FINAL

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Roughly the blocks between Cullen and Front Streets along West Washington Street | N/A | not for publication | N/A

city or town Rensselaer vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Jasper code 073 zip code 47978

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ 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 _X_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
x	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
32	9	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
2	1	structure
3	2	object
37	12	**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.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
SOCIAL: meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
RECREATION/CULTURE: theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: courthouse
RECREATION/CULTURE: theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY: Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco
MODERN MOVEMENT: Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK
walls: BRICK
STONE: limestone
roof: SYNTHETICS: rubber
other: STUCCO
CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Rensselaer is the county seat of Jasper County in the northwest part of Indiana. The Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District of Rensselaer has many similarities to other Indiana commercial historic districts of county seat cities. While historic commercial buildings do not fully envelop the courthouse square, the square and towering stone courthouse still provide a significant anchor to the district. The district's topography is relatively flat and comprises approximately four blocks in the original plat of Rensselaer. The district's historic buildings primarily line Washington Street and are mostly two stories in height and are constructed of brick. Washington Street's building line is significantly intact with limited removal of historic buildings for parking. Brick streets also still exist in the district on the west and south sides of the courthouse square.

Narrative Description

The following is a complete list of resources in the district with architectural descriptions and historical information:

Washington Street (north side)

232 West Washington, Mobil Service Station, 1955, Modern.
Contributing (photo 0012)
The one story concrete block building sits at the corner of Front and Washington Streets on a lot formerly occupied by an earlier three story brick building (a portion of which is evident as a partial entry arch attached to the adjoining building). The gas station is a former Mobil Gas Station as evidenced from the style and brand sign in the shape of Pegasus on the parapet of the front façade. The building has reddish-orange painted masonry banding at its base, above the storefront and garage bays, and at the parapet.

The building has two garage bays on the east side of its front façade and the attendants' office on the west side. Each garage bays has a multi-paneled wood door. A wood door with two windows above is located between the bay doors. The wood door has a window in its upper half. The wood door with two windows above configuration repeats itself on the west side of the west garage bay door. The superintendants' office has an aluminum storefront door on its east side and a large aluminum framed display window to the west of the door. From this display window the front façade angles back with a larger aluminum display window facing the intersection of Front and West Washington Streets. From the angled display window the façade turns north with another display window that is the size of the one on the front façade. A smaller 1/1 wood window with concrete block sill is north of the display window and a metal door with no window is north of the 1/1 window.

The service station stands on the original location of "Liberal Corner", the oldest frame building in the commercial district standing in 1897, constructed by A. Tharp in about 1841 for general merchandise.[1] The Knights of Pythias Building with the Princess Theater was constructed at this site in 1902 by Fred Phillips. It was a large three story brick

[1] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 3

building that took the place of Liberal Corner[2]. Several businesses were located in the large building including the United States Post Office in the first decade of the 1900s. Wright's Furniture Store and Willis Wright's funeral home also occupied the building (Wright is listed for undertaking services in the 1896 city directory)[3]. The Order of Woodsmen's Lodge and Free Order of Masons used the upper levels for meeting halls.[4] This building was destroyed by fire in 1948 and the property sold to Walter Arnott in 1954. Arnott had the concrete block service station built to Mobil's specifications in 1955 with blueprints dated January 17, 1954. The current owner operates the building as an auto repair garage.[5]

The Wright family, who conducted the furniture and undertaking business from the K of P Building, was of Quaker descent and came to the banks of the Iroquois River in 1834. Charles Wright was the pioneer father who constructed a trading post in the area. His son Willis came to Rensselaer the following year. A carpenter by trade, Willis also had a furniture shop and undertaking business; he became the first undertaker in the community. Willis' son Park continued the furniture and undertaking business after his father passed away and moved it to Liberal Corner. Though the store relocated for a period, in 1928 Park's son, Willis Jennings Wright, moved the business back to Liberal Corner, occupying the first story of the K of P Building constructed at the site.[6]

230 West Washington, Commercial Building, 1902, Romanesque Revival.
Contributing (photo 0002, far left)
The building is a two story brick building with a single storefront with central entrance. The building was constructed as part of a three story building to its west as is evident from the brick and stone arched entry that still partially exists at the west edge of the building's front façade, as well as the joist pockets and former second level entry on the west (side) façade of the building.

The front façade has a metal storefront by the McGrath Company of Lafayette (stamped in the base of the storefront); the storefront has a wide, center recessed entry with walls angled in toward the entry door. The storefront has large display windows with transoms set on a metal base with recessed panels on each side of the recessed entry. The recessed angled entry walls also have a large display window with transom. The entry has an aluminum storefront door and side lite with a large transom above. Much of the storefront display windows and transoms are covered with wood paneling. A cornice/sign board was once located over the storefront but was removed and the exposed masonry painted white. Stone plinth blocks are located on each side of the storefront at the base of brick pilasters framing the front façade. The east block has "1902 AD" carved into its face; the west block is the base for the partially intact arched entry.

The second story front façade is divided into two parts by a center brick pilaster that separates two large window openings. The openings have a group of three 1/1 wood windows with wood transoms above, stone sills, and rusticated stone lintels. The window openings are currently covered with corrugated fiberglass panels. Above the stone lintels are three courses of corbelled brick followed by two standard courses. Above this a narrow metal cornice extends across the face of the front façade between the outside brick pilasters but stepping out to cover the top of the middle pilaster. The cornice forms the base of two wide arched window openings that are directly over the window openings on

[2] Jasper County/Rensselaer Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour. The tour brochure was produced by Judy Kanne, local historian, who conducted interviews with shop keepers and building owners in the district in 1984.
[3] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[4] *Rensselaer Republican*, 12/23/02
[5] Notes from the Historic Preservation Association of Jasper County on the Jasper County Interim Report
[6] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 254

the second story. These openings are covered with plywood. A brick corbel table extends across the top of the front façade at the base of the parapet.

The building was the home to Warner Brothers Hardware during the 20th Century; it was listed at this site under "N. Warner & Sons (Rex and Harris) Hardware" in the 1896 telephone directory.[7]

228 West Washington, Commercial Building, 1910. Contributing (photo 0002 left)
The building is a two story brick building with a single storefront. The first story is divided into three openings divided by brick pilasters with stone blocks forming caps at the top of the first story level. The three openings on the first story front facade are a narrow stairway entry on its west side, a wide storefront display opening in the center, and a storefront entry opening on its east side. The stairway entry has a stone stepping block, non-historic metal door with window, and scored plywood covering the transom area above the door. The storefront display opening has several courses of brick at its base followed by a continuous stone sill for the display window. The historic display window was removed and three courses of brick were installed above the sill forming a new sill for a group of windows in the Chicago window style (1/1 wood windows flanking a larger center window). Above this group of windows is scored plywood covering the remaining storefront opening. The storefront entry opening has a well-worn stone stepping block leading to a wood entry door with a large window. Wood side-lites are on each side of the door. Scored plywood covers the transom area above the door and side-lites. A piece of wood trim is located above the openings at the level between the first and second stories; a course of brick rowlocks is above the wood trim.

The second story has three 1/1 vinyl windows with stone sills and window hoods. The building parapet has had some modifications and masonry deterioration. The parapet has brick that steps out from the main façade, curving downward at each side of the building with brick corbelling below. A short pilaster is located at each outside corner, framing the parapet. The parapet shows signs of deterioration. Some brick is missing and it is partially covered at the top by standing seam metal siding.

The building was the home to Guerney Jesson Jewelers and later a number of optometrists including the area's first female optometrist, Clare Jesson.[8]

226 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1900. Non-Contributing
The single story building has vertical wood plank siding on its front façade with wood planking in a dog-eared pattern cut at the base of the planks that creates the parapet front. An entry door is located on the east side of the building; it is a non-historic metal door with window and storm door fixed to its exterior. A vinyl display window with sliding sashes is located just west of center of the façade.

The building housed a ladies' hat shop during the 1920's and later a bucket shop.[9]

224 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1910. Non-Contributing
The single story building has a tall parapet front with clay tile coping. The entire front façade has been covered in a cement application. The storefront is a single storefront bay with central, recessed entry door with storefront display windows on each side of the recessed entry area. The display windows have metal frames. The entry door is a new aluminum door with a side-lite and is set in historic wood framing. A historic transom is above the door and side-lite. The ceiling of the recessed entry area is metal

[7] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[8] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[9] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

in a square pattern. Three non-historic metal windows with false mullions are equally spaced across the front façade in the transom area above the storefront. Renovations to the building date to c. 2005.

A number of different businesses were located in this building including Parker's Variety Store, the College Inn Restaurant, and Storky Wright's Restaurant.[10]

214-216 West Washington, Murray Building, 1906, Italianate/Romanesque Revival. Contributing (photo 0002, right)
The brick building is two stories in height with a subtle variation of window spacing in the second story creating two halves to the building. Historically there were three or four storefronts; today it is a single storefront with a wide recessed entry area near the east side of the building. The entry area has three aluminum storefront doors grouped together with a display window set on a brick base to their east side. The east angled wall creating the recessed entry area has a single aluminum storefront door to its inside and display window on a brick base to its outside. The west angled wall has a large display window set on a brick base. Storefront display windows at the sidewalk edge are set in aluminum frames on brick bases, forming a ribbon window design. The west half of the first story front façade has a stairway access door framed by red panels. The door is a historic wood door with a large single window. The red panels also cover the pilaster forming the west end of the storefront opening. Metal panels cover the transom area and a metal canopy supported by pipe columns extends to the curb edge across the entire width of the building. The storefront renovations date to about 1965.

The second story front façade has windows spaced fairly regularly across the façade with a stone cornice that also forms a continuous sill for the windows. The west half of the second story has five 1/1 wood windows with stone hoods. The east half of the second story façade has four slightly wider 1/1 wood windows that are set slightly further apart than those in the west half of the façade. The windows' stone hoods match the other window hoods in the west half of the façade. At the base of the parapet are three courses of brick laid with the outside corners of the brick projecting from the façade creating a field that terminates just one brick in from each end of the front façade. The parapet has wide brick corbels and narrow stone coping.

In 1883 George Murray and James Ellis (later to become mayor of Rensselaer) began a clothing store at the current location of Lafayette Bank & Trust. Ellis & Murray are listed in the 1896 telephone directory as proprietors of dry goods.[11] In 1903 Murray bought Ellis's interest in the company and then constructed this building in 1906. It housed Murray's Department and Grocery Store until 1965 when Harvey's Dime Store purchased the building; later it became a Dollar General.[12]

210 West Washington, A. Leopold Building, 1881. Contributing
The two story building is constructed with masonry but has been covered in a cement application. The building has a single storefront with a recessed entry off-set west of center. The storefront has aluminum framed display windows on brick bases. The entry door is constructed of aluminum and glass with narrow side-lites on each side of the door, also framed in aluminum. Metal panels cover the transom area and pilasters frame the storefront opening. Three tall 1/1 wood windows with stone sills are located on the second story's front façade. A stone building block is centered on the building at the base of the parapet with "A. Leopold Erected 1881" engraved on it. The building's parapet wall is taller than the adjoining buildings and has exposed brick. The parapet

[10] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[11] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[12] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

has metal flashing. Storefront renovations date to c. 1960 while the cement application is a recent renovation.

Abraham Leopold was an immigrant from Bavaria, arriving in the United States in 1850. He came to Rensselaer in 1862 from Francesville, Indiana where he had conducted a dry goods business. He and his partner established "The Model" dry goods store at the northwest corner of Washington and Van Rensselaer Streets in a simple frame structure that was 20 feet wide by 60 feet long[13]. Leopold bought out his partner's interest in 1866 and soon replaced the building with a new brick structure; he also purchased property to the north and west and erected other buildings, tying them together to form a common façade[14]. 212 West Washington was constructed as part of Leopold's enlarged real estate interests. Businesses that located in this building included Wright' Restaurant and Davidson's Hardware. The upstairs was occupied by several professional offices including Dr. Hemphill (dentist), Dr. Loy (physician), Dr. Turfler (osteopath), Dr. English (physician), and Dr. Kannal (veterinarian).[15]

208 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1890. Non-Contributing
The two story masonry building has a single storefront bay constructed with new brick and aluminum storefront doors and windows. The second story front façade has been covered in a cement application. Four arched window openings are located in the second story. The windows are 6/6 vinyl windows with sills also covered in a cement application. Renovations to the front façade date to c. 2005.

