United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hobart Commercial District
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing**:**
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

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2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Lake George, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, Center and Second Streets
City or town: Hobart State: Indiana County: Lake
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___B x 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	x
Public – State	
Public – Federal	X

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
38	21	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
38	21	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
GOVERNMENT: City Hall
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
GOVERNMENT: City Hall
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:	BRICK
walls:	BRICK
	STONE: Limestone
roof:	SYNTHETICS: Rubber
other:	STUCCO

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

Summary Paragraph

The Hobart Commercial Historic District encompasses approximately eight blocks of the historic commercial and retail center of the community in eastern Lake County, Indiana. The original plat was established on the east edge of Lake George; the historic commercial area is located within this plat. There are two primary streets that are lined with buildings from the city's historic commercial period: Main and 3rd Streets, which intersect in the downtown. The buildings are mostly one and two stories tall and are mostly commercial in nature, although the city hall, post office, one residence, and a former church are also located in the district.

Narrative Description

The Hobart Commercial Historic District is characterized by fairly flat terrain with paved streets and concrete sidewalks. A recent streetscape project along Main Street has added landscape features and streetlights. The east shore of Lake George has also been redeveloped with a walking path, lighting, and other landscape features.

The district is composed of sixty buildings; most date to the early commercial development of the community and are primary constructed out of brick and stone. The buildings are mostly one and two stories tall with one or two business rooms in each building and apartments on the second floors. Most of the buildings that are located in the district share common walls with each other. A few of the buildings constructed during the mid-20th century are free-standing. Most buildings are examples of the Italianate style or simple 20th century commercial design, though a few exceptional examples of the Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, and Art Deco styles also exist.

The buildings that compose the historic district retain a significant level of architectural integrity from their original construction dates. The most common changes that occurred in the district were made to building storefronts. Changes to the storefront alone, whether by non-historic materials or layout, do not render the building non-contributing. However,

changes to the storefront compounded with significant changes to the remaining front wall of the building may render the building non-contributing. Such changes, like the covering of the front wall with non-historic materials or changes to window locations that occurred after the period of significance, would render the building non-contributing. During the 1970s the Hobart Development Corporation made several significant changes in the historic district that affected the contributing status of some buildings. The development corporation was responsible, at least in part, for the modern Tudor Revival style movement in the city. They reconstructed a building at 301 Center Street (photo 0013) with false half-timbering and stucco walls and constructed a new building at 342 Main Street with an English cottage appearance. Other buildings in the district were also changed or covered in a similar manner. More recent changes include covering the front walls of buildings with insulation board and cement application (as seen in photo 0012). This also may render the buildings non-contributing depending on other changes or the absence of other historical materials.

There are a few buildings in the district that were constructed after the period of significance including the Hobart City Hall. In time the city hall might be considered contributing due to its size, architectural significance, and due to the continuation of the role government has played in the in the district (see photo 0001). For now city hall is included in the boundary but is considered non-contributing.

The street grid runs slightly northeast/southwest and southeast/northwest. For purposes of this nomination the building walls are described using north, south, east, and west; north being slightly northwest, etc.

A complete list of resources in the district follows:

Beginning at the south end of the district, on the west side of Main Street, going north.

414 South Main. Hobart City Hall, 1967. Mid-century modern. Non-contributing
Photo 0001
Keith Reinert, architect. Prosser Howells, Inc., builder.
The building is two stories tall and is constructed out of a precast concrete grid and formed floors. The building has a flat roof that is also composed of formed concrete. The recesses of the formwork can be seen in the roof's overhangs. The building's front wall is divided into four bays by the structural grid. The bays are filled in with glass divided by metal frames. The entry is located in the bay second from the southeast corner of the building. The entry has a pair of aluminum and glass doors. A canopy is located above the entry the full width of the bay. The interior of the building features terrazzo floors and a floating staircase.

Government functions for the city of Hobart have a long connection with this site. The back half of this block on which the city hall is located was once the location of the town jail and fire station as early as the 1890s. Later an early city hall fronting 4th Street was constructed near the fire department. The current city hall replaced the other municipal buildings including a city garage on the site when it was constructed in 1967. Though non-contributing now, city hall may be considered contributing at a future date.

350 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1897/c. 1975. Non-contributing
Left side of photo 0002
The building is located on the northwest corner of Main and 4th Streets. It is two stories tall; its walls have been entirely covered with stucco panels and false half-timbering to give the building a Tudor appearance. The top of the walls have several courses of wood shakes in the appearance of a mansard roof. The front wall has a single storefront bay composed of aluminum and glass display windows and an aluminum and glass door on its north side. The front wall's second floor has three 1/1 aluminum windows. An original bracketed metal cornice is at the top of the front wall. Another original architectural feature of the building that was not covered is located on the 4th Street side. It is a three-sided second floor bay located near the east side of the wall. The bay has fluted pilasters on each side of its three windows. The bay's windows are also aluminum; they have a short bottom sash and a tall upper sash. The changes to the building occurred in c. 1975 and render the building non-contributing, though they may easily be reversed.

The building was constructed in about 1897. In 1902, a grocery was located in the storefront. In 1910, a saloon was located in the building. By 1922, a millinery operated in the building. During the 1950s and 1960s the Corey Brothers Bakery was located in the building.

348 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1925/c. 1975. Non-contributing
Second from left in photo 0002

The building is two stories tall; its front wall has been entirely covered with stucco panels and false half-timbering to give the building a Tudor appearance. The top of the wall has several courses of wood shakes in the appearance of a mansard roof. The building is narrower and slightly shorter than the building at 350 Main Street. The front wall has a single storefront. The entry is recessed on the north side of the storefront; it is composed of a wood door with a full window. The display window's glass is curved where the entry is recessed back from the sidewalk. The window has a narrow metal frame. The wall below the display window is covered with stucco. The display window and door appear to be original to the building. The second floor has a pair of 1/1 aluminum windows centered in the front wall. The changes to the building occurred in c. 1975 and render the building non-contributing, though they may easily be reversed.

