick is at the top of the wall and a flat band of metal forms the cornice.

The building was constructed about 1900 after the fire of 1898. The new building featured a restaurant in its south storefront and general store in its north or corner storefront by 1907. By 1915, the south storefront became a bank and the corner storefront became a drug store. Those uses remained the same into the 1950s. The First National Bank occupied the south storefront and Emerson's Drug Store occupied the corner storefront in 1950. Vogue Beauty Salon was located in the second story in 1950.

100 N. Main St. Peoples Bank, Mid-century Modern, 1964/c.1990. Non-contributing

Photo 0010

The one-story brown-colored brick corner building features two beltcourses of limestone on both primary facades. A wide recessed area is in the north half of the front (Main Street) façade and features aluminum windows and doors. A brick planter forms a front wall to the recessed entry. The south (Walnut Street) façade features a row of four pediment-shaped transoms over narrow metal windows and panels of brick in the façade's east half.

A bank had been located on this site since 1892. The city's opera house had also been located at this corner site during that time. In 1950, the bank at this corner was Brownstown Loan and Trust. The current bank razed the old structure and was constructed in 1964. It was remodeled to its current appearance c. 1990.

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East side of street, going south

121 N. Main St. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall, Romanesque Revival, 1906/c. 1940.

Contributing

Middle of photo 0011

The three-story brick building features a modern, c. 1940, storefront of pigmented structural glass veneer (in green and salmon). The storefront wall is recessed and square columns, wrapped in mirrored glass, support the wall above. The storefront features large aluminum display windows and a pair of aluminum entry doors with side-lites and transom in its north half. A flat metal canopy is above the storefront and pigmented structural glass covers transom area.

The second and third stories are divided into three bays by pilasters of brick. The middle bay is narrower than the outer bays and features a segmental arched opening on the second story and a large recessed panel on the third story. The panel features a building stone carved with the symbol of chain links and "NO. 488 I.O.O.F." The outside bays feature large segmental-arched window openings on each story. The window openings have been filled in with brick. The openings have rusticated limestone sills. The top of the building features rows of small, square recessed panels and corbels between the pilasters. A beltcourse of rusticated limestone is at the base of the parapet. The pilasters continue up through the parapet; the center bay is stepped up and features a date stone carved with 1906. The parapet is capped with a row of dentils and stone. The pilasters are capped with two courses of stone.

The Brownstown Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #488 moved from their second floor location on East Walnut Street to this building in 1906. The lodge organized in 1875 and where at the Walnut Street location as early as the 1880s. The new lodge building's storefront was used as a general store after the building's construction into the 1920s. Zabel's Furniture Company was located on the first floor in 1950. The furniture store likely was responsible for the Modern remodel of the storefront and traces its roots to Phillip Zabel, a furniture manufacturer in the early 1880s in nearby Ewing.

109 N. Main St. Commercial Building, Italianate, c. 1880. Contributing

Middle of photo 0003

The two-story brick building's storefront is covered with wood and features four large wood display windows and two aluminum entry doors in the south half. The north door features a wide side-lite composed of glass block. A metal stairway door is in the south end of the façade. A shed roof covered with metal forms a canopy across the top of the storefront. A one-story addition (c. 1950) is on the north end of the building. It is covered with wood and has a tall parapet. There are two large wood display windows in the south half of the addition's façade.

The second story is divided into three unequal bays. The window openings have segmental arched tops with shaped brick hoods and stone sills. The windows are 1/1 replacements with a panel of wood that fills in the bottom part of the opening. The north bay has one window, the middle bay has two windows, and the south bay features three windows. The building's parapet features a row of square recessed panels topped with a row of corbels.

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The building has had a long history as a hotel into the 1920s. It was constructed c. 1880 and was the location of the Aetna Hotel which occupied the full corner site (wrapping around to Walnut Street) by 1887. The building included store rooms for a barber, kitchen, and dining and sample rooms for guests. It became known as the Falk Hotel by 1907 and then the Frances Hotel by 1916. The hotel offered chicken dinners on Sundays and home cooking. Fannie Falk was the proprietor in 1917. By 1950, the hotel had closed and the storefronts were used for other purposes including the post office, barber shop, and Brooks Restaurant which included offices for the Seymour-Salem Bus Line and the Boley Taxi Service. During the 1920s, the corner portion at 101 North Main Street was reconstructed with a new building and this building was reduced to its current size.

