National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
Historic name: Loogootee Commercial Historic District
Other names/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing
2. Location
Street & number: Each side of John F. Kennedy Ave. between Vincennes/Butcher and
Railroad Streets, extending northeast/southwest to NE & NW 1st Streets south of Wood
Street
City or town: <u>Loogootee</u> State: <u>IN</u> County: <u>Martin</u>
Not For Publication: Vicinity:
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this $\underline{\mathbf{x}}$ 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 $\underline{\mathbf{x}}$ meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
nationalstatewide <u>x_local</u> Applicable National Register Criteria:
$\underline{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{A}$ $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$ $\underline{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{C}$ $\underline{\mathbf{D}}$
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Loogootee Commercial Historic District Name of Property	Martin County, IN County and State
In my opinion, the property meets does i	•
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register	
determined eligible for the National Register	
determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register	
other (explain:)	
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property	
(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:	
Public – Local x	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Loogootee Commercial Historic District		Martin County, IN
Name of Property		County and State
Category of Property		
(Check only one box.)		
Building(s		
District		
Site		
Structure		
Object		
Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed Contributing 33		buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>35</u>	<u>15</u>	Total
Number of contributing resources 6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	· ·	ational Register <u>0</u>
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial COMMERCE/TRADE: department COMMERCE/TRADE: profession GOVERNMENT: city hall SOCIAL: meeting hall RECREATION AND CULTURI GOVERNMENT: post office RELIGION: religious facility	ent store onal offices	

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution COMMERCE/TRADE: department store COMMERCE/TRADE: professional offices

GOVERNMENT: city hall SOCIAL: meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

GOVERNMENT: post office RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

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Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE walls: BRICK STONE

ASPHALT

other: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

roof:

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

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Summary Paragraph

The Loogootee Commercial Historic District lines roughly four blocks on each side of John F. Kennedy (JFK) Avenue and features a concentration of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings in Italianate and Neoclassical styles, most of which front a small public square in the center of the district. Mid-century architecture is represented from a late building boom on JFK Avenue, the main corridor, in a two-block area north of the square. Of note are the number of Mesker company cast iron storefronts in the district.

Narrative Description

The Loogootee Commercial Historic District lines a roughly four-block area on each side of John F. Kennedy (JFK) Avenue, renamed from Depot Street in the late 1960s. The district is terminated at its south end by the former Ohio & Mississippi Railroad (left side of photos 05-06) that was built in 1857 and at the north end, just beyond city hall and the public gymnasium (both seen in photo 16), at Butcher Street/Vincennes Street. The district extends northeast and southwest about a block from Wood Street south to the railroad to incorporate the public square on the east side of JFK Avenue and commercial buildings constructed around the square (photos 01-03). Most of the buildings around the square date to c. 1880-1914 and are examples of Italianate and Neoclassical architecture.

The district's roads generally run northwest/southeast except for Line Street, which runs directly north/south and divides the original 1853 plat of town on its east side from Campbell & Breen's and Clay's Additions to Loogootee in the 1880s on the west side of Line Street. The interesting convergence of streets created a public square on which a water tank stood in the early 1900s. The square is bounded by JFK Avenue on the southwest, Main Street on the southeast, Line Street on the east, and Public Square Street on the northwest. Today, the square features a triangular-shaped park with a raised lawn, concrete perimeter, and a modern fountain (photo 02). The square is a contributing site; the large modern fountain is considered a non-contributing object.

The public square is fronted by two-story brick buildings on its northwest, northeast, and a portion of its southwest sides. The southeast side of the square, between it and the railroad, was never built up with commercial buildings except in the far corner and one building in the center part of the lot, similar in size to the building at present time (middle of photo 09). A fire on the west side of the square resulted in the loss of a few buildings fronting JFK, but five remain to hold the edge of the street. Additional commercial and public buildings extend on Main Street just off the square. With mid-20th century growth due in part to Crane Naval Base, additional commercial buildings extended north on JFK Avenue (U.S. 231) about two blocks and include examples of the Modern movement in architecture (photo 24).

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Residential areas surround the district except to the south where a commercial and warehouse area once thrived south of the railroad tracks. Recent losses due to demolitions and substantial remodeling campaigns has diminished the area's historic commercial significance and a firm south border has been created at the railroad for the Loogootee Commercial Historic District.

Non-contributing buildings are so rated because either: the building is outside the period of significance (401 John F. Kennedy, photo 19), or the building has substantially lost integrity (106 Main, photo 11), or the building has been covered by a later façade treatment (219 John F. Kennedy, photo 04).

A complete list of resources follows:

NW 1st Street, west side, going south.

205 NW 1st Street. Commercial, 1958, non-contributing.

Right side of photo 13

The one-story brick building has a corner entry with two wood doors with full windows. The building has a large metal display window on its east façade and smaller modern windows on its north façade. A metal mansard roof wraps around the east and north facades to a gabled porch roof over an entry on the north façade. The roof additions/changes render the building non-contributing.

203 NW 1st Street. Post Office, 1957, contributing. Middle of photo 13

The one-story brick building has a recessed entry in the north end of its façade. The recessed area features stone ashlars around a wood door with two windows. A bronze plaque with the date 1957 and President Eisenhower's name and the postmaster general's name is on the north wall of the recessed area. The middle of the façade features a row of seven metal windows with a stone sill. The windows have a metal panel at the bottom and glass at the top. The south end of the façade features a pair of these windows with a stone sill. The parapet is capped with stone and metal letters forming UNITED STATES POST OFFICE LOOGOOTEE IND. 47553 is centered in the parapet.

This building has housed the United States Post Office for Loogootee for over sixty years. It was built in 1957 to relocate the post office from the east side of the square on the northeast corner of Line and Main Streets where it had been located since the 1910s. Previous locations include the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall in the early 1900s. The first post office was established in town in 1857, the same year the railroad was completed on the south edge of the district.

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101 NW 1st Street. JP South Factory, 1946, contributing. Photo 14

The one-story building is composed of tan-colored glazed block with large windows now mostly covered by metal. An office area projects from the front of the building and features a recessed entry with wood door with a window at the top and side-lites composed of glass block. The entry is flanked by wide, former window openings infilled with vinyl siding and pairs of modern 1/1 vinyl windows. A band of glazed brown tile is near the top of the parapet. A concrete block extension of the building is on the northwest corner of the manufacturer section. A tornado in 2025 damaged the building's flat roof and a new gable roof with metal was installed. A separate one-story concrete block building is on the northeast corner of the extension, north of the office section.

John F. Kennedy (JFK) Avenue, west side, going north.

105 JFK Avenue. Reynolds-Brooks Hardware, Romanesque Revival, 1905, contributing. George L. Mesker Co. (Evansville), cast iron storefront. Photo 06

The wide, two-story brick building features cast iron storefronts equally divided into four sections by wide, fluted pilasters. Each section is divided into three parts by narrow, fluted pilasters. Large, modern metal display windows are between the pilasters except for a pair of modern metal storefront doors which is south of center on the façade. The transom area, also divided by the pilasters, is covered with wood. A cast iron beam extends across the top of the storefronts and forms the top of the first story. The second story is divided into three sections by brick pilasters, the middle section twice as wide as the outer sections. The pilasters corbel at the bottom and rise to flank brick cornices over the outer sections which are taller than the wide middle section which is topped by a stone balustrade. The outer sections each feature three 1/1 modern vinyl windows. The middle section features six 1/1 modern vinyl windows. The windows feature rock-faced stone sills and lintels that form belt courses on the second story. The outer sections have three narrow wood attic vents with stone sills and full-round brick arches. A wide recessed panel is above the vents. The middle section features a wide recessed panel within which is painted REYNOLDS-BROOKS HDWE CO. This building was connected to and included the two-story brick building at 109 West Main, which is now owned and counted separately.

Magnus Carnahan built this impressive, large hardware building in 1905 after a fire had destroyed a previous building that housed Carnahan's hardware and the Grand Hotel, which operated in the second story. Carnahan sold the building to the firm of Reynolds & Brooks in 1909, who continued the hardware business in the first half of the 20th century.

201 JFK Avenue. White River Bank Building, Italianate, 1890/c. 1930, contributing. Joseph George, architect and contractor Middle of photo 07

The corner, two-story brick building features a cutaway corner entry and first story composed of limestone. The limestone appears to have been added when the bank was renovated c. 1930.