During the 1890s and early 1900s, a dressmaker and millinery operated out of the storefront. In 1910, the building had a restaurant operating from its storefront and by 1922, Looker's Cigar Store was located in the building. During the 1950s, a clothing store named LaMode was located in the building.

342 South Main. Kellen's Florist, 1975. Non-contributing
Third from left in photo 0002
The building is one story tall with a wide storefront. The storefront is composed of a wide elliptical window bay and a wide recessed entry. The entry is located in the north side of the wall. It is composed of a metal door with side-lites. The door and side-lites have windows composed of art glass. The window bay is composed five fixed windows with aluminum mullions. Wood pilasters are on each side of the bay and recessed entry. A wood cornice is located at the top of the storefront. Ceramic tiles cover the storefront walls. A mansard roof with a flared front eave is located at the top of the wall above the storefront. Asphalt shingles cover the mansard roof. The building was constructed by the Hobart Development Corporation as the new home for Kellen's Florist in about 1975.

340 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1890/c. 1975. Non-contributing
The building is two stories tall and has a single storefront. The storefront's walls are covered with wood boards. A recessed entry is located in the north side of the front wall. It has a new wood door with a half-window in its north side; this door is for the second story staircase. The store entry is located in the south side of the recessed wall. It is an aluminum and glass door. A pair of wide display windows composed of aluminum and glass is centered in the storefront wall. The front wall's second floor has brick pilasters on each side. The wall between the pilasters is covered with stone veneer. A wood window composed of art glass is located in the north side of the second floor's front wall. The window has a steeply-pitched gabled roof over it; the roof is covered with wood shakes and the gable wall is covered with wood shingles. A window composed of a wide center aluminum window and two narrow 1/1 aluminum windows is located in the south side of the second story wall. It has a tall, steeply pitched gabled roof over it. The gable extends up above the building's front parapet wall. The gabled roof is covered with wood shakes and the gable wall is covered with wood shingles. The fronts of both gables have jigsawn rake boards. A jigsawn trim board is located at the top of the second story wall. Small gabled roofs are located on top of each brick pilaster. The changes to the building occurred in c. 1975 and render the building non-contributing.

The building originally had a hardware store that operated in it during the 1890s and 1900s. A barber shop was located in the building during the 1910s and 1920s. Hopkin's Barber Shop was located in the building during the 1950s and 1960s.

336/338 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1895/1930. Contributing
The building is two stories tall and has a single storefront. The storefront's walls are covered with wood boards. The entry is recessed in the north side of the front wall. It is composed of an aluminum and glass door, side-lite and transom window. The storefront's display area is also slightly recessed from the front of the building. A wide aluminum and glass display window is centered in the wall. The second floor's front wall is composed of blonde-colored bricks. A small 1/1 aluminum window is located in the north side of the wall. A wide 1/1 aluminum window is located in the south side of the wall. Both windows have brick rowlock sills. A metal cornice with a row of dentils is located at the top of the second story's front wall. Changes to the building appear to have occurred in two steps; the first was a change during c. 1930 to the second story's front wall and the second occurred to the storefront in c. 1975. Changes to the building in c. 1930 occurred during the period of significance and qualify the building as contributing. The second story was re-bricked and new window locations and sizes were created.

The building was known as the Reissig Building during the first half of the 20th century. It housed a farm machinery sales room and then a saloon during the 1890s and early 1900s. A millinery was located in the building during the 1910s and a music shop used the storefront during the 1920s. The front wall second floor window locations were changed in about

1930. A newsstand used this building as its second location, called JK News #2, during the 1950s and 1960s. State Farm Insurance Agency also operated out of the building during the 1950s and 1960s.

332 South Main. Commercial building, 1872/c. 1930/c. 1975. Contributing
The building is two stories tall and has a single, wide storefront. The storefront's walls are covered with wood boards. The entry to the storefront is located in the building at 340 Main Street. The storefront has two wide pairs of display windows. The windows are aluminum and glass. A narrow addition on the north side of the building, between it and the building to the north, is one story tall and is covered with wood boards. Its front wall is recessed back from the front wall of the building and it has a solid wood door. The second floor's front wall is composed of blonde-colored bricks. It has a row of six 1/1 aluminum windows with continuous rowlock sill centered in it. The top of the wall has a thin limestone parapet cap. The changes to the storefront occurred in c. 1975.

This building likely served as the original Masonic Hall constructed in 1872; the lodge used the second floor of a building located here until 1925. The second floor front wall was renovated in about 1930 with new brick and current window configuration. Manteuffel Shoe Store used the building's business room during the 1910s and 1920s. During the 1950s the Reliable Shoe Store was located in the business room of this building.

318/322/326/328 South Main. Verplank Building, 1928. Contributing
Photo 0003
The building is one story tall and has four storefronts divided by brick pilasters. The front wall is composed of blonde-colored bricks. The building has a base composed of gray-colored terra cotta blocks. A star grille vent block is located beneath each front display window. Each storefront has a recessed entry centered in it. The storefronts have display windows composed of glass and metal. The storefront entries are composed of aluminum and glass doors and transoms. The center two storefronts have Luxfer-type glass transom windows. The outside two storefronts have sign boards that cover their transom windows. The storefront located south of the northernmost storefront has ceramic tile work covering the floor of its recessed entry. This storefront appears to be the most historically intact of the four. A cream-colored terra cotta stringcourse is across the tops of the storefronts the full width of the building. The wall above the storefronts is divided into four shallow pediment-shaped parapets with a truncated raised section between each. Seven terra cotta blocks that form a cross are centered in the parapet above each storefront. The blocks are molded with a flower pattern on their front. A vertical row of three terra cotta blocks is located in the front wall of each truncated tab. The bottom two blocks have flower pattern. The top block is wide and has a diamond pattern. A terra cotta cornice-like coping follows the top of the parapet.