101 N. Main St. Commercial Building, Classical Revival, c. 1925. Contributing
Right side of photo 0003

The two-story corner building is composed of brown-colored brick. The Walnut Street façade appears to be more formerly arranged, probably in order to address the public square. The Main Street (west) façade is divided into three bays by pilasters. The first story has an entry composed of an aluminum door and wood side-lites and transom in the middle bay. The flanking bays feature large wood display windows. All but one of the first floor windows feature awnings over their transoms. A course of soldier brick forms a line between the first and second story between the pilasters. The second story features pairs of 1/1 replacement windows in each bay with sills of rowlocks. A course of soldier brick forms a line at the top of the second story. The pilasters have capstones and extend through the parapet, which is also capped with stone.

The Walnut Street (south) façade is also divided into three bays, though the middle bay is narrower. The first story features a modern entry door in the middle bay. The transom is covered with wood. Wide wood display windows are in the flanking bays. Their transoms are also covered with wood. A course of soldier brick forms a line between the first and second stories between the pilasters. The second story features a pair of 1/1 replacement windows in the middle bay and a row of three 1/1 windows in the flanking bays with sills of rowlocks. A course of soldier brick forms a line at the top of the second story. Recessed panels trimmed with brick are in the top of the bays. The pilasters have capstones and extend through the parapet, which is also capped with stone.

In 1950, the building included the Stewart Electric Company appliance store (its service department was located on the south side of Main Street, west of the store). The second floor was occupied by Walter Robertson, an attorney, and the Jackson County Abstract Company. Veran Steinkamp was a music teacher who gave lessons on the second floor.

111 S. Main St. Jackson County Courthouse, Neo-Classical, 1873/1911. Contributing
Elmer E. Dunlap, architect. Heizmann Brothers, contractor.
Photo 0006

The two-story county courthouse has a raised basement of rusticated limestone and walls of tan-colored brick. The building is constructed, roughly, in a cross plan with a bell tower that rises above the front entry (facing Main Street). The building's wood windows are divided into three panes (the middle pane is wider than the flanking panes) with transoms with a matching pane

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configuration. The first story windows have a limestone sill course, brick surrounds, and label lintels with stone corner stones and keystone. The second story windows have bracketed limestone sills and segmental arches with corner stones and keystone. The building has a formal entablature with a stone architrave, brick frieze, and metal cornice with modillions. The brick parapet has a stone cap.

The west (front) façade features a raised entry with steps between rusticated stone walls. The entry is centered in a slightly recessed two-story portico with pairs of limestone columns with Ionic capitals flanking the entry. The large, segmental-arched entry is trimmed with stone and features a carved garland swag and scroll-like keystone. The second story has a segmental-arched window matching those generally described on the building. The brick pilasters framing the portico each feature a stone cartouche just below the entablature. The words “JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE” is centered in the brick frieze. The front features a tall gabled parapet with a secondary entablature and three panels of brickwork with stone trim between the two entablatures. The gabled wall features a large stone medallion and triangular stones flanking it. The façade flanking the portico features windows in the basement, first and second stories matching those described generally on the building. The west-facing walls of the north and south-facing legs of the cross plan feature three windows in the basement and three windows in the first and second stories matching those described generally on the building. A narrow bay with a small 1/1 wood window with stone sill in the first and second stories is in the inner corner of these walls. The square brick bell tower has four identical facades. The lower part features three narrow recessed bays with stone sills at the bottom and metal louvers with stone sills at the top. The top of the tower is stone with a large round clock trimmed in stone and situated between pilasters extending from the base of the tower to the top. The pilasters have pairs of large scroll brackets that support a stone cornice. Modillions support the cornice over the clock. The tower’s stone parapet features a gable between piers with raised panels and stone caps.

The east (back) façade features a slightly projecting bay with a large segmental-arched entry with scroll-like keystone, a pair of wood doors with full windows and a transom divided into three panes. Three 1/1 wood windows with transoms are grouped above the entry and feature a label lintel. In the bays flanking the center bay pairs of windows are in the first and second stories. The first story windows are wood with transoms. The second story windows are 1/1 wood with transoms with label lintels. A recessed brick panel is centered in the parapet in each of the three bays. A gabled pediment of stone tops the center bay. The east-facing wall of the north and south legs of the cross plan feature three windows in the first and second story matching those described generally on the building.

