1. Name of Property
Historic name: Bluffton Commercial Historic District
Other names/site number: ______________________________________
Name of related multiple property listing: _________________________
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
Street & number: Roughly bounded by Wabash, Scott, Elm and Marion Streets
City or town: Bluffton State: Indiana County: Wells
Not For Publication: ___ Vicinity: ___

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets
the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide ___ local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

______________________________________________________________
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:) ____________________

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<th>Date of Action</th>
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5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] Private:
- [x] Public – Local
- [ ] Public – State
- [x] Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- [ ] Building(s)
- [x] District
- [ ] Site
- [ ] Structure
- [ ] Object
Bluffton Commercial Historic District
Wells County, IN

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

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/city hall
EDUCATION/library
SOCIAL/meeting hall
TRANSPORTATION/road related (vehicular)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/city hall
EDUCATION/library
SOCIAL/meeting hall
TRANSPORTATION/road related (vehicular)
7. Description

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

- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
- LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco
- OTHER/19th Century Commercial
- OTHER/20th Century Commercial

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: STONE
- walls: STONE: Limestone
- STONE: Granite
- TERRA COTTA
- BRICK
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: ________________________

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

**Summary Paragraph**

Located in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, the Bluffton Commercial Historic District is comprised of predominantly masonry commercial and public buildings constructed in the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. Built on a flat ridge on the south bank of the Wabash River, Bluffton was first platted in a grid system in 1838 and was the first and only county seat of Wells County.

Historically, commercial activity in Bluffton centered around the courthouse, which is a National Register-listed Richardsonian Romanesque showpiece. On Market Street, running along the
The architectural styles most represented in the district include Romanesque Revival and Italianate, however there are examples of Neoclassical, Tudor Revival and modern styles as well. As was common in 19th century downtowns, most buildings share party walls and cover their entire parcel. In some places, demolition of storefronts has created gaps in the downtown streetscape. Later 20th century commercial and public buildings are more commonly constructed independent of other buildings and with modest setbacks. In most instances vacant lots created by demolition have been converted into surface parking lots. Concrete sidewalks and asphalt-paved roads provide pedestrian and vehicular access throughout the district. There are no east-west oriented alleyways within the district, so buildings often have north- and south-facing storefronts or smaller buildings behind a larger structure. North-south alleys bisect each block.

Narrative Description

The Bluffton Commercial Historic District is situated in the downtown of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana. Wells County is located in northeast Indiana, bordered by Allen County to the north, Adams County to the east, Jay and Blackford counties to the south and Huntington and Grant counties to the west. Bluffton, the county seat of Wells County, is located on a flat ridge above the south banks of the Wabash River. In 2015 the county had an estimated population of 27,862, of which almost 10,000 live in Bluffton, making it the largest city in the county.1 The land in the county is primarily prairie and gently rolling hills, but includes some wetlands, forests and waterways.2 Bluffton was originally platted on the south bank of the Wabash River in 1838.3

The commercial historic district is centered on the Wells County Courthouse (National Register of Historic Places listed), set on a half-block of a Shelbyville-style courthouse square. Developed in the early 1800s, the Shelbyville courthouse square was named for the town in Tennessee from which the plan originated. The Shelbyville plan places the courthouse in the center of a full city block, surrounded by four streets that intersect at each corner. Seventy-nine of Indiana’s ninety-two counties have Shelbyville-style courthouse squares.4

2 Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County Interim Report (Fort Wayne, IN: ARCH, Inc., 2010), 10.
bordered to the north and south by Market and Walnut streets, respectively, the courthouse serves as an anchor for downtown activity. Market Street is the primary commercial corridor of the downtown with many of the largest and most architecturally significant buildings located along its route. Many other contributing commercial buildings are located on Main Street and other secondary streets. Beyond the core of commercial buildings on Market and Main streets, it is more common to find surface parking lots where buildings once stood. Concrete sidewalks have been installed throughout the district.

This district is comprised of fifty-nine contributing and sixteen non-contributing resources, most of which are commercial buildings. In addition to the courthouse, other public buildings located in the district include a library, the town hall and a government annex. There is also one residential property, which is now used for commercial purposes, that is included in the district. Brick and limestone are the two primary building materials used throughout the district; however other materials such as stone, wood and modern metal siding have been introduced. The commercial buildings in the district retain a high level of architectural integrity, especially in their upper floors. Many storefronts have been modified in some way, typically in the mid-20th century, to reflect changing styles and tastes. The public buildings within the district retain a high level of integrity as well.

Buildings within the district were primarily constructed between c. 1880 and c. 1930; with a period of intense construction from 1890 to 1905. This period correlates to the Indiana Gas Boom era (1884-1902), when most of the downtown commercial buildings were constructed, particularly those along Market Street. Additionally, there has been some new construction since 1930, some of which is contributing to the district, such as the American Legion Building at 111 West Washington Street, built c. 1947.

Many architectural styles are present within the district. Italianate buildings are the most common; however there are also good examples of Neoclassical, Romanesque Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque and Tudor Revival buildings. Also not to be overlooked are the more recent styles, such as Art Deco, Art Moderne and Modern that are represented in limited numbers. In addition to buildings with a clearly identified architectural style, there are multiple examples of functional 19th and 20th century commercial buildings.

The historic integrity of the district remains largely intact. The district retains its commercial identity as well as that of the center of local government. While many buildings have had street-level alterations, upper level architectural detail and original materials typically remain. The demolition of some buildings within the district has somewhat affected the historic character and rhythm of the streetscapes, but the primary corridor along Market Street has had limited demolition. Most vacant lots have been designated as surface parking lots and are located on side streets.

The following architectural descriptions offer a representative sample of building types and styles in the district.

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5 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County, 75.
1. 217 West Market Street – Star Bakery  
   c. 1895, Italianate  
   Photo 2, far right  
   Contributing  
   This two-story brick commercial block has a single storefront flanked by brick pilasters with limestone plinths and capitals. A modern canvas awning shelters three large replacement display windows with transoms and limestone veneer bulkheads. The transoms are hidden by the canvas awning. A modern glazed metal entry is located on the east side of the storefront. Further to the east of it is a second, slightly smaller glazed metal commercial door that leads to the second floor. On the second floor, limestone belt courses serve as sills and lintels for the three evenly spaced, replacement, one-over-one vinyl sash windows. The windows share a single, continuous, rough-cut limestone sill, but the rough-cut limestone lintel is scored on either side of each window. Above the lintel there are three blind brick arches with multiple courses. The pilasters framing the second story are topped with brick corbels. Across the brick parapet there are two courses of angled bricks topped with additional brick corbelling. The east elevation has two, evenly spaced, historic wood sash, one-over-one windows set in segmental arch openings with limestone sills on the second floor. Moving north, the brick parapet of the roof steps down slightly, then descends to a single-story segment which does not appear to be an addition. The single-story wing on the north end has two small rectangular window openings, followed by a metal door and another similar window opening.

2. 224 West Market Street – Commercial Block  
   c. 1890, Italianate  
   Photo 5, right  
   Contributing  
   This two-story Italianate commercial block has brick pilasters at both corners of the facade. The capitals on the first story act as the plinth for the pilasters on the second story, which extend to the metal cornice. On the first story, at the east end, is a small display window with transom. Moving to the west is a modern glazed metal commercial door with vertical wood siding above and to the west. The west half of the storefront has a large display window with a two-light transom. A modern canvas awning covers the first floor cornice and signboard. Three replacement one-over-one windows are evenly spaced across the second story façade, and all have limestone sills. Carved and painted limestone pedimented lintels grace each window. Above the windows are multiple rows of brick corbeling details. In the cornice, metal panels are situated between metal corbels and the metal capitals/pinnacles on the pilasters. The west elevation has been entirely covered with modern vertical metal siding.

