NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number 093-038-22000

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by L, 14th, 17th, and H Streets N/A ☒ not for publication

city or town Bedford N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Lawrence code 093 zip code 47421

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick R. Ralston 4-26-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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

Bedford Courthouse Sq. H.D.
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Indiana
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [x] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
64	20	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
66	20	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: specialty store, business, professional, financial institution, restaurant
GOVERNMENT: courthouse, city hall, correctional facility, fire station
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related
LANDSCAPE: park
RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, music facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: specialty store, business, professional, financial institution, restaurant
GOVERNMENT: courthouse, city hall, fire station
SOCIAL: meeting hall
LANDSCAPE: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
Classical Revival
Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls STONE: limestone
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD: shingle

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bedford Courthouse Sq. H.D.
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Indiana
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1850-1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Scholer, Walter/Dodd, Charles/Fields, Albert/Pearson, Henry/McGuire & Shook

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Bedford Courthouse Sq. H.D.
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 23.3 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	544620	4301540
2	16	545040	4301530
3	16	545040	4301150
4	16	544540	4301150

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maribelle Dyer, Bill Silvers, Mary Margaret Stipp and Steve Wyatt

organization Bedford Revitalization, Inc. date December 12, 1994

street & number 1024 16th St. (P.O. Box 221) telephone (812) 275-8047

city or town Bedford state IN zip code 47421

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name List available at DHPA

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description

The Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District is located about three miles north of the geographic center of Lawrence County. Bedford, the county seat of Lawrence County, is north of the East Fork of the White River, which divides the county in half. The community's primary east-west highway, U.S. 50, passes through the district on 15th and 16th Streets. U.S. 50 extends to St. Louis, Cincinnati and beyond.

The Lawrence County Courthouse, situated in the center of a city block bounded by I, J, 15th, and 16th Streets, is the focal point of the district. Additional contributing buildings face the streets in the next half block in every direction from the courthouse, with more contributing buildings further west. The entire proposed historic district lies within the bounds of the original 1825 plat, which established the grid street pattern and alley widths. Unique to Bedford among Indiana communities is the street identification system: from north to south, the east-west streets are numbered, while from east to west, the north-south streets are alphabetical.

Of the district's 84 total buildings, 64 are contributing to the district, while 20 are non-contributing. Most of the non-contributing buildings date from after the period of significance, while a few non-contributing buildings are old, but have been altered to the point where they have lost their historic integrity. None of the district's buildings were previously listed. One contributing site, a park, and one contributing object, a monument, are included in the district.

The county's first park, Lawrence Park, was located west of the courthouse from 1893 to 1923. The western portion of the courthouse lawn continues to provide the downtown's primary greenspace. Lawrence Park is counted as a contributing site. In this lawn area are also the Soldiers, Sailors, and Pioneers Monument, 1923; a World War II Memorial and a 1948 Cornerstone of Freedom Memorial (identical to those given to other nations by the Indiana Limestone Company); a Korean War tablet; and a Vietnam War marker. Only the 1923 memorial was considered to be of sufficient scale to be counted as a resource, it is a contributing object.

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The Soldiers, Sailors, and Pioneers of Lawrence County Monument (photo 10) was built in part with funds willed by Moses Fell Dunn, whose will also provided funds for the Dunn Masonic Temple and Dunn Memorial Hospital. The monument consists of a high limestone plinth topped by a stone allegorical female figure. The plinth has relief sculpture on each face: the west panel depicts the Civil War, the south side is dedicated to the Spanish-American War, the east panel is a World War I scene, and the north panel has a pioneer scene. The robed female figure wears a laurel wreath crown and carries a palm branch, signifying victory and peace. Beside her is a sheaf of wheat and an anvil, symbols of prosperity.

The district contains a wide variety of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. Prominent buildings tend to be located on the square, while smaller commercial blocks tend to be found on streets leading away from the square. Building materials are brick and limestone. Unlike many courthouse squares, and because of Bedford's prominence in the stone industry, limestone is used for most of the c.1900-1930 buildings rather than brick. However, a roughly equal number of late 19th century brick buildings remain in the district. Buildings front closely to the sidewalk. Styles range from modest Greek Revival examples, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival are common as well. Many buildings are vernacular commercial stores. The oldest building in the district is a brick double-pile house (now City Hall) and most recent contributing building of note has an Art Deco facade.

GREEK REVIVAL

Some modest elements of the Federal era and Greek Revival style can be found on the Michael A. Malott House (photo 1). Probably the oldest building in the district (c.1850), it has served as Bedford City Hall since 1901. It is five-ranked, center hall painted brick double pile house with typical Federal bridged chimney stacks on each parapeted gable end. The central entry has been remodeled and the original six-over-six windows have been replaced with one-over-one windows. There is a shallow frieze and

cornice board across the front wall. A recently-added rear walkway connects this building to the police department next door. City Hall now houses the Mayor's Office and other city offices, as well as providing public meeting space used by the City Council.

Another building with some Federal/Greek Revival influence stands at 908 16th Street and dates from c.1860 (photo 17). The storefront has been replaced with large display windows and iron or steel posts supporting the upper walls. The brick second floor reveals the pattern of the original openings, even though they are now closed off with brick. Stone lintels and sills mark window openings. The only exception is between the first and second of the five former openings, where a larger infilled area marks the former location of a large fixed window which lit a photographer's studio. The entablature has dentils and a simple molded cornice. The roof is side gabled. Bailey's Flowers & Gifts now occupies the building.

ITALIANATE

Four buildings in the district are Italianate in style, dating from about 1880-1898.

Among the earliest remaining Italianate buildings, and also very likely the oldest stone facade on the square, is the c.1880 building at 1516 I Street (photo 20). Completely remodeled on the ground floor with a shake shingle canopy and modernized storefronts, the upper two floors retain much character. Second floor walls are channeled masonry with five round arched two-over-two windows having a continuous belt course/window hood. The third floor has a centered round arched window with surround flanked by large blind roundels. The entablature has been removed. Sue's Breakfast and Lunch now occupies this building.

Next door at 1522-24 I Street is another Italianate block dating from about 1885 (photo 21). This building is three stories tall and has red brick walls, but the storefront has been obscured by permastone infill. The second floor has seven bays. Windows have

been altered, but the segmental arched openings with keystone hoods in limestone remain in place. Sills have small corbels. The third floor originally had oculi over each second floor window, but only two to the south remain unfilled. The sheet metal cornice features larger brackets interspersed with modillions. McIntyre & Smith attorneys are current occupants.

Just off the square at 1603 J Street, (now occupied by Wooden Nickel) is an Italianate building constructed in 1892 (photo 12). Vertical board siding hides the original storefront. The three windows on the second floor have aluminum siding infill panels, but the continuous sill and incised lintel hoods survive. Three blind recessed panels with corbel tables align over the windows. The cornice has simple brackets, and a large pedimented nameplate with the date 1892 rises above the building.

At 1407 I Street north of the square is a circa 1905 building occupied by Riverside Printing. The brick Italianate building has a shed roof. The storefront has rock-faced corner piers and a recessed side entry. The transom area is covered by a signboard. Three blocked off windows are on the second floor. Above this is a central horizontal panel with corbel table. Small windows flank this recessed panel. Above the small windows are large paired linked corbels with a narrow paneled cornice between them. This building is now free-standing, but the side and rear walls have plain brick walls.

Another Italianate example is on the east side of the square, at 1508-10 I Street, now occupied by Hansel & Gretel children's clothes and the Stone City Bank annex. The two story stone building dates from c.1895. The north half was altered in 1993; only the cornice remains. The south half has much better integrity. In style, this building actually combines some Romanesque Revival and classical influences with its overall Italianate feeling. The storefront dates from the 1950s, but the second floor walls have original rock-faced stone walls with one-over-one rectangular windows. Window lintels are rock-faced gauged stone flat arches. The sheet metal cornice shows some Queen

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Anne/Eastlake influence in the repetitive bull's-eye moldings, and brackets are widely spaced.

ROMANESQUE REVIVAL

The Moses Fell Building (also known as the Atrium), 1545 J Street, dates from about 1895. The building (photo 13), features rock-faced limestone above the remodeled storefront. Over the reworked transom area is heavy stone lintel with a narrow dentil course. The J Street front has three second floor bays, each with a rectangular one-over-one window. Openings have heavy lintels, above which are widely spaced voussoirs forming a blind segmental arch. Above this is a corbel table, rock-faced frieze, narrow cornice, and a high parapet. Corners are marked by decorative turrets with finials. This level of treatment wraps around to the first bay on the 16th Street facade. The rest of the side facade is of brick with rock-faced stone sills and lintels for windows.

Stone City Bank Building (photo 21), 1536 I Street, is a circa 1895 limestone building occupied as a paint and wallpaper store since at least 1941. The storefront may date from the 1920s and has large plate glass windows with a recessed, angled central entry. Large transom windows are of ribbed glass. Above this is the signboard, capped by a metal cornice. The rest of the facade is of limestone, starting with a three-dimensional checkerboard frieze on which rest engaged compound piers and a central collonette all with diaperwork neckings and fanciful capitals. A guilloche frieze runs across behind the capitals. A massive egg and dart enriched blind round arch spans the center two bays. Floral ornament rises to the top of the building from side capitals. The original gable capping the large arch and completing the building is missing.

Other vernacular buildings in the district show some Romanesque Revival influence.

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QUEEN ANNE

Downtown Bedford has only one example of Queen Anne architecture, a c.1895 building at 1531 J Street occupied by Ballpark Heroes. The first floor has a c.1950 storefront and a stone pier has been added under the second floor oriel corner window. Originally, a column supported the oriel. The rock-faced limestone upper walls contrast with the smooth continuous lintel over the five part window group. Above the window group is a corbel table. The corner oriel window has kick panels, a swag frieze and corbel table cornice topped by an octagonal roof.

NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL

This style is most prevalent among early 20th century buildings in Bedford. Several monumental examples executed in Indiana limestone stand in the district.

Dunn Memorial Masonic Temple, 917 15th Street, dominates the north side of the courthouse square (photo 14). This 1918 structure rises six stories and has a limestone veneered main facade, with brick exposed on the sides and rear. The ground floor serves as a rusticated base with deeply recessed storefronts. Four giant order Scamozzi Ionic columns *in antis* rise from the second floor to just above the windows of the third level. The building's facade is recessed behind the colonnade, except for the antae and the top floor (sixth level on the interior), which has nine sets of 18-light windows. A full entablature with denticulated cornice divides the the sixth floor from the rest of the building. On the frieze are carved the words "Dunn Memorial Temple". The third floor windows also have 18 panes as well as carved stone moldings. The treatment is more elaborate on the second floor and third floor windows, with triangular and semicircular pediments resting on consoles over the windows.