The north and south facades are identical with four basement windows, two bays of three windows in the first story, and seven windows in the second story. The east-facing leg of the cross plan is slightly longer than the front (west-facing) part. Both the north and south-facing walls of the east-facing leg features a pair of wood windows with transoms on the first story and a pair of 1/1 wood windows with transoms on the second story with a label lintel. The north and south-facing walls of the west (front) facing leg feature windows matching those described generally on the building.

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Technically, the Jackson County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse to occupy the public square, though it appears vastly different after a remodeling campaign in 1911. The first courthouse was a log building built in 1816, which was followed by a second building in 1821. A two-story brick building was constructed in 1834 and served the county until 1870 when plans were drawn for a large, new brick building by architect David Bolen. Bolen's design was a rectangular building in the Second Empire style finished in 1872. The county commissioners contracted with architect Elmer Dunlap to enlarge and remodel the Bolen design in 1910. This resulted in large two-story wings added to the north and south of Bolen's original rectangular plan. The building was refitted with classically-inspired windows, and trim as well as a new temple-like entry and tower. The building suffered a fire from a lightning strike in 1959, at which time the original bell was removed and placed on the courthouse lawn.

Courthouse Lawn structures/objects:

Iron Fence, 1872. Contributing (structure, counted in previous nomination)

Sign: Col. John Ketcham, Indiana Historical Bureau, c. 1966. Non-contributing (object, not counted in previous nomination)

Bell: Cast Iron Courthouse Bell, c. 1872. Contributing (object, counted in previous nomination)

Veterans War Memorial, 1989. Non-contributing (object, counted in previous nomination)

Town Pump, c. 1880. Contributing (object, counted in previous nomination)

World War Memorial, 1930. Contributing (object, not counted in previous nomination)

Time Capsule: Bicentennial Capsule Monument, 1976. Non-contributing (object, not counted in previous nomination)

Tank: United States Army Sherman M-4 Tank, placed in 1958. Contributing (object, counted in previous nomination)

Mechanical pit (concrete), c. 1970. Non-contributing (structure, counted in previous nomination)

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1872-1958

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

George L. Mesker & Co. Iron Works

Mesker Brothers Iron Works

Dunlap, Elmer E.

Heizmann Brothers

Ball, W. G.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1872 when the iron fence was constructed around the perimeter of the courthouse square. The courthouse was constructed at the same time, but was substantially altered in 1911. While the last contributing building constructed in the district occurred c. 1925 at 101 N. Main Street, the period of significance ends in 1958 when the last contributing object, the tank, was added to the courthouse square. Memorials and objects added to the courthouse square relate to the significant role politics/government play in the district. Brownstown secured its position as the civic center of Jackson County, which it still holds today, after several attempts to move the county seat in the mid- and late 19th century.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A using commerce and politics/government as areas of significance. The district developed around the courthouse square during the 1800s into the mid-1900s as the town's commercial core. The district also includes the Jackson County Courthouse and public square around which the development occurred. Brownstown was selected as the seat of government for Jackson County in 1816 and the courthouse is the continual reminder of that designation.

The district is also eligible under Criterion C using architecture as an area of significance. This district includes several good examples of architectural styles popular between 1870 and 1920. All of these are commercial in nature except for the district's most prominent building, the Jackson County Courthouse (1872/1911, photo 0006) which is an impressive example of Classical Revival architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

COMMERCE

Little industry occurred in Brownstown, due in large part to the absence of a railroad for shipping goods and products. This directly limited the scale of commercial development in the town by lack of population growth. In turn, the historic commercial development in Brownstown served a smaller market or accommodated patrons in town conducting county-

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related business at the Jackson County Courthouse or sheriff's office and jail located just off the square. Main Street (photo 0009) through Brownstown, however, was an important transportation route across southern Indiana, leading from two ports, Vincennes on the Wabash River to Madison on the Ohio River. The Jackson County Commissioners recognized this as they voted to make improvements to the Brownstown-Madison Road shortly after the county was organized in 1816. This route also linked what would become the largest commercial center in Jackson County at Seymour to Brownstown. The route was one of the first routes designated as part of the Indiana State Highway system in 1917, now known as U.S. Highway 50.

The earliest commercial activity in the district was conducted out of a cabin on the west side of the square, or possibly another small structure near the square, prior to 1820. The first substantial enterprise was a one-and-a-half story tavern inn built by William Congleton who catered to people coming to the county seat for business. In 1819, Alexander Craig constructed the Aetna House, a hotel that was the first brick building constructed in town located off the northeast corner of the square (razed, now 101 N. Main). During the 1820s, Walter Benton had a stock of supplies he offered from a log cabin off the square. Dr. Wort was an early physician, and Samuel and John Mooney were early residents; both Wort and the Mooneys opened hotels. The 1886 History of Jackson County lists over 40 individuals who had significant commercial enterprises in Brownstown after 1840. Among those names are Frank Fassold, the Benton family, Wright Vermilya, and J. S. Clements which are all names associated with the business blocks on the west side of the public square (photos 0007-0008).