3. 304 West Market Street – Commercial Building  
   c. 1968, Modern  
   Photo 4  
   Contributing
Located on a corner lot, this two-story Modern commercial building was constructed, and is still utilized, as a bank. The building sits on a concrete foundation and has a flat roof with a wide metal frieze. The street-facing, east façade contains a central recessed entry composed of double, full-light, metal-framed doors topped by a single-pane transom and flanked by full-height sidelights. Above the transom and sidelights are three colored panels divided by metal mullions. Above these are several fixed panes of glass, also divided by mullions, which reach the frieze. To each side of the entry bay, the façade is covered with crushed aggregate panels that rise to a clerestory comprised of fixed, square panes of glass separated by thick metal mullions. The west façade, which faces the parking lot, is identical to the east façade. The east and west ends of the street-facing north façade each contain the same crushed aggregate panels as seen on the east and west facades. The clerestory windows also carry around from the east and west facades. The center two-thirds of the north façade is comprised of two rows of rectangular fixed windows separated by a row of square, colored panels. The windows and panels are divided by metal mullions. The upper windows rise to the level of the frieze. The south façade is covered with crushed aggregate panels and contains a full-width clerestory matching the other facades. A drive-through canopy is located on this façade.

4. 225 West Market Street- Commercial Building  
c.1920, Modern  
Photo 6, second from left  
Non-contributing  
This one-story building with parapet roof has been significantly altered by vertical metal siding, which covers the entire upper half-story of the facade, including all windows on that floor. The façade is split into two sections. The section to the west covers two-thirds the width of the building and has three bays which are flush with adjacent properties. The original three-quarter glazed door is centered in this section, flanked by wood storefront display windows on either side. The smaller section to the east is recessed. It has two bays, comprised of a standard-sized door to the west and a wide, wooden garage door to the east. The sidewalk in front of this section is graded such that a car might park in this recessed area leading into the building. A flat metal canopy runs the length of the building above the storefront window and door level. Above the storefront, metal siding extends upward from the canopy level to about six feet above the parapet roof. This appears to function as a modern sign board. Although it was constructed within the period of significance, this building has been significantly altered such that it no longer contributes to the district.

5. 216 West Market Street – Commercial Block  
c. 1885, Italianate  
Photo 7, far right  
Contributing  
This two-story, brick, commercial block has had several alterations. The two-bay façade has a flat awning that extends across the façade above the first floor storefront and continues on the adjacent building to the east. Each bay has a recessed first floor entrance, modern glazed metal
doors with transoms and large display windows set at an angle. Between the storefronts is a painted, glazed wood door that leads to the second floor. Above the awning, horizontal wood siding has been added, but the ornate capitals of the metal pilasters are still visible. The second story features two arched openings that have been modified with vinyl siding infill and three stacks of metal sash jalousie windows. Above the arched brick lintel of the window openings is a blind arch comprised of darker and lighter colored brick that creates the effect of curtains being pulled back. The blind arches spring from a belt course with dentils. The corbeled upper half-story is accentuated on either side of the second story by corbeled pilasters with elaborately carved limestone plinths. The west elevation faces a service alley. It has a secondary entrance at the far end of the southwest corner. Fenestration on this elevation consists of eight irregularly spaced one-over-one, double-hung windows with stone sills. All are on the second floor. There is a single, smaller opening with louvered vent on the northwest corner. Prior to the turn of the century, the Commercial Block at 216 West Market Street served as a restaurant and bakery (c. 1885-1894). It later housed a “fancy goods” store and candy factory, before it was converted to offices (c. 1910-1919).

6. 208-212 West Market Street – Kapp Block
c. 1897, Queen Anne/Gothic Revival
Photo 7, second from right and Photo 8
Contributing
The outstanding Kapp Block is a unique mixture of Queen Anne and Gothic Revival styles. The two-story brick building has two gables on the front parapet and inlaid panels and medallions of carved sandstone. The western storefront has a flat awning that extends from the adjacent building and a recessed entry with a glazed metal door and two display windows. East of the recessed entry is a painted metal door with transom, that leads to the second story. The east storefront has a modern canvas awning above the storefront. The central recessed entrance is flanked by a chamfered display window on either side, followed by a larger, flush display window. The façade retains stone block bulkheads but they have been painted. Brick piers in between the bays and at the east end of the building have simple limestone capitals and support a first story sign band across the width of the building. A brick pilaster with simple Doric capital delineates the individual storefronts by imposing a break in the continuity of the sign band. Both second story bays have an oriel bay with three one-over-one wood sash single-hung windows. The oriels are constructed with copper and are flanked on either side by the carved stone inlays. Above the oriels are carved stone nameplates indicating the date of construction (1897) and the name of the block (“Kapp Block”). Each gable in the parapet has four decorative corbeled pilasters with pyramidal copper caps and carved sandstone gargoyle at the base of the upper half-story. The corbeled frieze is intricately carved with brick dentils, carved stone saw tooth motif and a top row of stretcher course bricks. The parapet roof has copper flashing, coping and gutters.

7. 130 West Market Street/107-113 South Johnson Street – Ashbacher-Quick Block
1903, Neoclassical
Bluffton Commercial Historic District  Wells County, IN

Name of Property                   County and State

Photo 10, far right

Contribution (Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures, 2015)

This two-story brick Neoclassical commercial block has two storefronts facing West Market Street and a third storefront on South Johnson Street that was designed by Cuno Kibele. On the first story façade both storefronts share a central recessed entry marked by two cast iron columns. The entry has two modern glazed metal commercial doors with transoms. Two additional cast iron columns flank the exterior entry for the second floor stairs at the east end of the façade. A shed roof awning covered with painted wood shakes covers the façade and wraps around to the first bay of the west elevation. Above the awning a metal cornice is intact. Brick pilasters with terra cotta capitals divide the upper story into two bays. Each bay has an original Chicago window with wood sash, one-over-one, single-hung windows with a terra cotta sill and lintel. Above the lintels each bay has three square fixed sash windows with terra cotta lintels and sills. Brick corbeling runs across the façade above the pilasters and the parapet is topped with a metal cornice. On the west elevation the northernmost bay has two display widows. The second story has two historic wood sash windows partially covered by metal siding. These windows have terra cotta sills and lintels that match that of the Chicago windows on the façade. Above them, in the same bay, are two square fixed sash windows topped with brick corbeling and metal cornice. The rest of the elevation is simpler. There are four square window openings with elaborately carved limestone hoods, brackets and sills on the first story. To the north of them is a secondary storefront with metal awning, single display window and original wood glazed door. On the second floor there are three pairs and one single round arched opening with bonded brick lintels and limestone sills. The lower single-light wood sashes are intact but the upper sashes are covered by metal siding. Concrete has been parged over the brick of the frieze and cornice on this elevation. The Ashbacher-Quick Block was initially occupied by a tailor, harness shop and grocery/meat store, and later housed a bank and a barber shop (c. 1906-1920).

8. 127-135 West Market Street – Hale Block/I.O.O.F. Hall  
c. 1881, Italianate/Functional  
Photo 11, far left  

Contribution

This three-story commercial block was built in the Italianate style circa 1881 and was updated with a façade renovation in 1934 that gave the building a simpler, more functional, appearance. The original red brick is still visible along the east elevation, while the façade has been covered in a lighter buff-colored brick on the upper floors and glazed black tiles on the first story. On the first story, there is a pair of historic single-light metal doors flanked by storefronts on either side. The metal doors provide access to the upper floors. Both storefronts have recessed entries flanked by display windows with polished granite bulkheads. Both doorways have historic metal commercial-style doors with sidelights and transoms. Modern canvas awnings are located above both storefronts. The western storefront wraps around to the west elevation, creating a single bay with display windows, awning and glazed black tile. Above both storefronts are plain signboard panels. Above the panels on the east storefront, a modern sign has been installed. The second story has a group of three replacement vinyl sash double-hung windows with transoms over each
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

9. 119-123 West Market Street – Morris Stores Block
   c. 1888, Art Deco
   Photo 11, second from left
   Contributing

Like its neighbor to the west, this is a 19th-century commercial block that received a 20th-century renovation. A.M. Strauss designed the Art Deco façade using unpolished and polished granite in 1938. The two-story building is divided into three bays. The first floor contains a storefront at each end flanking central display windows. The storefronts each contain a recessed entry flanked by angled display areas, and the central bay contains four large display windows. A recessed door to the second floor is located at each end of the first floor. A full-width, metal-covered awning is above the storefronts. Metal siding covers the signboard panel. Each bay in the second story contains four openings, the center two having been infilled with aluminum siding. The outer two openings in each bay contain a one-over-one replacement window that fills the lower two-thirds of the opening, with the upper third infilled with aluminum siding. Polished granite panels cover the second floor of the façade. The pilasters at the corners and between the bays and the parapet have inlays of unpolished granite to provide contrast. The pilasters terminate at the top of the parapet, the center section of which is taller and contains a name plate that reads “Home of Morris Stores.”