202 West Washington, Bank Building, 1882/1962.
Non-Contributing (photo 0001, right)
The building is composed of two historic buildings: a two story, single storefront bay building at its west end and a two story, three storefront bay building at its east end (although the westernmost bay was reduced to a single story in height). The single story and two story west parts of the building were renovated in 2009 to match renovations to the corner two story building that occurred in about 1962. The buildings are constructed in brick with vertical bands of stone trim framing metal windows. The storefront of the main corner building is composed of aluminum storefront display windows on brick bases and a central recessed entry with aluminum storefront doors.

The corner building was known as the Leopold Block, constructed in 1882 by Abraham Leopold. The building was two stories tall with three storefront bays designed by Lafayette architect James F. Alexander in Victorian detail. Leopold established his dry goods store at this corner location in 1862 and replaced the original frame building with the brick structure. The brick building housed Leopold's dry goods store known as "The Model". By 1900 Ellis & Murray Dry Goods and Clothing Store operated from both storefronts.

In 1919 the newly formed Farmers and Merchants National Bank purchased the corner portion of the Leopold Block and established their business. They made substantial renovations in 1920 to the storefronts and cornice, removing most of the building's original architectural features creating a Craftsman styled parapet and storefronts. This styling is still evident on the adjoining building's parapet at 106 N. Van Rensselaer. The bank operated from the corner location and Long's Drug Store continued from the west storefront. The bank made a substantial renovation to the building again in about 1962, giving the building its current appearance. Lafayette Bank & Trust is located in the former Leopold Block currently, having completed another substantial renovation in 2009

[13] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 200 (from *Rensselaer Union*, 2/15/1877)
[14] History of the Lafayette Bank & Trust Building, grand re-opening booklet, pg. 1
[15] Jasper County/Rensselaer Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

which refaced the buildings to its north and west to an appearance similar to the style of the 1962 renovation.

Long's Drug Store was established by Abram Long in partnership with John Eger under the name of Long & Eger in 1888. It was originally located on the south side of Washington Street about mid-block. That business was destroyed by fire and Long re-established his business under the name A. F. Long at the same location. He moved to the north side of Washington Street in 1908, then moved again to the west storefront of the Leopold Block in 1920. After Abram the store continued under the care of his son George Long Sr., then by his grandson, George Long Jr. The store moved again in 1960 to the south side of Washington Street; it became the oldest continually operated store in Rensselaer by 2008.[16]

Fendig's Drug Store was located west of the Leopold Block, a part of the current bank building to the east of 208 W. Washington. Benjamin Fendig established his business in 1889 and was listed as proprietor of the drug store in 1896.[17] Fendig constructed a building in 1918 immediately west of the Leopold Block, but his drug store remained at the previous location, operated by his son Ralph, until 1965 when it moved across Van Rensselaer to the Forsythe Building.[18] Bank renovations resulted in the removal of the second story from the Fendig Building which was constructed in the Craftsman style, and also refaced the Fendig Drugstore building.

NA, City Parking Lot
This was the former site of the Forsythe Building destroyed by fire in 1996. The "Old Dunlap Hotel", once the only hotel in town, operated from this location prior to the construction of the Forsythe Building in about 1900. The Dunlap Hotel was operated by Mary Thompson who died in 1899.[19] One of the Forsythe Building's earliest tenants was the Chicago Store.[20]

124 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1890, Italianate. Contributing
The building is a two story brick building with two storefront bays. The first story front façade has a second story stairway entry just east of center separating the two storefront bays. The stairway entry has a pair of tall wood doors with a single recessed panel in the bottom of the doors followed by tall windows and short square windows in their tops. The west storefront bay has a central recessed entry with angled walls. The storefront windows are set in wood frames on wood bases. The entry door is a non-historic wood door with window. The east bay has a recessed aluminum storefront entry door near the bay's center. Storefront windows are set in wood frames on wood bases. The transom area over the storefront bays is covered with vertical wood planks. A wood cornice is located across the top of the transom area.

The second story front façade has five windows equally spaced across the façade. The windows have decorative metal arched hoods and stone sills. Windows are 1/1 arched wood windows. The base of the parapet has a narrow metal ogee trim piece separated by a brick field from the metal building cornice. The metal cornice has small brackets divided into sections by taller brackets that extend down the face of the brick field to the narrow ogee trim at the base of the parapet. The cornice returns on the east corner of the building.

[16] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2008, pg. 13
[17] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[18] History of the Lafayette Bank & Trust Building, grand re-opening booklet, pg. 2
[19] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 4b
[20] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Fall/Winter 2009, pg. 21

120 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1895, Italianate.
Contributing (seen at far left of photo 0005)
The two story building is a narrow, single storefront bay brick building. The storefront is composed of a historic wood door with a large single window and metal storm door on the façade's west side and a historic wood framed display window on the east side. The display window has a new brick base. The storefront door has a non-historic transom window. The door and transom are framed by historic wood pilasters with simple capitals. A wood lintel is located above the storefront opening. A 1/1 wood window with stone sill and decorative metal window hood is centered on the second story front façade. A metal cornice is located at the parapet with a large corner bracket on its west end. This building was part of a larger building that extended east, but the eastern part was significantly renovated in 1917.

118 West Washington, First National Bank Building, 1917, Neoclassical.
Contributing (photo 0005). A. Wasson Coen, Architect.
The building is a stately example of the Neoclassical style, a full two stories in height with its front façade constructed of smooth-cut limestone blocks. The building is one storefront wide with a symmetrically organized front façade. Wide stone pilasters frame the center, two story tall storefront opening. "A. Wasson Coen, Architect" is engraved in the west pilaster base. The two story storefront opening has a segmental arched top with an intricately carved eagle perched on a volute-shaped keystone at the top of the arch. The opening is filled with windows and a central entry door. The door is a bronze colored aluminum storefront door with a small transom above. The door is framed by narrow pilasters with Corinthian capitals. To each side of these pilasters is a display window in bronze colored aluminum frames on wood bases with a framed panel design. The door and display windows have a wood frieze located above them with a small cornice above the frieze, directly over the entry door. The remaining opening is divided into three large windows, each composed of mullions creating 15 individual panes.

The wide stone pilasters have a simple capital that continues across the face of the façade as a belt course above the center opening, interrupted only by the eagle carving. Above the belt course is a frieze with FIRST NATIONAL BANK engraved in its center. Above the frieze is a cornice with dentils at its base and supported by modillions. A stone pediment with no detail rises above the cornice and forms the building parapet.

The First National Bank was established in 1910 and merged with the Trust and Savings Bank; it closed in 1932. The State Bank of Rensselaer, which was charted in 1904, moved into the building in 1933. The current owners have restored the façade to its original appearance; the large two story opening had been covered.[21] The Commercial State Bank, organized in 1895, was located here prior to this building being erected.[22] It occupied a two story brick building, a portion of which still exists and adjoins the building's west side. In 2007 the current owners, Staceon and Mandy Pickering, received a Historic Rehabilitation Project award at the Cornelius O'Brien Preservation & Main Street Conference for work undertaken on this building.

116 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1910, Neoclassical.
Contributing (photo 013, left)
The building is a three story, single storefront building constructed of tan brick with some limestone trim. The first story front façade has a recessed second level stairway entrance on its west side and storefront with deeply recessed center entry in the remaining part of the first story. Metal pilasters with stamped metal trim frame the stairway entry and storefronts. The stamped metal trim also frames doorways, and transom

[21] Guide to Historic Structures and Points of Interest in Jasper County
[22] Early History of Jasper County, address by S. P. Thompson, August 22, 1895

and display windows. The stairway entry has a pair of tall, narrow wood doors with tall, narrow windows in each door. The walls and ceiling of the recessed entry have a recessed wood panel design. A ledge separates the stairway entry from a transom window that is also recessed into the façade. The recessed walls and ceiling of the transom area also have a recessed wood panel design. The storefront has large display windows on bases with recessed panels; transom windows are located directly above the display windows. The walls of the storefront display angle inward toward the entry door with the same configuration as the storefront display walls. The entry door is an aluminum storefront door with a small aluminum framed transom above. Above this is a large wood-framed transom window. The ceiling of the recessed entry has a beaded board finish. A simple metal cornice is located above the storefront and stairway entry; it has a stamped metal pattern on its face. The pattern has diamonds circumscribed by circles, each being interlaced with those adjoining. The transoms, except over the store entry door, are covered with plywood.

The upper two levels of the front façade are framed by quoined brick pilasters on limestone bases. The bases extend across the façade forming the second story window sills. There are three windows in the second and third stories, separated horizontally by narrow brick pilasters and vertically by recessed brick panels. The second story windows are 1/1 metal framed windows while the third story windows are 1/1 wood windows with wood transoms over each window. The narrow pilasters separating the windows have stone capitals with a leaf pattern engraved on their faces. Above the third story windows is a metal cornice with dentils at its base. Long narrow brackets support the cornice at either end, extending down the face of the quoined pilasters. The pilasters extend above and become piers that frame the parapet and have a framed brick panel in their faces. The parapet is constructed of brick with a metal balustrade on the face of the brick, extending between the piers.

This building replaced an earlier two story parapet front frame building that existed on the site as late as 1910. The current building was constructed by about 1915. It housed a news agency on the main level during the middle part of the 20th century.

114 W. Washington, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Iroquois Lodge 143, 1895, Romanesque Revival. Contributing (photo 0013, right)
The three story building has a commanding presence in the center of the block. It is constructed of tan brick with limestone trim and has a two story oriel bay in the center of the second and third stories. The building was historically symmetrically arranged with storefronts on either side of an arched upper level stairway entry. The building maintains its general symmetry but storefront modifications do not make the building fully symmetrical. The upper level stairway entry has a stone surround with pilasters supporting an arch. The pilaster capitals and the face of the arch are carved with a vine pattern. The arch also has "Iroquois Lodge 143" engraved on its face and a scrolled stone keystone in its center supporting the base of the oriel above. Between the arch and the base of the oriel on the face of the surround is engraved IOOF with stylized feathers on each side. The entry is recessed and has a pair of wood doors; each door has two square panels in their lower half, followed by two rectangular panels and a window in their upper half. A wood transom is located above the doors. The walls of the recessed entry have wood wainscoting and plaster above the wainscot. Stone blocks create the floor in the recessed entry which is accessed by a stone step.

Wide brick pilasters are located to each side of the building framing the outside wall of the storefronts. The pilasters have rusticated stone bases and belt courses and stylized Ionic capitals. While neither storefront bay is entirely historically intact, each has parts that indicate the original construction of the bays. The west bay has its entry door at its west end and is made of aluminum and glass. The storefront display window is

a single, large pane of glass set in a wood frame on a low stone base. A row of five wood transom windows are located over the door and display window and appear to be original. Over the transom windows is a wide wood trim board with exposed orange brick above followed by another wood trim board. The east storefront bay has its entry door on its east side and is recessed. The storefront frame is metal with the manufacturer's shield on the pilaster where the storefront display wall angles inward to the entry. The manufacturer is Hetherington and Berner of Indianapolis. The storefront walls have large display windows set in wood frames on wood bases. The entry door is a new two panel door with window in its upper half. The transom windows across the top of the storefront have been covered with plywood. Above the transom area is a stamped metal frieze with panels framed by fluted pilasters supporting a narrow cornice.

The upper stories are dominated by the oriel bay. The oriel is at the center of the front façade, occupying a full third of the façade and is located on both the second and third stories, continuing into the parapet. It once had a conical roof that has been removed. The oriel is three sided with the front facing side slightly wider than the two sides that angle back toward the building; the walls are covered with aluminum siding. The second story is separated from the upper part of the oriel by a thin metal cornice. The oriel's second story has two 1/1 vinyl windows on the front wall and a single, wider 1/1 vinyl window on each of its sides. The oriel's third story has two small 1/1 aluminum windows stacked on top of each other centered in its front wall and a wide, short 1/1 aluminum window on each of its side walls.

The remaining front façades of the second and third stories are composed of a single, large arched opening to each side of the oriel. The openings are framed by brick pilasters with stone capitals that have a vine detail carved into them. The pilasters support the brick arch forming the opening. The arch is composed of brick soldiers capped by metal trim that forms an ogee with point at the top, capped by a metal finial. There are two windows in the opening's second story level, separated by a brick pilaster. The windows are 1/1 vinyl windows with a wood transom above each. A stone lintel with metal cyma trim crown is located above the windows and pilaster. Above the metal trim the opening has metal siding with two wide, short 1/1 aluminum windows on the third story.

The top of the building's front façade has a continuous band of tall stamped metal panels in a variation of acanthus spiral that continues across the face of the oriel. Above this is a metal cornice, also continuous across the bay. A short brick parapet is located above the cornice to each side of the oriel. The brick parapet has a section of stamped metal panels with rows of elongated recessed arched panels in them. The parapet of the oriel has a recessed metal panel design on each of its sides. Within the panels are "1895" on the front side and "A" and "D" on each the west and east sides respectively. A small metal cornice caps the entire parapet.