Commerce of the mid-1800s included dry goods and general stores, typically located in small-scale, one-story buildings like those on Walnut Street. Rows of wood frame buildings characterized the commercial district, particularly on the north side of the square, into the 1880s (photo 0005). Hotels with dining rooms and restaurants accommodated visitors to the seat of government in Jackson County at Brownstown. A large hotel was once located on the west side of the square, named the Wort Hotel, that operated into the 1890s (generally in the location of the Masonic Hall). The building located at 109 N. Main Street is one of the oldest extant commercial blocks (c. 1880, middle of photo 0003) in the district and included hotel guest rooms on the second floor, a dining room with a kitchen and sample room on the first floor (the building was part of the Aetna Hotel). The same building was remodeled into modern hotels named the Falk Hotel and Frances Hotel during the early 1900s. Another hotel, the Commercial Hotel, operated out of a building at 111 East Walnut Street in the early 1900s which had a saloon in its first story in the 1880s (right side of photo 0004).

Brownstown experienced significant new construction in the district during the 1890s into the early 1900s, due partly to a fire on the west side of the square as well as a court determination that the seat of government would remain in Brownstown. Many new buildings were constructed between 1896 and 1906 on Main Street and Walnut Street. These buildings featured general stores, dry goods, a hardware (108/110 S. Main, middle of photo 0008), and a drug store and a bank located in the Benton Block (c. 1900, right side of photo 0009). The existing bank in the district at 100 N. Main was built in 1964 and was constructed on the same site of a forerunner bank that dated to the late 1800s (photo 0010).

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Professional offices often located on the second floors of the commercial buildings. Most notable were the attorneys' offices located in a number of buildings around the square. The presence of the county courts directly influenced the presence of law offices of attorneys around the square. These were located on the second floor of 100 W. Walnut in the 1880s (right side of photo 0001), and at 101 N. Main and 124 S. Main into the 1950s, conducted under attorneys Robertson and Nierman, respectively. The one-story building at 120 W. Walnut was also used as an attorney's office during the 1880s into the early 1900s (right side of photo 0002).

Fraternal organizations had a major influence on the commercial district through the construction of their lodges. The lodges included one or two storefronts in each of the buildings. The Washington Lodge of the Free Masons was located at 132/134 S. Main and had two storefronts occupied by a restaurant and drug store in the late 1890s into the early 1900s (second from left side of photo 0007). The storefront was combined by 1950 and was home to the Western Auto Association accessories store. The Knights of Pythias constructed their lodge in 1899 and also had two storefronts on the first floor (second from right side of photo 0009). These had a grocery, harness shop, dry goods, shoe store and jewelry store into the 1910s. The last two, Monroe Shoe Repair and George Conner Jewelry Store were still in operation in the 1950s. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows constructed their lodge hall at 121 N. Main Street in 1906 (photo 0011). It had a large general store that occupied the first floor during the first decades of the 20th century. In the 1940s-1950s, the storefront was occupied by Zabel's Furniture Store.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The location of the Jackson County seat of government was selected in 1816 at a meeting of the county commissioners. A 150 acre tract of land was purchased from John Ketcham, one of the county's judges, for a price of \$8.00 per acre. The public square was donated by Ketcham. The general location was the geographic center of the county and the name of the new community, Brownstown, was selected to honor Jacob Jennings Brown, a brigadier-general of the frontier militia during the War of 1812. Brownstown was platted with 168 lots on streets surrounding the public square. A temporary jail and courthouse were ordered to be constructed out of hewn logs in 1816. This was the first courthouse to occupy the public square. A brick courthouse was ordered to be constructed in 1818 though it did not occur until 1821. A third courthouse was constructed in 1834.