10. 125 South Johnson Street – City Hall/Engine House
    c. 1879, Italianate
    Photo 13, right
    Non-contributing

This two-story Italianate building with gable roof has been significantly altered with metal siding, infilled windows, and altered storefronts. The southeast corner of the building is chamfered, and openings on the west and south elevations are covered with modern canvas awnings. Facing South Johnson Street the building has two pairs of fixed sash windows flanking a modern fiberglass door with a single light. The second story has five window openings, all infilled with metal siding; however the original metal arched window hoods are intact. The chamfered corner has a single opening filled with glass block on the first story and an infilled window opening with original hood on the second. Along the south elevation there are two additional fixed sash windows, an opening filled with glass block and another fiberglass single-
light door on the first story. A second doorway at the east end of the elevation has been covered with vertical wood siding. The second story has four infilled openings with original window hoods exposed.

11. 223 West Washington Street – Carnegie Public Library
   c. 1903, Neoclassical
   Photo 14
   Contributing
   An example of Neoclassical architecture designed by Cuno Kibele, the Carnegie Library is one of the best examples of the style in Bluffton. The limestone building has a raised basement with replacement vinyl sash one-over-one double-hung windows on all sides. The façade has a slightly projecting central bay with a pediment supported by fluted Ionic order columns. A pair of modern metal frame doors and transom are located in the entrance, which has a carved limestone surround featuring an entablature supported by ornate corbels. On either side of the entrance there is a pair of fixed sash windows and transoms set under carved limestone shoulder lintels with keystones. Above the narrow frieze are large dentils under the cornice and in the pediment over the entry. Above the cornice a limestone balustrade runs along the east, south and west elevations. The east and west elevations also have multiple paired windows identical to those found on the façade. A modern vestibule was added to the east elevation. To the north of the building is an original wing with limestone veneer, mansard roof and one-over-one vinyl sash replacement windows. The north wall of this building has exposed red brick. Off the north elevation is a modern buff brick addition, designed by Bradley and Bradley Architects of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and built in 1963.

12. 102 West Market Street – Wells County Courthouse
   c. 1889, Richardsonian Romanesque
   Photos 24 and 25
   Contributing (Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 1979)
   The centerpiece of downtown Bluffton, the Wells County Courthouse, is a two-story, limestone building on a raised basement with a four-story clock tower, and is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Designed by George Bunting, many characteristics of the style are present in this design including the use of semi-circular arches, rusticated stone, short columns and a prominent clock tower. Throughout the building, historic wood sash windows, in either pairs or groups of three, are set into deeply recessed openings with stone sills and lintels. The historic West Market Street main entrance, facing north, is located behind a five bay-wide arcade in the middle of the façade, and has been modified with modern doors. The arcade is flanked by a gable front wing to the west and the four-story clock tower to the east. An intricately carved frieze runs the width of the building, delineating the first story from the

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7 “Library Addition Open House Set for 2 to 4 P.M. Sunday,” Bluffton News-Banner (Indiana), October 9, 1964, unknown page.
second. This foliated, scroll-patterned frieze is repeated on elements from the second floor roofline to bands on the clock tower and battlements. The second floor above the arcade has five pairs of tall, evenly spaced wood sash windows, all of which have smaller pairs of the same type above them. The gable front portion is three bays wide and features three pairs of evenly-spaced double-hung windows with transoms on the first floor, and three taller pairs of double-hung windows on the second floor. Smaller pairs of similar windows are set in the high water table at the base, providing light and ventilation to the basement. Windows on the second floor have half-round transoms, and are set into prominent semi-circular arch openings with voussoirs. The large clock tower has battered first story walls with a band of three, narrow, double-hung windows and a tourelle with castellated parapet. The east elevation follows the same general rhythm of openings and structure of bays. The central grand entrance bay has a stairway leading up to the recessed entrance, which has replacement doors and original transom. Above it is a wide, sweeping semi-circular arch with voussoirs and elaborate foliated carvings. Where the arch terminates on each side, there is an intricately carved modillion with spiral design and foliated pattern. Above the entrance bay there is a pair of double-hung windows with half-round transoms set in a semi-circular arch opening with voussoirs. Above the arched opening of the second floor is a gabled parapet flanked by round corbeled pilasters of rusticated stone. The three square openings beneath the gable are flanked by round pilasters, and the gable has ornate carvings. The central arched opening on the second floor is flanked by a pair of narrow double-hung windows to the north and a wider, single double-hung window to the south. Further south, there is an identical pair of double-hung windows with arched transom. Further north, in the tower portion, is a band of three double-hung windows. The building’s south elevation follows the same general design as that of the north elevation, though the southeast corner features a castellated appearance. To the west of this corner is a span five bays wide with five evenly-spaced, double-hung windows on the first and second floors. The second floor windows have flat arch lintels. Further west is the three-bay-wide gabled wing that closely matches the gable front wing of the north façade. The north and east sides of the third floor of the tower each feature a wide, semi-circular arched opening with three square, fixed-sash windows on the bottom topped by a three-way split arched transom with voussoirs. Above each arched opening, on the fourth floor, are three rectangular, louvered openings with paired round pilasters flanking the center opening. A clock appears above the rectangular openings on all four sides of the tower. Setbacks on the north and east elevations of the courthouse have resulted in the creation of a small plaza directly adjacent to the main shopping area along Market Street.

13. 101 South Main Street – Bank
   c. 1960, Modern
   Photo 26, left
   Contributing

Another Modern building in the downtown, this two-story, cube-shaped building is largely intact. Most of the façade is covered in square polished granite and metal panels, while the secondary elevations have painted brick walls. A grid pattern created by square metal tubes
provides depth. On the façade there is a pair of display windows north of the recessed entrance, which has a glazed metal door. South of the entrance is a single display window. The entire length of the first story façade and the north elevation are sheltered by a flat aluminum awning. On the second story of the facade, within the grid pattern, there are four sets of stacked awning windows. Each opening has two columns of three modern aluminum sash windows. The north elevation has fixed display windows on the first floor and a second recessed entry. The second story has four sets of stacked aluminum sash awning windows.

14. 105-111 South Main Street – George Arnold Block
c. 1889, Romanesque Revival
   Photo 26, right
   Contributing

This two-story commercial block retains its Romanesque Revival architecture on the second story; however the first story has been covered with an Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EFIS). A single recessed entry with modern replacement door provides access to the building. Above a projecting metal cornice is an EFIS-clad signboard panel. Brick pilasters with large brick corbels divide the second story into three different size bays. On the second story, the north bay has a pair of arched original wood sash one-over-one windows under the gabled parapet with pinnacle. These windows have carved limestone sills, brick arched lintels with limestone coping, and a decorative terra cotta impost. This impost continues across the façade, interrupted by the brick pilasters. Above the windows are three infilled, narrow segmental arch openings that share a single limestone sill and lintel. Under the narrow metal cornice of the gable is a decoratively carved terra cotta band. The middle bay has three original one-over-one wood sash windows with a large limestone shoulder lintel and carved limestone sill. The southernmost bay contains a narrow one-over-one window set between two pilasters. It has a limestone lintel and sill. Above this window are two blind arches resting on the lintel. Large brick corbels fill the frieze of the middle and south bays, while a terra cotta band sits just below. The south elevation of the building has been covered with modern metal siding and EFIS.