When the IOOF Lodge was constructed the cost exceeded $9,000 and was the only building in the county owned by a lodge organization. The building housed meeting halls for Rensselaer Post 85 of the Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps 39, and Rensselaer Lodge 346 of the Daughters of Rebecca on the second floor and the IOOF lodge hall on the top floor that included a banquet hall and kitchen. The IOOF organized in Rensselaer in 1854 and by 1896 had a membership of 200; the lodge disbanded in 2004. The businesses that first located in the building's storefronts were AJ Dexter Grocery and Antrim & Dean Hardware, a new firm established in the east storefront.[23] Several professional offices were also located in the building including Warren & Irwin Loans & Real Estate, JF Warren-Superintendent of Schools, Charles Mills-Attorney, J. Babcock-

[23] *Peoples Pilot* Souvenir Addition, History of Jasper County to 1918. Pilot Publishing Co.

Township Trustee, LA Bostwick-Civil Engineer, and John Alter-County Surveyor.[24] Dean & Antrim Hardware, Dexter Grocery, and Mill's and Warren & Irwin's offices are listed in the 1896 telephone directory.[25] Several county offices were located in the building during the construction of the county courthouse.

108 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1910.
Contributing (photo 0015, left)
This narrow single storefront building is one story in height and has a wood framed front façade. The entry door to the storefront is on the east side and a single display window set in wood frames on a wood base is on the west side. The entry door is wood with a full window. A small transom opening is above the door but has been covered with plywood. A large transom opening is located over the display window and door but has also been covered with plywood. A framed wood panel forms the top of the storefront, over the transom area. A wood cornice with metal flashing is at the top of the front façade.

106 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1895, Italianate.
Contributing (photo 0015, center)
This two story brick building's second story window placement, window hoods, and cornice and the general proportion of the building matches the building at 124 West Washington Street which may provide some insight into the original storefront configuration of this building. The storefront appears to have been created from two storefronts. The entry is on the west half of the first story front façade and is recessed. A pair of entry doors with side-lites, all in aluminum storefront material, is in the recessed entry. The remaining storefront is aluminum framed storefront display windows set on a base covered in metal panels. Metal paneling also cover the pilasters framing the storefront and a center pilaster dividing the storefront into two sections. Vertical metal paneling covers the transom and cornice area above the storefront. The storefront was modified c. 1965.

The second story front façade has five windows equally spaced across the façade. The windows have decorative metal arched hoods and stone sills. Windows are 2/1 arch top wood windows. The base of the parapet has a narrow metal cyma trim piece separated by a brick field from the metal building cornice. The metal cornice has small modillions divided into sections by taller brackets that extend down the face of the brick field to the narrow ogee trim at the base of the parapet. The cornice returns on the east and west corners of the building.

A meat market operated from this location during the first decade of the 1900s.

104 West Washington, Roth Bros. Commercial Building, 1909, Italianate. Contributing (photo 0015, right)
The two story building is constructed of dark red brick with a single storefront bay. The storefront has aluminum framed display windows on bases covered with metal panels. The storefront entry is centered and deeply recessed with an aluminum and glass entry door in the west side of the back wall and a display window in the east side. The transom area is covered with a vinyl awning.

The second story front façade has three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and segmented brick arches composed of two courses of brick rowlocks. Centered between the brick arches and the building parapet are three recessed brick panels (one over each window) with five courses of brick soldiers stepped in toward the center of the panel. The

[24] History of Rensselaer & Jasper County Clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[25] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory

building cornice is constructed of five bands of brick corbelling. A limestone building stone is centered above the center recessed brick panel with "ROTH BROS. 1909" carved on its face.

The Roth Brothers operated a meat market from this location.

100 West Washington, Horton Building, 1902/1909, Italianate/Queen Anne.
Contributing (photo 0014, Cullen St. façade)
The corner building is two stories in height and is constructed of brick. It has two storefront bays and second story stairway entry on the front (south) façade. The east façade fronting Cullen Street is divided into two parts with a single storefront in the south part and two storefronts and two separate entries in the north part. A second story oriel over the east half of the second story dominates the front façade and a large cantilevered enclosed porch on the second story dominates the Cullen Street façade.

The first story of the front façade has a second story stairway entry on its west end, partially incorporated into the west adjoining building. The entry is framed with brick pilasters and a segmented brick arch. The entry has a pair of tall, narrow wood doors. The doors have a recessed panel in their lower halves and window in their upper halves. A wood transom window is above the entry doors. The front façade storefronts have display windows framed with stamped metal trim in a rosette pattern. The windows have bases with framed wood panels. Entry doors are wood with a single, large window; door casings are also wood. A narrow storefront bay is to the east of the stairway entry. It has a single storefront display window on its west side with entry door on its east side. Two ribbed glass transom windows are located over the display window and one ribbed glass transom window is located over the entry door. The second storefront extends to the corner of the building and is recessed from the sidewalk with a large pipe column supporting the corner of the building above. A large display window divided into two by a piece of metal trim comprises the storefront. Three ribbed glass transom windows are located over the display window and a single transom is located over the entry door. A metal cornice is located over both storefronts and wraps around the corner to Cullen Street over the recessed entry.

The second story of the front façade has three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and segmented brick arches equally spaced on the west half of the façade. The east half has the oriel whose walls are covered in a metal skin with recessed panels with an X pattern in the base of each of its three sides. Each side of the oriel has a 1/1 wood window. The oriel roof is also metal with a metal cornice supported by metal brackets. A brick belt course composed of two horizontal courses of brick separated by a recessed course of brick is located above the windows and turret. A building stone with HORTON is centered on the front façade above the belt course. The building cornice is composed of four bands of brick corbelling and a clay tile parapet cap.

The Cullen Street (east façade) side of the building is divided into two halves. The south half has three oculus wood windows in the first story's south end. The windows have ribbed glass. A storefront is centered in the north end of the south half. The storefront has a wood door with a single panel in its base and a tall window above. A transom opening is above the door but is filled with plywood. The door and transom are framed by fluted metal pilasters. Storefront display windows in wood frames are located on each side of the entry door. The windows are on bases with recessed wood panels. The windows have transom areas above but these locations have been filled in with plywood.

The second story of the south half has two 1/1 wood windows with segmented brick arches and stone sills in its south end. A three sided oriel with 1/1 wood windows in each side is located north of the two windows. The oriel has beaded board siding in the panels

below and above the windows and wood shingles in a fish scale design on the walls to each side of the south facing window. The north oriel wall is covered by an enclosed second story porch. The remaining south half of the second story is dominated by the enclosed second story porch which is roughly centered over the storefront entry below. The porch is supported by four metal pipe columns set on the sidewalk below. The front wall of the porch is divided into three equal parts by four thin Doric columns which supports the roof. Each section has two 6/6 vinyl windows paired together with a tall narrow vinyl window to each side of the pair. Below the windows is beaded board siding; above is a wood trim board. The roof is a partial mansard covered in fiberglass shingles. The brick belt course from the front façade continues on the Cullen Street façade's south half. The brick cornice also continues onto the south end of the façade before stepping down twice before becoming level across the north half of the Cullen façade.

The north half of the Cullen Street façade's first story has two stairway entries in its north end separated by brick pilasters. Each entry has a pair of tall, narrow wood doors with a single recessed wood panel in their bases and a tall window above. A wood transom window is over each pair of entry doors. The remaining first story façade has two storefronts separated by a brick pilaster. The south storefront has a recessed center entry with a two panel wood door with window in its upper half and wood transom above. The storefront display walls angle in toward the door on each side. The display walls have a framed wood panel in their base and a window divided into four panes of glass topped by a transom divided into two panes of glass. The second storefront is narrower and has its entry door on its north end with a wood transom above. The entry door is a six panel metal door. The display wall has a framed wood panel base and a window divided into four panes of glass topped by a transom divided into two panes of glass. Stone lintels support each of the openings of the first story. The second story of the north half has three windows; the northernmost window is set slightly further apart from the southernmost two. Each window opening has a stone sill and segmented brick arch and a pair of 1/1 windows. The southernmost opening has wood windows while the other two openings have vinyl windows. Clay tile coping covers the parapet.

Dr. Horton operated a dentist office on the second floor of the building (a painted sign for Dr. Horton is still located on the east wall of the building). Yates Grocery (c. 1918-1934) and Haskell's Restaurant and Haskell's Barber Shop (c. 1912) operated on the first floor.[26] Horton constructed the corner two story building in 1902 but expanded his building to the west in 1909 removing a single story frame building located on the site.

Washington Street (south side)

No Address, Washington Street parking lot.
An Indiana Historical Bureau Marker commemorates the birthplace of James Frederick Hanley (1892-1942), writer of *Back Home Again in Indiana* in 1917. Hanley was born in the upper floor of the Nowels Hotel which once occupied the parking lot site.[27] The building was a large three story brick building constructed between 1870-1879; it was demolished in about 1980.[28] At the time it was constructed it was the largest and most imposing building in the county.[29] John and son, David Nowels were part of the earliest settlers of Jasper County, coming to the falls of the Iroquois River in 1834. They constructed a cabin that was the first house in what became the business district of Rensselaer.[30] David Nowels later constructed the Nowels Hotel.

[26] Guide to Historic Structures and Points of Interest in Jasper County
[27] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Summer 2006, pg. 9-10
[28] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[29] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 68 (taken from *Rensselaer Union*, 4/17/1879)
[30] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 237-238

221 West Washington, Commercial Building, 1910. Non-Contributing
The one story brick building has had substantial alterations to its storefront. It is a wide, single storefront bay building with a brown colored brick parapet. The storefront has a central recessed entry. The entry door and display windows are aluminum storefront glass. Wood siding covers the base, end walls framing the storefront, and the transom area. A wood framed gabled canopy covers the entry and has wood siding in its gable face. The storefront renovations date to c. 1980.

The building originally housed Phrimmet Clark's Jewelry Store, later becoming Jarret's 5 & 10 cent store, and later Schultz' Variety Store. A fire in the downtown damaged the building in the 1970s.

219 West Washington, Eger Hardware, c. 1900, Italianate.
Contributing (photo 0003, far right)
The building is a two story brick building with a single storefront bay. The storefront is composed of metal pilasters with simple bases and capitals framing doorways and display windows. A second story stairway entry door is located at the west end of the first story with the storefront entry door to its east. The doors are historic wood doors with a full glass window. Two wood-framed display windows are located to the east of the storefront entry door. The windows are on framed wood bases. Six wood transom windows are located over the display windows and doors; a tall sign board is above the transoms.

The second story front façade has three 1/1 vinyl windows with stone sills. Wood transoms are above each window. A segmented brick arch composed of three courses of brick rowlocks creates the top of each window opening. The brick parapet has four brick corbels framing the area above each window with the outside two having a curved inside corner. A recessed brick panel is located in the face of the parapet and brick dentils are located near the top just below a metal cornice.

William H. Eger constructed the building to house his hardware store in about 1900. He was listed as the proprietor of a hardware business at this location in the 1896 telephone directory.[31] William and his brother, John, established a grocery business in 1881 and expanded it to offer hardware in 1888.[32] Later the two divided the business, but located near each other on West Washington Street.

217 West Washington, Eigelsbach Building, 1899, Italianate.
Contributing (photo 0003, right)
This building is similar to the adjoining building to its west. It is a two story brick building with a single storefront bay and parapet with detail matching the adjoining building on its west side. The storefront is divided into three sections: a recessed stairway entry door and display bay on its east end, recessed storefront entry in the center, and display window on its west end. The recessed stairway door is a four panel wood door with a single small window in the top of the door. A display window bay is located on the west side of the door; it has a narrow metal frame at the corner where the bay has a window facing north and then turns south facing the recessed stairway entry area. The recessed storefront entry, located in the center of the front façade, has large display windows angled slightly inward on each inside wall leading to an aluminum and glass entry door. The third section, west of the entry, has a single display window. The display windows have narrow aluminum frames on bases covered in a cement application. The transom area is covered with a cement application and formed into three large framed

[31] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[32] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 209

panels. A metal cornice is above the transom area and is also covered in the cement application. The storefront configuration and materials date to c. 1950 with the exception of the cement application which was recently applied.

The second story front façade has had its brick and stone finish covered in a cement application. There are three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and decorative stone hoods with keystones on the second story. The parapet has four corbels framing the area above each window with the outside two having a curved inside corner. A recessed panel is located in the face of the parapet and dentils are located near the top just below clay tile coping.