While a strong effort was made to remove the county seat from Brownstown to Seymour in the mid-1800s, including two public votes on the matter, proponents in favor of keeping it at Brownstown pressed for a new courthouse to be constructed on the public square. The motion for a new courthouse passed 2-1 by the county commissioners (one was in favor of relocating the county seat). Plans for the new building were drawn by architect D. A. Bolen of Indianapolis. The contract was let for a building that cost just over \$38,000. The new courthouse was completed in 1872 and work commenced on a new jail in the same year. The question over relocation of the county seat continued though, until an Indiana Supreme Court decision in 1900, after another public vote in 1897, would affirm the location. Ten years later, the commissioners

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embarked on another project to enlarge and remodel the Bolen design by hiring architect Elmer Dunlap to create the existing courthouse design which was completed in 1911 (photo 0006).

The courthouse square has become the scene of memorial and festival activities, and features several monuments to historical events of the county. These include monuments to the county's war dead, a large tank placed by the American Legion, and an Indiana Historical Bureau sign dedicated to John Ketcham, who donated the land for the square. These objects and memorials demonstrate the role that the courthouse square continued to play in the district. An earlier war memorial was placed in 1930 and the tank, placed in 1958, were created to commemorate military acts of service by individuals of Jackson County. The role the courthouse square plays to host such commemoration is indicative of the significance the role of government plays in the district.

Other examples of the significance politics/government has played in the district include the historic locations of the post office. The United States Post Office at Brownstown was located at 118 W. Walnut Street during the 1880s-1890s, prior to the construction of the current building on that site c. 1903. The post office continued at that location in the 1910s-1920s (middle of photo 0002). By 1950, the post office had relocated to 109 N. Main Street (middle of photo 0003). Its current location was constructed in 1969 off the southeast corner of the public square (not part of the district). The Brownstown Town offices were also located in the district during the 1950s. The town meeting room and clerk's office were located on the second floor of 108/110 S. Main Street (second from left in photo 0008). The current offices are located just west of the district at 200 W. Walnut Street, a building that formerly held the town library built in 1950. The town attempted incorporations occurred during the early years (1833, 1837, and 1847), but the incorporation lapsed. The final incorporation of Brownstown occurred in 1870.

ARCHITECTURE

The Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District contains several good examples of architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While Brownstown was outpaced by nearby Seymour for commercial activity due to several railroads, Brownstown's growth relied heavily on functions related to its location as the seat of government for Jackson County. Therefore, many of the commercial buildings surrounding the square were elevated in importance both in function and architectural appearance. While the designs of building facades surrounding the square have simple features, sometimes related to styles popular during the period, other buildings feature higher refinements of the same styles.

A few of the district's earliest buildings are simple one- or two-story commercial blocks with parapet fronts with little or no stylistic details. One small one-story gabled brick building is located on Walnut Street (photo 0002). The brick building, c. 1875, features a tall front parapet that masks the gable behind.

Two other early buildings, both two-story brick commercial buildings with a single storefront, were built c. 1875/1880 on Walnut Street. The building located at 111 E. Walnut features

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recessed panels and corbels near the top of its second story and simple stone lintels over its windows (right side of photo 0004). The building has a cast iron storefront that may have been added c. 1903, and a former doorway centered on its second story, likely from the time it was used as the Odd Fellows Lodge during the 1880s. The building at 100 W. Walnut features a large segmental arched second story window and a parapet supported by a row of corbels (right side of photo 0001).

Other simple commercial buildings include a one-story molded concrete block building constructed c. 1903 at 118 W. Walnut (middle of photo 0002). It features three storefronts with two having joined, recessed entries. The other building, located at 136 S. Main, is a one-story brick commercial building with rusticated stone belt courses. It was built in 1956 and is the last contributing building constructed during the period of significance (left side of photo 0007).

The original portion of the courthouse (1872) predates the earliest building constructed in the district that displays features of a particular style, but due to the remodel campaign in 1911, it will be discussed as part of buildings constructed in the classical style. There are two buildings whose construction dates span a period of about twenty years, designed in the Italianate style. The Italianate style became popular in the United States during the middle part of the 19th century and had for the most part, subsided in popularity by 1890. Midwestern towns were enjoying significant growth during this time due to railroads and post-Civil War construction of the 1870s-1880s at the same time the Picturesque Movement of architecture had taken root. The district, however, only features two examples of this style due in large part to fires that had consumed whole blocks around the square. The earliest example was built c. 1880 at 109 N. Main (middle of photo 0003) and was part of the Aetna Hotel. The two-story brick building features shaped brick hoods with segmental arches and a parapet with rows of recessed panels and corbels. The other example, the Benton Block was built c. 1900 at 100/102 S. Main (right side of photo 0009). The building's Italianate features, a bracketed metal cornice and nicely detailed cast iron storefronts, were products that would have been shipped to the site rather than builder-constructed. One of the building's two storefronts features a recessed corner entry with a tall, slender iron corner column with stylized Ionic capital. The cornice, of pressed metal, once had a large building sign of pressed metal centered above the front wall.