15. 101 North Main Street – McFarren Block
c. 1882, Italianate
   Photo 28, right
   Contributing

A large three-story brick Italianate commercial block, the McFarren Block features three bays and a large metal cornice with a gabled parapet and was designed by Edgar Hodgson of Indianapolis. The two first floor storefronts have large display windows and recessed entries with modern doors. A modern glazed tile bulkhead has been added. An exterior door to the second floor is located at the north end of the façade. The signboard is solid wood and separated into three parts by metal corbels. The metal storefront cornice is intact. On the second floor there are pairs of arched window openings flanking a group of three windows in the center bay. All of these windows are shorter, one-over-one replacements, so the upper part of the openings have been filled in with metal siding. A single limestone band serves as a sill, and the window
openings have large limestone hoods. On the third story, pairs of pointed arch window openings flank the center bay of three rectangular window openings. On this floor all of the original wood sash, one-over-one windows are intact. Again, there is a single limestone sill and all of the windows have heavy, scored limestone hoods, including the center bay which has an arched lintel. The large metal cornice has corbels interrupted by a gabled aedicule in the center. Moving to the south elevation, all three floors have segmental arched window openings, however the first floor openings have been infilled with brick. The second floor has replacement windows while the third retains its original wood sash windows.

The McFarren Block is a good example of the type of mixed-use development that was common around the turn of the century. During the early decades of the nineteenth century, the first floor of the McFarren Block was occupied by a clothing store while the second contained various offices. The third floor was dedicated to the Knights of Pythias Hall. The Knights of Pythias was the first fraternal organization to receive a charter under an act of the United States Congress. The organization was founded by Justus H. Rathbone on February 19, 1864; and their charter was approved May 5, 1870. There are at least twenty-two other notable Pythian buildings which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

16. 117 East Market Street – Jacob Stout Block  
c. 1950, 20th Century Commercial  
Contributing  
This one-story brick commercial block has a short brick parapet and shed roof. An asphalt shingle-clad awning runs the across the façade above the two storefronts. The more intact storefront of the two, the west storefront, has large display windows flanking a recessed entry with a glazed one panel wood door and transom. A third display window is located on the west elevation. Alterations to the east storefront have created an angled wall of display windows leading to a replacement single-light door. Vertical wood siding covers the transom and part of the east end of the façade.

17. 121 East Market Street – Doctors Gitlin Block  
1927, Craftsman  
Contributing  
An example of commercial Craftsman architecture, this two-story commercial block has had a midcentury renovation of the first story. The west first floor entrance is recessed into the façade and has a glazed wood replacement door and transom. Between the entrances there is a wall of glazed white bricks laid in a stacked bond interspersed with glass blocks. At the east end is a second entrance that is flush with the façade. It has a wood, three-light replacement door with multi-light sidelights and transom. A simple metal awning is anchored to the building, which spans the length of the façade above the level of the transom. Above the storefront is a panel of brick laid in a basket weave pattern with limestone corner blocks. In the second story there is a
centered fixed sash window flanked by one-over-one, vinyl sash, double-hung replacement windows. All three windows share a limestone sill and brick soldier course lintel with limestone accents. A second panel of brick laid in a basket weave pattern with limestone corner blocks sits above the windows, along with a carved limestone date stone. The façade is topped by a brick pedimented parapet with limestone coping.

18. 111 East Market Street - Christman Block  
c. 1890, Italianate/Modern  
Photo 32, second from right  
Non-contributing
The Christman Block is a two-story commercial block that has been severely altered by vinyl siding, new storefront, windows and doors. The first floor features a central display window with chamfered side walls and vinyl-sided bulkhead, flanked by recessed entries with new doors on either side. Above the storefront is a gabled projection with arched vent opening and cupola. The second floor has only one standard, residential size pair of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl windows. The rest of the façade is clad in vinyl siding. The parapet and frieze have been removed. The Christman Block likely started out very similar in design to the building next door, 115 East Market, before it was severely altered by the addition of modern materials and removal of original details. Although it remains in good condition, the Christman Block lacks historic integrity.

19. 128 East Market Street – City Hall  
c. 1926, Tudor Revival  
Photo 33  
Contributing
The two-story city hall building is a fine example of the Tudor Revival style designed by architect Everett I. Brown. The main façade is divided into seven bays by brick pilasters that rest on the concrete foundation and terminate at the parapet. Dominating the façade is the ornate central bay which features a recessed entry set into a segmental arch, white terra cotta surround. Above the entry are three one-over-one windows set in another segmental arch. The parapet on this bay has a blind arcade with pointed arches in terra cotta. The pilasters on either side have decorative terra cotta inlaid panels, which are also found on the pilasters at either end of the façade. The three bays to each side of the entrance bay feature vertical scored terra cotta bands that rise from the foundation on either side of the window openings to the top of the second floor windows, where it forms a segmental arch lintel. Both first and second floors have three-part replacement windows set into the original segmental arch openings. A white terra cotta cornice runs across the façade and onto the secondary elevations. The west elevation is divided into six bays. On the northernmost bay, both floors have three, evenly-placed one-over-one replacement windows in simple rectangular openings with concrete sills. The narrow bay adjacent to the south has a single replacement window on each floor, which is identical to those in the first bay. The next bay to the south has a single offset door opening with no ornamentation on the first
floor, followed by another narrow bay with a door on the first floor and a rectangular window opening on the second floor. The fifth bay has four identical rectangular window openings on the second floor, all of which have been infilled with a metal panel. The southernmost bay of the west elevation has a single rectangular window opening with concrete sill on the second floor. The east elevation has four bays and irregular fenestration. The northernmost section of the east elevation has irregular fenestration. There are two irregularly-spaced windows and a door on the first floor and three irregularly-spaced rectangular window openings on the second floor. Window openings in this bay have replacement one-over-one windows in simple rectangular openings with concrete sills. To the south is a narrow bay that has a pair of metal doors with transom on the first floor and a rectangular window opening on the second floor. The longer bay to the south of this has four identical rectangular window openings on the second floor- all of which have been infilled with a metal panel. The southernmost bay of the east elevation is blank. Bays on the east and west elevations are separated by simple brick pilasters.

20. 118 North Main Street – Meyer & Kloppenstein Block  
   c. 1900, Romanesque Revival  
   Photo 35, left  
   Contributing  
This two-story commercial building uses unglazed terra cotta and dark red bricks in a highly decorative interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style. Following a fire in 2013, the adjacent building to the south was demolished leaving plaster scars on the south wall which is now covered by vertical blue and white aluminum siding. The storefront was modernized in the 1960s and received another makeover in 2016. On the south end of the first story there is a modern, steel-paneled door with transom that leads to the second story. The single storefront’s entry is recessed with display windows set at an angle and with a metal-framed, glass commercial door with transom. Solid surfaces on the storefront feature white aluminum panels and cement fiber board painted blue for a paneled effect. On the second story there are three original arched, wood sash, one-over-one, double-hung windows. These windows have a single terra cotta sill with egg and dart molding. The arched brick lintels above each window are connected and spring from a decorative terra cotta impost that runs across the façade, interrupted by the window openings. Above the windows, terra cotta is used to outline the shape of a Flemish gable which terminates on either end with terra cotta grotesques. Framed by the gable are two terra cotta roundels with intricate leaf motifs. On either side of the false gable are corbels with terra cotta bases that align with the impost band. A terra cotta cornice with egg and dart molding and dentils spans the upper level of the false gable. Above the parapet, the false gable terminates with a small arch.

21. 126 North Main Street – Hartman-Decker Service Station  
   c. 1922, 20th Century Commercial  
   Photo 36  
   Contributing
A one-story example of a filling station with attached service bays, this building is located right on State Road 1 (Main Street). Although the sign on the building says “since 1934,” this building dates closer to 1922, based on construction type, county records and date listed in previous survey. The filling station is constructed of glazed, cream-colored bricks and has a wide metal cornice with narrow sign band. The building has a deeper setback than other buildings on the block, likely to allow for auto service, and indicating that it was constructed at a later time. The façade has a small six-light metal sash window at the south end. To the north is a solid replacement door, set at a slight angle in the wall. Further to the north is an original metal sash 16-light window, followed by a modern metal glazed commercial door and a single-light display window. The center four lights of the 16-light window appear to have the ability to pivot, but they were not open at the time of site visit. A rectangular opening in the chamfered corner has been filled in with plywood. The north elevation of the filling station has a large display window at the east end, a solid replacement door and another 16-light metal sash window at the west end. Moving further west, to the service building, which was constructed of red brick, there is an original metal sash 12-light window with brick soldier course lintel. Three service bays to the west share a single soldier course brick lintel. The outer bays have historic wood glazed overhead doors, while the middle bay has been filled in with a planter and a sign. Further west is another garage bay with original door, and an extra-wide bay that has been blocked in with vertical wood siding. Past this bay is a filled-in window opening. The flat roof of the service bays has a narrow metal cornice with some concrete accents. The west elevation has brick, concrete block and vertical metal siding. There are two large, evenly spaced window openings similar to the large display window at the east end of the north elevation. Although the openings have been filled in, the original openings and brick sills remain intact.