Albert Verplank constructed this building in 1922; it replaced several early frame buildings. Albert Verplank was born to Dutch parents who immigrated to the United States during the middle part of the 19th century. Albert owned and operated his own auto garage in the Gary area during the late 1910s and early 1920s before relocating to Hobart. He opened a filling station in Hobart during the 1920s, though not at this building location. This building housed men's and women's clothing shops, gift shops, and the first home of the Hobart Federal Savings and Loan. During the 1950s the building housed a clothing store, J & M Auto Supply and Ed's Food Shop.

314 South Main. Orcutt Hotel & Office/Mander Building, 1915. Contributing
Right side of photo 0003
The building is two stories tall and has a single storefront. The front wall of the building is composed of bricks with stone trim. The storefront has a recessed entry centered in it. The storefront display area has been reduced in size with modern aluminum and glass windows. The entry door is a new wood door with a window composed of art glass. The wall around the door and display windows is covered with stucco. The wall below the display windows is composed of original bricks. The recessed entry's floor is covered with ceramic tile work. Stone capitals are located at the top of the pilasters that are on each side of the storefront. A stone sill course is located on the second story's front wall. A stone belt course also forms the lintels above the second story's windows. There are three 1/1 wood windows with transom windows on the second story's front wall. The building's front parapet has a masonry design composed of three rows of headers that form a panel. The panel is divided into three parts by rowlocks. Located at each corner and intersection of the panel's divisions is a stone and brick checkerboard pattern. The top of the wall has a stone cornice and a shaped parapet in the center of the wall. The top of the shaped parapet is a half-rounded wall with three diamond-shaped stones. The entire parapet masks the original gable roof except its eaves. A one-story section is located on the north side of the front wall. It has a metal door in its south side and a large square aluminum and glass display window in its north side. The display window has a stone sill. The top of the one-story section's wall has a panel design framed by rowlocks and metal parapet flashing.

The building was constructed in 1915 by Albert Orcutt as a hotel and restaurant. Orcutt operated the business through the 1930s. By the 1950s and through the 1960s the building became the Bates Hotel & Grill, operated by Peter Bates.

308/310 South Main. Fiester Building, 1907. Contributing
The building is two stories tall and has a single storefront. The front wall is composed of bricks with stone trim. The storefront has pilasters composed of rusticated stones on each of its sides. A staircase door is located in the north side of the front wall. The staircase door is a new wood door with an oval window and a wood transom window. There is wood rope molding around the door and transom. A narrow stone pilaster is between the staircase door and storefront display. The storefront has an entry door recessed in its center. The entry door is a new wood door with an oval window, transom, and wood side-lites. The display window on each side of the entry is divided into four windows by thin metal frames. The wall beneath the windows is composed of stone. The storefront's transom area is covered by a sign board. A stone cornice is above the sign board at the top of the storefront.

The second floor's front wall has rusticated stone quoins on its outside corners. A 1/1 aluminum window is located in the north side of the second story's front wall. A window composed of a fixed center aluminum window and two narrow 1/1 aluminum windows is located in the south side of the wall. The second floor's windows have rusticated stone sills and stone lintels. A thin belt course of rusticated stones is located between the windows. The bottom of the building's parapet has a belt course composed of rusticated stone and a stone cornice. A row of seven stone brackets support the cornice above the belt course.

The building was constructed in 1907 by Jacob Fiester. Fiester owned a cigar manufacturing business that operated on the second floor. He sold his products with other tobacco products on the main floor. The basement had a billiard and pool hall. During the 1910s-1920s a confectionary and ice cream store was located on the main floor. Sherman Henderson, an ice cream manufacturer and the first mayor of Hobart, was one of tenants. The building was also known as the Morton Building due to the offices of Dr. Morton, a dentist, being located on the second floor. During the 1930s, Kroger's operated a store from the building. Then in 1940, Leon Gardner opened a Walgreen Agency drug store in the building. Walgreens continued from this location until 1981; the business was renamed Hobart Drugs, but it was locally known as "Leon's".

236/238 South Main. Fiester Building, 1890-1893. Italianate. Contributing
Left side of photo 0004
Seward Lightner, architect/builder
The building is located on the northwest corner of Main and Third Streets. It is two stories tall and has two storefronts. The walls are composed of bricks; the storefronts were remodeled between c. 1960-1990. The south storefront has a corner entry facing the intersection. A column composed of stone ashlars is located on the outside corner. The entry, composed of a wood door and side-lite, is recessed into the corner which is cutaway from the storefront. The storefront is composed of aluminum and glass display windows. The wall below the display windows is composed of stone ashlars. The display windows wrap around the corner and slightly continue on the 3rd Street wall. The transom area is covered with metal. The north storefront has a staircase door in its south side. The door is a wood door with a window in its upper half. The remainder of the storefront is deeply recessed. Its wall is composed of bricks. It has an aluminum and glass entry door in its south side and three pairs of aluminum and glass display windows on its front wall. Metal covers the transom area of the storefront.

The front wall's second story has eight windows with stone sills and pedimented metal window hoods. The windows are 1/1 aluminum. The windows over the north storefront are slightly smaller than the original window location; the area around the new windows has been filled in with wood. The top of the front wall has an elaborate metal entablature. The entablature has rows of semicircular fans divided by brackets on its frieze with a cornice above the brackets. Finials are located above each outside corner of the cornice and a building sign panel is centered above the cornice; it has, in raised numbers, "1893" on its front.

The Fiester building was constructed between 1890 and 1893 by John L. Fiester. Fiester had a hardware and drygoods store in the building until about the end of the 1890s. In 1895, the building also had a saloon and barber shop in the basement. By 1910, a saloon, bowling alley, and a Chinese laundry were all operating from the basement. Motion pictures and vaudeville acts were being shown on the main level as early as 1909. In 1922, the basement had a business room for both bowling and billiards. A drugstore occupied the south business block and motion pictures were being

shown in the north block. Oliver Dyche began his drugstore in the building in 1931. The motion pictures were shown in the building under a few theater names including the Colonial, the Gem, and the Strand. By the 1950s and 60s, the north storefront which had housed the theaters was occupied by taverns known as Tommy's Bar and the Club Bar Tavern. The south storefront was occupied by Main Drugs during this same time. The local Justice of the Peace had a room on the second floor during the 1950s.