The interior has commercial space on the first floor, a dining room in the basement, and Masonic meeting room on the second floor. Also on the second floor is a library, ladies lounge,

cloakroom, and a lounge with balcony overlooking the courthouse square. The lounge and meeting room are two stories tall. A third floor balcony is incorporated into the lounge. The third floor also includes a recreation room. The fourth floor includes a dining room and an Eastern Star and York Rite meeting room. Both rooms are two stories tall, with fifth floor balconies ringing the meeting room. Also on the fifth floor is a locker and storage area. The sixth floor features a ballroom facing the courthouse square.

The Lawrence County Courthouse (photos 10, 15, and 16) is the grandest Neo-Classical Revival building in the community. Lafayette, Indiana architect Walter Scholer designed the building around the previous 1872 courthouse and it was completed in 1930. The Italianate style round arched entry remains from the original courthouse (photo 16). All other portions were encased in limestone and redesigned. The overall plan is H-shaped; the newer wings extend forward on either side of the older courthouse. The first floor is channeled or rusticated and the windows have flat arches with segmental intrados. The upper walls are of dressed ashlar; surrounds and corner sections are rusticated. Upper windows are round arched. End bays of the projecting sections have Palladian windows on the second floor. Large, two story high round arched windows are found over the entrances in the center. Entablatures are finely scaled with dentils and shallow cornices. The central block has a classical balustrade with urns atop pedestals.

The interior has three stories, a raised basement, ground floor, and second floor which rises to two stories in height in the courtroom. The old courthouse largely serves as lobby space to rooms in the flanking wings. The south entrance leads to a landing between the basement and first floor, with a grand stairway leading to the courtroom. Finishes in the courthouse include marble and terrazzo flooring, wainscotting in public spaces is either limestone or marble. Woodwork is walnut.

The Bedford Fire Department Building is a c.1924 limestone

veneered building at 1609 K Street (photo 2). It now serves as the local police headquarters, and is a simple two story Neo-Classical Revival building. First floor vehicular openings have been sealed shut and there is one new steel and glass door with awning. On the second floor are triple windows flanked by single windows. Doric pilasters mark the corners and support a full entablature above the windows. The parapet is plain. Side walls are brick.

Citizen's Bank Building at 1501 J Street dates from 1926 and was designed by Indianapolis architects McGuire & Shook. The five story limestone building has an arcade of two story high round arches on the ground level, the center arch on the J Street elevation being the main entrance and the last bay on the 15th Street elevation is a side entry (photo 8). Following the early skyscraper mode, the first two stories serve as a base, and the repetitive middle stories are plainly treated. Between the fourth and fifth levels are a series of cartouche reliefs. The entablature has a frieze with bas-relief panels over the vertical wall areas and a finely scaled cornice with modillions. Currently, NBD Bank uses this building.

1502 I Street served as Bedford's City Hall in the 19th century, before offices moved to the current City Hall in 1901 (see page 2). In 1922, Stone City Bank bought this building and apparently moved from the Romanesque Revival building at 1536 I Street. The facade of this brick building was totally redesigned in 1922 as part of the relocation. Following the example of other banks on the square, limestone veneer was used. Stone City Bank is a four story, five bay limestone faced building (photo 18). The first floor corner bays are channeled or rusticated. The far right bay has a transomed doorway while the far left bay has a window. The central three bays have a Gibbsian composition of three round arches with radiating voussoirs superimposed by a Tuscan Order engaged colonnade. The end columns are actually pilasters. The frieze is inscribed "THE STONE CITY BANK". The entablature of the engaged colonnade is denticulated. Above this, the center three bays of each story have paired double hung windows, while end bays have single units. Spandrel panels between floors are bas-relief

carved with a heraldic shield flanked by griffins. A full entablature with dentil course and paneled parapet complete the building.

An Italian Renaissance Revival variant rather than a strict example of Neo-Classical Revival, the Elks Club at 1106 15th Street anchors the northwest corner of the district (photo 25). This 1916 brick and limestone building is two stories high with a raised stone-faced basement level. The main elevation has forward projecting side wings and the central recessed wall area is masked by a limestone flat-roofed portico. The portico has a wide flight of stairs leading to the central covered portion. Flanking side areas are open but closed off by a stone balustrade with oculus pattern. The one story portico has square corner antae and stubby Corinthian columns flanking the stairs. The entablature has modillions and the portico is crowned by a balustrade of turned balusters. The central entry is under the portico and has wide sidelights and a transom. On the flanking projecting bays are round arched bays formed by bas-relief carved blind lunette stone panels over paired multi-light wood windows, a motif repeated on the first story side elevations of the main block. On the second floor, three sets of French doors lead to the portico roof, while the side bays have eight-over-eight rectangular windows. The "entablature" has a frieze of soldier course brick with stone lozenges. The deep eaves are marked by modillion-like brackets which spring from stone corbels. A complex hip roof clad in terra-cotta barrel tiles covers the main block. Adjoining to the rear is plain rectangular block with simple brick pilasters. This section is narrower than the main block and extends toward the alley. The building still serves as an Elk's Lodge.

The Hamer Building, 929 15th Street, is a c.1910 store now occupied by Buck Lemon Furniture (photo 7). The storefront has been altered and a wide sign obscures part of the transom area and part of the second floor windows. Upper walls are limestone veneered. Five rusticated pilasters divide the facade into four bays with paired windows on the second floor and small tripled windows on the third floor. Architrave moldings with keystones

surround vertical bays of second and third floor windows, and the pilasters are capped by console scrolls. A cornice and paneled parapet stand at the top of the facade. The large sign extends to the next building east.

COMMERCIAL VERNACULAR

Just over forty historic buildings in the district are vernacular in nature with minimal reference to popular architectural styles. The 1000 block of 15th Street provides several examples of vernacular commercial architecture (photos 9 and 24). The automobile sales building at 1022 15th Street was originally two buildings, the western building being one story tall, adjoining to the two story stone building. The one story building has been covered by a mansard canopy which extends over to the two story portion. The upper facade retains its modest Neo-Classical Revival cornice and pedimented parapet. These buildings have been used for auto sales since 1941, and it is likely that the two story building, which dates from about 1925, was built as an auto showroom.

Further down 15th Street is more vernacular architecture. 1011 15th Street has been too altered to be considered contributing. The building at 1009, now occupied by Midwest Pawnbrokers retains some modest Italianate features in the narrow second floor windows. 1007 15th Street is a c.1910 one story building with rock-faced stone walls and well detailed wooden pilasters on the storefront. A canopy obscures the parapet area. Next to the east is 1005 15th Street is a two story stone commercial block built c.1900. The storefront has been modernized, but the upper walls have alternating narrow-wide coursed stone and a shallow cornice. The next commercial building, 1003, was built in 1900 and its rock-faced stone walls recall the Romanesque Revival style. Its storefront has also been altered but the tall rectangular second floor windows and detailed parapet give the building its character. Occupying the corner is the Benzel Building, 1001 15th Street, also dating from 1900. The corner bays are limestone veneered, but the J Street elevation is mostly brick. Storefronts

have been covered with false half timbering, bay windows, and a canopy. The stone walls and stylized crenelations of the parapet provide a hint of Romanesque Revival style.

Following 15th Street to the square, more vernacular buildings are found. 925, 923, and 919 15th Street date from c.1870, c.1880, and c.1860 respectively. Although their storefront patterns have been changed over the years, the simple brick and stone upper walls retain integrity.

911 15th Street was built in about 1905 as Abe Jacob's Bedford Furniture & Carpet Company but was moved in 1921 to its present location to make way for the Greystone Hotel. The Greystone stood on the corner lot until its demolition in 1994. 911 15th Street has several vernacular references to Tudor Revival architecture, such as the crenelated and shaped gable parapet. One panel of Luxfer glass is visible over the marquee, but a later storefront is in place. Second floor windows have been replaced, but decorative transoms appear to be intact.

16th Street also has a number of vernacular commercial buildings. A typical example is the Moses Fell Building (photo 5), built in 1903 at 1011 16th Street. Vertical board siding covers the transom of the storefront. Above this rise the brick walls with limestone lintels and other detailing. Four boarded closed window openings are on the second floor. Over this is a stone corbel table and the stone trimmed brick parapet with corbeled name plate. Diminutive corner turrets springing from stone corbels and capped with stone globes mark the roofline of the building. The alley elevation has a deteriorated oriel window and simple corbel tables along the parapet.

Two similar buildings illustrate the early 20th century commercial vernacular at 1026 and 1028 16th Street (photo 3). 1026 is the Asa Bridwell Building, built 1926, and 1028 is the Brock and Sons Building, built in 1924. The altered storefront of 1028 and the now painted brick of 1026 conceals the fact that originally both were nearly identical. The Luxfer glass transoms of 1026 remain

intact, despite the vertical board siding covering the display window. The second floor Craftsman type windows (with vertical panes in the upper sash) and simple rectilinear brickwork are vernacular elements.

Continuing east on 16th Street are other simply detailed commercial buildings. 928 16th Street (c.1930-photo 11) retains its original copper trimmed storefront. The second floor limestone walls have simple Art Deco inspired pilasters. The former S.S. Kresge store at 908 16th (c.1910-photo 17) has a limestone facade with simple classical cornice.

K and J Streets also have vernacular commercial buildings. The Bedford Municipal Garage at 1617 K Street is a 1937 stone-faced garage designed by architects Albert J. Fields and Henry E. Pearson. 1605 J Street was the old Lawrence Theater in the 1920s (far left in photo 12). The storefront has been remodeled in recent decades. The upper walls of brick and limestone trim, with a large Tudor arch and crenelated parapet are inspired by the Tudor Revival style. By 1941, a jewelry store was housed here. A leather shop occupies part of the old theater building.

Vernacular commercial buildings on I Street include 1538 I Street, a circa 1890 two story brick building with cornice. 1514 I Street is now the Penguin Bookery. Although devoid of specific stylistic references, its rock-faced stone walls and corbeled engaged piers belie some Romanesque Revival influence.

The last category of contributing resources are warehouses and auto garages. The Municipal Garage has been mentioned. At 1612 K Street is a long brick building dating from about 1900 which was used for storage by 1941. Set back from J Street across from the courthouse is a one story concrete block building which served as an auto garage by 1941. The other buildings which once concealed it have been demolished. Behind 1536 I Street is small warehouse building dating from the early 1900s. Small annex warehouse structures like this once dotted the rear lots of stores in the district; only three remain.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Non-contributing resources in the district fall into two categories: buildings constructed during the period of significance which have lost substantial integrity due to alterations and buildings constructed since the period of significance. An example of the first type is a building at 930 16th Street (photo 11). This brick building is covered with aluminum siding and a metal canopy. The original storefront has been replaced. Examples of the second type of non-contributing resource include the contemporary bank buildings at 1030 15th Street and 1602 I Street.