The building was constructed by Jacob "Jake" Eiglesbach as a butcher shop; he began his business around 1876 and his business was the oldest continuously operated store in Rensselaer when he retired in 1926.[33] It later became home to Pennington Shoe Store.[34] J. J. Eiglesbach was listed in the 1896 telephone directory as the proprietor of a meat market.[35]

215 West Washington, Eger Grocery, c. 1930, Art Deco.
Contributing (photo 0003, center)
The building is a two story red brick building with a single storefront bay. The storefront bay has a central, recessed entry with display windows on each side. The entry plan has angled walls from the front façade leading to an aluminum storefront door and side-lites. Inside the door and side-lites the original c. 1930 recessed entry's walls continue in a zigzag plan several more feet into the building. The floor of the recessed entry is terrazzo in green, white, and rose colors with stripes in the center leading into the building. The ceiling of the recessed area is plastered with three bands of blue mirrored glass leading into the building and turning downward at the entry door. The storefront display windows have minimal metal framing and no framing where windows join together to form corners. The display windows have low bases covered with blue enameled panels. This enamel paneling also frames the storefront on the face of each outside wall. The transom area above the storefront is covered with vertical white metal siding. A stone belt course is visible just above the metal siding.

The second story front façade has two masonry window openings with stone sills and lintels. Each opening has a pair of 6/6 vinyl windows. The brick façade has details with two raised bricks separated by a standard brick in a vertical row on each side of the building (five on each side) and a vertical row with two in the center. The parapet has a cornice constructed in brick in a basket-weave pattern with the pattern staggered with raised brick. The center of the brick cornice has a row of brick soldiers with vertical brick sailors forming lines down the façade with some turning outward as belt courses creating a stylized cartouche or pendant ornament.

Eger was listed as a grocer in the 1896 telephone directory[36] having started in the grocery business around 1888, building the current building at this location and maintaining the business here until his death in 1936. Eger served as mayor from 1900-1902.[37] The Michael Eger family moved to Rensselaer in 1853. Eger was born in Germany in 1825. Michael conducted a cabinet business from a shop at his home at 116 North Van Rensselaer (later the location for the Sears Roebuck store). They had six children that

[33] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2007, pg. 18
[34] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[35] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[36] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[37] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2007, pg. 14

included William who operated the hardware store at 219 West Washington and John who operated the grocery.[38]

213 West Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1880, Italianate.
Contributing (photo 0003, left)
The two story building is constructed of masonry with a cement application over the brick on the second story. The building has a single storefront with central recessed entry door. A second story stairway entry is located in the west side of the front façade. The storefront and stairway entry are framed by wood paneled pilasters. The stairway door is a bronze colored aluminum storefront door with a transom area above filled in with plywood. The storefront entry door is also a bronze colored aluminum storefront door. It has aluminum framed side-lites and transoms above. The display windows and their transoms also have bronze colored aluminum frames and are on wood paneled bases.

The second story front façade has four round-arched 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and decorative metal hoods. The building has a metal cornice composed of small brackets and three larger, more detailed brackets, one at each end and one in the center.

The building has housed two drug stores, Larsh & Hopkins and Emil Hanley's, The Smart Shop, Hopkins and Hanley Law Offices and Thompson Electronics.[39]

209-211 West Washington, Ellis Opera House/Commercial Building, 1878/1920/1998, Modern.
Non-Contributing (photo 0003, far left)
The building is a single story with a wide storefront/front façade. The building is covered in a cement application over cornices, pilasters and entry portico. A central recessed entry has a gabled portico with pilasters and a pediment. A pair of aluminum and glass doors is located in the entry. Three aluminum storefront windows are located on each side of the entry; a cornice is located above them. Six short sliding windows are spaced equally across the upper part of the front façade. A cornice is above the windows at the base of the parapet.

The building originally was two stories in height and was constructed by James Ellis for the Ellis Opera House on the second floor which had a seating capacity of 500 and was 48 feet wide. Other businesses to locate here were Ben Fendig's Shoe Store, Porter's Mens Clothing Store, and the JC Penny Store, later a catalog store. A fire in the 1920's caused the building to be altered.[40] The current appearance of the building dates to about 2005.

205-207 West Washington, Commercial Building, 1898.
Contributing (photo 0009, right)
The building is two stories in height and is constructed of a reddish-brown brick. It has two storefront bays with a second story stairway entry in its center. The first story front façade has been altered significantly including the stairway entry which is constructed in newer brick. The stairway entry door is a wood door with a full window. The west storefront has a recessed entry on its west side with a pair of non-historic wood full glass entry doors. A group of three large display windows are divided by false mullions. The windows set on a plywood base. A vinyl awning covers the transom area. The east storefront has been reconstructed with Tudor styling. Wood trim in the appearance of half-timbering and stucco compose the storefront walls. A recessed entry is located at its west end and has a modern wood door with diamond patterned leaded glass side-lites and transoms above. An arched window is located in the east side of the

[38] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 208
[39] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[40] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

storefront wall. The false half-timbering and stucco continues across the top of the storefront and over the stairway entry. The storefront modifications date to c. 1990.

The second story front façade has seven 1/1 vinyl windows with stone sills. A slightly wider space is located between the three westernmost windows and the remaining four windows. The windows have segmented brick arches that have brick sailors forming a flat top to the arch in the appearance of a jack arch. A short rusticated limestone belt course is located at the base of the parapet; the parapet has a band of limestone coping for a cap.

Several notable businesses occupied this building during the early part of the 20th century including the United States Post Office for Rensselaer. Several restaurants operated out of the building including the Barnes Restaurant (prior to a 1925 fire), the Hub, and the Homestead Restaurant. It also house JP Falvey's Men's Clothing Store and Homer Hendrickson's Finer Foods (c. 1942). The stairway once led to the Ellis Opera House located above 209-211 West Washington.

201 West Washington, A. McCoy Bank, 1868, Italianate.
Contributing (photo 0009, center). Simon Thompson, Builder
The building is two stories in height and is located on the corner of Washington and Van Rensselaer Streets. It is constructed of brick masonry but has had an early (c. 1910) cement application formed into the appearance of stone faced block. The building has a wide, single storefront facing Washington Street with a central recessed entry. This storefront also has a large display window facing east on its Van Rensselaer façade. The Van Rensselaer first story façade also has a stairway entry in its center and two small storefront bays in its south half. The Washington Street storefront has pairs of pilasters framing its recessed entry and storefront display windows. The recessed entry has wood paneled walls and an arched opening for the entry door. The entry door is aluminum and glass with plywood filling in the arch. The display windows have wood frames and are on paneled wood bases. The transom area is covered by modern wood panels. A metal cornice is located over the transom area and has an arched pediment centered with the entry below.

The first story front façade of the building's Van Rensselaer side has a display window with pilasters and a metal cornice matching the Washington Street façade at its north end. An aluminum and glass stairway door is located in the center of the façade. The two storefronts at the south end of the façade are joined together in one opening divided into five sections by thin pilasters. The southernmost storefront has its entry centered in the storefront bay; it is slightly recessed with a door, transom and side-lite constructed of aluminum and glass. On each side of the entry is a display window in an aluminum frame. The windows have plywood bases. The other storefront is smaller and has its entry door on its south side. The entry door is a metal door with a half window. The display window has a wood frame and is on a paneled wood base. The transom area above both storefronts is covered with vertical metal panels. A steel lintel is located above the transom area.

The second story has five 9/1 wood windows with stone sills on the Washington Street façade with a wider spacing between the westernmost three and easternmost two. The Van Rensselaer façade has three 9/1 wood windows with stone sills in its north half and five 1/1 wood windows with stone sills in its south half. The 1/1 windows are taller than the 9/1 windows. A decorative metal cornice crowns the building on both street facades. It has an arch and bracket design. Some of the storefront modifications and 9/1 windows date to c. 1910, about the time of the application of the stone appearance.

The Alfred McCoy bank, listed as McCoy & Co. Bank in the 1896 telephone directory,[41] was established in 1856 but failed in 1904. The original bank was a frame building constructed about mid-block on the north side of Washington Street between Front and Van Rensselaer, "a few doors east from Liberal Corner".[42] The current building was used as offices for a number of doctors during the first part of the 20th century and as attorneys' offices since 1972.[43] The attorneys who created their offices here in 1972 were James Beaver and Charles Halleck, a 33 year member of the United States House of Representatives.[44] The Van Rensselaer Street storefront was used as a restaurant in about 1910.[45]

101 W. Washington, Jasper County Courthouse, 1896, Late Gothic Revival.
Contributing (photo 0006)
Grindle & Weatherhogg, Architect; G. W. & J. F. Heinzmann, Contractors
National Register of Historic Places, 1983
The Jasper County Courthouse dominates the district. The building, situated in the center of the courthouse square lawn, is a full three stories in height above grade with an attic space formed by high hipped roofs and gabled wall dormers. The central tower has a square plan and is as tall above the roof line as the primary three stories. The tower has a tall pyramidal roof with gabled wall dormers on each side. A tall flagstaff is located at the peak of the tower roof. The building's walls are constructed of stone, both rusticated and smooth. Windows are primarily 1/1 metal windows with transoms over the windows located on the second story. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles with copper flashing along the eaves. Slate roofing with copper trimming adorns the turret roofs.

Each façade is symmetrically organized with the wider (front and back) sides facing north and south. The Washington (north) façade is the primary entrance, although entrances are located on each side of the building. The building is divided into three main bays with the entry at the center. The façade's central entrance forms a portico with stone turrets on each corner and the entry covered by a large ogee arch nearly two stories in height, supported by groupings of engaged columns framing the entry. The entry is composed of two pairs of wood doors with ogee arched windows in their upper halves. An art glass window is located between the pairs of doors and the transom area is also composed of art glass divided into rectangular panes. The turrets are a full three stories in height with roofs constructed of stone resembling tiles. The turrets have narrow windows on each story. A balcony is located between the turrets over the arched entry; gargoyles are located near each outside corner of the balcony just below the balcony's wall cap. Three 1/1 windows are centered over the entry on the third story. Above this is a highly carved frieze below the cornice line and wall dormer framed by pointed stone piers on pointed bases. The wall dormer has three small 1/1 windows and a smooth cut stone gable face with a carved ogee arch over the windows. The side bays have a narrow turret at their outside corner and a gabled wall dormer centered in their façade, both extending above the cornice line. Each story has a row of six windows that align vertically on each of the building's three stories. A smooth stone belt course separates the second and third stories. The gabled wall dormer has two 1/1 windows with pointed piers on pointed bases framing the wall dormer and a smooth cut stone gable face with a carved ogee arch over the windows. The corner turrets form the bases of tall stone chimneys. Each side bay is covered by a hipped roof.

[41] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory
[42] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 4a
[43] Guide to Historic Structures and Points of Interest in Jasper County
[44] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[45] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Summer 2006, pg. 14

The south façade is nearly identical to the north façade. Its entry is located in a narrower portal with a single pair of wood doors with lancet arched windows in its center. A wood side-lite is located on each side of the doors. Above the entry at the balcony (third story level) are five 1/1 windows with two transom windows above each. The gabled wall dormer has three windows with a transom over each. The turrets on each side of the portico are narrower than those on the north façade and form the bases of very tall stone chimneys. The chimneys are supported horizontally from the roof of the building by long metal braces with a scrolled design where the braces meet the chimneys.

The east and west facades are also nearly identical to each other; the west façade facing Van Rensselaer Street has a much more formal entry. The facades are divided into three narrow bays with turrets at their outside corners. The outside bays have a single window on each story, also aligned vertically, with transom windows above the windows on the second and third story. The turrets have narrow windows on the second and third stories and extend above the cornice line. The turret walls extending above the cornice line have small louvered openings on each side and a slate-covered roof. A smooth stone belt course separates the second and third stories and a carved stone frieze and cornice are located across the entire façade. The middle bay of the west facade has a portal with lancet arch supported by groupings of engaged columns. A woman's face is hidden in the scrolling leaves of a column capital on each side of the entry. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass enclosure forming a vestibule with a pair of doors stepping out from the original entry wall. Wood framed transom windows are located in the original entry wall over the vestibule roof. The wall above the portal (forming the remaining second story level) is highly carved with stone piers at its outside corners. The east façade's center bay has a grade level entry door centered on the façade and a 1/1 window on each side of the entry; three 1/1 windows with transoms are centered on the second story. Three 1/1 windows with large transoms are located on the third story of the center bay. A gabled wall dormer with two 1/1 windows and pointed piers on pointed bases framing the wall dormer is centered on the façade. It has a smooth cut stone gable face with a carved ogee arch over the windows. The east and west ends of the building are covered by a hipped roof, slightly shorter than the hipped roofs covering the side bays of the north and south facades.