232 South Main. Hobart Bank, c. 1884/c. 1930. Contributing
The building is one story tall and its front wall is composed of wire-cut bricks. The front wall has a new wood door in its north side; the door has a window in its upper half. A large aluminum and glass display window is located in the south side of the front wall. It has a stone sill and a transom window divided into two panes of glass. The top of the wall has a panel framed by a header course and metal parapet flashing. Sometime toward the end of the bank's use of the building, or during its early use as an insurance agent's office, the owner remodeled the façade to its present appearance.

The building was constructed to be Hobart's first bank. In 1884, Joseph Gardner established the Hobart Bank. He was the president of Farmers' National Bank in nearby Valparaiso. The bank was the second established in Lake County. The Hobart Bank moved into the corner room of the Stratton Building at Main and 3rd Streets (no longer extant) in 1913. The bank did not survive the economic downturn of 1929 and it was liquidated in 1930. After its use as a bank the building primarily served as professional offices for attorneys, real estate and insurance agents. In 1928 Joseph E. Mellon and Henning Nelson bought the building and established their real estate and insurance company. A year later Mellon bought out his partner and the building served the Mellon Insurance Agency into the later part of the 1900s.

230 South Main. Art Theater, 1941. Art Deco. Contributing
Photo 0005
Erwin G. Frederick, architect; Hanns R. Teichert, interior decorator
The building has a wide, one-story front part with the theater auditorium above and behind the front portion. A one-story addition was created for a theater office on the south side of the front of the building. The building's walls were originally composed of terra cotta tiles. Most of the terra cotta has been covered with stucco-like material, however much of the original Art Deco stylized decorative moldings remain uncovered. The front wall has a base composed of burgundy-colored terra cotta. The front wall has a ticket booth centered in it with pairs of entry doors recessed into the front wall on either side of the ticket booth. The ticket booth has rounded outside corners on its walls and a glass enclosure. The entry doors are wood with full windows. A marquee is located above the booth and entry area. The marquee's walls are covered with stucco. The building's front wall, minus the office addition, is symmetrical. A bay is located to each side of the entry area. The bay has an accentuated verticality with courses of ribbed terra cotta tiles that form pilasters on each side of a glass coming attractions board. A tall panel of gold-colored terra cotta tiles is above the attractions board; it has a variation of the Art Deco-stylized "frozen fountain" on it. The pilasters continue on each side of the gold panel and continue above the front wall's parapet. The parapet of the front wall and vertical bay have terra cotta coping. The coping tiles are toothed to form a zigzag pattern at the top of the wall. The coming attractions boards are glass and metal cases stamped with "Sealuxe Windows". There are four of these; one at the bottom of each vertical bay and one on each angled wall of the recessed entry.

The front wall of the theater auditorium is also covered in stucco. A wide center bay is stepped out from the main wall and is also taller than the main wall. The bay and the main wall have coping tiles that match those of the one-story part of the building. The word "ART" is centered in the bay. The front wall of the one-story addition on the south side of the building is also covered with stucco. It has an aluminum and glass door in its north side and a large round aluminum and glass window in its south side. The shaped parapet steps down in three rounded verticals to the south. There is a back-lit coming attractions board above the door.

The Art Theater was constructed by the Prusiecki family in 1941. Ed Prusiecki purchased the Strand Theater in the Fiester building in 1939 and relocated his theater operation to this site. The theater's opening night was August 27, 1941 and featured the film "One Night in Lisbon". Prusiecki was the theater manager and added the office on the south side of the building. The building is located on the site of the early Hobart House Hotel which was razed.

216/218/220 South Main. Ben Ack Building, 1926. Contributing
Fourth from right side of photo 0006
The building is two stories tall and has three storefronts. Its walls are composed of blonde-colored bricks with slightly lighter colored bricks that compose pilasters between the storefronts. The pilasters have stone bases and capitals at the top of the storefront walls. The middle and north storefront's front walls are slightly recessed into the building. Storefront

walls and doors are aluminum and glass. The entry doors are centered in the storefronts. A stairway door is located in the north side of the center storefront wall. The transom area of these two storefronts are covered with a tall section of metal. The south storefront retains its original configuration and some early materials even though the base and transom have been obscured. It has a deeply recessed entry in the center of its front wall. The entry is an early if not original wood door with full window. The storefront has a display window in each of the recessed entry's side walls and a large display window on each side of the recessed entry. The display windows which are likely original are glass with thin metal frames. The wall below the display windows is covered with corrugated metal. The transom area is also covered with metal. A belt course composed of soldiers is above the storefronts.

The second floor's front wall has four pairs of 1/1 aluminum windows. The windows have stone sills. The top of the front wall has a thin parapet capstone.

The building was named for the Potawatomi Indian Chief, Ben Ack, who once owned the land on which Hobart is located. During the 1950s and 1960s Henri's Ladies Apparel was located in the north storefront. JK News operated from the middle storefront during the 1950s; Cubberly's Jewelry store was located in the middle storefront during the 1960s. The south storefront housed the Hobart Liquor Store during the 1950s and 1960s.

214 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1897. Non-contributing
Third from right side of photo 0006
The building is two stories tall and its walls are composed of bricks. Its front wall was reconstructed with bricks in c. 2000. The front wall's first floor has an aluminum and glass door and transom window in its north side. The door has a segmental brick arch. The first floor's front wall has two 1/1 wood windows. The windows have segmental brick arches and rusticated stone sills. The second floor's front wall has two 1/1 wood windows. They also have segmental brick arches and rusticated stone sills. The top of the front wall has a corbel arcade and clay tile coping.

Dr. Dwight Mackey used this building for his offices and residence during the early 1900s into the 1920s. Later, Dr. Ralph Banks, a dentist, also used the building for his offices. During the 1950s and 1960s, a dentist named F. Gutowski operated his dental office from this location.

210 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1915. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0006
The building is one story tall and its walls are composed of brown-colored bricks. The front wall has a new wood entry door in its south side. The door has a window in its upper half. A wood and glass display window is located in the north side of the front wall. It has a stone sill. A wood trim board is located across the top of the door and window, the full width of the front wall. The building has clay tile coping.