Section 8-Statement of Significance

The historic commercial and governmental core of Lawrence County, as hereby nominated, meets National Register Criteria A and C. Throughout most of the 19th century, Bedford was the most important commercial center of the county. County and city government were sources of local pride in the community, reflected in the prominence of county courthouse and the three city government buildings in the district. The architecture of the Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District has a fine collection of limestone detailed facades, illustrating the prominent role of the stone industry in Lawrence County from about 1890 to 1930.

The Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District can be evaluated within the historic context of county seats and commercial activity in the south central region of Indiana between 1825 and 1945. Bedford, the seat of Lawrence County, compares favorably to the county seats and commercial centers of neighboring communities in this south central region. Those surrounding counties are Monroe, Jackson, Washington, Orange, Martin, and Greene. Monroe and Jackson counties, like Lawrence County, have published interim reports as part of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The Bloomington Courthouse Square Historic District (Monroe County) is most comparable both physically and historically to Bedford, since it too has many limestone buildings

and prospered at roughly the same time as Lawrence County. The Bedford district perhaps retains more traces of its early history in the form of several mid-19th century buildings.

As early as 1810 settlement began in this area of south central Indiana with several families coming here from Lee County, Virginia. By a legislative act of January 7, 1818, Lawrence County was organized from what was part of Orange County. Palestine became the county seat.

Palestine had been laid out along the East Fork of the White River with 276 lots offered for sale in May 1818. A courthouse was constructed from logs and the population of quickly grew to 300. By 1820 the first county census showed a population of 4,116. In 1821 the first jail was built and in 1822 the original log courthouse was replaced with one of brick. Despite its growth, Palestine was plagued with illness and a series of epidemics.

Consequently, in 1825 county officers chose a site named Bedford to be the new county seat. Palestine property owners were allowed to transfer claims to corresponding lots in Bedford. Disputes over the transfers slowed the move from Palestine to Bedford. Some Palestine residents refused to leave, while others moved elsewhere. Bedford's early growth was stunted as a result.

A two story log structure measuring 22 X 26 feet was built at a cost of $500 and served as courthouse, school, and church. This was replaced in 1827 by Samuel D. Bishop. By 1830 the census of Lawrence County indicated the population had grown to 9,234. In 1834, John Lowrey built a new brick courthouse, patterned after the courthouse of Washington County (not after the current courthouse in Salem, but after a previous one). The cost was $5,000.

The county's early industries centered around pork packing and grain milling. One of the first mills built in the southern part of the county was at the present site of Spring Mill State Park. By 1820, a small village had grown up around the profitable mill.

Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District
Lawrence County, Indiana

Spring Mill reached its zenith during the period of 1820-1850, prior to the advent of the railroad which bypassed the village. In 1825 Hugh Hamer bought the big mill there and began to haul goods by wagon to Louisville and other destinations. He and others built flatboats at various boat yards on the White River and its tributaries and began the shipment of flour, whiskey, pork, and other products to New Orleans. These flatboats with their items for market were a good indicator of economic progress for the Bedford area.

While Indiana's earliest agricultural activity centered around the southern portion of the state, the uneven terrain, poor soil and lack of access to transportation kept many of these early farm operations at a subsistence level. Pork and grain along with liquor were the largest productions. The local crop centered around corn. Since this was bulky to transport, marketing corn in the form of either pork or liquor was cheaper.

Also in 1825, the first residence in Bedford was built by Samuel Bishop. In 1826 the first store in Bedford was established within the town's first frame building. A tavern was opened by William Barfield (in some records spelled Benefield). Several tanneries were also established which for decades marketed a large portion of their leather goods to Louisville. A woolen mill was soon established. Hat manufacturing, using felt and fur, began in Bedford.

The earliest buildings were log or frame and often combined commercial and residential functions. The community's commercial focus centered on the courthouse square. In 1827, Moses Fell began a general store on the southwest side of the square. Pictures of Dr. Winthrop Foote's store, northwest corner of the square, 15th and I Streets, was a long structure built in 1838. Foote's partner was D.W. Parker. Dr. Foote built a weatherboarded frame house in 1828 on 15th Street. Foote's store survived until sometime between 1892 and 1898, when it was demolished. His house burned down in 1917.

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Bedford's first library opened in 1825 using books moved from Palestine. Additional books were purchased in 1829 and the books were stored in the recorder's office. 1829 also saw the completion of the first jail, built by Samuel Bishop at a cost of $1,000. The jail was replaced in 1859 with one built by Johnson and Miller for $9,900. Census records show a county population of 9,234 in 1830.

In 1833 woolen mills were built and in 1834 Bedford's first newspaper began operations. In 1836 a yarn mill was established as well as a cloth factory by Fell and others. Population in Lawrence County was 11,782 by 1840.

The county outgrew the courthouse and in 1848 a one story brick building was built on the courthouse lawn to house county offices. More than a block to the west, Michael A. Malott, a Bedford merchant, built a nine room brick house which still stands today at 16th and K Streets. It is the only known building in the district from the early period of Bedford's history. In 1901 the city acquired the house and converted it to City Hall and a school. It still serves as City Hall today.

By 1850, the county's population had reached 12,097 and the New Albany and Salem Railroad had been completed as far north as the Yockey crossing (a few miles south of Bedford). Later known as the Monon, the line reached Bedford in 1853. The tracks ran along J Street and a depot was built on the west side of the square.

By July 1854, the railroad ran the length of Indiana. On April 15, 1857, the last spike was driven east of Mitchell, connecting the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad from the east coast to the Mississippi River. Thus rail transportation gave Bedford access to major points in all directions. Telegraph service was soon introduced to Bedford.

Buildings in the district during the 1850s and 60s remained simple in form. Others have been altered and no longer appear as 19th century buildings. The Stone City Bank at the southeast corner of 15th and I Streets, for example, was built in 1860-61 as the town

hall but was remodeled with a limestone facade in 1922. 908 16th Street also dates from about 1860.

The 1870s and 80s continued the steady growth of the community fueled by agriculture-related industry and the railroads. In 1872, a new courthouse was built. The central core of the present courthouse includes the 1872 building, but only the entry surround remains visible on the north side. Thomas Stevens was the builder of the 1872 courthouse. Local government grew to manage the public affairs of Bedford. In 1889, Bedford officially became a city and elected the first mayor and council.

Old photographs of the east side of the square taken in 1875 show several buildings which are still in use. Most notable are 1516 and 1522-24 I Street, which date from this time period. Several frame buildings which existed on this side of square in 1875 had been replaced by 1890 to 1900. Uses of these buildings included hardware store, bank, grocery, pharmacy, and law offices. 1538 I Street was built in about 1890 and the upper floor housed the Stone City Bank. At 16th and I (southeast corner) stood a J.C. Penney Co. store which later suffered a fire.

The south side of the square in the 1870s and 80s had frame buildings and simple brick stores. Most were destroyed by a fire in 1892. 922-924 16th Street appears to be the only pre-1890 building on this part of 16th Street. Also, 1601 J Street predates 1886 and is still in use, although altered.

The courthouse lawn area changed during the 1890s. The depot which stood near the west lawn was razed in 1892 and replaced with a fountain and park. Named Lawrence Park, it was the first county-owned public park.

The increased use of stone and brick in the 1890s gave the square its air of permanence still reflected today. Early merchants became well established. Moses Fell built 1545 J Street at this time and established his general store there. The city's first telephone exchange was established here. Some accounts state that

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Lawrence County, Indiana

Fell's daughters taught school in the upper floor rooms of the building. Fell is said to have bought the site for $100. The "1818" date on the front is cryptic; it may refer to the date Fell came to Lawrence County or the date the county was organized. Moses Fell Dunn, a nephew, inherited the building upon Moses' death. The former Sherwood Pharmacy at 1531 J Street is a Queen Anne building dating from this period.

Without a doubt, the most important event of the 1890s was the establishment of the Indiana limestone industry. Dr. Winthrop Foote, a pioneer merchant, had predicted that Bedford would become nationally prominent for its limestone deposits. Two key items were essential to the exploitation of limestone: rail transportation and sufficiently powerful quarrying equipment. Steam power solved both issues. Some quarrying began with the arrival of the railroads in the 1850s. Nathan Hall established a stone mill on J Street just north of the square in 1875. Improvements in quarrying and milling equipment allowed the full potential of Indiana limestone to be realized. With the introduction of the diamond saw (which continues to be produced in Bedford) in 1895, another phase of mill work started.

Social events also led to the increased demand for Indiana limestone. Architects were designing a new generation of civic buildings which called for stone exteriors. Clients were looking for a quality stone source as well. The Vanderbilts chose Indiana limestone their mansion on Fifth Avenue in New York City. The family built homes not only in New York, but in Rhode Island an North Carolina. Their preference for Indiana stone was copied by others in high society. Some historians agree that the great Chicago fire of 1871 created a demand for Indiana stone. Hoosier limestone would be used for many nationally famous buildings in the next decades, including the Empire State Building and the Pentagon.

Fed by the labor demands of the stone industry, Bedford's population climbed rapidly. In 1880, the population was 2,198. This increased to 3,351 by 1890. In 1899, the Monon Railroad

averaged 42 cars of finished stone shipped from Bedford daily. By 1895, 48 quarries operated in Lawrence County. A great surge in population occurred between 1890 and 1900. The number of residents reached 6,115 by 1900, a 82.5% increase over the 3,351 recorded in the 1890 census.

Civic improvements marked the turn of the century. The first public storm sewer was built down J Street just after 1889. Business groups, especially those formed to promote the limestone industry, formed during the 1890s and early 1900s. In 1916 a single chamber of commerce was formed. Col. A.C. Voris formed power, heat, gas, and lighting companies which served Bedford. Steam heat was provided for buildings on the square and adjacent areas. In 1908, electric service was provided as well and 16th Street between J and K Streets was first to have streetlights. Early street paving was undertaken due to the popularity of the bicycle, with brick pavers providing the first hard surface. The advent of the automobile, streets needed further attention and in 1908, streets and curbing around the square were improved at a cost of $30,500. Auto dealers were not in business until after 1905. Sherwood Chastain established one of the earliest dealerships at a location between J and K Streets in the district. The first filling station was built just outside of the district, but later, one was built at 1604 K Street. In later decades, the popularity of the auto led to the destruction of downtown buildings for parking lots.

In 1908, Bedford enacted its first moving picture ordinance with an assessment of a city tax of 50 cents per showing. At one time, Bedford had at least four downtown theaters. The only surviving theater building is the Lawrence Theater Building (1605 J Street). The stage can still be seen in the rear of the building, even though it is no longer a theater.