The tower's four sides are identical. The base of the tower has stone piers with carved finials at its outside corners. Between the piers is a grouping of three 1/1 windows with transoms. The middle portion of the tower has a large white clock face framed by a carved stone ogee arch. The arch and clock face are located in a carved stone panel framed by pointed piers on pointed bases. The upper part of the tower is composed of a carved frieze, cornice, gabled wall dormer and roof. The gabled wall dormer is framed by pointed piers and is a continuation of the panel with clock face below. The gabled wall dormer has three louvered openings with a louvered transom opening above each. The face of the gabled wall dormer is composed of smooth cut stone and a carved ogee arch is located over the three louvered openings.

Alfred Grindle left the well-known Wing and Mahurin Architectural firm of Fort Wayne to begin his own firm. He was joined by Charles Weatherhogg, a native of England like Grindle. Both men moved to the United States after visiting the Chicago 1893 World's Fair. Grindle had designed a schoolhouse in the city in 1892 under Wing and Mahurin and therefore was not a stranger to the community when he received the commission to design the new Jasper County Courthouse. Weatherhogg is given credit for the design of the 1905 Carnegie Library in Rensselaer.[46]

[46] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

Although the courthouse was previously listed, the following items were not enumerated in the nomination.

Courthouse Bell & Flagstaff, Courthouse Lawn, 1896/1996. Contributing
The original courthouse bell and flagstaff were removed during the 1996 restoration and installed in a small park setting on the north side of the courthouse on the square's lawn. The bell is installed on a stone block with a wood frame supporting the metal support for the bell.

Limestone Wall, Courthouse Lawn, 1896. Contributing
A limestone wall, installed at the time of original construction of the building, is located around the perimeter of the lawn separating it from the sidewalk.

Flagpole, c. 1940. Contributing
A flagpole is located in the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn near the Veteran's Memorial.

Time Capsule and Veteran's Memorial, Courthouse Lawn. Non-Contributing
A time capsule dedicated in 1976 for the nation's bicentennial is located in the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn. Next to the time capsule is a Veteran's Memorial, dedicated in 1983 to replace the first memorial that was destroyed by a storm in 1981.

Gazebo, Courthouse Lawn, 1990. Non-Contributing
A six-sided wood-framed gazebo with a wood shake roof is located on the west side of the courthouse. It was dedicated in 1990.

101 East Washington, Frank Felder/Charlie Roberts Auto Garage, 1938. Contributing
The single story, parapet front brick building has three primary street facades. The building is positioned at the corner of Cullen and Washington Streets with an angled wall facing the intersection. The Washington Street (north) façade has two garage door openings at its east end. The garage doors are modern metal paneled doors. The Cullen Street (west) façade has a single large display window in its center. The window has an aluminum frame and is set on a sill composed of brick rowlocks. The parapet of the west façade steps down from the corner to the south; it has clay tile coping.

The angled wall facing the intersection is divided into two parts by a slight angle in the façade. The eastern part is nearly half the width of the western part and has only a garage door opening; a former entry door is located south of the garage door but has been filled in with brick. Brick buttresses are located on each side of the garage opening and at the outside and inside corners of this part of the façade. A panel of brick is framed with brown brick rowlocks over the garage door opening. The western part of the façade has an aluminum and glass entry door centered in it and a large aluminum framed display window on each side of the entry door. The display windows are set on a sill composed of brick rowlocks. Brick buttresses are located on each side of the display windows which also frame the entry door. A panel of brick is framed with brown brick rowlocks and is located over each display window. The transom areas of the display windows and entry door are covered by canvas awnings. The building's parapet on the angled façade is highest at its center and steps downward toward the outside corners, angling with the division between the east and west parts. The parapet has clay tile coping.

The building has served as an auto garage and car dealership since its original construction in 1938.[47] Even before the current building was constructed a blacksmith and tire shop operated from a single story gable-front frame building near this location as early as 1910.[48]

111 East Washington, Commercial Building, c. 1945. Contributing
The two story building's front façade has two bays. The façade is covered with rough-cut stone ashlars laid in a random pattern. Windows and doors are framed by stone blocks. The first story front façade has a center entry door and transom made of aluminum and glass. A wood garage door is centered in the east bay of the first story; it has multiple windows. A display window is centered in the west bay; it is has a thin metal frame and is divided in half by a narrow metal mullion.

A stone belt course divides the first story from the second story on the front façade. The second story has a square opening with glass block directly over the entry door. A 1/1 metal framed window is located directly over the garage door and a large metal framed sliding window is located directly over the display window in the first story. The parapet has a stone top course capped by clay tile coping.

The American Express Co. operated an office from this location, or a prior building, in about 1915.[49] The earlier building was constructed of molded concrete block and was two stories in height. It is unclear if the building was renovated into the current building, or if a new building was constructed on the same site.

Front Street

110 North Front Street, Commercial Building, c. 1915.
Contributing (photo 0011)
The single story building is constructed of large glazed tile blocks that have a reticulated texture face. The building has a single storefront with recessed central entry. A wood garage door is located on the north side of the front façade; it is multi-paneled with two rows of windows. The storefront has a recessed entry with a wood door with a full window and wood framed side-lites. A row of four wood transom windows are located above the door and side-lites. A display window in a wood frame is located on each side of the recessed entry. The windows have wood bases with a recessed panel. Two transom windows are located over each display window. A canvas awning is located over the storefront. Clay tile is used for a parapet cap. The building's south façade is mostly exposed and is also constructed of glazed tile blocks. Two openings exist on this façade; the northernmost opening has been covered by plywood, the other opening has a wood door with half window but is covered with a metal grille.

Van Rensselaer Street

Brick Streets (South Van Rensselaer & West Harrison), c. 1900.
Contributing (seen in photo 0007, from intersection of brick streets)
The portion of Van Rensselaer Street between Washington and Harrison Streets and the portion of Harrison Street between Cullen and Van Rensselaer Streets (including the intersection of Van Rensselaer and Harrison) is constructed of brick pavers. The pavers extend from concrete curb to concrete curb and include the angled and parallel parking on the streets. The pavers are laid mostly at a forty-five degree angle with the direction of the road. The brick streets are considered a contributing structure in the district.

[47] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[48] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2008, pg. 18
[49] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2007, pg. 20

128-130 South Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, c. 1900.
Non-Contributing (photo 0007, far left)
The single story parapet front building is located at the corner of Van Rensselaer and Harrison Streets; its front façade faces Van Rensselaer and its Harrison Street façade is covered with metal siding. The front façade is symmetrically arranged with two storefronts with central recessed entries. The entries and display windows are divided by brick pilasters. Each storefront's entry has a wood door with full window. The recessed entry walls each have a display window in a wood frame on a wood base with a recessed panel. Display windows are located on each side of the recessed entry; they have wood frames and are on brick bases with a recessed brick panel in each base. The building's transom area and parapet are covered in vertical wood planks installed c. 1990.

The Clarke Brothers constructed the building as a livery stable and tack shop.[50] In 1919 the building was owned by the Duvalls who also owned a large livery building on the south side of Washington Street near the river. John Wesley Duvall came to Rensselaer with his parents in 1842. He was engaged in the livery stable business for many years and in the times preceding the railroad, had regular freight and passenger coach lines to neighboring towns. He was also an active member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges.[51] John's daughter, Mary, married William Eger, a grocery and hardware merchant in Rensselaer.

126 South Van Rensselaer, Rensselaer City Hall (new), c. 1890/1998.
Non-Contributing (photo 0007, left)
The single story building is constructed of brick with a large recessed entry area on the front façade's north side. The entry has an arched pediment and pilasters covered with a cement application. The recessed entry has a center aluminum and glass door with large masonry openings filled with glass block on each side of the door. The south half of the front façade has two aluminum framed windows divided into nine panes of glass by metal mullions. The windows have stone sills and lintels. The parapet has a cornice design constructed of insulation board and a cement finish.

The original building was owned by Abraham Leopold in 1921 and operated as a dining room in the south part and Ford, then Hansen Car Sales, operated from the north part. Alphonsus Kanne opened the Recreation Center and Cafe after obtaining a beer license in 1934. His son, Allen, and daughter-in-law purchased it in 1941 and it was renamed Kanne's Restaurant and Taproom which operated until 1967.[52] The building was renovated as part of city hall in 1998.[53]

122 South Van Rensselaer, Rensselaer City Hall (original), c. 1915, Neoclassical.
Contributing (photo 0007, center)
The two story brick building once housed the city's fire station and city hall. It has two large masonry openings on its first story front façade; the south opening was once an engine bay door and the north opening was an entrance into the building. The north opening is now a recessed entry with brick walls, aluminum and glass entry door and glass block window. The south opening has an aluminum framed window divided into eleven panes of glass by metal framing. It has a stone sill and lintel. A belt course of brick soldiers is located across the top of the openings.

[50] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour
[51] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 209
[52] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 224-225
[53] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

The second story has two window openings that have been enlarged c. 1990. Each opening has a window divided into fourteen panes of glass. The windows have stone sills and lintels. A stone belt course is at the base of the parapet wall and stone coping caps the wall. A stone block engraved with CITY HALL is located at the center of the parapet wall and a carved eagle with a shield is on either side between the stone belt course and stone cap. The stone cap steps up over the top of the eagles.

118 South Van Rensselaer, Kresler Building/Palace Theater/Ritz, 1928, Art Moderne.
Contributing (photo 0007, right & photo 0008, far left)
The building is a single story parapet front brick building with a small storefront in the south side of its front façade and a wide theater entrance on its north side. The storefront has a wood door with Craftsman style window on its north side and a single display window with a wood frame in the remaining area of the storefront. The window is located on a brick base. The transom area over the storefront is covered with plywood and a sign board. The theater entrance is recessed between outside walls covered with porcelain enamel steel panels. There is a curved ticket booth in the center of the entry; it has a highly polished stainless steel finish. On each side of the ticket booth is a pair of aluminum doors with full windows. A theater marquee covers the recessed theater entry. The marquee is constructed of red porcelain enamel steel sign boards that have neon tube lighting in bands on the marquee. The recessed theater entry floor is made of terrazzo.

The building's parapet has a brick panel framed with brick soldiers with carved square stones in each corner. The panel steps up in the center over a building stone that has been covered over with cement. The top of the parapet has a row of small square insets of brick just below a stone parapet cap. The parapet has a carved triangular stone near each corner of the building. The parapet steps up slightly toward the center of the building.

Frank Kresler, Sr. was born on a farm outside of Rensselaer in 1881. He married Francie Eigelsbach, the daughter of Jake Eigelsbach, a leading merchant in Rensselaer. Frank's strong business enterprises were said to be contributing factors in the development of Rensselaer.[54] His last enterprise was the construction of this building on West Van Rensselaer Street in 1928 to replace the Palace Theater. During the 1930's Kresler leased the theater to Affiliated Theaters of Indiana, who operated it until 1957. It continued to operate as a theater until 1982.[55] Over time the building became known as the Ritz Theater and was restored by the current owners in 2006. It reopened to the public in 2007 after being vacant for 25 years.[56]

114 South Van Rensselaer, Worden Building, 1928, Craftsman.
Contributing (photo 0008, center)
The Worden Building has similar detailing to the Kresler Building to its south. It is a single story parapet front brick building with a single storefront bay. The storefront bay has an entry door slightly recessed at the front façade's north end. The recessed entry has a terrazzo floor in a paneled design. The entry has an aluminum and glass entry door and side-lite. A wood transom window divided into three panes of glass is located above the door and side-lite. A small display window with thin metal frames is on the door's north side. The display window has a brick base. The remaining storefront has two large display windows with thin metal frames located on a brick base. A metal lintel is located above the storefront; it has a ribbed pattern on it. Above the lintel

[54] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 228
[55] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Spring 2009, pg. 19
[56] Guide to Historic Structures and Points of Interest in Jasper County

are transom windows composed of small square patterned glass in lead frames. The lintel and transoms are shielded from view by a canvas awning.

The building's parapet has a brick panel framed with brick soldiers with carved square stones in each corner. Located in the center of the panel is a stone building block with WORDEN carved into its face. The parapet steps up slightly in the center of the building and has stone coping for a cap. The building was also known as Lungies Restaurant during the middle part of the 20th century. Décor from that period is extant on both the interior and exterior of the building.