This building was constructed for a dental office and residence for Dr. Fred Werner, and during the 1920s for Dr. Banks. During the 1950s and 1960s, Earl's Barber Shop and Slick's Laundry were housed in the building.

206 South Main. Krull Tower, 1994. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 0006
The building is three stories tall and has a wide front gable. The building's side walls are composed of concrete blocks; the front corners of the building are also composed of concrete blocks. The front gabled part of the building extends out slightly toward the sidewalk. Its first story wall is composed of bricks and its upper stories are covered with stucco and wood. The first floor's front wall has an entry door in its north side. The door is a new metal door with a window in its upper half. There are three display windows in the front wall south of the door. The middle window is composed of two panes of glass and the other two windows are composed of three panes of glass. A shed roof is located at the top of the first floor. The outside corners of the second and third floors' front walls are covered with stucco. The middle part of the wall is covered with wood. There are three rows of windows in the front wall of the second floor. The middle row is composed of two windows and the other two rows have three windows in each of them. The third floor has a steel balcony centered on it. Its front wall has a row of five glass doors. The middle three doors have a pointed transom window above them. The words "Krull Tower" and 1994 are painted in the gable. The gable has jigsawn rake boards.

200 South Main. NIPSCO Building, c. 1955/c. 1985. Non-contributing
The building is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and 2nd Streets. It is one story tall and its walls are of brick, but its front wall is covered with metal. It has an aluminum and glass entry door and side-lite recessed into

the center of the wall. The 2nd Street wall has six windows composed of glass blocks. The windows have stone sills and lintels composed of soldiers. Because the front wall is covered with metal, the building is rendered non-contributing.

The building was constructed by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company for offices during the 1950s. They continued to operate from this location through the 1960s.

Main Street, east side going south.

221 South Main. Hobart Post Office, 1936-37/1966. Classical Revival/Art Moderne. Contributing
Photo 0007
Louis Simon, architect
Built in an idiom sometimes referred to as "Starved Classicism", the building is one story tall and its walls are of brick with stone trim. Though it has one story in plan, tall ceilings and observation mezzanines make it equal to two stories of standard construction. The main floor level sits on a tall stone base. A wide concrete stoop with steps and a ramp is located on the front of the building. The building has a 1966 extension on its north side; it is set back from the front wall approximately two feet. The roof of the building is flat. The front wall of the original building is symmetrical. It has a wide three-bay center entry section that is composed of four wide stone pilasters. The pilasters rise to the height of the upper belt course and have thin capitals at their tops. The middle two pilasters are on each side of an aluminum door and side light. An aluminum and glass transom window is above the door, but is separated by a tall stone lintel. Between the middle and outside pilasters are tall aluminum and glass windows that are divided into four panes of glass. They have stone sills and the wall above and below the window are stone.

A window is located in the north and south sides of the front wall. The windows are 6/6 wood and they have stone sills with recessed stone panels reaching to the base below. The panel above the windows is stone and has an eagle stylized into aircraft engine and propeller (signifying airmail) carved in low relief. A stone belt course is at the top of the pilasters and stone above the windows; this forms the base of the building's parapet wall. Metal flashing forms a parapet cap on top of the wall. The front wall of the 1966 extension has similar details. It has a stone base and one window near its north side. The window matches those described previously except that it does not have a low relief carving. A building cornerstone is located in the base. It has the names of the architect, Secretary of the Treasury, postmaster general, engineer, and the year the building was constructed.

The original part of the building was constructed for $67,000 and funding was assisted by Works Progress Adminstration. The building also contains a mural painted under the Public Works of Art Program of the 1930s. The mural was painted by William A. Dolwick in 1938 and is titled "Early Hobart". It depicts scenes of some of Hobart's earliest buildings.

235 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1880/c. 1897. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0008
The building has three parts: an original two-story building, a one-story addition on its north side (c. 1897), and an enclosed stairway addition on its south side. The storefront of the original building and the front walls of the additions are covered with wood. A metal door is located in the front wall of the south addition. A recessed entry is located in the south side of the original building's storefront. The door is a metal door with a window in its upper half. A wide wood and glass display window is located in the front wall of the original building north of the entry. A metal door with a window in its upper half is located in the south side of the north addition. A wood and glass display window is located in the wall north of the door. The additions have flat roofs and a metal parapet cap.

The original building's walls are composed of bricks. It has a gabled roof that is fronted by a parapeted wall. The front wall's second story has a pair of 1/1 aluminum windows in its south side and one 1/1 aluminum window in its north side. The windows have stone sills and hood-like lintels. The front wall has brick pilasters on each corner. The top of the pilaster extends above the parapet wall and has a corbelled capital with a rusticated stone cap. A thin belt course composed of rusticated stone is located near the top of the parapet, just below the pilaster capitals. The center of the parapet has a short gable wall. Three courses of brick form a corbelled cornice at the top of the parapet wall. The parapet is capped by terra cotta coping.

The building housed a saloon operated by Lawrence Traeger and his family as early as the 1920s through the 1960s, though the business operated under a few different names. The two story building is identified as a saloon in the 1895 and 1910 Sanborn maps. The one story building was used as a tailor shop during the 1920s and a restaurant afterward.

237 South Main & 512/514 East Third. Roper Building/American Trust & Savings, 1890/1926. Neoclassical. Contributing
Middle and right side of photo 0008
Seward Lightner, architect/building
The building is located on the northeast corner of Main and 3rd Streets. It is two stories tall and its walls are composed of cast concrete and limestone. Its west and south walls are mirrored and are divided into three bays with windows. The entry is located in an angled wall at the corner of the building that faces the intersection. The building has a dark grey-colored granite base. The south and west walls are mirrored. They are divided into three bays by two engaged fluted Roman Doric columns that are ¾ round. Each column has a plinth and attic base. The column capitals have necking bands of rosettes and an echinus of egg-and-dart molding. A Doric anta is located on each outside corner. The first story windows are composed of short aluminum and glass display windows at the bottom of the openings and glass blocks filling in the tall space above the short windows. The windows are the full-width of the bay. The windows have stone sills and simple stone cornices. The second story windows are slightly narrower and shorter. They have stone sills and simple surrounds. The second story windows are 1/1 wood windows. A Doric entablature is at the top of the walls. The frieze has triglyphs and the cornice is supported by modillions. Two courses of blocks form the parapet wall above the cornice. A thin cornice is located at the top of the parapet.