The style found in Brownstown of most significant note is the Romanesque Revival style. The style was made popular by architect Henry H. Richardson, particularly on public buildings located along the east coast. Buildings in the style often have large rusticated stone blocks or belt courses for their wall construction. Wide arched windows and towers or turrets were also frequently used. While not uncommon for small towns to have a few examples of the style, Brownstown seems to have a disproportionate number of examples, though most have fairly simple details. This was due largely to fires in the 1890s that consumed the commercial block facing the courthouse square on its west side where many of these examples took the place of buildings razed after the fire. Responsible for the construction of the largest of these examples were the fraternal orders of the Masons, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows who built buildings in 1896, 1899, and 1906, respectively.

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The Masonic Lodge, at 132/134 S. Main is the earliest example of the Romanesque style (1896, second from left side of photo 0007). It is also about the simplest in terms of details. The building features rusticated stone belt courses in its second story façade and atop the stepped parapet. Small arched-top stone finials crown the parapet at its corners. Side-by-side buildings at 116/118 and 108/110 S. Main feature similar stone belt courses and stepped parapet details, however both of these (the Wright Vermilya and Fassold Buildings, left side of photo 0008) have projecting turret-like features that flank their corners and building blocks in the stepped parapets. The Wright Vermilya Building (116/118 S. Main) has its date of construction (1896) carved in the arched-top finial stones. Two other side-by-side buildings at 124 and 128 S. Main (both c. 1902, right side of photo 0007) feature stone belt courses and exceptional patterned brickwork on the second story. The Clements Block (128 S. Main) has a row of full-round arches in the center of its parapet wall and rusticated brick details.

The Knights of Pythias Hall (1899) and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall (1906) are the only three-story buildings in the district, and both also are examples of the Romanesque style. The Knights of Pythias Hall, located at 104/106 S. Main (second from right side of photo 0009), features two, two-story recessed bays framed with patterned brickwork, rusticated stone belt courses, and two panels of sawtooth brickwork between the stories. The building also has a tall parapet with a large diamond-shaped panel that features the building stone. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall, located at 121 N. Main (photo 0011), features large segmental arched window openings (filled in with brick) and a tall stepped parapet flanked with pilasters that extend up the entire façade. The storefront underwent a remodel campaign c. 1940 and features the Modern style with structural colored glass and mirror-wrapped columns.

One example of the Queen Anne style is located in the district at 107 E. Walnut Street. The two-story brick building (c. 1903, left side of photo 0004) has a single storefront of cast iron and a nicely detailed second story. Two three-sided bays project from the second story, supported by a brick corbel table and trimmed with rusticated stone. The bays are set below wide segmental arches trimmed with rusticated stone and a tall, narrow keystone. One bay has a transom of art glass. The parapet is composed of a brick corbel table and a variety of shaped, recessed panels.

The Classical Revival style was introduced to the district when the courthouse was remodeled in 1911. The architect expanded and remodeled the 1872 Second Empire design with classical features including a tall front entry flanked by limestone columns that support a pediment of brick and stone trim (photo 0006). The building's windows have label lintels on the first story and segmental arched hoods on the second story; both feature stone trim and keystones. A massive entablature with brick parapet above goes around the entire perimeter of the exterior walls. A two-story corner building constructed in the following decade, c. 1925, at 101 N. Main Street (photo 0003) is a restrained version of the Classical Revival style. The brown-colored brick commercial building is divided into bays by two-story pilasters that continue through the parapet and are capped by stone. The building's first- and second- story window openings are regulated, providing symmetry to both street facades. Brick panels are located in the top of each bay.

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Also of note are the number of cast iron storefronts located in the district. There are a total of seven cast iron storefronts, all just one story tall, from as many as three makers. There are three marked with George Mesker & Co. Iron Works (Evansville, IN) located on the Masonic Hall (attributed), Clements Building, and Benton Building. These were constructed between 1896 and c. 1900. Two are from Mesker & Brothers Iron Works (St. Louis, MO) and they are located at 124 S. Main and the Knights of Pythias Lodge (c. 1902 and 1899 respectively). The final two are side-by-side at 107 and 111 E. Walnut Street (photo 0003). These are cast with "W.G. Ball Builder, Ewing, IND." It is unclear if Ball was indeed the fabricator or constructed the building and installed the iron storefront. These were installed c. 1903. Of the seven cast iron storefronts, the one located on the Benton Block (right side of photo 0009) is the best-preserved and most interesting storefront with narrow, fluted pilasters, a slender corner column with Ionic capital, and exposed entablature that tops the storefront wall. However, the storefront at 124 S. Main (right side of photo 0007) is also nicely detailed and retains its original paneled wood walls beneath the display windows.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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City Directory Seymour-Brownstown, Caron Directory Company, 1950.