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Modern metal storefront doors and windows, c. 1970, are in the first story. A fluted beltcourse of stone is near the top of the windows and forms a slight canopy over the entry. The second story features modern 1/1 vinyl windows with stone sills. The cutaway corner window and east façade windows feature stone hoods while the south façade windows feature flat pediments. The cutaway corner features stone long and short work tabbed into the brick. The pressed metal cornice features brackets, enframed panels, and rows of corbels. A stairway entry with wood transom is at the north end of the east façade and retains a portion of the original storefront design that was composed of limestone Doric pilasters with carved lintel over the stairway transom. A block in the frieze carved with the builder and architect's name is partially visible on the upper, south side of the stairway opening.

The White River Bank was organized in 1888 by Fred E. Davis, becoming Loogootee's first bank. While other banks occupied business blocks around the square, the White River Bank retained its prominent corner storefront into the 1930s during which time it remodeled and expanded. The White River Bank and First National Bank of Loogootee merged in July 1929 to form the Union Bank of Loogootee with capital of \$30,000 and deposits over \$500,000. While closed for a brief period during the Great Depression, it was licensed to reopen in 1933. It had become the city's only bank by the 1950s.

203 JFK Avenue. Strange Brothers Building, Italianate, 1890/1885, contributing. Joseph George, architect and contractor Right side of photo 07

This two-story brick building carries many of the same features from the bank building to the south including second story window details and metal cornice. A portion of its original storefront is visible on the north side of the adjoining stairway entry. This building has a modern (c. 1970) storefront. The building was constructed for Strange Brothers Grocery in 1890. It was a grocery store into the 1920s and later Hasler's Market.

219 JFK Avenue. Gambles Department Store, c. 1965, non-contributing Left side of photo 04

The one-story brick building has two storefronts composed of metal storefront doors and windows, though the south storefront has had its doorway filled in with brick and a window. The parapet has also been wrapped with metal. These changes render the building non-contributing.

227 JFK Avenue. Walker Building, Queen Anne, c. 1900, contributing. Mesker Brothers (St. Louis, MO) cast iron storefront Middle of photo 04

The two-story brick building features a cast iron storefront composed of fluted pilasters and fluted columns that flank a deeply-recessed entry. The storefront has modern metal walls with wood display windows. The transom is covered by metal. A stairway door, also metal with a modern vinyl transom window, is on the north end of the façade. A pressed metal cornice is at the top of the storefront. It juts out with two projecting oriel bays in the second story. The two-sided bays have wood skirts and large 1/1 modern vinyl windows. The bays are covered with

¹ "Two Loogootee Banks Merged" Evansville Courier and Press 16 July 1929. Pg. 5. Col. 3

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pressed metal and feature a frieze with swags in low-relief over each window. The bays are topped with a metal cornice and hipped roof covered with metal. The parapet features two sections of brick wall that rise above a wide center section. The center section juts out and is supported by brick corbelling. The center section features a recessed panel enframed with pressed metal. The panel has the name WALKER painted on it. The center section is topped with a metal cornice. The flanking sections feature attic vents and are topped with stone. The building had a drug store operating from its storefront from about the time it was constructed into the 1920s.

229 JFK Avenue. Commercial, Italianate, c. 1900, contributing. Right side of photo 04

The two-story brick corner building has a c. 1950 storefront of glass block and wood covering the transom area. The storefront is flanked by cast iron pilasters. The second story has modern 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and pressed metal hoods. Panels of brickwork are under the windows and a wide panel of brickwork is at the top of the second story. The building has a pressed metal cornice. The building had a jewelry store operated by James E. Porter from its storefront from about the time it was constructed into the 1920s. Porter was married to Mary (Molly) Porter and was listed as a watchmaker and later proprietor of a jewelry store in the 1930 census.

301 JFK Avenue. Commercial, c. 1910/c. 1940/c. 2000, non-contributing. The two-story corner building has a brick wainscot and vinyl siding and modern windows. The cumulative changes to the building with all modern materials render it non-contributing.

305 JFK Avenue. Indiana Telephone Co. Building, International Style, 1966, contributing. Right side of photo 21, photo 22

The one-story corner building features taller sections of tan-colored brick and a corner section composed of storefront glass and doors that features a wrap-around metal canopy supported by metal posts set on stone blocks. The front façade has a wide brick section on its south half. The brick wall is divided into vertical panels by recessed courses of header brick. The north half features rows of metal windows with metal panels in the bottom. A metal and glass entry door is near the middle of the row. The metal canopy forms a line that allows clerestory windows to continue above the rows of metal windows. This section is topped by a metal cap and is approximately five feet shorter than the brick wall to its south.

The building was one of six new facilities opened by the Indiana Telephone Corporation throughout southern Indiana in 1966. It was part of an \$11 million infrastructure project.²

² "ITC Executives Finalize Plans for Six Open House Events Sunday" *Jackson County Banner*. 14 Sept 1966. Pg. 14. Cols. 6-8

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401 JFK Avenue. Loogootee Municipal Building, 1978, non-contributing. Midwestern Engineers, architects; Nolan Construction, contractor Right side of photo 19

The city municipal building is one-story with a wide front gable. The building has tan-colored brick walls with vertical bands of stucco that form bays for 1/1 metal windows with stone sills and the recessed entry which is north of center on the façade. The recessed entry features a pair of metal doors with full windows. A bronze building plaque is in the recessed area. A belt course of soldier brick is near the bottom of the windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A taller gabled section is at the back of the building and houses garage bays for city vehicles.

The Loogootee Municipal Building was constructed in 1978 to take the place of the city's former facilities located in an old livery building on West Main Street, where the fire department first housed their engine and carts as early as 1907. The new building was constructed using \$402,000 in federal funds. The building was dedicated on September 26, 1978.³

407 JFK Avenue. Loogootee High School Gymnasium, Tudor Revival, 1927, contributing. Architect- Harry E. Boyle (Evansville), Contractor- W. J. Van Hoy (Loogootee) Right side of photo 16, photo 17

The two-story brick gymnasium building has a stone base and brick pilasters with stone caps that divide the building into bays with windows composed of glass block. The building has a barrel-vaulted roof covered with rubber. The front façade is divided into three sections by pilasters. The middle section, much wider than the flanking sections, features an entry composed of four modern metal doors with windows and transoms. A frieze carved with GYMNASIUM is over the doorways. A panel of brick is above the stone frieze and features three stone shields. A window of glass block with a stone sill and panel of stone ashlars in the center is over the panel in the second story. The doorways, frieze, panel, and second story windows are enframed in a surround of stone long and short work tabbed into the brick. The surround is topped by a stone cornice with finial in the center. Small windows of glass block flank the surround on the first story. The outer sections feature windows of glass block in the first and second story. The windows have stone sills and brick label lintels. The building's broad front parapet is arched and features crenelations. The parapet is capped with stone and has a stone block carved with a shield centered at the top.

The building was constructed on the campus of the former Loogootee High School in 1927. The building was constructed at a cost of \$30,000 by W. J. VanHoy, a local contractor. The building, which also functioned as an auditorium, features a stage and balcony and was projected to seat 800 people.⁴

³ "Loogootee to Open Two New Buildings" *The Indianapolis News.* 25 Sept 1978. Pg. 3. Cols. 5-6

⁴ "Boyle gets call for 10 Tri-State School Buildings" Evansville Press. 10 April 1927. Pg. 26. Col. 1

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411 JFK Avenue. Office, Colonial Revival, 1978, non-contributing.

The one-story brick, side-gabled office building is a late 20th century interpretation of the Colonial Revival style with a pair of entry doors and wood surround with broken pediment in the style.

John F. Kennedy (JFK) Avenue, east side, going south.

408 JFK Avenue. Ranch, 1958, contributing.

Right side of photo 20

The one-story L-plan house is composed of random-coursed limestone ashlars in both smooth and rusticated finish. The house has wood slider windows with stone sills and porch in its inside corner. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

404 JFK Avenue. Office, Colonial Revival, 1960, contributing.

Left side of photo 18

The one-story, side-gabled brick office building has wide fluted corner pilasters of wood that visually support an entablature at the top of the first story. The entablature features rows of dentils and a cornice with cornice returns on the side-gables. The building has 8/8 wood windows over a wood panel. The recessed entry centered on the façade features a wood door and side-lites. Two windows are north of the entry and a wide display window divided into multiple panes is south of the entry. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

402 JFK Avenue. Office, Modern, 1964, contributing.

Right side of photo 18

The one-story, front-gabled building features walls composed of Roman brick and two storefronts. Each storefront has a cutaway wall recessed back to an entry door in its south end. The wood entry doors and display windows are modern. The gable wall is covered with wood and the roof is covered with metal.