The entry wall is narrow. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass door, narrow side-lites, and transom. The entry has a simple architrave surround. A cornice is located at the top of the surround. Above the cornice is a low relief carving of a pair of horns of plenty flanking a clock. A building stone is located above the clock, though it is partially covered by a sign board. “American Trust & Savings” is engraved on the stone. A large fixed window is located in the second floor of the entry wall. Historic light fixtures without glass shades are located at the top of each bay and are mounted to the bottom of the building’s entablature.

This building has a two-story rear part that fronts Third Street and contains two storefronts. The west side of the first story wall is of concrete block that match the corner building. This part of the wall has a pair of wood entry doors in its east end. The doors have full windows and a transom. They have a simple surround and entablature above the entry. There are two large windows in the wall west of the entry. The windows are composed of glass blocks. The two storefronts have pilasters composed of blocks on each of their corners. The west storefront is wider than the east storefront. It has a recessed entry in its west side. The storefront wall has a base composed of blocks. The display area is covered with stucco and false half-timbering. There are four narrow wood windows in the storefront wall. The transom area is covered with metal. The east storefront has a recessed entry on its west side. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass door and transom. The storefront has a wide aluminum and glass display window in its east side. The window is divided into two panes of glass. The wall beneath the window is covered with metal. A roll-out awning is located above the east storefront. The transom area is covered with metal. The front wall’s second floor has a mansard roof built over it. The mansard roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are eight 1/1 metal windows cut into the mansard roof.

The Roper Building was constructed in 1890 by James Roper. Roper operated a meat market in the front portion of the building. In 1926, the American Trust and Savings Bank located in the building and reconstructed the façade to its Neoclassical appearance. The renovation included adding a building to the east side of the bank. The American Trust and Savings Bank was established in 1912. In 1930, the bank was absorbed by its neighbor to the south, the First State Bank. The Hobart Federal Savings & Loan occupied the building from 1949-1960. During the 1960s, the Bank of Indiana occupied the building. The Third Street storefronts were remodeled during the time the bank remodeled its corner location. The Third Street storefronts housed the Hobart Post Office during the 1890s and early 1900s. A saloon and barber were located in the building during the 1910s. The barber shop continued into the 1920s and a baked goods store was located in the west storefront during the same period. During the 1960s, an interior decorating store and John’s Barber Shop were located in the building. The second floor had professional offices for Krull & Son Land Surveying and attorneys offices for Troutman, Peddicord & Peddicord during the 1960s.

301 South Main. First State Bank, 1888/1922. Neoclassical. Contributing
Left side of photo 0009 and right side of photo 0018
The building is located on the southeast corner of Main and 3rd Streets. It is two stories tall. The building was constructed in 1888 and was first known as the Lake George Hotel, however a bank purchased and remodeled it 34 years later. The bank added a new limestone façade on the Main Street wall of the building in 1922. The Main Street wall is symmetrical and is divided into three bays by pilasters with stylized Corinthian capitals. The front wall has a stone base and pilasters that support a tall entablature at the top of the second story. The middle bay has the entry. It is composed of a wood

door with a full window and transom. The entry has a wide surround with acanthus leaf trim. A pediment with a broken cornice is over the entry. The pediment is supported by a pair of wide scroll brackets. A shield with swag trim is centered in the wall of the broken cornice. 1922 is carved in the shield. Aluminum and glass display windows and transoms are located in the first story wall of the other two bays. The windows are the full width of the bay. A recessed rectangular stone spandrel panel is located in the wall between the first and second stories. The second story has a 1/1 metal window in each of its bays. The windows have stone sills. The windows have been reduced slightly in height; the bottom of the original opening is filled in with wood. The top of the second story has an entablature with its frieze engraved with the words "THE FIRST STATE BANK". The parapet wall is located above the entablature's cornice. The wall is composed of two courses of blocks and a stone cap. The middle stones of the parapet cap are shaped to form a very low-pitched pediment.

The 3rd Street wall is brick and retains the general 1888 appearance of the building. It has three entries in its first story. The western two are located near the middle of the wall. They are wood doors with full windows and aluminum and glass side-lites and transoms. The easternmost entry is recessed from the sidewalk; it is composed of a wood door with a full window and an aluminum and glass transom. A display window and transom composed of aluminum and glass is located west of the east entry. A display window and transom built of aluminum and glass is located west of the west entry. Both display windows have stone sills. The second story wall has ten windows with stone sills and segmented arches. The windows are 1/1 metal with transoms. The transom is covered with wood. The fourth window from the west side of the wall is covered with wood. The west half of the parapet is slightly taller than the east half. It has a cornice composed of half-round arched corbel arcade. The east half of the parapet has matching corbels that support a stone parapet cap.

The original building was constructed by George Stocker in 1888. The original design is evident in the building's north side and in the adjacent building's front wall (305 South Main); the two were originally one building. The First State Bank was organized in 1899 and purchased the north half of Stocker's building in 1902. In 1922, the bank commissioned a remodeling with Neoclassical façade on the front of the building. Gary National Bank bought the First State Bank in 1945 and was located here until they constructed a new building in about 1955. In the late 1950s, into the 1960s, the building was home to the Liberty Loan Corporation of Indiana. Several professional offices used the second story business rooms including the community's first telephone exchange. The *Hobart Herald* used the storefront on the north side of the building during the 1960s for publishing a community newspaper.