22. 227 West Wabash Street – Gallman Building  
   c. 1930, Art Moderne  
   Photo 42  
   Contributing

This one-story Art Moderne building features many hallmarks of the style including rounded corners and a horizontal emphasis. The rounded corners of the L-shaped plan of the original building are created with glass block and curved concrete panels featuring Art Deco motifs. Facing West Wabash Street at the west end of the façade there are two garage bays, one with a modern overhead door and the other has been filled in with vertical metal siding. Floor to ceiling windows create the reminder of the façade walls, except where glass block is used at the corners. The windows continue onto the east elevation, where a glazed metal door is located. A narrow copper cornice runs the entire width of the façade. Above the cornice the brick wall culminates into a brick parapet with two levels. The edges of the parapet wall are curved to match the flowing design of the building. The two rounded corners of the brick parapet’s façade feature decorative concrete panels comprised of two curved sections, three panels tall each. The secondary elevations have been covered in modern metal siding. Additions, which are clad in the same metal siding, have been constructed to the north and northeast. The north addition has no windows or doors, but there is a prominent brick chimney along the west wall at the south end,
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

where the addition meets the party wall of the original building. The northeast addition is setback from the original building to accommodate a parking lot. It has a set of modern, metal glazed doors with a metal mansard canopy to the west and a series of four small, rectangular, fixed sash vinyl windows to the east.

8. Statement of Significance

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- 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.

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

- C. A birthplace or grave

- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

Wells County, IN
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

POLITICS and GOVERNMENT


Period of Significance
1879-1968


Significant Dates


Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)


Cultural Affiliation


Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Brown, Everett I.
Bunting, George
Hodgson, Edgar J.
Kibele, Cuno
Powers, William H.
Strauss, A. M.
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Weary and Alford
Wing & Mahurin

Wells County, IN
County and State
Period of Significance (justification)

The years from 1879 to 1968 represent Bluffton’s greatest era of commercial growth in which most of the existing downtown commercial district was constructed. Buildings in the district primarily date from c. 1880 to c. 1930, but there are a few examples that were constructed prior to 1880 or after 1930. Later examples were primarily constructed mid-twentieth century. Modern buildings which have been included in the nomination are at least fifty years old, and are an integral part of the district. Although they do not reflect Bluffton’s greatest period of intense development, which corresponded to the Gas Boom era (1884-1902), these buildings are nonetheless significant for their contribution to Bluffton’s architectural heritage as it progresses into the modern era.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Bluffton Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A as the center of Bluffton’s commercial and social history, as well as the center of government for the town and Wells County. This district is a representation of the town’s growth from a frontier town through the Indiana Gas Boom and beyond. Additionally, the district is significant under Criterion C as a largely intact and concentrated grouping of historic architectural resources related to downtown’s role as a commercial and retail center. These buildings represent a variety of architectural styles and types and retain a high level of architectural integrity.

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

Located in northeast Indiana, Wells County was established in 1837 by the Indiana General Assembly by splitting it and Adams County away from Allen County. The gently rolling hills, 8 Biographical Memoirs of Wells County, Indiana (Logansport, IN: B.F. Bowen, 1903), accessed September 25, 2015, https://archive.org/details/biographicalmemo00doug, 20.
prairie, wetlands, streams and forests of the area were first inhabited by the Myaamia Tribe, until their removal in 1846. Some European-American settlers began arriving in the area by 1829. Soon after formally becoming a county, early officials voted to name Bluffton the county seat. At this time the town was platted by John Casebeer and a log courthouse was constructed. A second courthouse replaced the first in 1845 and the third and current courthouse was commissioned in 1889. All three buildings were located on the same site downtown.

COMMERCIAL

The first recorded merchant in Bluffton was John Studabaker, who was licensed by the county commissioners in 1838. His log store was located on Market Street, which at that time was still heavily forested and the “road” itself filled with stumps. That same year, Almon Case was issued the first tavern license in the county. Case’s tavern and later Exchange Hotel were located at Main and Market streets. These two enterprises marked the first commercial enterprises in Bluffton, in what is today part of the Bluffton Commercial Historic District.

Better transportation routes were extremely important to the growth of the town. As early as 1838 a road was being developed in Wells County to connect to the state route from Marion, Indiana to Greenville, Ohio. Next, a road was developed between Huntington County, Indiana, and Fort Recovery, Ohio. In 1851, after the town of Bluffton was formally incorporated, a plank road to Fort Wayne was under construction. Completed by 1856, the road was mostly plank but in some areas gravel had to be used. This toll road quickly fell into disrepair and its use was limited, however this development opened up trade in Bluffton. A direct route to Fort Wayne meant access to the Wabash and Erie Canal and eastern markets. At this time, Bluffton experienced its first building boom as well as a local population boom. From 1850 to 1860, the Wells County population grew from 6,152 to 10,844 persons.

In 1868, John Studabaker, who had made a name for himself as a merchant and banker in Bluffton, led the push to get a railroad built to connect Bluffton, Fort Wayne and Muncie, Indiana. By partnering with the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati and Louisville Railroad at a huge financial risk to himself and the county, Studabaker made sure the rail line was built. By November 1869, the first train ran down Market Street, Bluffton to Fort Wayne. At this time, Bluffton experienced another wave of economic growth, and in turn, another building boom. Wells County was still heavily forested, and had a plentiful supply of raw materials to support a number of growing industries. Timber related industries also became plentiful in Bluffton during this period. Railroad ties, barrel staves, implement handles, furniture and pianos were all

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9 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County, 10-11.
10 Biographical Memoirs of Wells County, Indiana, 23.
11 Ibid., 22, 26-7.
12 Ibid., 22.
13 Tyndall and Lesh, 334.
15 Biographical Memoirs of Wells County, Indiana, 35-6.
manufactured and shipped from Bluffton on the new rail line. New commercial and residential buildings were constructed as a result of this second wave of growth in Bluffton. In the 1870 United States Census, Wells County had a total population of 13,585, up twenty-five percent from a decade earlier, and had 155 manufacturing establishments.

After the first rail line was completed, citizens and officials pushed for an east-west route through Bluffton. This however was not realized until 1879, when a rail line was built from the state line with Ohio, through Bluffton, to Warren County, Indiana. In 1886, this line was purchased by the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad and converted from the 4-foot 81/2-inch gauge used in England to the standard gauge of 5-foot. Additionally, the Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction company operated interurban lines throughout Wells County and Bluffton in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Agriculture and manufacturing were the main industries in Wells County until 1887, when natural gas was discovered in eastern Indiana. Natural gas was first discovered at the Karg Well in Findley, Ohio, the year prior. The Karg Well was only one of substantial quantities of gas that existed in northwest Ohio, beneath the Trenton Limestone Belt (also known as the Trenton Field), which spanned about 5,120 miles. Wild speculation ensued as hometown investors followed the path of the Trenton Field westward toward north central Indiana. Portland was the first town to drill a well, in March of 1886, but the first profitable well was sunk in Eaton, Indiana. Gas from the Eaton well emitted a flame that rose ten feet in the air, and could reportedly be seen from Muncie, twelve miles to the south.

Sensation spurred by the Eaton gas well resulted in an influx of drilling companies all over the state. Gas was found as far north as Auburn, in DeKalb County, and as far south as Lawrenceburg, in Dearborn County. Successful drilling also took place in Muncie, Kokomo, Anderson, Portland and Marion, from 1886-1889. Even local farmers and businessmen drilled their own wells. Much of how the Bluffton commercial district appears today has been attributed to the Gas Boom Era, when oil and gas speculators descended upon the city in search of productive gas wells. According to the state supervisor of natural gas though, only about half of the property spanned by the Trenton Oil Field was reported to have profitable wells.