Kellerhals, Kelli Andre, Indiana Department of Historic Preservation & Archaeology. *Jackson County (Indiana) Courthouse National Register of Historic Places form*, 2011.

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History of Jackson County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses Second Edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Brownstown: 1887, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1916

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 071-075-26001-006, 26011-014, 26022-031, 26033-039

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 7 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 583230 | Northing: 4303924 |
| 2. Zone: 16 | Easting: 583226 | Northing: 4303638 |
| 3. Zone: 16 | Easting: 582954 | Northing: 4303639 |
| 4. Zone: 16 | Easting : 582966 | Northing: 4303918 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the northwest corner of Sugar and Cross Streets, face northwest and follow the north side of Cross Street, crossing Main Street, to the east side of the alley between Main and Poplar Streets. Turn northeast and follow the east side of the alley to a point from a line extended southeast from the south property line of 120 W. Walnut Street. Turn northwest, crossing the alley, and follow the south property line to the west property line of 120 W. Walnut Street, then turn northeast and follow the west property line crossing to the north side of Walnut Street. Turn northwest and follow the north side of Walnut Street to the west property line of 119 W. Walnut Street. Follow the west property line of 119 W. Walnut Street to the south side of the alley between Walnut and Spring Streets.

Turn southeast and follow the south side of the alley crossing to the east side of Main Street, then turn northeast and follow the east side of Main Street to the north property line of 121 N. Main Street. Turn southeast and follow the north property line of 121 N. Main Street to the west side of the alley between Main and Sugar Streets, then turn southwest and follow the west side of the

Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, IN

County and State

alley with a line extended to the south side of South Walnut Street (or the courthouse square). Turn southeast and follow the south side of Walnut Street to the west side of Sugar Street, then turn southwest and follow the west side of Sugar Street to the north side of Cross Street, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries compose the concentration of historic commercial development in Brownstown around the Jackson County Courthouse Square. The commercial area outside of the boundaries is far less concentrated and mostly from the second half of the 20th century.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Town of Brownstown
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-936-0613
date: November 27, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must

Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Brownstown

County: Jackson State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 9, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest on West Walnut Street

1 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast on West Walnut Street

2 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the corner of East Walnut and North Main Streets

3 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the north side of East Walnut Street

4 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest on East Walnut Street from Sugar Street (not part of district).

5 of 11.

Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the Jackson County Courthouse from South Main Street

6 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the south half of the 100 block of South Main Street

7 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the north half of the 100 block of South Main Street

8 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest from the intersection of South Main and West Walnut Streets

9 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest from the intersection of South Main and West Walnut Streets

10 of 11.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the 100 block of North Main Street

11 of 11.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



BROWNSTOWN COURTHOUSE SQUARE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
BROWNSTOWN, JACKSON COUNTY, INDIANA
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES SKETCH MAP



Photographs

NC = Non-Contributing Resources



- 15 CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
- 1 CONTRIBUTING OBJECT (WAR MEMORIAL)
- 3 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
- 1 NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE (MECHANICAL PIT)
- 3 NON-CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS (TIME CAPSULE, SIGN, VET. MEMORIAL)
- 1 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED BUILDING (COURTHOUSE)
- 1 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED STRUCTURE (IRON FENCE)
- 3 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED OBJECTS (BELL, TANK, TOWN PUMP)