400 JFK Avenue. Office, 1960, contributing.

The small one-story concrete block building features a cutaway corner entry with metal storefront door and a large metal display window in its west wall. The building has a low-pitched front gable wall covered with metal and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

304 JFK Avenue. Office, Farm Bureau Building, International Style, 1969, contributing. Photo 23

The tall one-story brick building features a wide-projecting bay of brick pilasters and deeply-recessed metal windows divided into multiple panes. A wide recessed section in the south half of the bay features an entry door in its north wall and metal windows in its front (west-facing) wall. Each section flanked by pilasters feature stucco above the windows. The parapet is capped with metal.

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200 JFK Avenue. Commercial, Italianate, c. 1903, contributing. George L. Mesker & Company (Evansville) cast iron storefront Left side of photo 01

The two-story brick building's primary façade fronts the public square to the south, but it also features a wide storefront on JFK Avenue. The storefronts are composed of fluted cast iron pilasters, both wide and narrow, and a fluted cast iron column for a cutaway corner entry. Modern brick and metal display windows are between the pilasters and the corner entry door is metal and glass. The transom area is covered by a fabric awning. A wood stairway door and transom are in the east end of the south façade. The second story features 1/1 wood windows with rusticated stone sills and smooth lintels on the west façade and metal hoods on the south façade. The second story of the south façade has corner pilasters of brick. These form with brick corbels at the top of the wall to carry a pressed metal cornice with finial on the east end. The second story has four windows: a pair of windows flanked by windows. Two carved medallions of stone are in the top of the second story and feature brick surrounds with keys.

The building was constructed as part of the Huebner, Shirley & Gates Company building about 1903. Huebner, Shirley & Gates Company had the large hardware and implement building adjacent to the east. This building contained a drugstore on its corner storefront into the 1950s. The drugstore was a Rexall Drugs during the 1940s-1970s. A dentist was located on the second floor. The JFK Avenue storefronts included a tailor, barber, photographer, and confectionary/restaurant during the 1900s-1920s.

North Line Street, east side, going north.

106 North Line Street. Commercial, 1965, contributing. Middle of photo 09

The one-story brick building has metal display windows and doors and a front-gabled roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. The gable wall is covered with vinyl siding. The front façade has a pent roof supported by wood posts across the full width of the wall which appears to be a late addition. The entry door is in the north end of the façade and two wide display windows are south of the door.

200 North Line Street. R. R. Slusser Building, Craftsman, 1914, contributing. Left side of photo 03, photo 08, left side of photo 12 (Main Street)

The two-story, brown-colored brick building is situated on the corner of North Line Street and East Main Street to form an angled southwest corner. Its quadrilateral footprint leaves the visible facades in a "flatiron" format. The building features a stone base and has a wide storefront, filled with brick, on its Main Street façade and storefronts that face west to the public square. The building facades are divided into bays by two-story pilasters of brick with stylized capitals. The corner is cutaway between pilasters and features a vertical recessed panel of brick trimmed at the top and bottom by tan-colored brick. The west façade storefronts feature wood doors with full windows, and metal display windows. The transom area is covered with wood. Panels of tan-colored brick, enframed with brown brick, are above each storefront.

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The second story windows, mostly covered with wood, feature carved stone sills and lintels composed of tan-colored brick. The Main Street second story façade has a larger window covered with wood flanked by tan-colored panels enframed with brown brick and stone corners. The west façade has a group of three windows (filled with wood) in the bay over the south storefront. The bay second from the south is wider and features two pairs of windows (filled with wood). The building features a soldier course of tan brick topped by a course of header brick at the top of the second story. This is topped by a carved stone cornice at the base of the stepped parapet wall. The parapet wall steps up in the center on Main Street and has the building stone carved with R. R. Slusser. The parapet fronting the public square steps up near the center and has the date stone carved with 1914. Both the date stone and building stone are enframed with brown brick with stone corners.

The building was constructed by R. R. Slusser in 1914 to fill in the wedge-shaped void between Line Street and the buildings that fronted Main Street to the south. The building contained the post office on the south corner, a millinery, and a real estate office.

206 North Line Street. Craftsman, 1916. Contributing

The two-story building was constructed off the northwest side of 101 E. Main Street (1888) shortly after the Slusser Building was constructed to the south in 1914. While under the same ownership as 101 E. Main, the building is being counted separately. The building has similar or matching details to the Slusser Building and is divided into two bays. The south bay has a deeply recessed entry on the first story and a row of seven 1/1 wood windows in the second story. A single window is south of the row of windows. The north bay is much narrower and has a pair of doors in the first story and two 1/1 wood windows in the second story. The windows have a stone sill and brown brick lintels. The Kennedy grocery store was a long-time fixture in this building. In 1968, when Robert Kennedy was campaigning for president, he stopped in Loogootee and had a photo-op at the grocery store. An estimated 600 people crowded the downtown square to see Kennedy.⁵

208/210 North Line Street, Craftsman, c. 1916. Contributing

While the building's ownership is divided between the north and south bays, it appears to have been constructed as a single building with details matching those of the two-story buildings to the south. A barbershop has been located in the south bay since at least the 1950s.

Northeast 1st Street, west side.

103 Northeast 1st Street. Duplex Complex (three buildings), c. 1930/1995, non-contributing. This lot has two two-story, gabled buildings covered with metal and features modern windows and doors. One dates to about 1900 while the other is new, but both are similarly proportioned. A third building is one-story with a flat roof and is covered with vinyl siding. All three buildings are considered non-contributing.

⁵ "Kennedy Resumes Hoosier Political Battle" *The Indianapolis Star.* 23 April 1968. Pg. 6. Col. 6

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North Street, south side.

203 North Street. Office, Colonial Revival, 1985, non-contributing.

The brick, side-gabled building is a late 20th century interpretation of the Colonial Revival style. It has a wood cornice with dentils, 1/1 wood windows, three dormers on the front façade, and a wood entry surround composed of pilasters and entablature.

North Street, north side.

101 North Street. Bank, 1968, contributing. Seen in the left background of photo 08

The tall one-story building faces south to the point created by the intersection of North and Line Streets. The building is composed of Roman brick and has corner pilasters capped with stone. The front façade has a metal storefront door with side-lites and transom centered on the façade. It is flanked by a pair of metal display windows set on a stone panel. A pent roof, covered with metal, extends over the entry and windows between the corner pilasters. The building has a front-gabled roof that was added in the early 21st century. The roof and gable wall are covered with metal. Because the remaining exterior finishes and facades convey its 1968 appearance, the roof does not render the building non-contributing.

Public Square

Site, c. 1885, contributing. Photos 02-03

Fountain, c. 2020, non-contributing (object).

The triangular-shaped public park in the center of the district features concrete curbing and a raised lawn. Several modern features, such as benches and streetlights, are located in the park. Because of its scale and prominence, the fountain, installed about 2020, is counted as a non-contributing object.

Public Square Street, north side.

103 Public Square Street. Larkin Brothers Building, Romanesque Revival, 1898, contributing. Mesker Brothers (St. Louis, MO) cast iron storefront.

Right side of photo 01

The two-story brick building has a cast iron storefront composed of fluted pilasters at the corners and fluted columns that divide the storefront into a central, recessed entry and large, modern metal display windows set on brick bases. The recessed entry features a pair of modern wood doors with windows and transom composed of art glass. The transom area is covered with a fabric awning which rises to a sill course of rusticated stone on the second story. There were once five arched windows on the second story. The middle window and outer flanking windows are extant. The middle window is divided into two modern vinyl 1/1 sashes. The flanking windows are 1/1 vinyl. The windows' arches are composed of rusticated brick and stone keys.

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The area under the arch is filled with molded plastic in a fan pattern trimmed with a row of dentils. The second story features corner pilasters and a frieze of rusticated brick. The frieze is topped by a large, pressed metal frieze with garlands and a cornice, from which rises a metal building sign at the center. The sign bears the year 1898 and Larkin Bros.

The Larkin Brothers, John F. and Patrick, opened a large dry goods store with clothing and boots and shoes in 1898 at this location. A fire shortly after the location opened caused the company to remodel and open the new facility. The building had over 15,000 square feet and was considered the largest mercantile in Martin County in 1902. Generations of the family operated the store until 1990 when it closed.