Attracted by generous incentives, 162 factories had been constructed by 1880, creating over 10,000 new jobs for communities scattered across the Trenton limestone belt. Early manufacturing industries included glass factories, iron and steel companies. Availability of skilled labor, existing plants with excellent rail connections, and reasonable fuel costs made east central Indiana the ideal location for new industrial endeavors. Hundreds of factories were established in fifty Indiana cities and towns supplied by natural gas. In a report released by the

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16 Tyndall and Lesh, 398.
18 Tyndall and Lesh, 347.
20 Glass, 329.
United States Census in 1900, Indiana was ranked second in glass production; third in wagon and carriage production; fourth in iron and steel products; fifth in agriculture; ninth in paper products and tenth in foundry and machine shops products.

As it is in the rest of the world, the exploration and production of natural gas in Indiana led to significant discoveries of crude oil. Crude oil and natural gas are often found together beneath land or water, but are particularly common beneath shale and limestone belts. While the Gas Boom brought prosperity to eastern Indiana cities, in Wells County it was oil- not natural gas- which fueled economic growth.\(^{21}\) The first commercially viable oil well was put down in southern Wells County in 1890. In 1905 Indiana was number four on the top five list of oil producing states in part due to the oil field found in Wells County.\(^{22}\)

Local businessmen profited by investing in the oil field as well as from increased trade. From 1890 to 1905 the central business district in Bluffton was almost entirely rebuilt around the newly constructed courthouse. New houses, churches and public buildings were also part of the boom. Local newspaper accounts hesitated to call this growth a “boom” referring to it instead as “steady growth.” Masonry buildings that replaced frame buildings, new houses and public works all resulted from the sudden prosperity which oil and gas brought to the area.\(^{23}\) New commercial blocks were built as speculation to attract new businesses to the downtown.\(^{24}\) From 1889 to 1894 nine additions, or 375 lots, were added to the city. Also in 1894, the local paper indicated that there were plans to construct eight new commercial buildings.\(^{25}\)

New industries were also drawn to Bluffton during the gas boom. Early on during this period of growth, local dignitaries assembled to help attract new enterprises to the town. A Board of Trade was established in 1890 to do just that.\(^{26}\) By the end of the gas boom Bluffton had attracted a fair number of industries. Some had been drawn to the city after the railroad was put through, but others were the result of the gas and oil boom. The George W. Grimes Foundry produced oil machinery in Bluffton and even after the boom was over, sent its products to oil fields in the western United States. Other manufacturers included the W.B. Brown Manufacturing Company, a cement company, sawmills, a clay tile manufacturer and a grain elevator.\(^{27}\)

\(^{21}\) Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County, 11.
\(^{27}\) Tyndall and Lesh, 399-400.
Oil and gas from the Trenton field may well have lasted into the new century, if not for the practice of pumping fuel to locations outside of east central Indiana. By the late 1880s, the Indiana Natural Gas Company had constructed approximately 120 miles of pipeline, from Howard County, Indiana, to supply gas to consumers in Chicago. Furthermore, as natural gas resources in Ohio dwindled, Ohio gas companies tapped into wells along the Indiana gas belt. When gas pressure at the wells dropped below 175 pounds of pressure, some gas companies and factory owners built pumping stations. In 1901, gas pressure dropped below 100 pounds of pressure, causing many producers to abandon the wells. Higher-producing oil fields were discovered in Texas and Oklahoma, greatly diminishing the demand for Indiana oil. By 1906, the oil companies were removing their equipment and sending it to the Southwest.28

Most of the smaller gas boom towns along the Trenton limestone belt experienced a sharp economic downturn after 1901. Some of the factories remained open until the 1920s, when failure to secure a consistent supply of natural gas eventually led to their demise. As factories along the gas belt closed, displaced workers left with their families. Medium-sized cities shrank to population levels one-third to one-half of their pre-boom size, resulting in the abandonment of entire neighborhoods. Larger cities—such as Muncie, Anderson and Kokomo—experienced only a momentary lapse in economic viability, as early glass, iron and steel companies transitioned to a new industrial base dedicated to the production of automobiles. Regardless of how short lived the boom had been, it did usher in a new era of prosperity for Bluffton, and the town continued to grow for some time. The county as a whole experienced population growth for many years, until 1910, which was the first year in the county’s history that the national census revealed a population decrease. This trend continued until 1940, when the population eventually began to rise again.29

ARCHITECTURE

This district has a diverse representation of popular architectural styles from the late 19th and early to middle 20th centuries. Overall, the architectural integrity of these buildings is highly intact. First story storefront alterations are common, but manage to retain the commercial nature of the original designs. Not surprisingly, Italianate style buildings make up the largest percentage of buildings in the district. This architectural style was immensely popular in Indiana for both residential and commercial buildings.30 Outstanding examples of this style in the district include the J.L. Humphrey Block (c. 1892) at 201 W Market Street and the Lesh & Bickley Block (c. 1876) at 124 West Market Street (photo 23, right). The Lesh & Bickley Block includes carved limestone lintels, an ornate cornice and limestone pilasters on the first story.

The remaining 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings are a mixture of Romanesque Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque and Neoclassical styles. Romanesque Revival, with its

29 “Historical Census Data over Time.”
The best example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the district is the Wells County Courthouse (Photos 24 and 25). Named for H.H. Richardson, the Richardsonian Romanesque style was his adaptation of the Romanesque Revival style. Buildings in this mode are often faced entirely in rough-faced stone, or are a mixture of materials. Simple in plan but large in massing, these buildings utilize large arches, ribbon windows and contrasting materials. All of these elements are present on the courthouse, which has been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A great commercial example of the style is found at Naman T. Miller Block, 113 North Main Street (Photo 28, far left).

There are a handful of styles that only appear once within the district, including a commercial block designed with a mixture of Queen Anne and Gothic Revival styles, the Tudor Revival Town Hall, a commercial Craftsman, and Colonial Revival residential structure. As a statement to the downtown’s continued development during the early to mid-20th century, modern architectural styles such as Art Deco, Art Moderne and Modern are also present in the district.

Commercial buildings without a discernable architectural style are also present and are described as either 19th or 20th Century Commercial buildings. These buildings are found primarily on the north-south oriented streets and are typically one or two-part commercial buildings, one or two stories in height.

There are a number of architects, both locally and regionally significant, whose work is represented in the Bluffton Commercial Historic District. A.M. Strauss (1895-1958) was a Kendallville, Indiana native who gained experience working in architectural firms in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. In 1918 Strauss opened his own firm in Fort Wayne and eventually became one of the state’s premier architects. His work is found throughout the state and in nearby Ohio. Strauss worked in a variety of popular styles and on a variety of building types. His work ranges from small bungalows to the 22-story Lincoln Tower in Fort Wayne. In Bluffton, A.M. Strauss redesigned the façade of 119-123 West Market Street in 1938.

Cuno Kibele (1866-1927) was a Bluffton, Indiana native and contractor-turned-architect. Trained as a carpenter and masonry contractor, Kibele eventually set up an architecture practice in his hometown. He partnered with William Powers for almost a year from 1897-1898. After that partnership dissolved, Kibele worked alone. In 1904, he moved his family to Muncie, Indiana to oversee a project. In that town he became one of the most sought-after architects, eventually partnering with Carl W. Garrard in order to accommodate his workload. In Bluffton, Kibele had

32 *Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County*, 80.
33 Whiffen, 113.
34 *Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Fort Wayne*, 1996, 23.
designed churches, residences, commercial blocks and other buildings. Within this historic district he is responsible for the Bluffton Carnegie Library, the Ashbaucher-Quick Block at 130 West Market Street and a redesign of 118 West Market Street in 1904.

George W. Bunting (1829-1901) was a well-known, prolific courthouse designer based in Indianapolis, Indiana. He designed courthouses in multiple Indiana counties as well as in Michigan, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kansas. Most of his Indiana commissions are symmetrical examples of classical design motifs, including Renaissance and French Empire styles. The Wells County courthouse is his first and only asymmetrical Richardsonian Romanesque courthouse. He used asymmetrical plans on some of his educational commissions and even incorporated Richardsonian Romanesque elements for Maxwell Hall at Indiana University in Bloomington in 1890. However, even after designing the Wells County Courthouse, Bunting’s subsequent commissions returned to more symmetrical, classical designs.