Bedford continued to grow in the first decade of the new century, registering a 42.5% increase in 1910 with 8,716 residents. Architecture on the square reflected the increasing importance of the limestone industry. Moses Fell Dunn had built a two story

commercial building in the middle of the block on 15th Street, with his law offices on the second floor. Upon his death in 1915, he left the property and a sizable endowment to the local Masonic Lodge. The Masons built Dunn Memorial Temple on the site in 1918, and this building firmly established Neo-Classical Revival as the style for stone architecture on the square. The Elks Lodge of 1916 on 15th Street also uses classicism and has a significant amount of stone detailing. The Hamer Building at 929-27 15th Street is another Neo-Classical Revival building of this time period. From 1918 to about 1921, the Field Glove and Mitten factory was housed here.

From 1910 to 1920, Bedford's population expanded somewhat to 9,076. A dramatic increase occurred from 1920 to 1930, the population reaching 13,208 residents. The Roaring '20s were just that in Bedford. There was much building in the district. In 1923, the memorial in Lawrence Park replaced the fountain, which was moved to another city park. J Street was widened. The courthouse was dramatically expanded by two long wings added to the east and west faces of the 1872 courthouse. Lafayette architect Walter Scholer, known for his classically-derived designs in his home town, provided a suitably grand scheme for the courthouse expansion. Bedford limestone, of course, was used to clad the walls of this Neo-Classical Revival design completed in 1930 at a cost of $390,000. Neo-Classical limestone-faced banks were built at 1501 J Street (1926) and 1502 I Street (this being a 1922 redesign of a c.1860 brick building). Another once important building in the district was erected in 1923: the Greystone Hotel. It stood at the corner of I and 15th Streets and was a lavish 100 room hotel with elaborate ball and dining rooms. It was once the focal point of social life on the square and drew patrons from the surrounding countryside. Vacant and deteriorated after a fire, this Neo-Classical stone building was demolished in 1994.

Few industries were as deeply affected by the Great Depression as was the stone industry. Local efforts concentrated on attracting new business to the area, but the Great Depression took its toll, trimming Bedford's population to 12,514 by 1940. Efforts to

attract war related industries to Bedford were generally not successful, although supplying stone for the Pentagon kept the mills busy.

Today the downtown district continues to be a hub of commercial and governmental activity. The district developed, in large part, from the arrival of rail transportation and because of the limestone industry. The two factors combined to make Bedford one of the region's most prominent communities.

Examples of popular architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be found throughout the district. Some of the buildings have lost historic integrity by being covered with wood paneling or aluminum siding. However, these buildings may regain lost integrity in the coming years as downtown revitalization efforts grow. Nevertheless, the district retains a cohesive streetscape and an extensive collection of historic structures that give a sense of historic place.

Section 9-Bibliography

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"Scrapbook I," Lawrence County Historical Genealogical Library, Lawrence County Museum.

"Scrapbook II," Lawrence County Historical Genealogical Library, Lawrence County Museum.

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Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point where the north curb of 15th Street meets the east curb of I Street, then follow the east curb line of I Street across 15th to the south curb of 15th Street. Then turn east and follow the south curb of 15th to the west edge of the alley immediately east of 15th. Then turn south along said west edge of said alley and follow this line across 16th Street to the south curb of 16th. Then turn east and follow the south curb of 16th to the east property line of 806 16th Street. Then follow the east property line of 806 16th Street south to the north edge of the alley immediately south of 16th Street. Turn west and follow this line to the west curb of I Street. Turn south along the west curb of I Street to the south property line of 1625 I Street. Turn west and follow the south property line of 1625 I Street to the west property line of the same address. Then turn north along said west property line and follow this line to the north edge of the alley immediately south of 16th Street. Then turn west and follow the north alley edge to the east property line of 1616 J Street.

Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District
Lawrence County, Indiana

Then turn south and follow the east property line south to the south property line of 1616 J Street. Then turn west and follow the south property line of 1616 to the east curb line of J Street. Then turn north and follow the east curb of J Street to the north edge of the alley immediately south of 16th Street. Then turn west and follow the north edge of said alley west to the west property line of 1617 K Street. Then turn north along the west property line of 1617 K Street, then turn east along the north property line of 1617 K Street and follow until the west property line of 1609 K Street is reached, then turn north along the west property line of 1609, turning east to follow the north property line of 1609 until the west property line of 1102 16th Street is reached. Then turn north and follow said west line to the south curb of 16th Street. Then turn east and follow said curb line to a point in line with the west property line of 1023 16th Street. Then turn north and follow the west property line of 1023 16th Street across 16th to a point in line with the north edge of the alley immediately south of the Elks Lodge at 1106 15th Street. Then turn west and follow this line across K Street and along the said alley to the west property line of the Elks Lodge. Then turn north along the west property line of said Lodge and follow to the south curb line of 15th Street. Then turn east along said south curb line to a point in line with the west property line of 1011 15th Street. Then turn north and follow said west line across 15th Street to the south edge of the alley immediately north of 15th Street. Turn east along said edge of said alley and follow to the west property line of 1409 I Street. Then turn north and follow the west property lines of 1409 and 1407 I Street to the north property line of 1407 I Street. Then turn east and follow the north property line of 1407 to the west curb of I Street. Then turn south and follow the west curb line of I Street to the north curb line of 15th Street. Then turn east and cross 15th Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries presented here are largely those seen in the 1992 Lawrence County Interim Report, which identified a potential

courthouse square historic district. All but seven buildings within the district have commercial functions; therefore, consideration of the historic themes of commerce and government helped decide boundaries.

The aim in delineating boundaries was to define a district containing the greatest concentration of contributing resources of a commercial or governmental historic function. This includes the courthouse square and buildings along the main commercial thoroughfares: 15th and 16th Street. Historically, single family dwellings are found to the east, south, and west of the district. When necessary, the boundary excludes non-contributing buildings or vacant lots. For example, 1420 I Street, at the northeast corner of the square, is not included, but several contributing buildings across the street are in the district. On the east edge of the district, several contributing buildings are included on 16th Street, but 802 16th is not included. The south edge of the square does not have cohesive numbers of contributing commercial buildings much beyond the alley south of 16th. The west edge extends to include the city government buildings at the southwest corner of 16th and K, turns inward to exclude non-contributing items, then extends past K on 15th Street to include the Elks Lodge. Also on 15th is an early auto dealership at 1022. The accompanying map clearly shows boundaries and contributing/non-contributing resources.

Photographs
The following information is the same for all photographs listed:

Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District
Lawrence County, Indiana
Location of negatives: R.R. 11, Box 338, Bedford, IN 47421

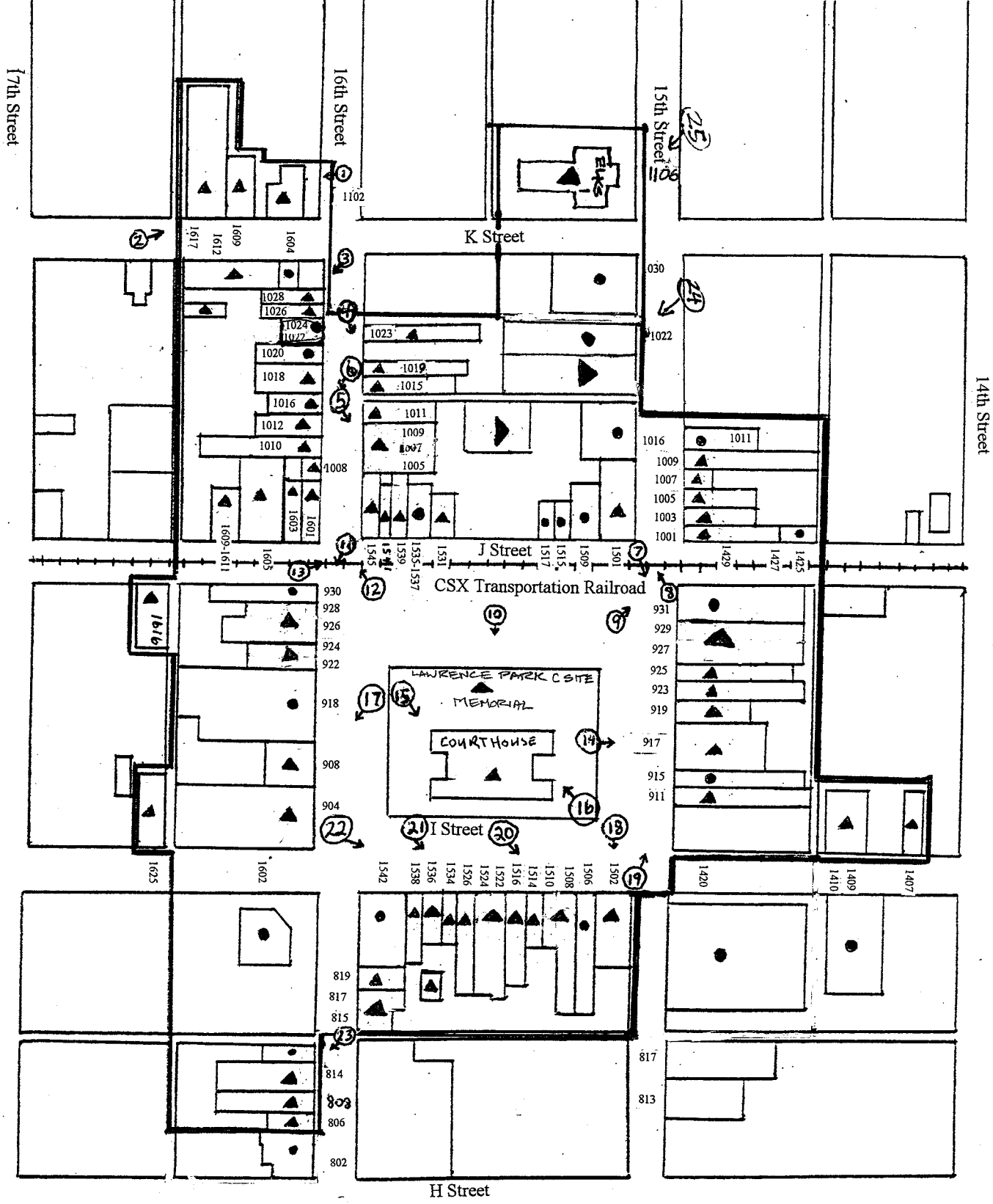
#1. Maribelle Dyer, photographer/Nov. 1993/1102 16th St., Michael Malott House, looking south.
#2. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/1609 and 1617 K Street and 1102 16th St. (Bedford Municipal Garage, Fire Dept., and City Hall or Malott House), looking northwest.

Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District
Lawrence County, Indiana

#3. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1026-1028 16th St., the Bridwell and Brock & Sons Buildings, looking southeast.
#4. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1000 odd block of 16th, looking northeast.
#5. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1000 odd block of 16th, looking northeast.
#6. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1000 even block of 16th, looking southeast.
#7. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/900 odd block of 15th, looking northeast.
#8. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/1501 J St., former Citizens National Bank, looking southwest
#9. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/1000 odd block of 15th and 1400 odd block of J, corner view, looking northwest
#10. Maribelle Dyer, photographer/Dec. 1993/Lawrence Co. Courthouse and monument, looking east.
#11. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/900 even block of 16th, looking southeast.
#12. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/1000 even block of 16th and 1600 odd block of J, corner view, looking southwest.
#13. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/1500 odd block of J, looking northwest.
#14. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/917 15th St., looking north
#15. Maribelle Dyer, photographer/Dec. 1993/South side of courthouse, looking northeast.
#16. Maribelle Dyer, photographer/Dec. 1993/North side of courthouse, looking southwest.
#17. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/908 and 906 16th St., looking southeast.
#18. Maribelle Dyer, photographer/Nov. 1993/1502 I St., Looking east.
#19. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/900 odd block of 15th, looking northwest.
#20. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1516 I St. and the 1500 block of I St., looking northeast.
#21. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1536 I St. and streetscape of 1500 even block of I St., looking northeast.

Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District
Lawrence County, Indiana

#22. Steve Wyatt, photographer/July 1994/1500 even block of I St., looking northeast.
#23. Steve Wyatt, photographer/Oct. 1994/806, 808, and 814 16th St., looking southeast.
#24. DHPA files/1992/Neg. at DHPA/1022 15th St., looking southeast.
#25. DHPA files/1992/Neg. at DHPA/Elk's Lodge, 1106 15th, looking southeast.



Bedford Courthouse Square Historic District

Historic District Boundaries

Contributing Buildings

Non-Contributing Buildings

1534 Address

12 Photograph Reference

NORTH

Not to Scale

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
INDIANAP

Bedford Courthouse
Square Historic District
Bedford, Lawrence
County, Indiana

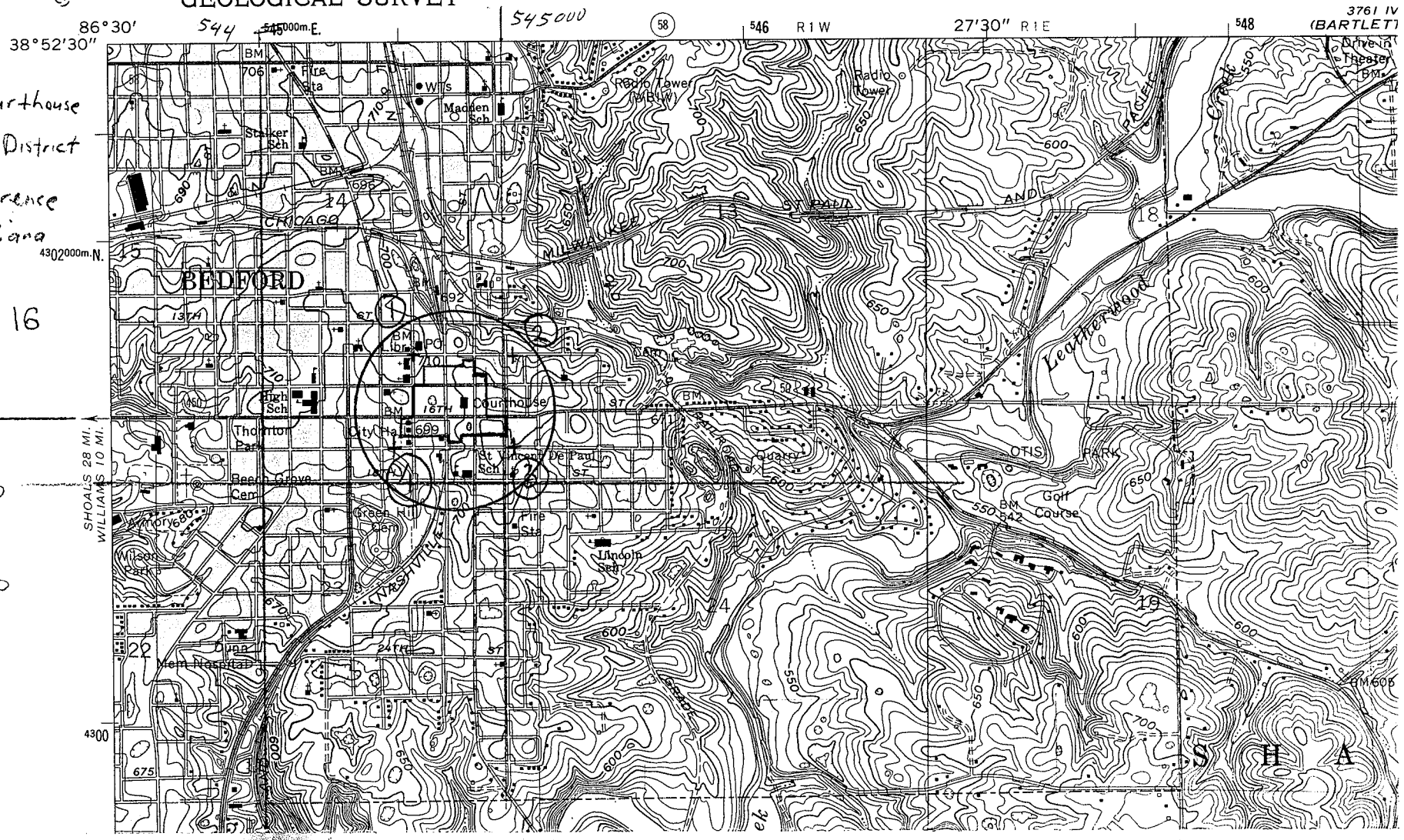
ZONE 16

(1) E 544620
N 4301540

(2) E 545040
N 4301530

(3) E 545040
N 4301150

(4) E 544540
N 4301150



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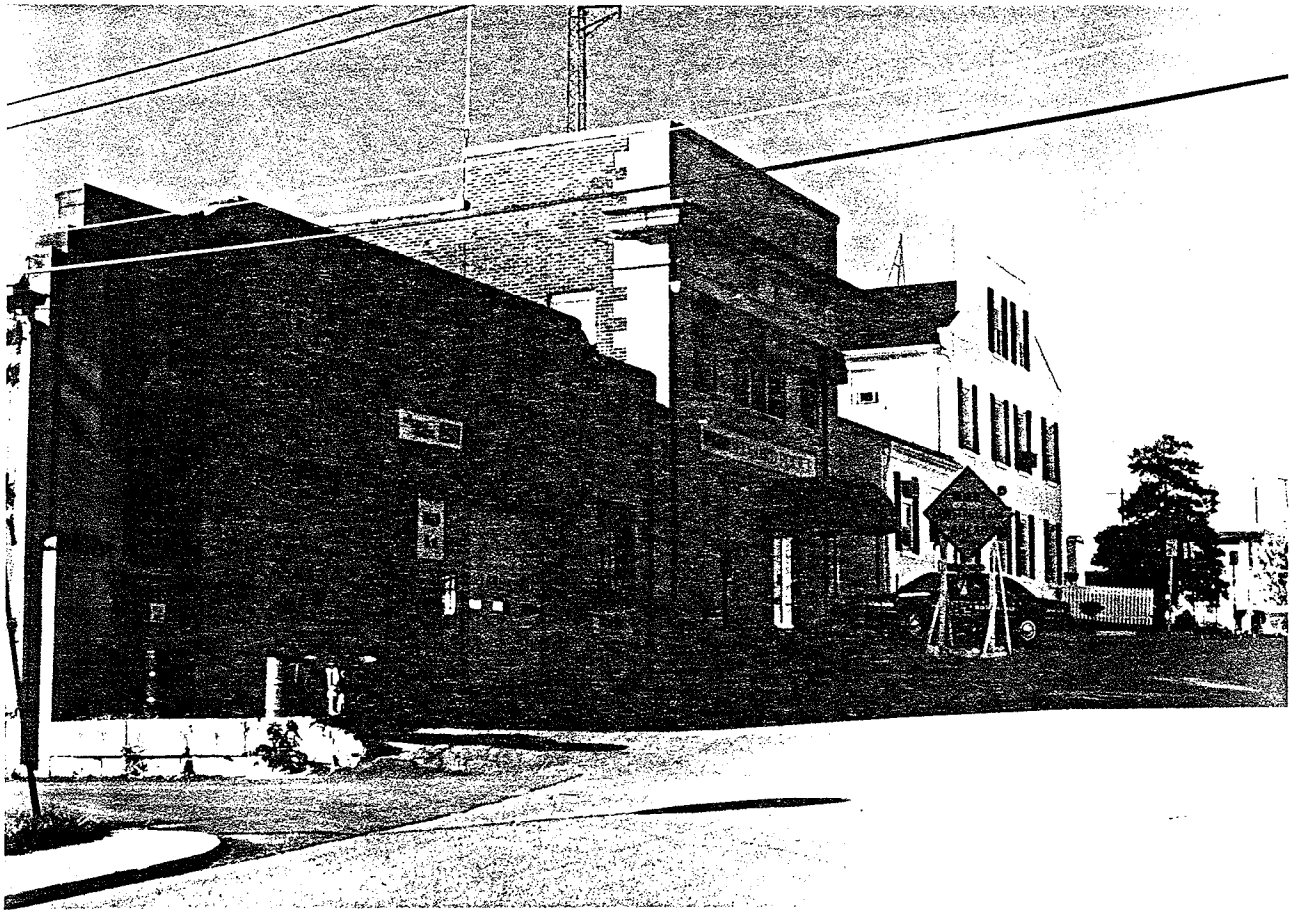