305 South Main. Lake George Hotel/Stocker Building, c. 1888. Italianate. Contributing
Right side of photo 0009
The building is a two story brick structure. The first story's front wall has a stairway door in its north side. The door is wood and has a full window and transom. Originally, the stairway door and transom opening was taller and had a segmented arch (still extant). The area above the existing transom has been filled in with bricks. The building's storefront is composed of four aluminum and glass display windows with transoms. The wall beneath the display windows is composed of bricks. The entry door is located in the south side of the storefront. It is a wood door with a full window and transom. The second story's front wall has three 1/1 metal windows centered above the storefront. The windows have stone sills and hoods. The hoods form a segmented arch and are carved with a raised keystone and vine pattern in low relief. The building has a decorative metal entablature with a row of brackets divided by cross-and-flower frieze panels with a chevron molding above each.

George Stocker constructed this building in 1888. During the 1890s the building assumed the name of the nearby lake and was called the Lake George Hotel. A drygoods store operated in the storefront during the 1920s. Hobe's Fine Foods was located in the building in the 1950s and Big Ben Shoe-Per Market Shoes was located in the building during the 1960s.

307 South Main. Unity Shoe Shop, c. 1880/c. 1960. Non-contributing
The building is one story tall and has a single storefront. The storefront's entry is centered on the front wall and is slightly recessed from the sidewalk. The entry has a wood door with a full window and a storm door. A large aluminum and glass display window is located in the front wall on each side of the recessed entry. The wall below the display windows is composed of bricks. The transom area is covered by an awning. The parapet wall is covered with metal. Tile coping is at the top of the wall. The covering of the entire storefront wall with metal and new brick renders the building non-contributing.

George Stocker, who constructed the building block north of this building, first made shoes at this location when he arrived in Hobart. Because Stocker also once served as postmaster, the post office was also once located in this building

during the 1800s. The building housed a clothing store during the 1890s. The Unity Shoe Store was started by Spase Atseff in about 1918. Spase was a native of Yugoslavia who moved to the United States at the age of 16. In 1917, he was drafted to serve during World War I in which he served for 18 months. He moved to Hobart and opened his shoe shop after buying the business. He married Depina in 1935 during a return trip to Yugoslavia. She operated the store with him for close to 60 years.

313 South Main. Schultz Brothers Variety Store, 1947. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0010
The building is one story tall and its front wall is composed of bricks and polished granite veneer. The building has a wide storefront that is framed on its sides and across its top by large blocks of burgundy-colored granite veneer. Shorter pieces of veneer form the base of the storefront area. The storefront's entry is located in the north side of the front wall. It is composed of two aluminum and glass doors that lead to a vestibule. South of the entry are six large aluminum and glass display windows. A fabric canopy is above the aluminum and storefront entry and display windows. A portion of storefront both north of the entry area and south of the display windows has been filled in with brick. This includes a large area of storefront that is located in the front wall of a building attached to the south side of the main building. The parapet wall of the main building and the attached building is of blonde-colored brick. The building has cast concrete capstones on its parapet wall.

The building was once two stories tall but was reduced to a one-story building when it was remodeled in 1947 for the Schultz Brothers Variety Store. It was home to the Schultz Brothers into the 1980s. Because the alteration dates to within the period of significance, the building still contributes to the district.

325 South Main. Commercial building, 1895. Italianate. Contributing
Right side of photo 0010
The building is two stories tall and its walls are composed of bricks. The first story's storefront wall is covered with metal. A stairway door is located in the north side of the front wall. The door is a metal door with a window in its upper half. The storefront is composed of two large aluminum and glass display windows. The wall beneath the windows is composed of thin stone ashlars. The entry door is located in the south side of the storefront wall. It is a wide aluminum and glass door with a transom. Metal also covers the transom area above the display windows. A metal canopy is located across the full-width of the storefront. The second story's front wall is of dark red-colored brick laid in red-colored mortar. The wall has three windows. The windows are 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and metal hoods. The hoods, formed as short cornice sections, are supported by brackets and have a short pediment centered on their tops. A decorative metal cornice is at the top of the front wall. It has finials on its corners.

The building is identified as a drugstore in the 1895 Sanborn map. In 1922, it was identified as a grocery. During the 1950s and 1960s it was used as a clothing store known as Lo-Eth Style Shop and later Elinor's Tots and Teens Clothing.

327 South Main. Commercial building, 1940/c. 2000. Non-contributing
The building is one story tall and has a single, wide storefront. The building's front wall is covered with stucco. The storefront is composed of aluminum and glass windows and doors. Two entry doors are located in the center of the front wall. There are recessed slightly from the sidewalk. Stucco pilasters are on each corner of the front wall and a stucco cornice is at the top of the front wall. The modern stucco covering of the front wall and replacement of the historic storefront material renders the building non-contributing.

Jacob Ittel constructed this building in about 1940 for Consumers Chain grocery, known as Kroger. Kroger relocated to this building in 1940 from a previous location on the west side of Main Street. Kroger's continued to operate from this location through the 1950s until they constructed a new building. During the 1960s Vossberg Appliance Company was located here.

337 South Main. Commercial building, 1869. Italianate. Contributing
Left side of photo 0011
The building is two stories tall and its walls are composed of bricks. The building has a gabled roof that is covered by a gabled parapet wall. The first story's storefront is composed of a deeply recessed entry in the center of the wall. The entry has a pair of wood doors with full windows. Two display windows with transoms are on each side of the entry. The display windows are composed of wood and glass. The wall below each display window is composed of wood with a recessed panel. The storefront was reconstructed in c. 2000. The remaining wall of the first story is composed of new bricks. An enclosed stairway is located on the north side of the first story. The enclosure's front wall is composed of

bricks. It has a stairway door. The door is wood and has a window that is divided into eight panes of glass. A panel is in the bottom of the door. A thin belt course composed of rusticated stone is at the top of the first story wall.

The second story has three 1/1 wood windows with half-round arched transoms. The windows have rusticated stone sills and brick half-round arches. A thin belt course composed of rusticated stone is at the top of the second story wall and forms the base of the parapet. The parapet wall has brick pilasters on each corner. The pilasters have rusticated stone caps. The parapet wall has a corbelled cornice composed of three courses of bricks and a cap composed of clay tile coping. A gable wall is centered at the top of the parapet.