Main Street, south side, going west.

102 1/2 East Main Street. Commercial, 1978, non-contributing.

The west corner is seen on the left side of photo 09

The one-story concrete block building was built in 1978 but has a wood plank façade with a stepped parapet installed c. 1990. The year and modifications render the building non-contributing.

102 East Main Street. Knights of Columbus Hall, Neoclassical, 1911, contributing. Left side of photo 09

The two-story, brown-colored brick building has rusticated corner pilasters capped with stone and windows, covered with wood, with stone sills and lintels. A wide overhanging eave is at the top of the second story, forming a cornice-like feature which is covered with metal. The parapet is stuccoed and is stepped up in the center of the front façade with a pediment that bears the building stone carved with K OF C. The front façade has a full-width porch with brick walls and corner piers. The walls and piers are capped with stone. A set of steps lead to the entry centered on the façade. The entry, which features a modern metal door, is in a projecting vestibule. The vestibule is flanked by windows that are covered with wood. The second story has three windows covered with wood. The Knights of Columbus, an organization of the local Catholic church in Loogootee, was established as Council No. 732 in 1903. They constructed this lodge hall in 1911 at a cost of \$8000.

109 West Main Street. Commercial, Italianate, c. 1885, contributing. Right of middle in photo 05

The two-story brick building faces JFK Avenue and features a single storefront composed of stone Doric pilasters. The pilasters divide the storefront into three narrow bays of brick and modern metal display windows. The entry, a metal storefront door with side-lites, is in the north bay. The pilasters support a stone spandrel over segmental-arched transoms covered with wood. The second story features three segmental-arched openings with stone sills and lintels. The outer two have small 1/1 wood windows with the remaining covered with metal. The middle opening is covered with metal. The brick cornice features brackets rows of dentils. A one-story addition

⁶ "Mammoth Trade Center" The Weekly News (Martin County) 18 July 1902. Pg. 3. Col. 3

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is at the back (west end) of the building and has a shed roof and is covered with metal. John Meyer operated his jewelry store business from this location by about 1885. A jewelry store continued at this location through the 1920s.

107 West Main Street (east). Commercial, Neoclassical, c. 1905, contributing. Right side of photo 05

Cast iron storefront attributed to George Mesker.

This two-story brick building with a single storefront has the cast iron storefront, stone, and parapet details matching the Reynolds Hardware Building fronting JFK Avenue because it was built/connected by the hardware about the same time. This building has modern metal display windows and doors and three 1/1 wood windows in the second story. The building is counted separately because it is under separate ownership and fronts Main Street. It is connected to the c. 1930 industrial building to the west, which is counted separately.

107 West Main Street (west). Carnahan Factory Building, c. 1920, non-contributing. This brick building is L-shaped with a one-story section that fronts Main Street and a two-story section that fronts NW 1st Street. The facades that front streets are covered with metal, however, the inside corner facing the intersection of Main and NW 1st Street has exposed brick and rows of large, industrial sash steel windows. The metal cladding on the principal facades renders the building non-contributing. A two-story automobile garage was located in the southwest corner of the site by 1920. The building housed the Reliance Manufacturing Company's plant for sewing and fabrication of navy uniforms during World War II.

201 West Main. JP South Factory, c. 1950, contributing.

Main Street, north side, going east.

204 West Main Street. Commercial, 1948, non-contributing.

Left side of photo 10

The one-story concrete block building features two storefronts of original metal display windows and modern storefront metal doors. The front and west walls have been mostly covered with vinyl siding which renders the building non-contributing.

200 West Main Street. Livery/Fire Department/City Hall & Police Dpt., c. 1905, contributing. Right side of photo 10

The one-and-a-half-story brick building has a double-hipped roof behind a tall, stepped parapet wall that fronts Main Street. The building has a cutaway corner entry to Main Street that features a cast iron pilaster on its west side and a cast iron column with stylized Ionic capital at the corner to support the wall overhead. The cutaway entry features modern storefront display windows and door. The transoms are covered with wood. A wide, former carriage entry with segmental arch is west of the corner entry. This has been filled in with display windows and wood. A wide storefront is in the west half of the façade and features a row of four metal display windows and door with transoms covered with wood. The parapet features recessed panels of soldier brick in each ascending section of wall. The middle part has brick corbelling at the top between pilasters.

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The parapet is capped with rusticated stone. There are two modern 1/1 vinyl windows with rusticated sills centered in the second story. They have wood jamb extensions that support a steeply pitched pent roof. These are modern additions.

A large, frame livery building was at this location by 1902. It was followed by this brick building, constructed as a livery, about 1905. That building included a barbershop at the corner storefront. By 1907, the town's fire department housed some of their equipment in the building while they maintained another building near the opposite, southeast corner. By 1920, the city was using the building for its fire department that included a chief and seventeen volunteers, several carts and a chemical tank. The city expanded its use of the building to include a police department and municipal offices by the 1950s.

110 West Main Street. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall, Neoclassical, 1903, contributing. Left side of photo 11

The two-story brick building features a cast iron storefront composed of fluted corner pilasters and fluted columns that divide the storefront into three sections with a wide recessed middle section. The middle section has a store entry door and stairway door. The storefront material is modern metal display windows and wood walls and wood infill for transoms. A steel beam extends across the top of the storefront. A building stone carved with 1903 is centered above the beam. Brick pilasters flank the second story and parapet and feature corbelling at the bottom.

The second story has three tall former window openings with a belt course of rusticated stone that forms sills and lintels. The middle former opening is filled with brick. The outer openings are narrower with the top half filled with brick and the bottom half featuring a short 1/1 modern wood window. The building's tall parapet has three rows of brick pilasters that are set on stone tables supported by stone corbels. The middle row has four pilasters, and the flanking rows have three pilasters. The middle row is flanked by brick pilasters, corbelled at the bottom, that rise to frame the building name panel. The building's parapet is composed of brick corbelling between the rows of pilasters and is capped with rusticated stone. The pilasters that flank the building name panel are capped with rusticated stone. The letters IOOF are painted on the building name panel.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows had established their chapter in Loogootee by 1869. The lodge constructed this building in 1903 for use as their lodge hall on the second story. A post office and barber shop were on the first story in 1903. By 1920, the post office had moved, and the building became a hardware and millinery. Hunt's Steamer Café had opened in the storefront by the 1960s.

106 West Main Street. Love & Berry Building, 1884, non-contributing.

Stone storefront, 1884, contributing (structure)

Joseph George, contractor.

Middle of photo 11

This is the site of a brick building that was once taller and twice as wide. The west half was demolished, and the second story of the remaining part was lowered and covered with vinyl siding. However, the notable feature of the building's limestone storefront was retained over the

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full width of the former building. The stone storefront features nine Doric pilasters, four grouped into pairs of two, with carved lintels and the building contractor's name carved into the upper east corner. While the building itself has been rendered non-contributing, the carved stone storefront from 1884 is considered a contributing structure.

The partnership of Love & Berry was established in February 1884 through the dissolution of J. B. Love & Company, a furniture store. The building was built for the new firm in 1884 and included furniture and a general store into the 1900s.⁷

104 West Main Street. Commercial, Neoclassical, c. 1890/1930, contributing. Right side of photo 11

This building carries details similar to the bank building adjacent to the east including first story stone treatment and second story windows treatment. Of the four second story windows, one original window, a 2/2 wood window, is visible. Unlike the plain pediments over the second-floor windows of the adjacent former bank, this building's windows have projecting sheet metal hoods. The building has a modern storefront door and side-lite and display window on the first story. The second story has brick pilasters on the corners and brick corbelling that carries a pressed metal cornice that does not match the bank's cornice. This building likely became part of the bank when renovations were made c. 1930.

101 East Main Street. John N. Breen Building, Italianate, 1888, contributing. Middle of photo 12

The two-story brick building features a Mesker Company cast iron storefront composed of wide fluted corner pilasters and narrower fluted pilasters that flank the center entry. The storefront has large wood display windows with transoms (painted over) that flank a modern wood door. A carved wood panel is under the east display window. The cast iron storefront features a cornice with dentils that extends across the top of the storefront. The second story features three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and cast metal pedimented hoods. The façade is topped with a pressed metal cornice composed of four brackets, enframed panels, and rows of dentils. The building contained a grocery store during the 1900s and restaurant by the 1910s.