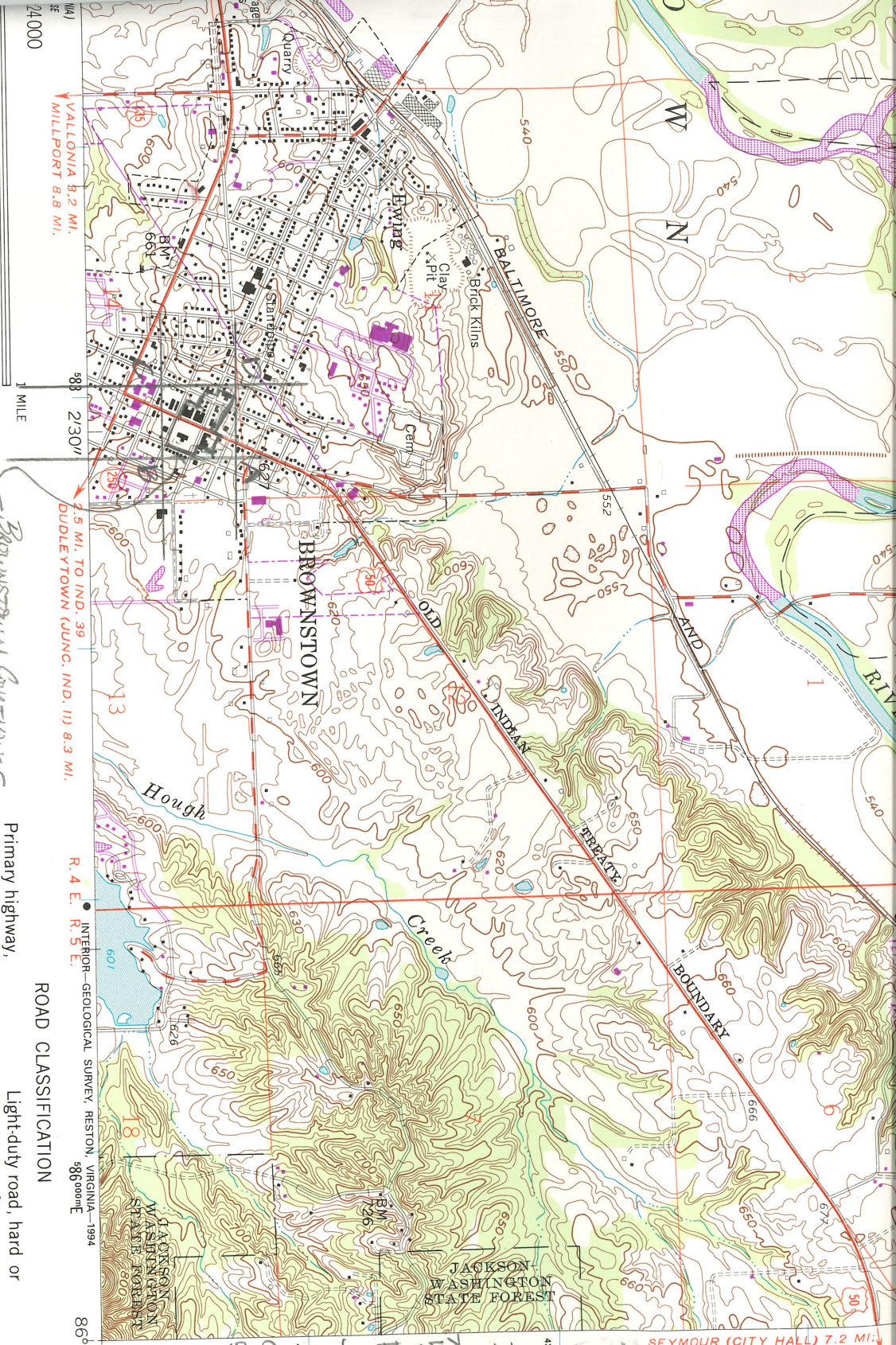
28 TOTAL RESOURCES

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 SOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SCALE 10 FEET
 EQUAL DATUM OF 1929

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER



Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1978 and source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



*Brownstown Courthouse
 Square Historic District
 Northern Reister of
 McDevil Co.
 IN
 Historic Places*

Primary highway, hard surface
 Secondary highway, hard surface
 Interstate Route
 U.S. Route
 State Route

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 Unimproved road

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

BROWNSTOWN, IND.

38086-HITF-024

1958

MINOR REVISION 1994

DMA 3761 I NE-SERIES V851

(TAMPCO)
 3867 N SW

4305 NAD 83 UTM
 ZONE 16

A 583230 4303924
 B 503226 4303638
 C 582954 4303689
 D 582966 4303918

SEYMOUR (CITY HALL) 7.2 MI.

BROWNSTOWN
 COURTHOUSE
 SQUARE H.P.
 JACKSON CO. IN



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0001



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0002



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0003



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0005



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0006



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0009



Brownstown Courthouse Square Historic District, Jackson County photo 0010