112 South Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, 1930.
Contributing (photo 0008, right)
The single story building is constructed of blonde brick. It has a single storefront with a wide recessed entry in the front façade's center. The recessed entry wall has an aluminum and glass entry door and transom in its center with large side-lites on each side that are the full height of the recessed entry. Display walls that have a narrow exposure to the sidewalk on the front façade angle inward toward the entry. The display windows have aluminum frames and are located on metal paneled bases. The brick parapet has no detail, only stone coping for a cap. The building's northeast corner is slightly cut-away at the front façade, presumably due to the alley located on its north side. The wall steps back a short distance then angles to the northwest and then west, aligning with the alley.

The building at one time housed Keller's Restaurant, Lucas Gifts, and Jordan Floral.[57]

106-108 South Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, c. 1890.
Contributing (photo 0009, left)
The two story brick building has two storefront bays separated by a second story stairway door that is placed just off-center to the south. The storefronts' entry doors and display windows are framed by fluted metal pilasters. The transom area above the entry doors and display windows are covered by plywood and metal panels. The south storefront bay has its entry door on its north side; the entry door is a wood door with a full window. The south storefront bay has a single, large display window in a wood frame. The window is located above a base with a wood panel. The north storefront bay has a central entry that has a wood door with a full window. A display window in a wood frame is located to each side of the entry door. The windows are located on a base with a wood panel. The stairway entry door is a three panel wood door with three windows in its upper half. A steel lintel with decorative rosettes is located above the storefronts and stairway entry.

The second story front façade has two wide window openings with stone sills and segmented brick arches. Each opening has a small 1/1 vinyl window with metal panels filling in the remaining area above each window. A rusticated stone belt course is located at the base of the parapet wall. A course of short rusticated stone coping caps the parapet.

106 North Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, c. 1920, Craftsman
Contributing (photo 0010, far left)
The two story brown brick building has brick pilasters framing a single storefront bay and second story stairway entry on its north side. The storefront bay has been filled in with newer brick. There are two square metal framed windows in the newer brick with stone sills and a brick lintel composed of brick rowlocks and square stone end blocks. The stairway entry has a six panel metal door and a tall wood transom window above. A

[57] Jasper County/Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District Walking Tour

row of bricks in a soldier course form a lintel above the storefront and stairway entry. The tops of the pilasters have stone caps between the first and second story.

The second story front façade has two window openings located above the storefront opening. The openings have stone sills and brick lintels composed of a soldier course with square stone end blocks. There are metal framed windows divided into four tall panes of glass in each opening. A narrower window opening is located above the stairway entry. It also has a stone sill and brick lintel composed of a soldier course with square stone end blocks. This opening has a metal framed window divided into two panes of glass. The parapet is partially crenellated with three raised sections, the outside two sections being slightly narrower and shorter than the middle. A course of brick soldiers is located the top of the parapet and has square stone blocks in the upper corners at locations where the parapet steps down. Stone coping caps the parapet. The storefront renovations and new windows in the second story were made and installed recently.

112 North Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, c. 1940, English Cottage.
Contributing (photo 0010)
The single story building is constructed of wood trim and stucco in a half-timber frame appearance with gabled roofs over each storefront entry. The building has two storefronts, one at each side of the front façade, connected by a middle portion with a recessed entry. The display window bays and entry doors are divided by wood columns. The display windows are set in narrow metal frames and wood casings. The windows have stone sills and brick bases. The roof is covered with fiberglass shingles.

The north storefront has a center entry door with display windows on each side. The door is a new metal door with a half window. A historic wood screen door is located on the outside of the entry door. Above the entry and display windows is a jettied gable overhang with a stucco finish divided into sections by wood framing. The overhang is supported by wood brackets. A wood finial is located at the top of the gable. The south storefront has its entry on the storefront's north side. It also has a new metal door with half window. A single display window is located in the remaining storefront. A smaller gable is located over the south storefront. The area between the storefronts has a central recessed area with two historic wood doors with a full window divided into six panes of glass. The north entry retains its historic wood screen door. The recessed area has scrolled wood brackets in each corner supporting the roof above. A display window is located on each side of the recessed entry. The ridge of the roof over the middle portion is parallel with the street, extending between the two gables over the storefronts.

A single story brick building, c. 1900, stood at this location as late as 1935 and housed a barbershop and restaurant by the name of "Sip and Bite". The barbershop was operated by a Richard Warren and the eatery was owned at that time by Leonard Rajal. [58] The Sip and Bite continued at this location into the 1960s.

116 North Van Rensselaer, Commercial Building, c. 1928. Contributing
The single story brick building has a wide single storefront with a recessed central entry. The storefront and entry are composed of dark bronze colored aluminum and glass. The storefront display windows to each side of the recessed entry are located on a short brick base. The transom area of the storefront has been covered with plywood scored to appear like planks. The parapet has three large recessed brick panels; the middle being slightly narrower than the outside two. The brick panels have several courses of brick

[58] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Winter 2008, pg. 19

corbelling at the top and bottom of the panels. Stone coping creates a cap for the parapet.

The building housed a furniture and undertaking business operated by John Worland, and then in 1928 Jack Spindler established a large Sears Roebuck & Company store in the building.[59]

Cullen Street

116 North Cullen Street, Jasper County Telephone Company, c. 1920, Neoclassical. Contributing (photo 0016)
The building is a single story in height and is constructed of a blend of brown and light colored bricks with stone trim. The outside corners of the front façade have brick quoins. The front façade has two parts: an entry with taller parapet wall on the north side and two windows with a lower parapet on the south side. The entry half has an aluminum and glass entry door with plywood filling in the area around the door; it is capped by a stone jack arch with taller keystone. The entry door is accessed by concrete steps. The entry has brick buttresses with stone caps on each side. In each buttress is a historic, narrow metal framed, window with three panes stacked vertically. The windows have stone sills and jack arches. The parapet over the entry half has stone coping and steps up in the center over the door. The south half of the building has two masonry openings for windows. Each opening has a historic metal framed pair of casement windows divided into eight panes in each window; a transom divided into four panes is above the pair of casements. The window openings have stone sills and jack arches. The parapet is flat over this half and has stone coping.

The south façade is exposed and is divided into four bays by brick buttresses with stone caps. Each bay, except for the easternmost bay, has two window openings with stone sills and brick hoods composed of rowlocks. The easternmost bay has a single window opening. Each opening has a pair of casement windows and transom matching those on the front façade. The north façade has a narrow single story addition between the main building and the adjoining building to the north. Its front wall is covered with vinyl siding; it has a steel door on its south side.

The Rensselaer's telephone system was installed in 1895, funded by the Jasper County Telephone Company stockholders.[60] The offices were located in the second floor of the Horton Building at 100 West Washington Street. The privately held company constructed this building during the 1920s. By 1954 the telephone company had constructed a new building one block north of this location and relocated their offices.

[59] Vintage Views of Rensselaer, Indiana, Summer 2009, pg. 5
[60] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1868-1955

Significant Dates
1896

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Grindle & Weatherhogg
Thompson, Simon
Coen, A. Wasson

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for the Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District of Rensselaer is 1868 through 1955. Although the community was platted in 1839, the oldest extant building in the district was constructed in 1868 (photo 0009). Sustained development occurred in the district boundaries from that time through the 1920s with the

latest contributing resource in the district constructed in 1955 (photo 0012), the end date for the Period of Significance. The economic vitality of the district, however, continued well into the early part of the second half of the 20th century as is evident with the number of buildings being constructed, or reconstructed, during the 1960s in or at the fringes of the historic district. The district continued to be the commercial engine of Rensselaer into the 1970s until competition began to develop from larger retailers south of the downtown. This outlying development has accelerated in the last decade.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Not applicable

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District is significant due to several factors. The district represents a period of commercial development of a Midwestern city's core business district during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This development exemplifies architectural trends from the period of significance with particularly well executed examples of Italianate, Romanesque, and Neoclassical styles. The district also exemplifies community planning and development of a county seat due to the location of the courthouse and public square and the importance of that governing distinction.

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Settlement

The area that would become Jasper County was not opened for settlement until 1832. The state legislature of 1834-5 created among others Jasper and Newton counties. Jasper included what is now roughly the southern half of the present Jasper and Newton County and all of present Benton County. Newton included what are roughly the northern half of present Jasper and Newton counties and some of the present Lake and Porter Counties. In 1836 Porter and Lake Counties took all of the territory north of the Kankakee River and in 1838 Jasper was organized as an independent county with the territory remaining in what is now Newton County attached. In 1839, this boundary was consolidated into Jasper County with the county seat named Newton at the present location of Rensselaer. In 1859, Newton County was separated from Jasper and became an independent county.[61] William Donahue became the first visitor of European descent to the area. The next were John and David Nowels (father and son) and Joseph Yeoman (son-in-law to John Nowels). Yeoman constructed the first cabin at the falls of the Iroquois River in 1834, roughly at the southwest corner of Front and Washington streets in what became the present site of Rensselaer.[62]

James Van Rensselaer and his son John came to the area in 1835, arriving from Niles, Michigan via the old territorial road to Logansport. They visited the Iroquois River and purchased the upper and lower "80s" surrounding the falls.[63] James Van Rensselaer found the cabin built by Yeoman and, being the owner of the land, was able to claim it and later enlarged it for himself. The Van Rensselaers constructed a dam and sawmill in 1839

[61] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 3
[62] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 150
[63] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 152

and James laid out the town.[64] The settlement was known as the Falls of the Iroquois (also recorded as Rapids of the Rockwise)[65] until it was officially platted in 1839 at which time the legislature established it as the county seat and named it Newton. In 1841 the founder of the county seat, James Van Rensselaer, and Henry Weston successfully petitioned the legislature to change the name from Newton to Rensselaer;[66] the name change occurred in 1844.[67] Another account states that the name was changed to Rensselaer by a special act of the Legislature on February 18, 1840.[68] James Van Rensselaer died on March 12, 1847 and his son, John, moved his father's family back to New York in 1848.[69]

Town Plat

The original town was described by Van Rensselaer as being "covered with a magnificent grove of oaks clear of all underbrush that no English park could equal".[70] Van Rensselaer platted the town with blocks 1-6 (lining the north side of the river) 390' x 300', the remaining twenty-six blocks were 300' square. This included a central block for a public square intended for the seat of government for the county, along with four other blocks for the erection of other public buildings. The streets surrounding the public square were platted 75' wide.[71] The area between the north bank of the river and the first block of buildings lining the river was not intended to be a public street but was believed that it would always be open to the river.[72] This was platted as Front Street and development occurred by the second half of the 1800s. Natural drainage of the town to the river was seen as a desirable feature.[73]

A unique feature of the original plat of Rensselaer is its street grid's non-alignment with the primary north/south and east/west coordinates. The grid is skewed at a general forty-five degree angle with true north. Therefore the main street of the district, Washington, lies northeast/southwest. The orientation seems to follow a bend in the Iroquois River which flows westerly to a point just south of Grace Street where the river bends and flows northwest. The river bends again at a point near the crossing of College Avenue and flows west. The original plat fronts the river's north side at Front Street between College and Grace. One account states that the plat was laid cater-cornered to the compass to face the river bend[74] while another account states that the town was not laid out "square with the world but was given such a deviation from the cardinal points as to compel the sun to rise regularly in the southeast".[75] Early additions to the town followed the same grid lines, but later additions were platted following principle north/south coordinates.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

County Seat of Government

The district benefited from the town's designation as the county seat of Jasper County in 1839. Prior to this the seat of government was at Parish Grove and met at the residence

[64] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 21a (Maurice Adams)
[65] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 3
[66] History of Rensselaer & Jasper County Clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[67] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 150
[68] Souvenir of Rensselaer, Indiana, pg. 1
[69] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 20, 21a (Maurice Adams)
[70] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 36a
[71] Copy of Original Plat, Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 2
[72] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 24a
[73] History of Rensselaer & Jasper County Clippings, *Peoples Pilot* ,Vol. 1
[74] History of Jasper County Indiana, 1985, pg. 149
[75] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot* ,Vol. 1

of Robert Alexander. The Board of Commissioners met for the first time in January, 1838; they ordered that courts be held after that at the house of George Spitler near present day Brook, Indiana. In 1839 Spitler constructed a log cabin for use as the first courthouse.[76]

Once Van Rensselaer platted the town on the Iroquois River and donated a block for a public square, the county seat was relocated to what would become Rensselaer. In 1845 Van Rensselaer had a simple two story frame building constructed, 21' x 36', on Lot 10 of Block 13 (east of the public square on Cullen Street); it consisted of a courtroom below and two jury rooms above.[77] It was also used as a town hall, church, school, and for community gatherings.[78] As the population of the county grew the frame building was replaced with a new brick building constructed in 1857 on the public square in a familiar gable-front Greek Revival central hall form. The building was partially destroyed by fire in 1865; the commissioners made repairs to the building in the same year.