103 East Main Street. Commercial, Italianate, c. 1880, contributing. Right side of photo 12

The two-story brick building features a limestone storefront with Doric pilasters that divide it into three bays. Carved stone panels are at the bottom of the flanking bays with modern display and transom windows and a modern door in the middle bay. The second story features three full-round arched 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. The windows have stone sills and ogee-shaped metal hoods. The building's pressed metal cornice features brackets and rows of modillions. The building contained a dry goods and boots and shoes store in the 1900s and a general store from the 1910s into the 1920s.

⁷ "Dissolution Notice" Martin County Herald. 14 Feb 1884. Pg. 3. Col. 3

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Wood Street, south side, going east

209 West Wood Street. St. John's Lutheran Church, Gothic Revival, 1902/1951/c. 1970, contributing. Right side of photo 15

The building is covered with random-coursed rusticated limestone ashlars and features a corner tower (northwest corner) and a steeply pitched gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles tucked behind a gabled parapet wall. A shorter, front-gabled section projects on the front (north side) of the building and a c. 1970 addition with entry is on the back (south side) of the building facing NW 1st Street. The building has 8/8 wood windows with Gothic-arched transoms divided into six panes in a fan pattern. The windows have stone sills and arches composed of voussoirs.

The two-story tower has two narrow 4/4 wood windows with Gothic-arched transoms divided into two panes on each story. The belfry has a wood louvered opening that is pointed at the top. The tower has a low-pitched hipped roof that rises above a simple metal cornice. The shorter, projecting section east of the tower has two narrow Gothic-arched windows and a small roundel in the top of its gabled parapet. The front wall of the nave has an 8/8 Gothic arched window in its east side and tower in its west side. A roundel is in the top of the gabled parapet of the nave. The gable is surmounted by a Celtic cross of carved stone.

The building was first constructed by Loogootee's Presbyterian congregation in 1902 that had incorporated in July of the same year. The Lutheran congregation, which was formed in 1921, purchased the building and renovated it by 1951. St. John Lutheran Church held a dedication of the building in December 1951. Originally planned for removal, the old frame building of the Presbyterian congregation appears to have been encased in Bedford stone.

209 West Wood Street. St. John's Church Parsonage, 1957, contributing. Left side of photo 15

The L-plan, one-and-a-half story house is composed of random-coursed rusticated limestone ashlars. The house has mostly 6/6 wood windows with stone sills and lintels. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A side-gabled carport is on the east side of the house.

105 East Wood Street. Huebner, Shirley & Gates Company Building, Italianate, c. 1902. Contributing

George L. Mesker & Co. (Evansville) cast iron storefront. Middle of photo 01

The two-story brick building actually fronts to the south and the public square; the south façade will be described. It has a cast iron storefront composed of wide and narrow fluted pilasters that frame large modern display windows and a pair of doors near the east end of the façade (there appear to have been two storefronts originally). The transom area is covered by metal. A belt course of rusticated stone forms a sill course for the second story windows. Each half of the second story features a pair of 1/1 modern vinyl windows flanked by a 1/1 vinyl window. Each window or pair of windows features a cast metal hood. Above each window or pair of windows is a round medallion of carved stone with a brick surround with brick keys. The façade is topped

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by a row of soldier brick and a large, nicely-detailed pressed metal cornice that features rows of brackets.

The building was constructed by the Huebner, Shirley, and Gates Company about 1902. The company was a large hardware and implements dealer. Some of the company's leading products in 1902 included Brown-Manly Cultivators, the Milwaukee and McCormick harvesting machinery, Oliver Chilled Plows, and Veerkamp buggies. They also dealt in Baldwin Pianos and Organs. Later, the building would house the Jay C Store in its east half and Mower & Hoffman Hardware in the west half during the 1940s.

East Wood Street, north side.

106 Wood Street. Greene's Body Shop/Garage, c. 1940/1990, non-contributing The one-story, metal-sided garage is located on the site of an automobile garage from about 1920 but has been resided and addition made to the east side c. 1990. These changes render the building non-contributing.

⁸ "Huebners, Shirley, and Gates" *The Weekly News* (Martin County). 18 July 1902. Pg. 3. Cols. 2-3

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		ement of Significance	
Ap) (Ma	plical	ole National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the prop	perty for National Register
Х		A. Property is associated with events that have made a sign broad patterns of our history.	gnificant contribution to the
] I	3. Property is associated with the lives of persons signific	cant in our past.
X		C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a transfer construction or represents the work of a master, or post or represents a significant and distinguishable entity windividual distinction.	sesses high artistic values,
] I	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information history.	important in prehistory or
		Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)	
		A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious p	ourposes
] I	3. 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	n the past 50 years

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Name of Property
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
<u> </u>
Period of Significance
c. 1880-1969
Significant Dates
Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
, <u> </u>
Cultural Affiliation

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Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Boyle, Harry
VanHoy, W. J.
George, Joseph
Mesker & Brothers
George L. Mesker Company

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the estimated construction date of the first building in the district, c. 1880, at 103 East Main Street (right side of photo 12). Several more buildings were built immediately after a fire between c. 1884-1890. A late building boom in the middle part of the 20th century brought additional construction in the north corridor extending the period of significance to 1969 when the last contributing building was constructed at 304 John F. Kennedy Avenue (photo 23). The last roughly ten years of the period of significance brought a number of new businesses and buildings, including offices and a new, purpose-built post office.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Loogootee Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A/Commerce. Commerce played the most important role in the development of the district, particularly related to the town's railroad boom era, and maintained significance into the middle part of the 20th century as the district had a second economic boom due to the construction of Crane Naval Base north of the city.

The Loogootee Commercial Historic District also qualifies for the National Register under criterion C/architecture. The district exhibits a good concentration of late 19th/early 20th century commercial architecture, mostly in the Italianate and Neoclassical styles. This concentration includes a notable collection of cast iron storefronts by the Mesker companies. Six buildings have cast iron storefronts in whole or part; many of these occupy a half or quarter block. Five other buildings have pressed metal cornices or window hoods. Together, these constitute one of the finest collections of 19th century iron and metal ornamented buildings in southern Indiana.

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

ARCHITECTURE

The Loogootee Commercial Historic District reflects the popularity of late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles commonly found in small Midwestern towns built during the railroad boom. Much of the district's early architecture is built in Italianate and Neoclassical styles, often with fabricated elements that were transported by rail to the town. Since the district has at its south edge the railroad and once included depots in the vicinity, transportation of building materials from the railroad to construction sites was particularly easy. These include a number of carved stone and cast iron storefronts throughout the district. There are six cast iron storefronts designed by either George L. Mesker & Company of Evansville or the Mesker Brothers Company of St. Louis. There are about six buildings built in each the Italianate and Neoclassical styles and generally include all the district's earliest buildings built up to about 1914.

Italianate Style

The Italianate style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to communities and created a building boom during the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years. The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling informal Italian farmhouses, but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style. The first Italianate house was constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. In commercial architecture, the style became closely associated with cast iron facades. James Bogardus fabricated the first examples in New York City in the late 1840s. Bogardus published his discoveries in his book *Cast Iron Buildings, Their Construction and Advantages* (1858). Bogardus and other New York City innovators in cast iron found that the repetitive nature of Italianate was well suited to standardization. The style's popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne Style in the last decades of the 19th century. Its impact in commercial districts is typically seen in window configurations, arches, hoods or crowns and in cornices.

These include the group of adjacent buildings at 201 and 203 John F. Kennedy Avenue and 101 East Main Street (photo 07). This corner block of buildings has pressed metal window hoods and cornices typical of Italianate buildings. The corner building has long and short stonework tabbed into its cutaway corner wall. While a bank remodeling campaign c. 1930 changed the original storefront, the original carved stone storefront is located between 201 and 203 JFK where the stairway door is located. It bears the earlier building name and contractor from 1885. This style of carved stone storefront is found on other buildings in the district including 107 West Main and 103 East Main Street, which are also Italianate buildings. The building at 107 West Main, which faces JFK Avenue, has stone segmental-arched storefront bays and second story windows. The building at 103 East Main (right side of photo 12) features full-round arched windows on the

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second story with pressed metal hoods. It also features a pressed metal cornice. The building adjacent to 103 East Main, at 101 East Main (middle of photo 12), features one of several cast iron storefronts by the Mesker Company. This Italianate building retains all its cast iron storefront parts including fluted pilasters, pedimented window hoods, and bracketed cornices above the storefront and at the top of the façade. It also has an original carved wood panel under one display window.