Edgar J. Hodgson (c. 1855-1916) of Indianapolis designed the commercial block at 101 North Main Street c. 1881. In an Indianapolis News interview from 1881, Hodgsen listed a number of projects and clients across Indiana, including four projects in Bluffton as well as jails in Muncie and Winchester. In addition to those projects, he also designed the jails in Wells and Montgomery counties, Indiana. Hodgson eventually moved from Indianapolis to St. Paul Minnesota sometime c. 1884, where he worked in a partnership with Allen H. Stem, another Indianapolis local, until 1891.

Wing & Mahurin, a Fort Wayne-based partnership between John F. Wing (1852-1947) and Marshall S. Mahurin (1857-1939), was established in 1882. The pair soon became Fort Wayne’s premier architects, specializing in Richardsonian Romanesque, Queen Anne and Neoclassical

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buildings. Their designs are found throughout Indiana and Ohio, and in Bluffton they are given credit for the commercial block at 107 West Market Street.

Weary and Alford Company was an architecture and engineering firm based out of Chicago, Illinois that was known around the country for its bank and office building designs. Not surprisingly, the building designed by the firm in Bluffton is the Studabaker Bank Building at 113 West Market Street.

Everett I. Brown (1894-1960) was a Bluffton-native and architect who designed the town’s City Hall. Later in life, Brown moved to Indianapolis and continued to grow the firm he had established in 1914, the Everett I. Brown Company. Brown designed the town hall in Warren among other commissions before he left Bluffton. In Indianapolis his firm continued to grow and even after his passing, under the leadership of his descendants, became the largest architecture and engineering firm in Indianapolis.

William Powers (1862-1927), another Bluffton native, designed the commercial block at 202-204 West Market Street and other buildings within the Bluffton Commercial Historic District. Powers worked with Cuno Kibele for about a year, from 1897-1898. There are also known residential designs by Powers in Bluffton.

Overall, the Bluffton Commercial Historic District is an intact representation of the town’s commercial development, especially from the period between c. 1885 and c. 1930. Interspersed with notable public buildings like the courthouse, the district also embodies the central role Bluffton played in the history and development of Wells County. These blocks of historic commercial and public buildings represent a variety of architectural styles and types with a high level of integrity.

41 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Fort Wayne, 24.
46 Zeigler, 554.
The land that would eventually become Wells County was originally settled by the Miami Tribe. Centered along the Wabash and Salomonie Rivers, portions of Wells County were part of an individual reserve granted to the Miami by the Treaty of 1818. The first recorded permanent Euro-American settlers arrived in 1829. Following the acquisition of Native American land, the Indiana legislature approved the subdivision of most of northern Indiana into counties. Wells County was organized by the Indiana General Assembly on February 2, 1837. Originally consisting of Rock Creek Township (west) and Harrison Township (east), Wells County has since been divided into nine townships. The county seat was established at Bluffton.

The first courthouse and jail were erected in 1838. The current courthouse is the third to occupy the same site, which was designated as a quarter-block “public square” in the 1836 plat of Bluffton. The first courthouse was funded from the sale of cemetery lots. It was an eighteen by twenty-four foot, two-story log structure erected by David Whitman. Prior to that, governmental functions were carried out at the residence of Robert Bennett. A log building of similar size was erected to the south to serve as a jail, but both buildings eventually burned. In April of 1843, the commissioners contracted Almon Case to build another courthouse, but he sold the contract to George W. Webster of Marion, Indiana. The second courthouse was a two-story Greek Revival structure with a Doric tetrastyle portico and enclosed belfry. Over the course of forty years several additions and annexes were built, but that courthouse was eventually condemned by Judge Henry Sayler of the 28th Judicial Circuit, due to “lack of space and dissatisfaction with hygienic conditions.” In the summer of 1888 the vacated courthouse was rented as a commercial property by two different merchants successively, John W. Tribolet and F. Mosiman, while their own stores were remodeled. On December 13, 1888, the county commissioners went to Frankfort to “examine the courthouse at that place.” They were so impressed that they returned home to Bluffton and issued orders for the construction of a new courthouse. George W. Bunting was chosen to design the new courthouse, which was completed in January and dedicated in March of 1891. One of the earliest visitors- and possibly the most prominent- was Benjamin Harrison, who spoke on the plaza during the presidential campaign of 1891. Since that time, the courthouse has served as a focal point for political activity and public events.

Wells County was generally perceived as predominantly Democratic. The common pleas court, which was limited to small claims, guardianship, probate and misdemeanors, existed from 1852 to 1873. Joseph S. Dailey was elected district attorney of the common pleas court in 1866. Daily spent his entire life as a resident of Wells County, except for his term as the forty-fourth judge on the Indiana Supreme Court. Prior to serving as a Supreme Court justice, Daily had served as

50 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Wells County, 11.
51 Ibid.
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

Name of Property: Bluffton Commercial Historic District
County and State: Wells County, IN

prosecutor for the Tenth Judicial District, and a judge on the Huntington-Wells Circuit Court.53 Upon leaving the Indiana Supreme Court in 1895, Daily returned to Bluffton to practice law with his son, Frank. Other Bluffton politicians of note include Asa W. Brown, who moved to Bluffton in 1906, and A.W. Hamilton who served as the Mayor of Bluffton in 1908. Brown was a Republican who was drawn to the area during the oil and gas boom. He served three terms as a County Commissioner, and also worked as a city and county health officer.54 A.W. Hamilton was a Democrat who served as a joint senator for Wells, Blackford and Grant Counties; and a circuit court judge in Wells and Blackford counties in 1918.55

Oliver Starr gained historical significance as the seventy-seventh judge of the Indiana Supreme Court from 1945 to 1951. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Starr was best known for prosecuting the most infamous theater bombing case in Indiana history. The 1928 bombing of the State Theater was perpetrated by the owner of three other theaters in town who felt threatened by the new competition. The blast was so powerful that it caused more than a million dollars in damage to the surrounding properties, in addition to destroying the theater. The state was represented by Starr, who easily secured a guilty verdict. Oliver Starr left the prosecutor’s office in 1931 to pursue miscellaneous political positions, including judge of the appellate court, United States Representative and Senator.56 Although those efforts did not prove to be successful, Starr was undaunted.

In 1944 he was elected to the Supreme Court. Over the course of his six years on the Court, Starr wrote 124 opinions. The case that garnered the most publicity for the Court during Oliver’s tenure involved a bitter rivalry between local politicians John K. Purcell, county prosecutor of Sullivan County, and Norvall K. Harris, the Circuit Court Judge. Purcell secured indictments against Judge Harris for forgery, embezzlement and writing fraudulent checks. Harris retaliated by appointing a special counsel to investigate Purcell, which led to a restraining order prohibiting the judge from interfering with the performance of his special duties, or attempting to coerce the grand jury. Harris refused to suspend the special prosecutor’s grand jury proceedings though, and deliberately made statements to prejudice members of the jury against Purcell. A contempt of court citation was issued against Harris for his actions, and he was fined three-hundred dollars and ordered to serve sixty-days at the Indiana State Farm. Oliver Starr chose not to run for re-election and retired from the bench in 1951.