In 1895, the Board of Commissioners received a report regarding the structural integrity of the courthouse from Ft. Wayne architect Alfred Grindle. Grindle deemed the building unsafe and in the same year the commissioners decided to construct a new courthouse.[79] With great fanfare the new building was under construction, designed by Grindle's architectural firm of Grindle & Weatherhogg, the next year and was completed in 1898 (photo 0006). The building of the large, modern facility reflected a city with burgeoning economic possibilities. The courthouse attracted professionals to Rensselaer with a number of attorneys' offices located in buildings near the public square. The public square itself became a stage for downtown Rensselaer for festivals and other public gatherings. In 1962 former President Dwight D. Eisenhower honored Charles Halleck with a speech from the courthouse steps. Eisenhower quoted Halleck calling "the Courthouse a symbol of the local government that has made this country great".[80]

Other Governmental Influence

While the county seat of government is the most obvious influence on the district due to the courthouse and public square, other government facilities also influenced the district. The Rensselaer City Hall and Fire Department have been fixtures on the west side of Van Rensselaer Street, across from the courthouse, for a long period of time. The current police department (122 South Van Rensselaer) occupies the building constructed c. 1915 as the Rensselaer City Hall and Fire Department (see photo 0007, right side). The brick building exhibits the typical design of a two-bay fire engine house with city hall above, constructed in small cities during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The brick building was constructed on the site of the previous town hall and engine house that had been built in 1888. It was a simple wood frame gable-front two story building also with a two-bay configuration on the first story and meeting hall above. The first town hall meeting was held in the frame building on September 6, 1888. The Rensselaer Fire Department was officially organized on March 29, 1888.[81] The growth of the city and age of the earlier building no doubt warranted the construction of a modern facility in the early part of the 20th century.

[76] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 3
[77] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 4
[78] Early Jasper County, address delivered by Spitler, ML, Old Settlers Meeting 9/25/1897
[79] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. 8-9
[80] Jasper County Courthouse Centennial, pg. XII-XIII
[81] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 171

The United States Post Office in Rensselaer was also located in the district until 1938 when a new facility was dedicated a block south of the district on Van Rensselaer Street. The office was established as Fez, Newton County, in 1837 with Joseph Yeoman serving as postmaster. In 1839 the post office name was changed to Newton, Jasper County, and in 1841 to Rensselaer.[82] The post office was housed in at least two known locations in the district: the former Knights of Pythias Building at 232 West Washington Street and the building at 205-207 West Washington Street.

COMMERCE

The business district exemplifies the typical commercial development of small Midwestern cities from their establishment in the 1830s through the first half of the 20th century. This is indicated by the increase and change in types of commercial activity, but also most evidenced by the physical construction of brick business buildings taking the place of earlier frame buildings (while frame fronts still exist, no frame buildings remain in the district).

Early development through 1890

Rensselaer continued to grow from its early days and initial platting. One account indicated that the growth of the town was slow due to the proprietor (James Van Rensselaer) coming from "old Dutch stock as he refused to sell lots holding out for more money".[83] In 1850 the population consisted of about 500 inhabitants and residences were located in the business district.[84] At that time there were three stores, two doctors, one lawyer, and fifteen houses.[85] Another account indicates there were twenty five houses which would seem more likely to accommodate a population of 500.[86] The first store was opened by Harper Hunt and the first newspaper, the *Jasper Banner*, was printed in 1854 with the *Rensselaer Gazette* beginning publication in 1856.[87] The first church was constructed by a Methodist congregation in 1848.[88] According to one early settler's recollection "dog fennel and fancy flowers provided a border to wagon tracks along streets and sidewalks were miry".[89] The longest surviving building from this period was Liberal Corner, at 232 West Washington Street. It was a two story frame building constructed by A. Tharp in about 1841 for general merchandise. The building was razed for the construction of the Knights of Pythias Building in 1902.

Rensselaer sought incorporation as a town in 1859 but commercial growth lagged due to the Civil War and the incorporation lapsed. It was revived again in 1866. A description of the town's growth by one early settler was that the town "has never felt the reactionary effects of a boom. Its growth has always been of the steady, solid sort".[90] In 1879 the people of central Jasper County paid out $75,000 in taxes and voluntary donations to build what would become known as the Monon Railroad, the only railroad to be built through Rensselaer. The improvements proved vital to the community's economy as the town

[82] History of Jasper County, Indiana, pg. 170
[83] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 24b
[84] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 4a
[85] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[86] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 22a
[87] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[88] Scrapbook of Rensselaer, pg. 22a
[89] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[90] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1

doubled within three years of the introduction of the railroad.[91] Rensselaer also had early use of electricity. In 1881 a steam engine was constructed that provided electricity, during evening hours only, to the town. This was a private operation until the municipality purchased the generator several years later.

The business blocks constructed during this time began with the McCoy Bank constructed in 1868 (photo 0009). Two large three story brick business blocks/hotels were constructed between 1870-1880, the Nowels Hotel on the southeast corner of West Washington and Front streets and the Makeever Hotel, on the northeast corner of East Washington and Cullen streets (both no longer exist). Fulfilling the need for cultural and social activity in the growing town, the Ellis Opera House (209-211 W. Washington) was constructed in 1878. Abraham Leopold constructed many of the brick business blocks during the 1880s in the east half of the north side of West Washington between Front and Van Rensselaer streets including 210 W. Washington and the original building now refaced at 202 W. Washington (Bank Building-photo 0001, right). The Rensselaer Electric Light plant was established in 1881.[92]

1890-1910

During the 1890s through the first years of the 1900s the town's character changed significantly with major building projects. In 1896 the population had reached 2,500 and "not a new family or business could find a location in the city without building".[93] There were also eight denominations who worshiped in their own buildings during the 1890s.[94] The town was described as clean with roads well-graveled adapted for hauling heavy loads. Washington Street had been macadamized from gutter to gutter for two blocks (assumed to be the two business blocks). All other streets were described as well graded and graveled.[95] Tile and brick was being made during the 1890s in the county with two plants near Rensselaer.[96] It was determined by 1896 that the community would ask for city charter due to the expectancy that the population would reach 3,000 soon. The town was incorporated as a city on April 13, 1896.

The Rensselaer Telephone System was installed in 1895, funded by the Jasper County Telephone Company stockholders.[97] A listing of businesses in the 1896 directory shows the growth of the community since the 1850s. There were six dry goods stores, ten meat markets or groceries, five restaurants or saloons, three hardware stores, three drugstores, a jeweler, two liveries, a furniture/undertaking business, three banks, three doctors and several attorneys and other professional offices.[98]

Buildings constructed during this time included some of the district's finest. These included the Knights of Pythias Building at 232 W. Washington (no longer extant) and its adjoining building at 230 W. Washington (photo 0002, left). The Murray Building (214-215 W. Washington), the Forsythe Building (no longer extant), the Horton Building (100 W. Washington-photo 0014), were all constructed between about 1900-1906. The most prominent buildings of the district were constructed between 1895 and 1896. The IOOF Lodge at 114

[91] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[92] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 2
[93] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[94] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[95] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[96] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1
[97] History of Rensselaer and Jasper County, newspaper clippings, *Peoples Pilot*, Vol. 1. The phone company built a new building at 116 N. Cullen in about 1920 in the district.
[98] 1896 Rensselaer Telephone Directory

W. Washington (photo 0013, right) and the Jasper County Courthouse (photo 0006) were the largest buildings constructed during this time. Seventeen other buildings were constructed between about 1890 and 1910; all total, nearly half of the buildings in the district were constructed during this time.

1910-1960

The City of Rensselaer continued to experience growth in the business district with remodeling of existing brick business blocks and construction of additional, mostly smaller scaled, buildings. The First National Bank Building (photo 0005), constructed in 1917 at 118 W. Washington Street, is this later period's most impressive building. Most construction was a single story in height with wide, single storefront bays. Commercial buildings from this period are located on the district's side streets: Front, Cullen and particularly South Van Rensselaer, west of the courthouse square (photos 0007 & 0008). This area of Van Rensselaer Street includes the city hall and fire department building constructed about 1915, and ushering in a new era of entertainment was the Palace Theater at 118 South Van Rensselaer, constructed in 1928 (seen in photos 0007 & 0008). Developing with the changing mode of transportation from liveries to auto garages, a garage was constructed at 101 E. Washington in 1938 and a modern garage was constructed in 1955 at 232 W. Washington (photo 0012). This was the last building constructed in the district.

Present

The economic vitality of the district continued into the early part of the second half of the 20th century. This is evident with the number of buildings being constructed, or reconstructed, during the 1960s in or at the fringes of the historic district. Most notable is the reconstruction work performed on the Bank Building at 202 West Washington beginning in 1962 through the present (photo 0001, right). The district continued to be the commercial engine of Rensselaer into the 1970s seeing additional investment in the downtown business blocks until development began south of the city.

The district is still home to a bank and a number of retail and professional services establishments. The historic Ritz/Palace Theater constructed in 1928 reopened and is in operation as a theater today. City services and the county seat of government also continue to operate from their respective historic homes in the district.

ARCHITECTURE

Materials

The buildings of the district typify building technology and available materials of the period during which they were constructed. Log structures were replaced with frame buildings and frame buildings were replaced by substantial brick buildings. Two brick and tile companies were located near Rensselaer during the late 1800s and likely produced the materials used for building construction during that time. Earlier brick buildings had a common style and color of brick, however buildings constructed later used other colors and surface finishes, these are found at 114-116 West Washington, 112-114 South Van Rensselaer, 116 North Van Rensselaer, and 116 North Cullen. Wall materials also changed in the development of the downtown. Limestone was used on the county courthouse in 1896 and on the First National Bank building in 1917. A glazed block was used to construct the building at 110 Front Street in about 1915 (photo 0011) and concrete block was used to construct the auto garage at 232 West Washington in 1955 (photo 0012).

Refacing buildings with other materials also occurred in an effort to modernize buildings. This occurred with molded stone face block on the McCoy Bank Building, possibly in response to the county courthouse, as well as stone ashlars on the building at 111 East Washington. An early stucco application occurred on a few buildings including 213-215 West Washington and on a half-timber framed façade at 112 North Van Rensselaer (photo 0010). The Bank Building at 202 West Washington has extensively remodeled and refaced the historic building behind the 1960s façade with new brick. A number of historic buildings have recently been refaced with EIFS, a cement material application that has a resemblance to stucco. This is the case at 224, 210-212, and 209-211 West Washington Street.

Other notable building materials existing in the district include a number of metal storefronts, or extant components, on brick buildings. These include storefronts at 230, 116, 114, 100, 217, and 201 West Washington Street and 108 South Van Rensselaer. Other interesting storefront material is found at 215 West Washington (terrazzo and colored mirrored glass) and 118 South Van Rensselaer (porcelain enamel steel panels).

Styles

The architectural styles found in the district also typify construction during the period. While some buildings are exemplary models of their particular styles, most buildings have subtle designs recalling a particular style. Several buildings are not necessarily categorized in a specific style, but are simple parapet front commercial buildings constructed as functional designs of the period. Dominant styles include Italianate, Romanesque, and Neoclassical. Other styles found in the district include Late Gothic Revival, Craftsman, Art Deco, Art Modern, English Cottage, and Modern.

Style-Italianate

The earliest style found in the district is the Italianate. The style was popular in the United States between the 1850s and 1880s and is particularly common in commercial districts seeing growth during that time.[99] The style is well represented in Rensselaer's commercial district. The earliest building in the district, the McCoy Bank, was constructed in the style though early modifications altered the building. The most characteristic stylistic feature of the building is its cornice. Excellent examples of the style are located at 213-215, 106 (photo 0015), and 124 West Washington. Each of the three buildings has an Italianate-inspired metal bracketed cornice and decorative arched metal window hoods on their second story windows. These were constructed between about 1870 and 1895.

Style-Romanesque Revival

The Romanesque Revival style was popular between about 1880 and 1910 due in large part to Boston architect H. H. Richardson.[100] Many large public buildings used the style, though it was also used for commercial applications. Builders in the district used the Romanesque Revival style on the buildings: the IOOF Lodge Building (photo 0013, right), constructed in 1895, and the building at 230 West Washington (photo 0002, far left), constructed in 1902. The defining features of the style include heavy masonry construction with large arched window and door openings. Both examples have these features with the IOOF Lodge being the most exemplary of the style. Medieval-inspired

[99] McAlester, pg. 212
[100] McAlester, pg. 302

details also played a strong role in Romanesque Revival designs. The IOOF Lodge also has stone pilaster cushion capitals carved in an organic form and a wonderfully carved stone arch surround over the stairway entry to the building centered on its front façade.