The other notable group of Italianate buildings is located on the north side of the public square at 200 JFK Avenue and 105 East Wood Street (photo 01). While both carry addresses that suggest they front different streets, the two front the public square to the south and create a rather dramatic view of the Loogootee Commercial District. The two buildings were constructed about 1902 by the Huebner, Shirley, and Gates Company with cast iron storefronts, window hoods, and cornices ordered from George L. Mesker. Mesker featured sketches of the two buildings in one of their catalogs. The storefronts have fluted pilasters, both wide and narrow, though the transom area has been covered. The window hoods are simple, flat hoods of pressed metal that form a crown supported by corner brackets. The pressed metal cornices have a frieze of woven garland and brackets. A common feature between the two buildings is carved stone medallions with brick keys. Only the brick coursing under the cornice varies between the buildings with a beltcourse of soldier brick on the Wood Street building and corbels on the JFK Avenue building.

A building that combines elements of the Italianate style with the Romanesque Revival style is part of this group of buildings that front the public square. The Larkin Brothers Building (right side of photo 01) was constructed in 1898 at 103 Public Square and also features a Mesker Brothers cast iron storefront of fluted pilasters and columns. The second story features full-round arched windows with arches composed of rusticated brick and keystones. The building's pressed metal cornice features end brackets with finials, a frieze of swags, and a sign board that rises above the cornice with the Larkin Brothers name and 1898. Another notable building from this early period, and the only building constructed in the Queen Anne style, is located at 227 JFK Avenue (middle of photo 04). The c. 1900 brick building also features a Mesker storefront with cast iron pilasters and columns. The most prominent feature of the building is a pair of projecting, two-sided bays on the second story. Each has a pressed metal frieze bands with swags and a hipped roof.

Other Early 20th Century Styles

The district has a large example of the Romanesque Revival style, a hardware building constructed in 1905 at 105 JFK Avenue (photo 06). The large brick building features a Mesker cast iron storefront of wide and narrow fluted pilasters. The wide pilasters carry brick pilasters on the second story that divide the façade into three parts. The wider, middle part carries a stone balustrade at the parapet. The narrower sections feature rows of narrow full-round arched attic vents and corbeled parapets. The second story windows feature stone sills and lintels that form belt courses across the façade. These details are carried over to the building at 107 West Main which was built about the same time as part of the hardware complex (right side of photo 05).

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The Neoclassical style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930s in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward Classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The style coincided with America's political and economic rise, as well as the coming of age of American cities. By the late 1910s and into the 1920s, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling.

The district has about six buildings that show the emerging popularity of the Neoclassical style at the turn of the 19th century. The best example of Neoclassical architecture was built by the Knights of Columbus for their hall in 1911 at 102 East Main Street (left side of photo 09). The two-story brick building has corner pilasters with brick quoining and a one-story porch with pilasters capped with stone. The building has a pediment-shaped parapet wall that is stucco to appear like stone.

A building that was built shortly after the Knights of Columbus Hall combines elements of the Neoclassical style with the emerging popularity of the Craftsman style and used matching dark brown colored brick combined with tan-colored brick trim. The Slusser Building was constructed in 1914 and wraps the corner from East Main, across from the Knights of Columbus Hall, to front the east side of the public square (middle of photo 08, left side of photo 12). The building has the formality of the Neoclassical style with pilasters, organized rows of windows, and stepped parapets. The building's use of brick trim, carved stone sills and cornice, and stylized pilaster capitals are more common in Craftsman design.

Loogootee High School constructed their public gymnasium in 1927 at 407 John F. Kennedy Avenue at the north end of the district (photo 17). The gymnasium is a barrel-vaulted brick building with stepped pilasters capped with stone. The gym has simple features of the Tudor Revival style on its front façade facing JFK Avenue. These include tabbed stonework and stone panels carved with shields. Most notable is the carved stone pinnacle-like feature over the large, tabbed stone surround and the crenelated parapet that follows the barrel vault over the gymnasium. The other building in the district that reflects early revival styles is St. John's Lutheran Church at 209 West Wood Street (photo 15). The gable-front building with corner tower was constructed in 1902 and remodeled in 1951. The building has random-coursed ashlars and rows of Gothic-arched windows. The building's gabled parapet is surmounted by a stone cross.

Modern Architecture

A significant influence in the district's mid-20th century building boom was construction of Crane Naval Base in northern Martin County in 1941. Employment at the base required travel through the north end of the district on U.S. 231 (JFK Ave.) which prompted construction of several commercial buildings, largely stripped down of ornamental features, in common horizontal, one-story construction. Two buildings in particular demonstrate a higher level of design that leans into the International Style and other Mid-Century features. The buildings are across from each other at 305 and 304 John F. Kennedy Avenue and were constructed in 1966

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and 1969, respectively. The telephone company building at 305 JFK Avenue (photo 22) features an interplay of brick and aluminum and glass boxes, in varying proportions, with a metal canopy that extends out and wraps the corner of the building. The canopy forms a horizontal line between storefront windows and clerestory windows. The Farm Bureau building at 304 JFK Avenue (photo 23) has recessed bays of glass and stucco in a uniform brick box.

Other mid-20th-century buildings in this north corridor of the district include a Ranch House built of random-coursed Bedford stone ashlars in 1958 at 408 JFK Avenue (left side of photo 20). An office building constructed next door at 404 JFK Avenue (left side of photo 18) has a late interpretation of the Colonial Revival style with corner pilasters, carved panels below 8/8 wood windows, nicely-detailed cornice, and cornice returns. The use of the Colonial Revival style continued in the district on an office building across the street at 411 JFK Avenue in 1978. The city also constructed a new municipal building in 1978 at 401 JFK Avenue (right side of photo 19) in a contemporary design with a broad front gable and vertical bays with windows and stucco.

COMMERCE

Loogootee's history is connected to the development of railroad transportation infrastructure in the middle part of the 19th century. While some settlement occurred in the general vicinity by 1818 by Thomas Gootee and Solomon Stewart, a plat was not officially recorded by Gootee until April 4, 1853, in anticipation of construction of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad. The railroad, with a rather serpentine route following the East Fork of the White River, was completed to Loogootee in 1857 along the district's south edge. The railroad connected Cincinnati, Ohio to St. Louis, Missouri through the heart of southern Indiana, and therefore connected the small village to markets on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The original town plat is located on either side of the railroad east of Line Street and designed for roads to be parallel or perpendicular to the railroad which runs southwest/northeast. The most consequential early additions to the town occurred west of Line Street (which runs due north from the railroad) which shaped the town's early commercial growth. The town received a post office the same year it was platted, in 1857. It is presumed the town was named for Thomas Gootee and Thomas Lowe, the engineer on the first train through town.

Not only did the railroad provide an early boon to Loogootee's commercial development, so did the discovery of natural gas and later, in the early 20th century, small reserves of oil. The natural gas reserves were particularly beneficial in the town's early development as several glass manufacturing industries grew to take advantage of inexpensive fuel used to fire and refine products. Some of the town's glass manufacturers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries include Pheonix Window Glass, Loogootee Glass, a bottle works company, and Grahm Glass Sand. Other fired products were produced by Lawhead Brothers Brickyard, Moran Brothers Brickyard, and Loogootee Fire Clay Products Company. All the industries spurred population growth which necessitated stores for goods and services in the growing town.

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The village was incorporated as a town in 1866 and by 1870, the population was 748. The population had grown to over 1300 by 1900, and three years later the town was incorporated as a city. The town greatly expanded its population between 1900 and 1920 when it grew to 2385 people. While the district contains an extant concentration of historic commercial buildings, several commercial buildings were once located south of the railroad, mostly in frame buildings with a few brick blocks. The area south of the railroad was more sparsely populated with commercial buildings but included depots, mills and other industries more closely associated with rail transportation. Little of this historic commercial fabric south of the railroad is extant today. A few early businessmen recorded in the 1876 Indiana State Atlas Directory are Enoch Burton of North Carolina who settled in Loogootee in 1830 and operated a hotel, C. S. Dobbins of Ohio who settled in 1853 and was an attorney, Montgomery & Creclins who established the *Loogootee Times* in 1875, and William R. Pagent of Germany who settled in 1875 and was a building contractor. 9

The town suffered several devastating fires as many cities in the 19th century did, in 1884, 1898, 1903, and 1911. The fires gave shape to the commercial district as rebuilding often occurred in brick and generally followed a more uniform appearance. After the 1898 fire, no frame building construction was permitted in the commercial district north of the railroad. The 1884 fire spawned new buildings in the block west of the square (photo 07). The 1898 fire spawned new buildings north of the square (photo 01), the 1903 fire spawned new buildings southwest of the square (photo 05), and the 1911 fire spawned new buildings east of the square (photo 08). The oldest extant commercial buildings, which appear to have survived the fires, are located next to each other at 101 and 103 East Main Street (right side of photo 12). The building at 103 East Main Street appears to be the oldest in the district and was built c. 1880.