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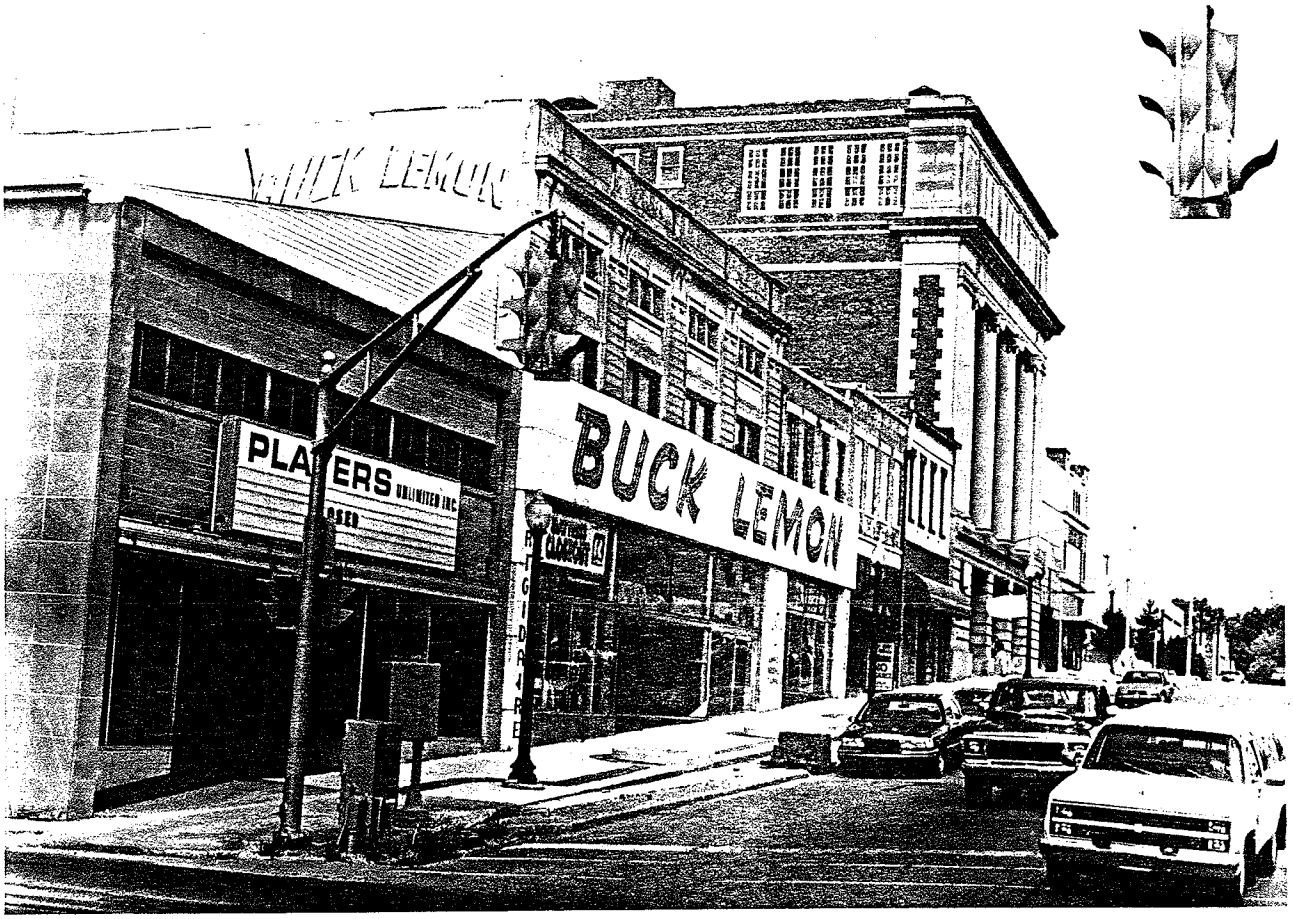
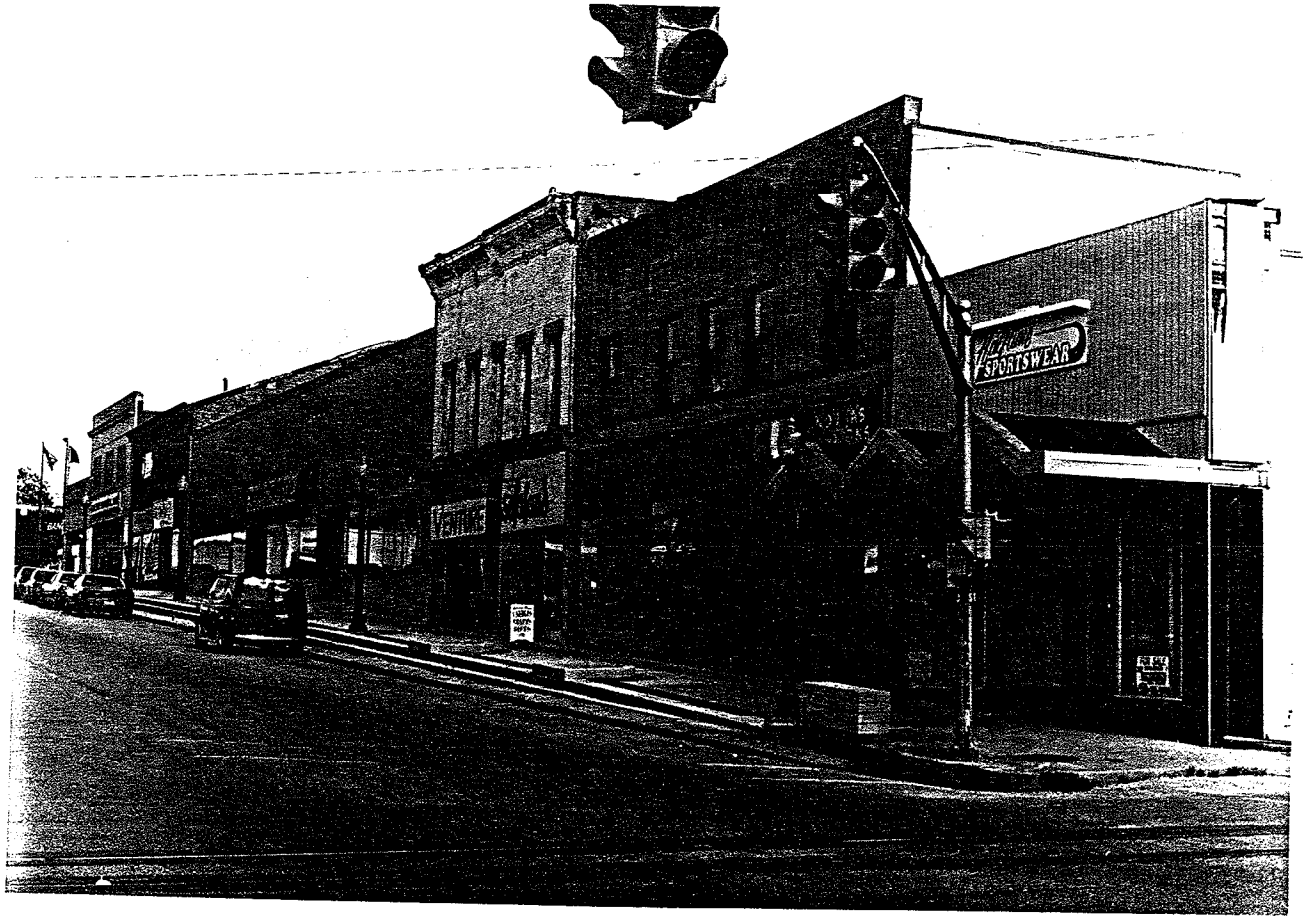
INSURANCE - LIFE - HEALTH
JENKINS
JENKINS
MOTOR SHOP
AUTO ELECTRIC SERVICE