Not much else has been documented about the early political history of Bluffton. Bluffton remains the county seat of Wells County.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

53 Linda C. Gugin and James E. St. Clair, Justices of the Indiana Supreme Court (Indiana Historical Society Press, 2010), 176.
55 Dorothy Rose and Joyce Buckner, History of Wells County, Indiana, 1776-1976 (Wells County: Bicentennial Historical Publication Committee, 1975), 334.
56 Gugin and St. Clair, 308.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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


Sections 9-end page 33
Bluffton Commercial Historic District


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**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:**

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other
  - Name of repository: ____________________________

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 179-056-21001/84, 179-056-23013, 179-056-26032
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  **22.5 acres**

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- [ ] NAD 1927  or  ⃝ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16  Easting: 654120  Northing: 4511652
2. Zone: 16  Easting: 654126  Northing: 4511242
3. Zone: 16  Easting: 654501  Northing: 4511246

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

From the starting point at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Water Street and North Marion Street proceed east along the curb of West Water Street to the alley between North Marion Street and North Johnson Street; turn south and proceed along the alley to the curb on the south side of West Wabash Street; turn east and follow the curb of West Wabash street east to the southwest corner of the intersection of West Wabash Street and North Main Street; turn south and proceed 35'; at this point, turn east and cross North Main Street, continuing along the north property line of 121 North Main Street; at the alley behind this property, turn south and proceed down the alley to the curb on the south side of East Perry Street; turn east and proceed 60'; at this point, turn south and follow the east property line of 121 East Market Street and straight across East Market Street; at the south curb of East Market Street, turn east and proceed to the southwest corner of East Market Street and Scott Street; turn south and proceed along the west curb of East Scott Street for one block, to the northwest corner of Scott Street and East Walnut Street; turn west and proceed along the north curb of East Walnut Street to the alley between South Main Street and Scott Street; turn south at this point and proceed south along the west side of the alley, across East Washington Street and to the northwest corner of the alley and East Elm Street; turn west and travel along...
the north curb of East Elm Street, crossing South Main Street, and continue along the north curb of West Elm Street to the northwest corner of West Elm Street and South Johnson Street; turn south and proceed along the west curb of South Johnson street to the northwest corner of South Johnson Street and West Cherry Street; turn west and travel along the north curb of West Cherry Street to the alley between South Johnson Street and South Marion Street; turn north and proceed along the east side of the alley to the north curb of West Elm Street; turn west and proceed to the northeast corner of West Elm Street and South Marion Street; turn north and proceed along the east curb of South Marion Street to the northeast corner of South Marion Street and West Washington Street; turn east and proceed 55’ to the southwest corner of the legal parcel of 223 West Washington Street; turn north and proceed along the west property line of 223 West Washington Street and across West Walnut Street to its north curb; turn west and proceed along the north curb of West Walnut Street to the alley between South Marion Street and South Williams Street; turn north and proceed along the east side of the alley to the south curb of West Market Street; turn east and proceed along the south curb of West Market Street to the southeast corner of South Marion Street and West Market Street; turn north and proceed three blocks north along the east curb of North Marion Street to the southeast corner of West Water Street; close on start point at the southeast corner of North Marion Street and West Water Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Bluffton Commercial Historic District incorporates the collection of contributing public and commercial buildings that best represent the period of Bluffton’s greatest commercial growth.
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Galbraith, Jill McDevitt, and Leslie Perrigo
organization: ARCH, Inc.
street & number: 818 Lafayette Street
city or town: Fort Wayne state: IN zip code: 46802
e-mail: jdowns@archfw.org
telephone: 260-426-5117
date: February 28, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

Wells County, IN

Name of Property: Bluffton Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: Bluffton
County: Wells
State: Indiana
Photographer: Michael Galbraith (all but Photo 35 which was taken by Jill Downs)
Date Photographed: July 6, 2015 (all but Photo 35 which was taken December 28, 2018)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0001):
View of 213 (left), 211 (second from left), 209 (third from left), 207 (third from right), 203-205 (second from right) and 201 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 2 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0002):
View of 217 (right), 221 (center-right), 225 (center-left) and 229 (left) West Market Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0003):
View of 222 (left) and 224 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0004):
View of north and east elevations of 304 West Market Street. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 5 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0005):
View of 222 (left) and 224 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 6 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0006):
View of 207 (far right), 209 (second from right), 211 (third from right), 213 fourth from right), 217 (fourth from left), 221 (third from left), 225 (second from left) and 229 (far left) West Market Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 7 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0007):
View of 216 (far right), 208-212 (center-right), 206 (center-left) and 202-204 (far left) West Market Street. Camera facing southeast.
Bluffton Commercial Historic District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018

Wells County, IN

Bluffton Commercial Historic District

Wells County, IN

Name of Property                   County and State

Sections 9-end  page 40

Photo 8 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0008):
Partial view of 208-212 West Market Street. Camera facing south.

Photo 9 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0009):
View of 202-204 West Market Street. Camera facing south.

Photo 10 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0010):
View of 130 (right), 126 (second from right), 124 (center), vacant lot (second from left), and 118
(far left) West Market Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 11 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0011):
View of 127-135 (left), 119-123 (center) and 117 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing
northeast.

Photo 12 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0012):
View of 115 (left), 117 (center) and 119 (right) South Johnson Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 13 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0013):
View of 125 (right) and 121-123 (second from right) South Johnson Street. Camera facing
northeast.

Photo 14 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0014):
View of façade and west elevation of 223 West Washington Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 15 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0015):
View of 118-122 (left) and 116 (right) South Johnson Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 16 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0016):
View of 111 (right) and 123 (center) West Washington street and south and east elevations of
125 South Johnson Street (left). Camera facing northwest.

Photo 17 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0017):
View of 213 (right) and 205 (left) South Main Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 18 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0018):
View of south and east elevations of 203 West Cherry Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 19 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0019):
View of north elevation of 200 West Washington Street. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 20 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0020):
View of storefronts on east elevation of 202-204 West Market Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 21 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0021):
Bluffton Commercial Historic District  Wells County, IN

Name of Property  County and State

View of west elevation of 127-135 West Market Street (right). Camera facing northeast.

Photo 22 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0022):
View of 114 North Johnson Street (left) and 120 and 122 North Johnson Street (right, past cross-street). Camera facing northwest.

Photo 23 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0023):
View of vacant lot (left) and 124 West Market Street (right). Camera facing southwest.

Photo 24 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0024):
View of courthouse north elevation, 102 West Market Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 25 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0025):
View of courthouse east elevation, 102 West Market Street, including tower. Camera facing west.

Photo 26 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0026):
View of 101 (left) and 105-111 (right) South Main Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 27 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0027):
View of 117 (left) and 119 (right) South Main Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 28 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0028):
View of 101 (right), 105 (center-right), 107 (center-left) and 113 (left) North Main Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 29 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0029):
View of 113 (left), 109 (center-left), 107 (center-right), and 101-105 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 30 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0030):
View of east elevation of 101-105 West Market Street (left) and 112-114 North Main Street (right). Camera facing northwest.

Photo 31 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0031):
View of 117 (left) and 121 (right) East Market Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 32 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0032):
View of 107 (far left), 109 (center-left), 111 (center-right) and 115 (far right) East Market Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 33 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0033):

Photo 34 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0034):
Bluffton Commercial Historic District, Wells County, IN

Name of Property: View of 112-114 North Main Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 35 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0035):
View of empty lot at 116 (left), 118 (center) and 120 (right) North Main Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 36 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0036):
View of north and east elevations of 126 North Main Street. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 37 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0037):
View looking southwest down North Main Street from Wabash Street, including 120 (right), 118 (center) and 112-114 (left) North Main Street. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 38 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0038):
View looking southeast down North Main Street from Wabash Street, including 121 (right) and 125-127 (left) North Main Street. 125-127 North Main Street is outside the district boundaries. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 39 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0039):
View of 120 (left) and 122 (right) North Johnson Street. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 40 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0040):
View of south and west elevations of 125 North Johnson Street. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 41 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0041):
View looking east along West Perry Street including north elevations of 114 North Johnson Street (left), and 203-205 (second from left), 207 (second from right), and 209 (right) West Market Street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 42 of 42 (IN_Wells County_BlufftonCommercialHistoricDistrict_0042):
View of South elevation of 227 West Wabash Street. Camera facing northeast.

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.
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<td>50 130/107-113 West Market Street/South Johnson Street C 1903 Building</td>
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<td>51 201 West Market Street C c.1892 Building</td>
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<td>52 202-204 West Market Street C c. 1899 Building</td>
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<td>53 203-205 West Market Street NC c. 1892 Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>54 206 West Market Street C c.1898/1927 Building</td>
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<td>55 208-212 West Market Street C c. 1897 Building</td>
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<td>Name of Property</td>
<td>County and State</td>
<td>Date/Time Period</td>
<td>Type</td>
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<td>c. 1901</td>
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<td>57 209 West Market Street</td>
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<td>c. 1898</td>
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<td>61 217 West Market Street</td>
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<td>c. 1895</td>
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<td>64 224 West Market Street</td>
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<td>c. 1890/1920</td>
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<td>65 225 West Market Street</td>
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<td>66 229 West Market Street</td>
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<td>c. 1908-1925</td>
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<td>67 304 West Market Street</td>
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