A few of the town's early merchants were Patrick & Jonathan Larkin, who established Larkin Brothers Dry Goods Store north of the square in 1898 (right side of photo 01) and the Strange brothers, who established Strange Brothers Grocery by 1885 west of the square (right side of photo 07). A furniture store was established under the name Love & Berry in 1884 on West Main Street (the stone storefront remains intact and is seen in the middle of photo 11). A massive building block was constructed by the Huebner, Shirley, & Gates Company on the north side of the square by 1902 (left side of photo 01). The company dealt in hardware and farm implements. Magnus J. Carnahan opened a large hardware store and hotel southwest of the square in the mid-1800s. It was destroyed by fire and replaced with the massive brick building about 1905 and sold to William J. Reynolds & Lewis C. Brooks who continued to operate it as a hardware (photo 06). There were also two jeweler-watchmakers in town in the late 1800s into the early 1900s, James E. Porter and John Meyer. Their stores are seen in the middle of photo 05 and right side of photo 04. The White River Bank was established on the northwest corner of Main and John F. Kennedy Avenue (then Depot Street) in 1888 (middle of photo 07). The bank went through a merger and became Union Bank in 1929. While other banks formed in Loogootee, it had become the city's only bank after the Great Depression and into the 1950s.

⁹ Indiana State Atlas 1876, pg. 354

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In 1902, the commercial district boasted three drugstores, groceries, and restaurant/saloons; two dry goods, hardware stores, and jewelry stores; and a bank, livery, furniture store, and hotel. By 1907, services had grown to include additional general stores, restaurants, barber shops, a cobbler, and photography studio. A large opera house with a meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias was built on the northeast corner of JFK Avenue and Wood Street (no longer extant). By 1920, many of the same services were still in place but the district grew to include an additional hardware store, millineries, offices, and with the new automobile age, three large garages including one adjacent to the east side of the opera house. A church was added to the district on the southeast corner of NW 1st Street and Wood Street by a Presbyterian congregation (now a Lutheran Church) in 1902 (photo 15). The Independent Order of Odd Fellows built a meeting hall with commercial space on the first story in 1903 on West Main Street (left side of photo 11) and the Knights of Columbus constructed a meeting hall in 1911 on East Main Street (photo 09).

The town had only marginal growth between 1920 and 1950, yet the commercial district remained important for Loogootee's citizens and a good portion of Martin County. While Shoals, a few miles east of Loogootee, is the county seat of government for Martin County, Loogootee's population remained more than double the size of Shoals and remains the largest population center in the county. An inland naval base was created near Crane, Indiana, in 1941 and created a large, new employment center for the region. Crane Naval Base is located approximately twelve miles north of Loogootee off U.S. 231 (JFK Avenue in the district). Expansion of services at Crane continued during the 1950s through the 1970s and created an added boost to Loogootee's economy. This is best exemplified in the number of additional buildings, particularly related to insurance, banking, and utilities, that expanded along JFK Avenue in the north corridor of the district (photos 18, 24). It also inspired the construction of a new, more permanent home to the post office in 1957 (photo 13). Indiana Telephone Company built a new service building in 1966 (photo 22), a new bank was constructed at the corner of Line and Wood Streets in 1968 (left background of photo 08), and Farm Bureau Insurance built a new office building across from the telephone company building on JFK Avenue in 1969 (photo 23). The population of Loogootee had grown to almost 3000 by 1970. Commercial growth began to expand in earnest south of the district on U.S. 231/Highway 50 in the late part of the 20th century and is generally where the largest concentration of commercial establishments is presently.

Two important 20th century civic developments in Loogootee that are present at the north end of the district include the Loogootee High School Gymnasium/Auditorium built in 1927 on the former campus of the city's public high school (photo 17). The building served as the city's public and social center and remained after the high school was razed. Also of note is the Loogootee municipal building constructed in 1978 on the south part of the former school campus, adjacent to the gymnasium (middle of photo 16). Previously, the city's offices were located at a former brick livery building built c. 1905 which first housed some of the city's fire department equipment by 1907 (photo 10). The town square, which has an unusual triangular-shaped park at its center, featured a water tower in its early days, followed by a town pump and well. Today it features a modern water fountain with the district's historic commercial buildings forming the backdrop to the square (photos 02-03).

Loogootee Commercial Historic District	
Name of Dranagh	

Martin County, IN County and State

Name of Property

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Boyle gets call for 10 Tri-State School Buildings" Evansville Press. 10 Apr 1927. Pg. 26. Col. 1

"Dissolution Notice" Martin County Herald. 14 Feb 1884. Pg. 3. Col. 3

Holt, Harry Q. History of Martin County, Indiana Volumes 1 & 2, 1953.

"Huebners, Shirley, and Gates" *The Weekly News* (Martin Co.). 18 July 1902. Pg. 3. Cols. 2-3

Indiana DNR/DHPA website/SHAARD accessed August 7-8, 2023

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"ITC Executives Finalize Plans for Six Open House Events Sunday" Jackson County Banner. 14 Sept 1966. Pg. 14. Cols. 6-8

"Kennedy Resumes Hoosier Political Battle" *The Indianapolis Star.* 23 April 1968. Pg. 6. Col. 6

"Loogootee to Open Two New Buildings" The Indianapolis News. 25 Sept 1978. Pg. 3. Cols. 5-6

"Mammoth Trade Center" *The Weekly News* (Martin Co.) 18 July 1902. Pg. 3. Col. 3

McAlester, Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Loogootee: March 1902, August 1902, 1907, 1920

"Two Loogootee Banks Merged" *Evansville Courier and Press* 16 July 1929. Pg. 5. Col. 3

United States Federal Census for Loogootee, IN: 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930

25, 27-31, 33-40, 44-52, 54-55, 57

ootee Commercial Historic District	Martin County, IN
e of Property	County and State
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (30 previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Redesignated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey recorded by Historic American Engineering Recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey	gister # rd #
Primary location of additional data:	
State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Federal agency	
Local government	
University	
Other	
Name of repository:	

Loogootee Commercial Historic District	Martin County, IN	
Name of Property	County and State	

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 11 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or × NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16 Easting: 507410 Northing: 4281243

2. Zone: 16 Easting: 507574 Northing: 4280936

3. Zone: 16 Easting: 507346 Northing: 4280807

4. Zone: 16 Easting: 507118 Northing: 4281213

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

Beginning on the southeast corner of the intersection of John F. Kennedy Avenue and Vincennes Street, face east and follow the south side of Vincennes Street to the west side of the alley east of John F. Kennedy Avenue. Turn southeast and follow the west side of the alley, crossing Riley Street, to the north property line of 104 East Wood Street, then turn southwest and follow the property line to the east property line of 106 East Wood Street. Turn southeast and follow the east property line, to the south side of Wood Street, then turn northeast and follow the south side of the street, crossing Line Street, to the east side of Line Street. Turn north and follow the east side of Line Street to the north property corner of 101 North Street, then turn southeast and follow the east property line of 101 North Street to the north side of North Street. Turn southwest and follow the north side of North Street to a line extended northwest from the west side of NE 1st Street, then turn southwest and follow the west side of NE 1st Street, crossing Main Street, to the north side of Railroad Street.