Rusty's
DEVERS

STOP
Carrier
AIR CONDITIONING
& HEATING
GOFF
Carrier COMFORT CENTER


BUCK LEMON
PLAYERS UNLIMITED INC
USED
BUCK LEMON

NBD Bank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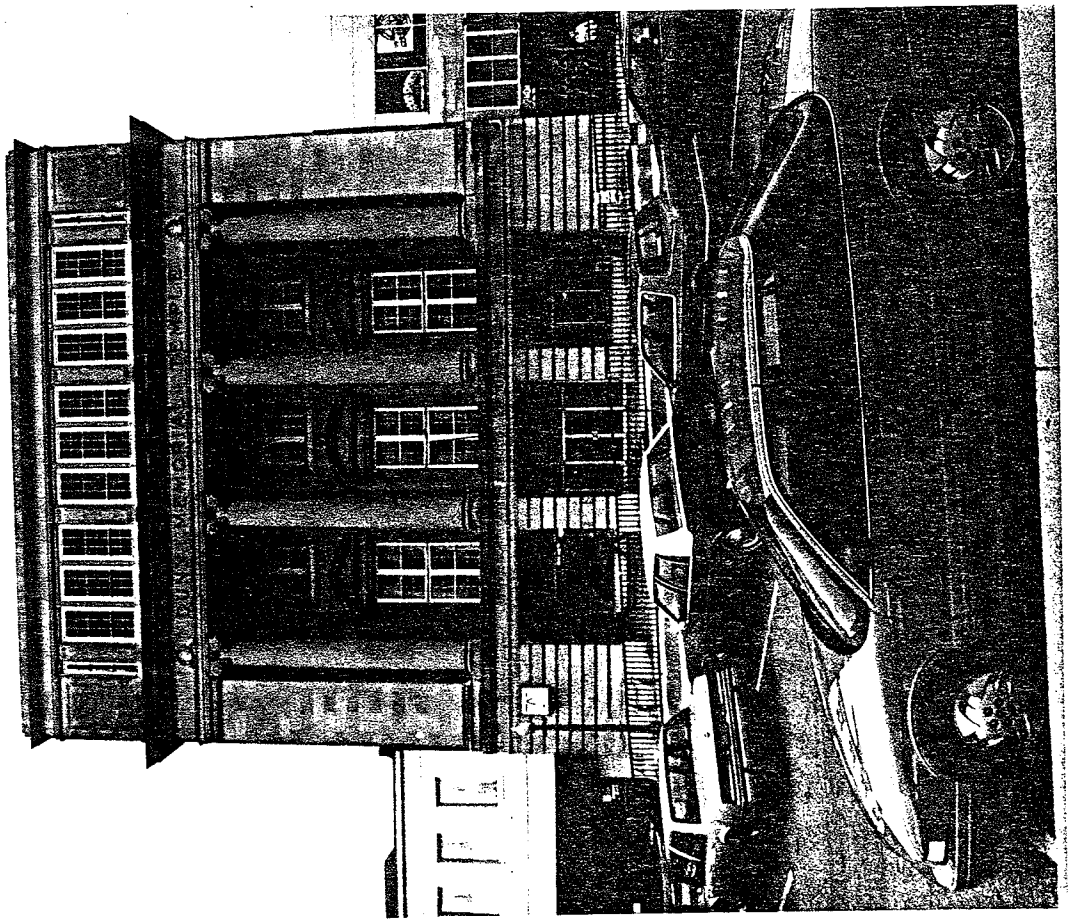
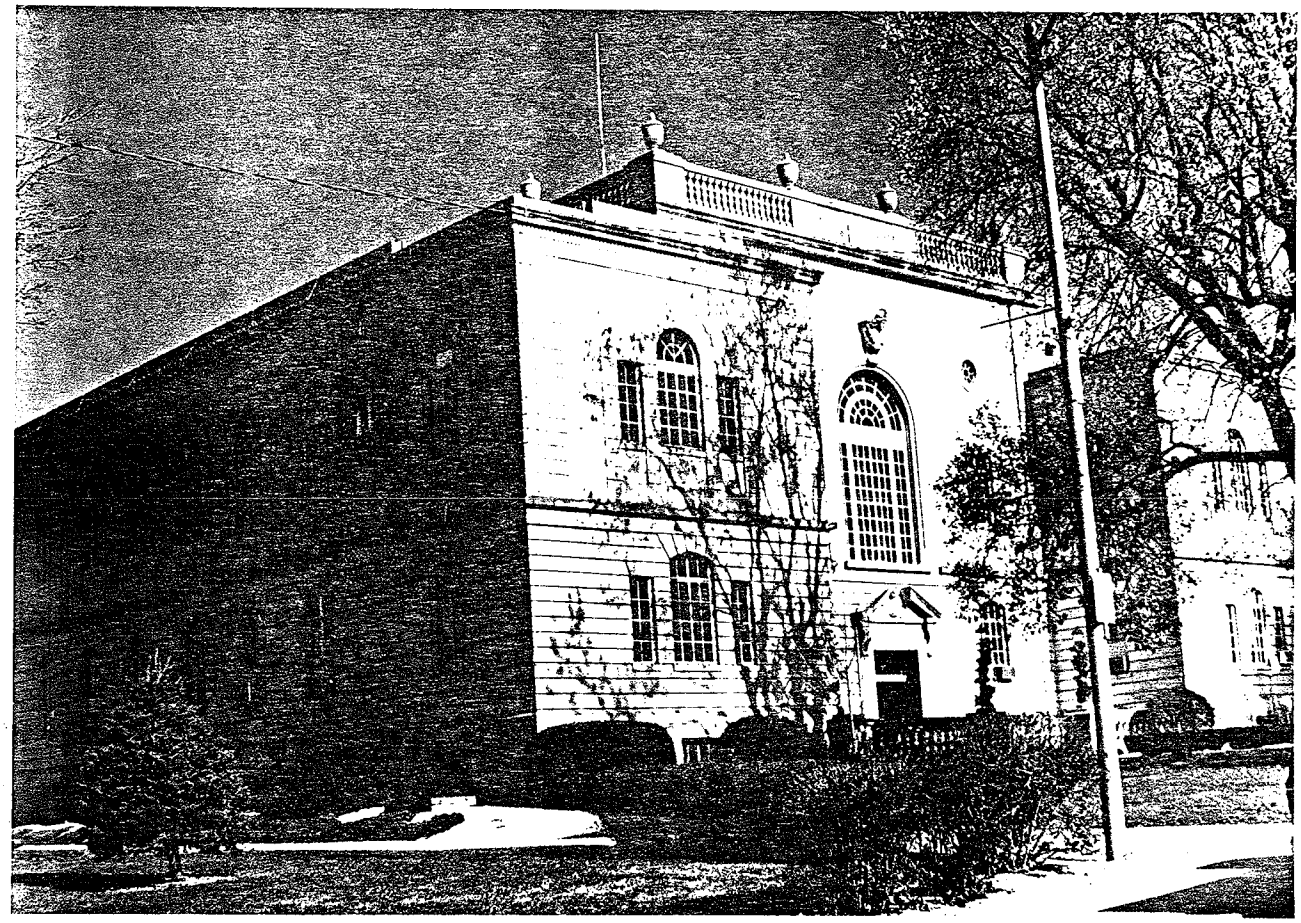
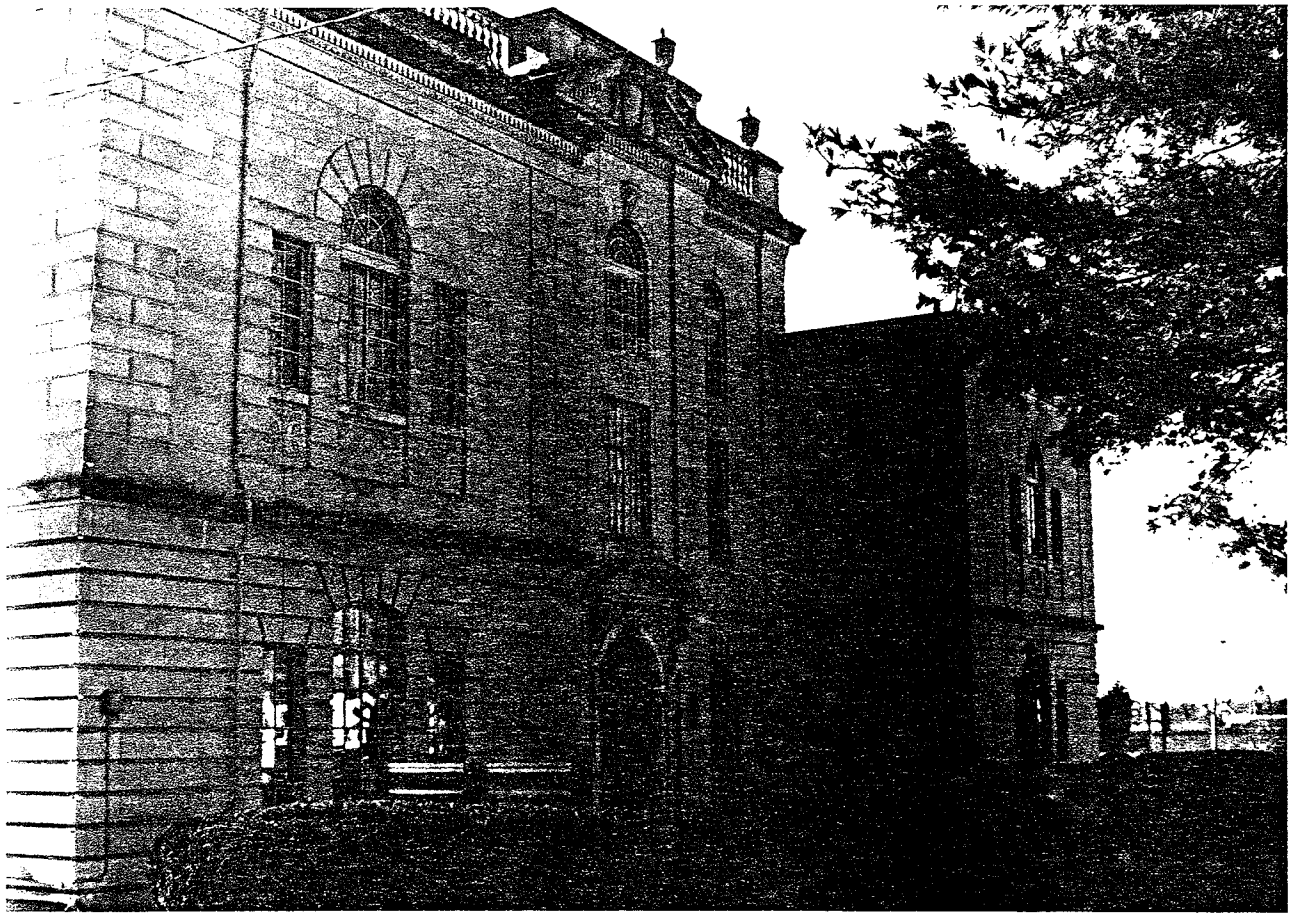
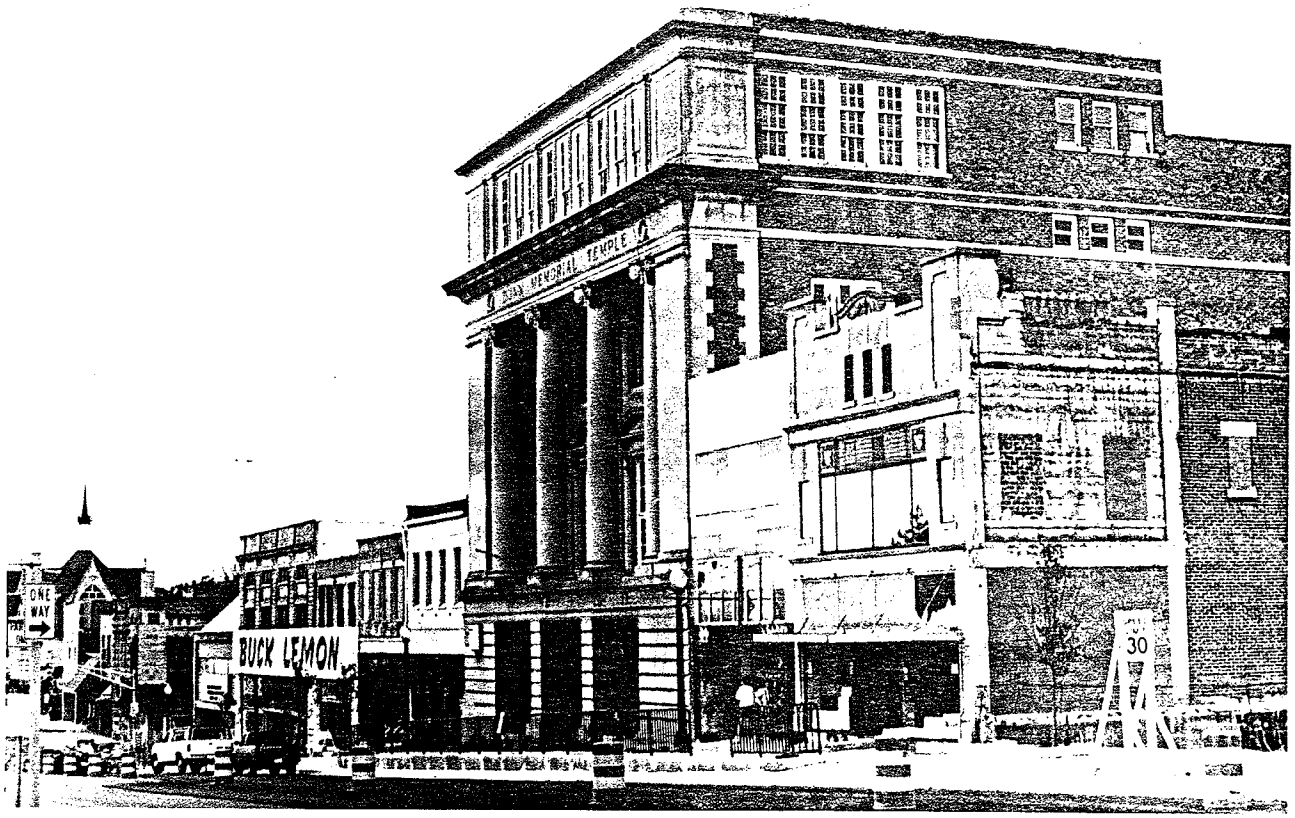
JONES & JONES