Style-Neoclassical

The most prolific style used for building design in the district was the Neoclassical style. The Neoclassical style has its roots in the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago held in 1893. There was a mandated classical theme that resulted in elaborate colonnaded buildings with attention to the classical order.[101] The style was popular from about 1900 through the first half of the 20th century. The style is found on several of the buildings in the district ranging from simple stylistic features to the most exemplary of the style, designed in the Beaux Arts form, the First National Bank Building at 118 W. Washington (photo 0005). An excellent example of the style is located at 116 West Washington (photo 0013, left). The three story building has brick quoins on the outside corners and a metal cornice with dentils. A false balustrade is located on the building parapet. Similar brick quoins are found on 116 North Cullen (photo 0016). The Rensselaer City Hall and Fire Department used the Neoclassical style on the building it constructed in about 1915. The most impressive example of the style was also the last building to be constructed in the style. The First National Bank building was constructed with a front façade recalling Greek temples with heavy stone pilasters on each side of a large arched opening. The top of the building has a carved frieze, stone cornice with a row of dentils and corbels, and a parapet shaped like a pediment (photo 0005).

Other Styles

A few other styles occur in the district in single representations. The most notable of these is the Jasper County Courthouse constructed in the Late Gothic Revival style in 1896 (photo 0006). The building exemplifies the style through its Gothic arched portals and carvings, its turreted corners and tall gabled wall dormers. The term Craftsman style may loosely be applied to two parapet front buildings constructed c. 1920 (114 South Van Rensselaer-photo 0008, left & 106 North Van Rensselaer-photo 0010, far left); these buildings have rows of brick rowlocks and soldiers with some stone trim that is typically found on Craftsman styled commercial buildings.

A few styles show the transition of the district into the modern age. The Art Deco and Art Modern styles are found in the Eger Grocery Building, c. 1930 and the Kresler Building/Palace Theater, 1928. Both show a break from traditional building designs and particularly in materials used for storefront construction. Colored mirrored glass and steel panels are used in the storefront on the Eger Grocery (photo 0003, right of center), and porcelain enamel steel panels and stainless steel are used on the Kresler Building (photo 0008, far left). The automobile garage/service station at 232 West Washington (photo 0012) represents the newest style found in the district, constructed in the Modern style. The building is essentially a box with simple horizontal lines and no decoration.

A particularly unusual style found in this or any historic commercial district is the building constructed about 1940 in the English Cottage style at 112 North Van Rensselaer (photo 0010). The style is more commonly found applied to either roadside architecture to give the impression of hospitality and home for travelers, or as a corner store in early 20th century subdivisions. The building has stylistic features of half-timber and stucco construction on its front façade. The building also has roof planes visible due

[101] McAlester, pg. 346

to gable faces and slopes, an uncommon feature among flat-roofed historic buildings in the district.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Rensselaer Revisited, a collection of short films about Rensselaer, 1994. Produced by the Jasper County Historical Society. The collection has eight short films as follows: *Diesel Engine*, 1994; *We're in the Movies*, 1940; *Wright's Furniture Store Fire*, 1948; *Tornado*, 1958; *Charlie Halleck Day*, 1962; *Fireman's Convention*, 1965; *Cruise Night*, 1994; and *Little Cousin Jasper*, 1994.

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Souvenir of Rensselaer, Ind., 1906. Published by Sharp, J. A., Jasper County Democrat Print, Rensselaer, IN

Standard Atlas of Jasper County, 1909. George Ogle & Co., Publishers & Engravers, Chicago

Vintage Views, various editions, Jasper County Historical Society, publisher

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.5 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	487043	4531594	3	16	487396	4531641
2	16	487294	4531801	4	16	487147	4531479

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

Beginning at the south side of the alley between West Washington and West Kellner streets at its intersection with North Front Street, continue in a line east with the south side of the alley to the rear (west side) of the building at 116 North Van Rensselaer Street. Turn north and continue in a line north to the north side of 116 North Van Rensselaer to its northwest corner then turn east and continue in a line east to the northeast corner of 116 North Van Rensselaer Street. Turn south and continue in a line south to the south side of the alley at its intersection with North Van Rensselaer. Turn east and continue in a line east, crossing North Van Rensselaer, with the south side of the alley to the rear (west side) of the building at 116 North Cullen Street. Turn north and continue in a line north to the north side of 116 North Cullen Street to its northwest corner then turn east and continue in a line east to the northeast corner of 116 North Cullen Street. Turn south and continue in a line south, crossing Washington Street, to the south side of West Washington Street. Turn east and continue in a line east, crossing South Cullen Street, to the northeast corner of the building at 111 East Washington Street. Turn south and continue in a line south to the southeast corner of 111 East Washington then turn west and continue in a line west to the southwest corner of the building at 101 East Washington Street. Continue west, crossing South Cullen Street to the west side of the street then turn south and continue in a line south to the south side (including the south curb) of West Harrison Street. Turn west along the south curb and continue in a line west to a point at the southwest corner of Van Rensselaer and Harrison Streets. Cross Harrison Street to the northwest corner of Van Rensselaer and Harrison Streets. Turn west and follow the north side of Harrison Street to the rear lot lines of 112-130 South Van Rensselaer Street. Turn north and continue in a line north to the north side of the alley between West Washington and West Harrison streets, then turn west and continue in a line west to the intersection of the alley with the east side of South Front Street. Turn north and continue in a line north, crossing West Washington Street, to a point aligned with the south side of the building at 110 North Front Street. Turn west and continue in a line west, crossing North Front Street, to the southwest corner of 110 North Front Street then turn north and continue in a line north with the west side of the building to its northwest corner. Turn east and continue in a line east with the north side of 110 North Front Street to the east side of North Front Street then turn north and continue in a line north to the south side of the alley, or the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Within the described boundaries is the highest concentration of contributing resources of the historic commercial district surrounding the Jasper County Courthouse Square in the City of Rensselaer. The area best represents the historic development of the city's commercial district through its extant architecture.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt West Garner
organization Historic Preservation Association of Jasper County date August 17, 2010
street & number 12954 6th Road telephone 574-936-0613
city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563
e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: **Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Rensselaer**

County: **Jasper** **State:** **IN**

Photographer: **Kurt West Garner**

Date Photographed: **May 15, 2009**

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 Looking west at north side of W. Washington from N. Van Rensselaer

1 of 16.

Name of Property: **Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Rensselaer**

County: **Jasper** **State:** **IN**

Photographer: **Kurt West Garner**

Date Photographed: **May 15, 2009**

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 Looking east at north side of W. Washington from N. Front

2 of 16.

Name of Property: **Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Rensselaer**

County: **Jasper** **State:** **IN**

Photographer: **Kurt West Garner**

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 Looking east at south side of W. Washington from N. Front

3 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 Looking west down W. Washington from N. Van Rensselaer

4 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 Looking north at 118 W. Washington

5 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 Looking southwest at Jasper County Courthouse

6 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Looking north at the west side of S. Van Rensselaer from W. Harrison

7 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 Looking west at 112-118 S. Van Rensselaer

8 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 Looking southwest at 201 W. Washington

9 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 Looking west at 112 N. Van Rensselaer

10 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Looking west at 110 N. Front

11 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0012 Looking northeast at 232 W. Washington

12 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0013 Looking north at 114-116 W. Washington

13 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0014 Looking west at 100 W. Washington

14 of 16.

Name of Property: Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: **Jasper** **State:** **IN**

Photographer: **Kurt West Garner**

Date Photographed: **May 15, 2009**

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0015 **Looking north at 106-108 W. Washington**

15 of 16.

Name of Property: **Rensselaer Courthouse Square Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Rensselaer**

County: **Jasper** **State:** **IN**

Photographer: **Kurt West Garner**

Date Photographed: **May 15, 2009**

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0016 **Looking west at 116 N. Cullen**

16 of 16.

Property Owner:

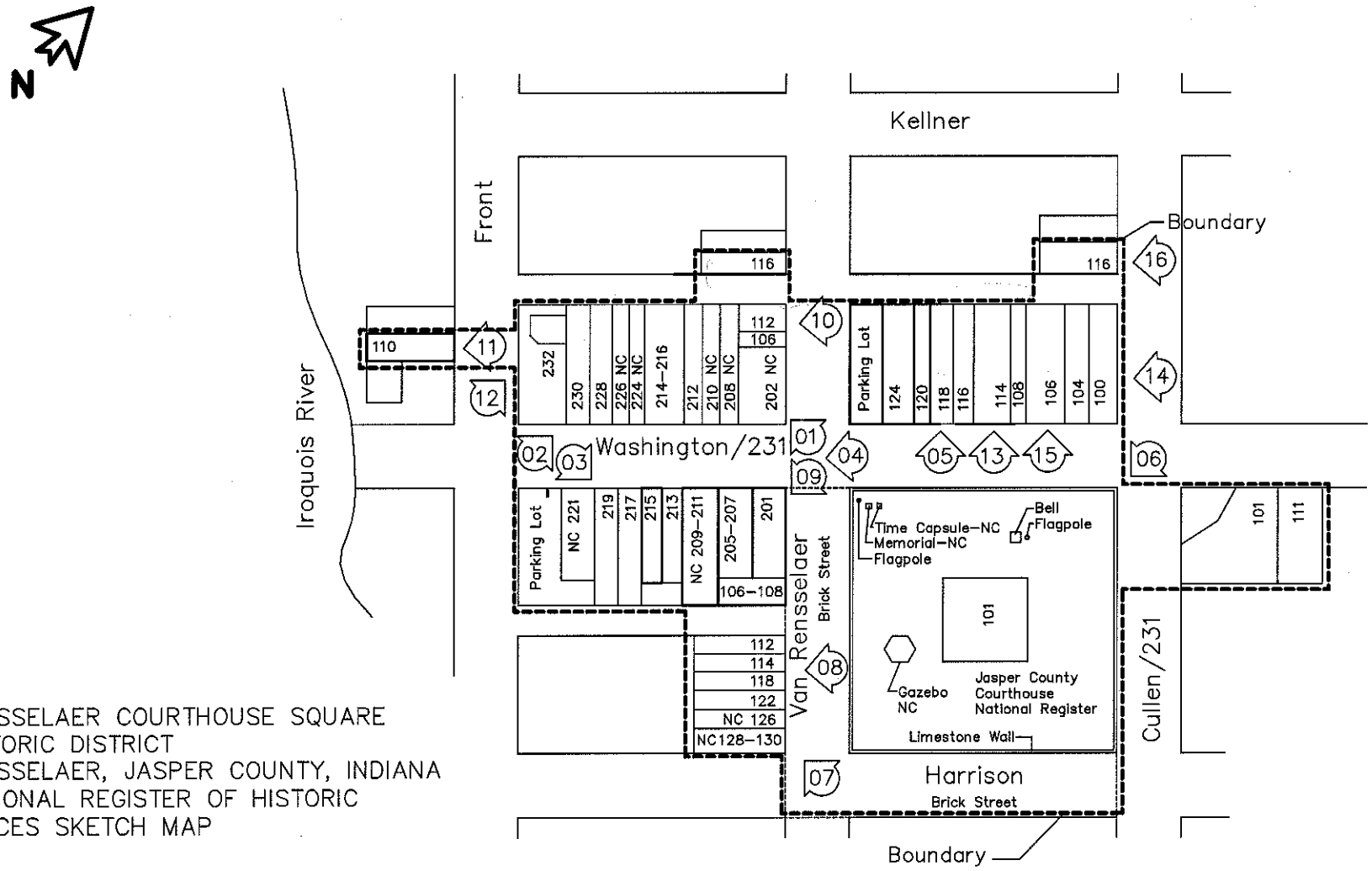
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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.



RENSSELAER COURTHOUSE SQUARE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
RENSSELAER, JASPER COUNTY, INDIANA
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES SKETCH MAP

(02) Photographs

NC = Non–Contributing Resources

9 NON–CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
1 NON–CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE (GAZEBO)
32 CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
3 CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS (COURTHOUSE BELL & 2 FLAGPOLES)
2 CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES (BRICK STREETS & COURTHOUSE WALL)
2 NON–CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS (TIME CAPSULE & MEMORIAL)
1 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED BUILDING (NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES)

50 TOTAL RESOURCES

11/2011

Rensselaer Courthouse Square, #0001

Rensselaer Courthouse Square, #0003

Rensselaer Courthouse Square, #0006

Rensselaer Courthouse Square, #0007

Rensselaer Courthouse Square , #0013