On the north side of Railroad Street, face southwest and follow the north side of the street, crossing John F. Kennedy Avenue and NW 1st Street, to the west property line of 101 NW 1st Street. Turn northwest and follow the west property line, to the south side of Main Street, then go northeast along the south side of Main Street to the intersection of West Main Street and the alley west of John F. Kennedy Avenue. Turn northwest and follow the east side of the alley to the south side of West Wood Street. Turn northeast and follow the south side of the street to a line extended southeast from the west property line of 301 John F. Kennedy Avenue (vacant lot

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behind the building at 301 JFK). Turn northwest and follow the property lines of 301 and 305 John F. Kennedy Avenue to the north side of Riley Street, then turn southwest and follow the north side of the street to the east side of NW 1st Street. Turn northwest and follow the east side of the property line of 407 John F. Kennedy Avenue, then turn northeast and follow the north property line to the east side of the alley west of John F. Kennedy Avenue. Turn northwest and follow the east side of the alley to the south side of Butcher Blvd., then turn east and follow the south side of the street, crossing John F. Kennedy Avenue, to the southeast corner of John F. Kennedy Avenue and Vincennes Street, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district is composed of Loogootee's concentration of historic commercial buildings mostly lining Main Street and John F. Kennedy Avenue. While previous resource surveys identified a small area south of the railroad as part of the commercial district, most of the contributing buildings in that area have been razed leaving the proposed district with the most integrity. The boundaries extend north along John F. Kennedy Avenue to capture two blocks of mid-20th century commercial development. Areas to the north, east, and west of the boundaries are residential in nature. The railroad creates a firm south boundary despite some commercial development that has occurred south of the railroad. Most of the commercial development south of the district lines U.S. 231 and Highway 50 and is late 20th and early 21st century development.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Loogootee Main Street

street & number: 12954 6th Road

city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563

e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com

telephone: 574-780-1423 date: August 17, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Loogootee Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

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• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

•

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Loogootee Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Loogootee

County: Martin State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the north side of the public square

1 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west across the public square from East Main Street

2 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south down Line Street from the north side of the public square

3 of 24.

Loogootee Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Martin County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at the corner of JFK Avenue and Wood Streets

4 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south from the public square at the corner of West Main and JFK

5 of 24.

Date Photographed: April 4, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the Reynold-Brooks Hardware Building on the west side of JFK

6 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at the corner of West Main and JFK from the public square

7 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

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

8 of 24.

Loogootee Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Martin County, IN

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest on East Main Street

9 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at the corner of NW 1st and West Main Streets

10 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

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

11 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west on East Main Street

12 of 24

Date Photographed: April 4, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest on NW 1st Street toward post office

13 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at the corner of NW 1st Street and West Main Street

Loogootee Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

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Martin County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at the corner of NW 1st Street and Wood Street

15 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south along the 400 block of JFK Avenue

16 of 24.

Date Photographed: April 4, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at 407 JFK Avenue/public gymnasium.

17 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at the 400 block of JFK Avenue

18 of 24

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast down JFK Avenue in the 400 block

19 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Loogootee Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Martin County, IN
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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest on JFK Avenue in the 400 block

20 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast into the 300 block of JFK Avenue

21 of 24.

Date Photographed: April 4, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at the corner of JFK Avenue and Riley Street

22 of 24.

Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the corner of JFK Avenue and Riley Street

23 of 24.

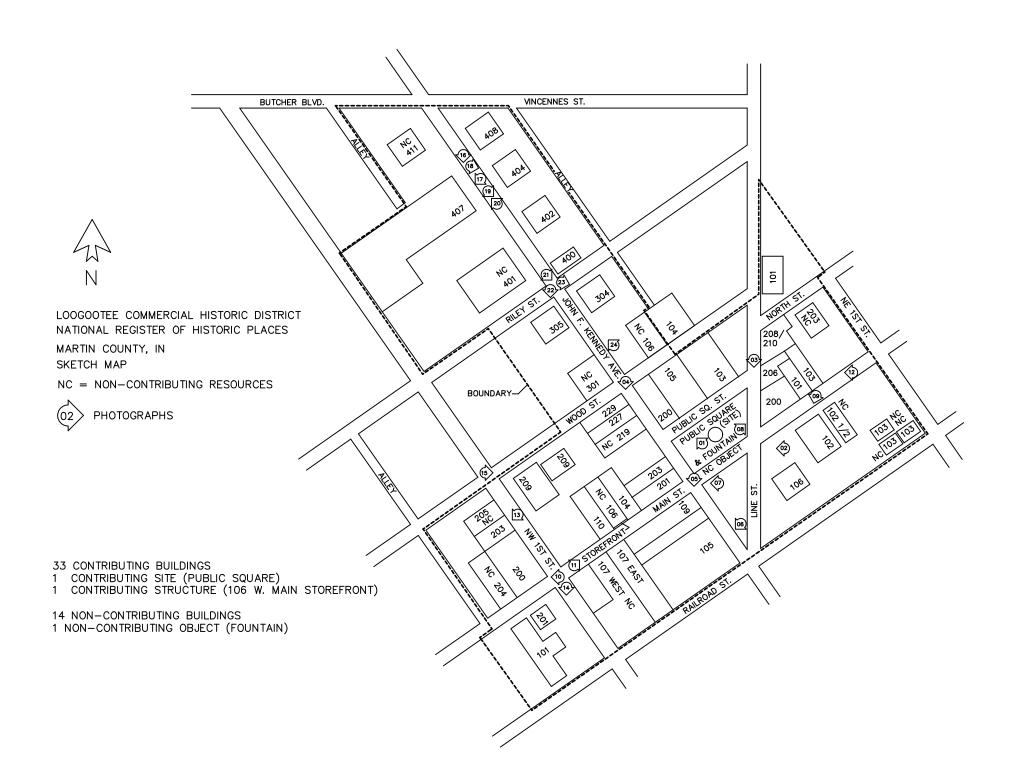
Date Photographed: August 12, 2023

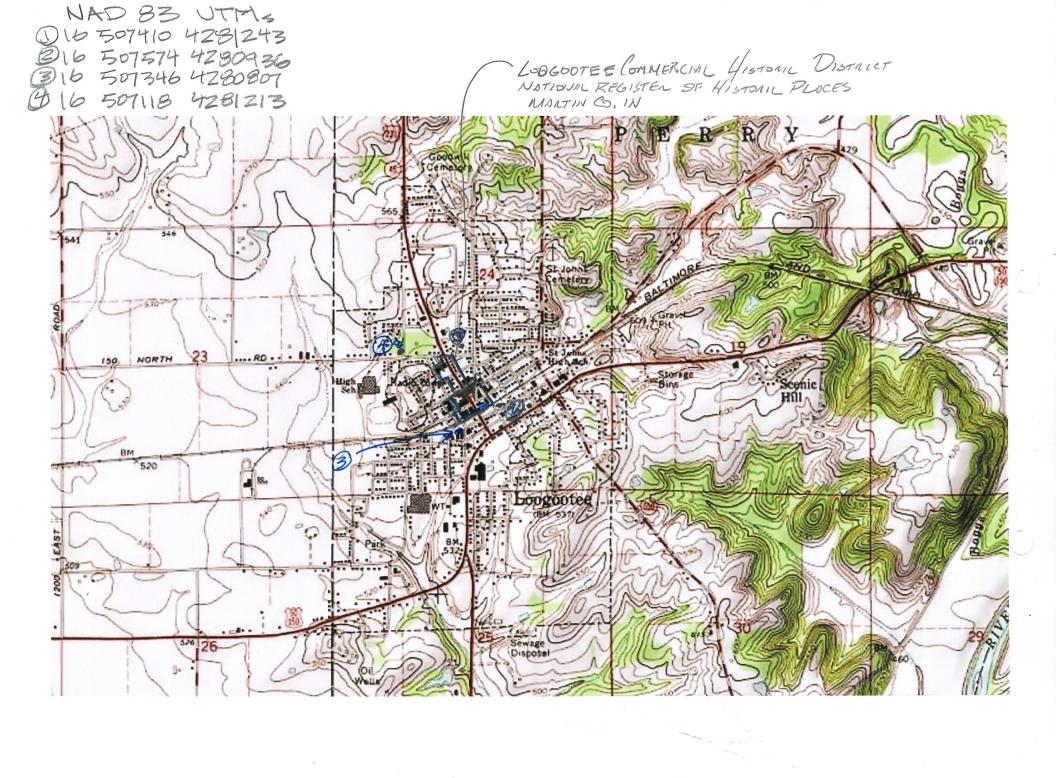
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest into the 300 block of JFK Avenue

24 of 24.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







 $IN_Martin County_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0001$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0002$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0005$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0007$



 $IN_MartinCounty_LoogooteeCommercial Historic District_0010$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0012$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0012$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0013$



 $IN_MartinCounty_Loog ootee Commercial Historic District_0016$