ONE WAY
BUCK LEMON
30

Sue's BREAKFAST and LUNCH
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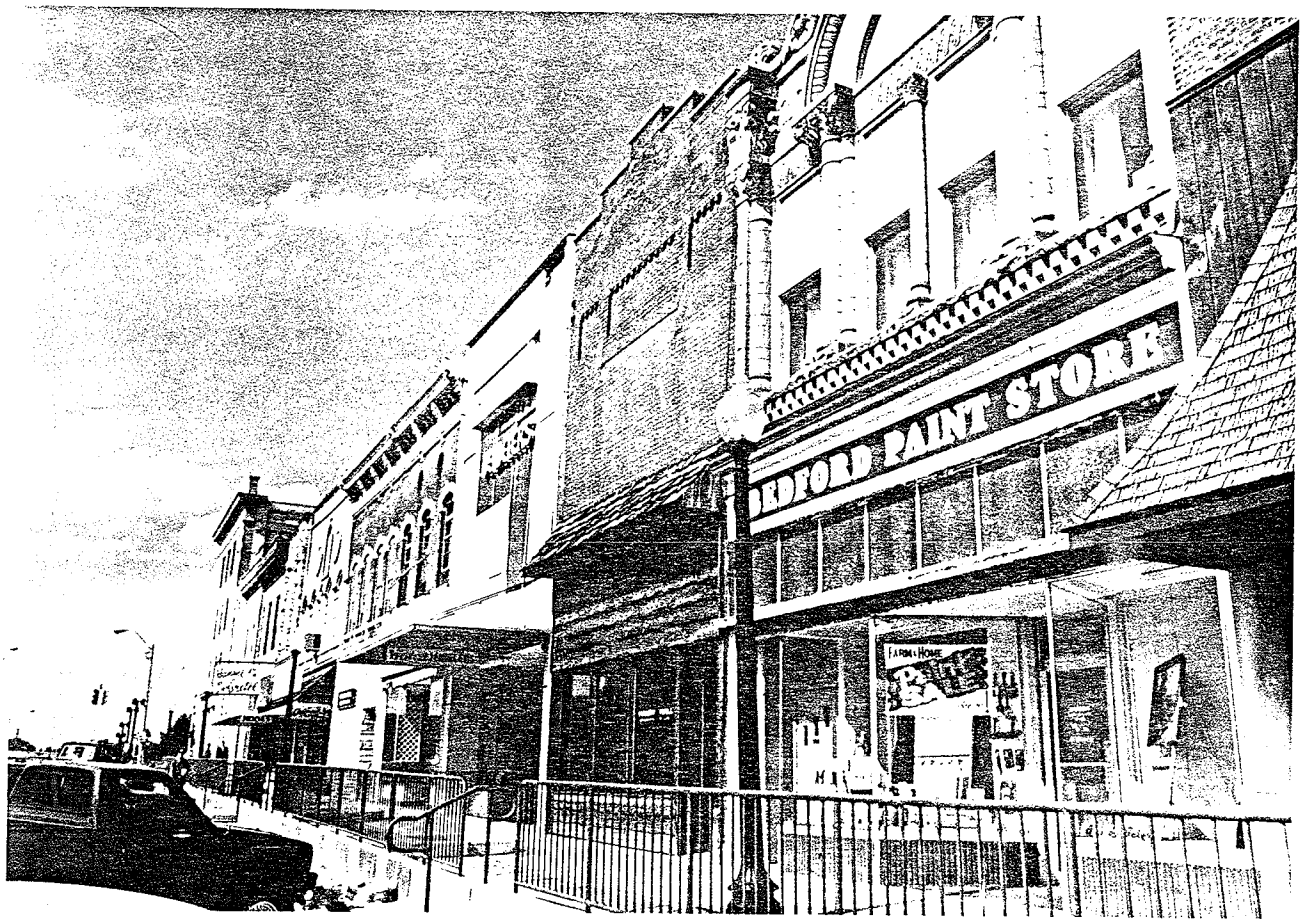
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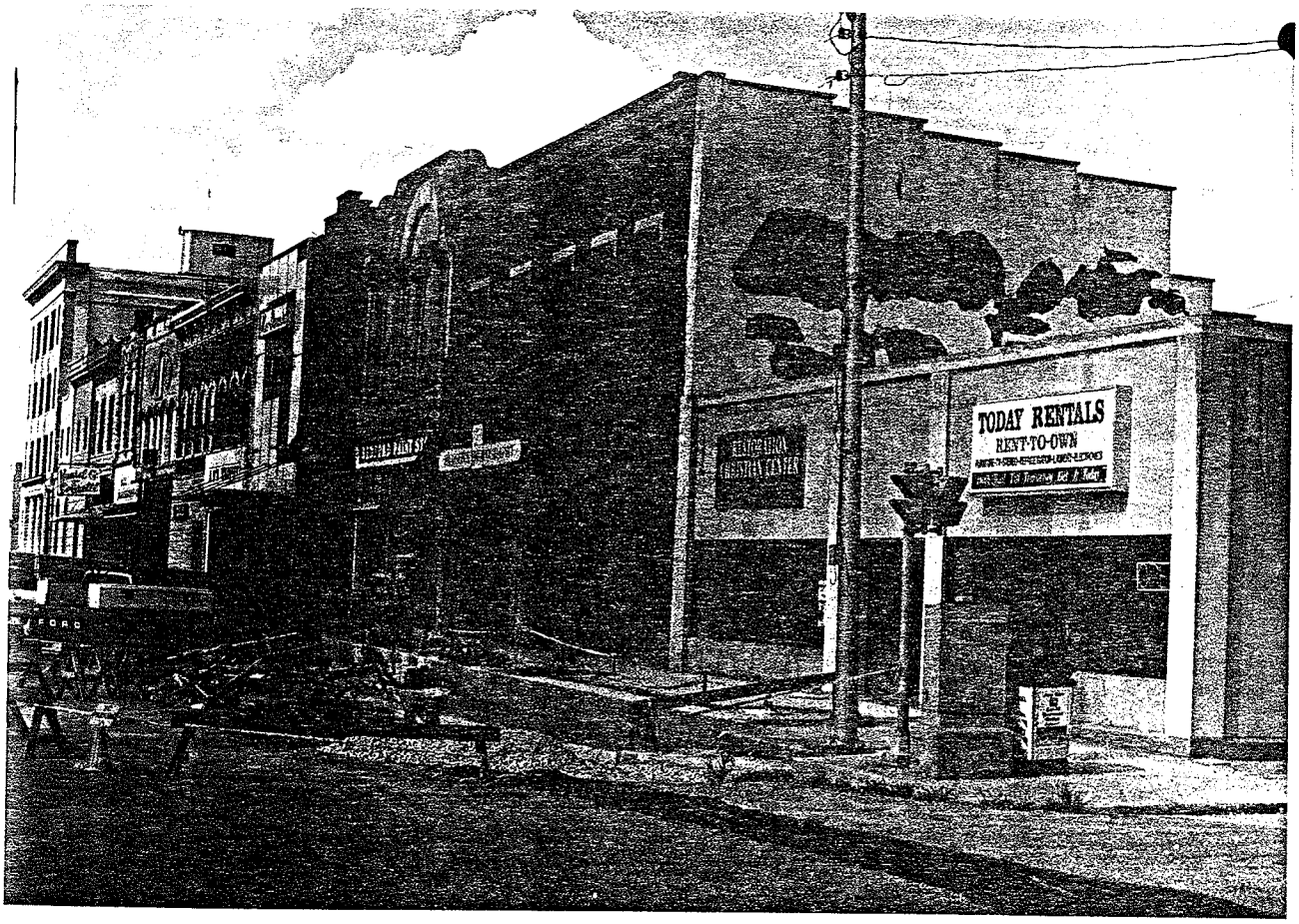
FARM & HOME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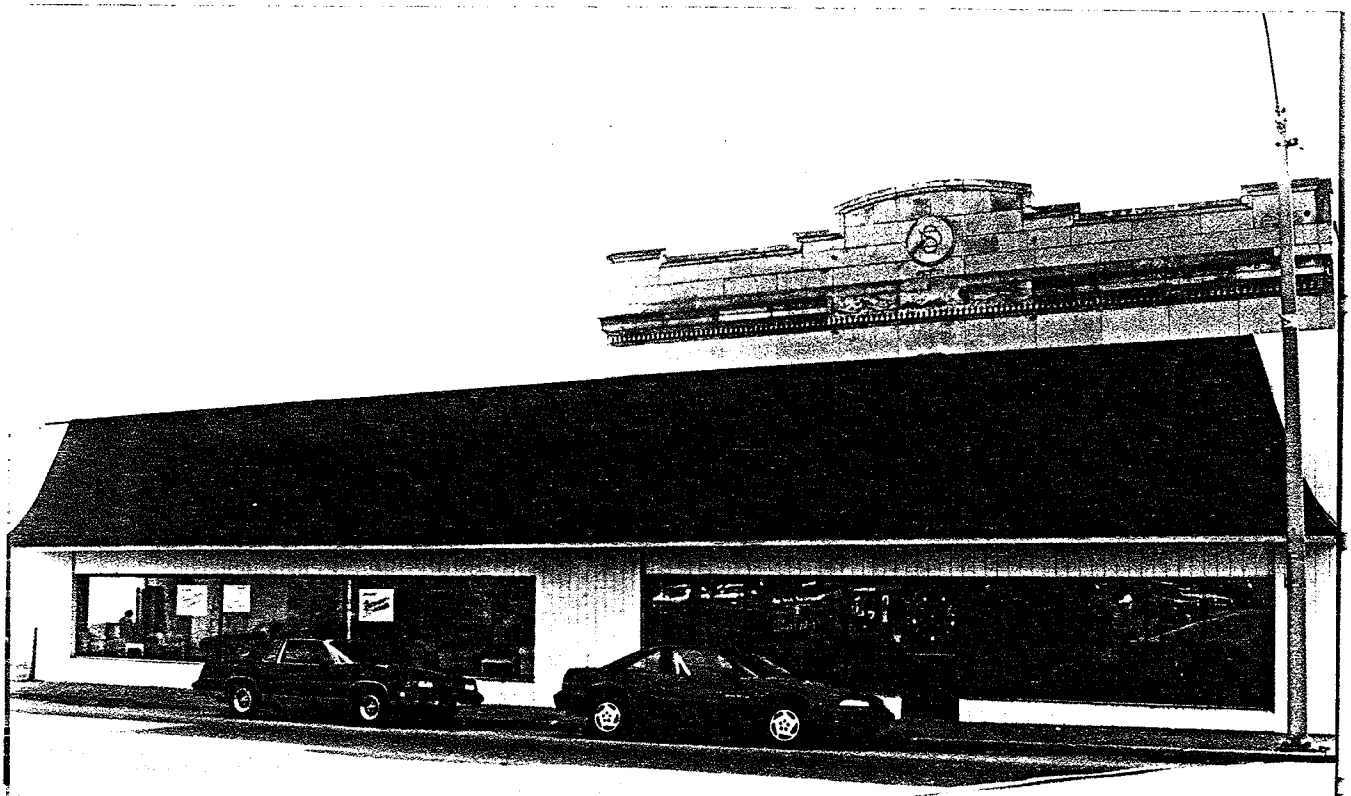
SCOTTY'S
APPLIANCES
SCOTTY'S
V&M FLOOR COVERING
ESTERN AUTO