During the 1890s a feed store was located in this building. A saloon was located in the building during the 1900s and 1910s first operated as Ahrens and then by Redding. Later, a bakery and restaurant were located in the business room; the restaurant was still located in the building into the 1950s.

339/341 South Main. Kostbade Building, 1950. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0011
The building is one story tall and has two storefronts. It is built of light brown-colored brick. The entry for each storefront is located near the center of the front wall. The entries have aluminum and glass doors. The south storefront has a wide aluminum and glass display window that is divided into three panes of glass. The north storefront has a wide aluminum and glass display window. Awnings are located above each of the storefronts. The parapet wall has four courses of orange-colored brick at its top. The parapet has a metal cap. A building stone with “KOSTBADE” engraved in it is centered in the parapet wall.

A local attorney, Ray Kostbade, remodeled an earlier two-story building erected by the Earle family into this one-story structure in 1950. Abbott’s Restaurant was located in the north half of the building during the 1950s and 1960s. Elinor’s Clothing Shop was located in the south half of the building during the same period.

343 South Main. Odell Jewelry Building, c. 1915/c. 1955. Contributing
Third from left side of photo 0011
The building is one story tall and has a single storefront. The front wall was covered with metal in about 1955. The storefront has a deeply recessed entry in the center of the wall. A large aluminum and glass display window angles back into the recessed entryway from the north corner of the storefront. A second aluminum and glass display window is on the south side of the storefront wall. It has a frameless corner and continues onto the south wall of the recessed entryway. Metal covers the wall above and below the storefront windows. The entry door is aluminum and glass and has a transom. A short metal eave is located across the top of the storefront’s full-width.

During the 1920s the building was used as a shoe repair shop. In about 1950 Odell Smith moved his jewelry business from the west side of Main Street to this location and remodeled the building. He expanded his business into the building adjacent to the south side of his building in the late 1960s.

347 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1960. Contributing
Middle of photo 0011
The building is located on the northeast corner of 4th and Main Streets. It is one story tall and its walls are composed of bricks. The building’s storefront has a deeply recessed entry door in its north side. The door is aluminum and glass and has a short transom. The storefront wall angles inward toward the entry door from the south corner of the front wall. The storefront wall has an aluminum and glass display window that is divided into two panes of glass. The window has a stone sill. The display area wraps around to the south wall of the building where another window is located. The wall beneath the display windows is brick. An awning is located at the top of the storefront; it also wraps around onto the south wall of the building. Large sign boards are mounted over the parapet wall above the storefront. The parapet is composed of eight courses of bricks and has a stone cap. A small storefront is located in the east end of the south wall of the building. It is composed of a metal door in its east side and an aluminum and glass display window. A doorway is located in the center of the south wall. It has been covered with wood.

The building was constructed in about 1962. It housed the Beauti-Rama Beauty Shop in 1962 and shortly after was the home to Pete’s Snack Shop, a restaurant. Shortly before 1968, Odell Smith expanded his jewelry shop into the building.

401/405 South Main. Odd Fellows Hall, c. 1885/c. 1960/c.2000. Non-contributing
Photo 0012
The building is located on the southeast corner of 4th and Main Street. It is a large two-story building with three storefronts. Two storefronts face Main Street and one storefront faces 4th Street. The two Main Street storefronts have been combined into a single storefront with an entry located in a wide wall that is cutaway at the building's northwest corner. The entrance faces the intersection. It is composed of an aluminum and glass door and side-lites. Pairs of pilasters and a pediment surround the entry; they are formed from stucco. A wide aluminum and glass display window is located in the north side of the Main Street wall; it is divided into four panes of glass. Two display windows are located in the south side of the Main Street wall; both are divided into two panes of glass. The first story's Main Street wall has a base composed of limestone ashlars. Pilasters composed of limestone ashlars are located on each side of the former south storefront that faces Main Street. The display windows were reduced in size and stucco was used to fill in the area formerly occupied by glass. Stucco also covers the transom area. A stone cornice is located at the top of the first story wall. The 4th Street storefront is located in the east side of the 4th Street wall. It has a deeply recessed entryway with an aluminum and glass door in its west side. An aluminum and glass display window is located in the storefront east of the door. The first story of the 4th Street wall is covered with limestone ashlars. A stone cornice is located at the top of the first story wall.

The second story walls and parapet are covered with stucco. Three 1/1 wood windows are located in the second story wall above the former south storefront. The windows have stone jack arches with keystones. The 4th Street second story wall has four 1/1 wood windows. The windows also have stone jack arches with keystones. The windows that were located on the cutaway corner wall and those above the north/corner storefront have been covered with stucco. The change to the storefronts from their original plans and materials and the covering of the second story walls with stucco, including covering some windows, renders the building non-contributing.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized Earle Lodge #333 on July 29, 1869. The Odd Fellows constructed this building in about 1885 on land donated by the Earle family. The Odd Fellows had their meeting hall on the second floor along with the Temperance Hall in 1895. In 1902, the building's storefronts housed the Hobart Steam Laundry and a grocery. In the 1920s, the storefronts included a hardware business and the *Hobart News*. By the 1950s, the Hobart Hatchery used one of the storefronts and Mills Cleaners and the *Hobart Herald* used other storefronts in the building.

409 South Main. Commercial building, c. 1925. Non-contributing
Second from right side of photo 0012
The building is one story tall and has a single storefront. The buildings walls and parapet details have been covered with stucco which renders the building non-contributing. The storefront has a deeply recessed entry in the center of the wall. The entry door is wood with a full window. Two steps are in front of the door. Aluminum and glass display windows are located on each side of the recessed entry. The windows wrap around the corner of the entryway and form display windows on each side wall of the recessed entry. A vinyl awning is above the storefront and covers the full-width of the front wall. The parapet has cornice formed from stucco.

During the 1950s and 1960s the building housed Kellen's Hobart Flower Shop. Kellen's relocated to the west side of Main Street in a building constructed by the Hobart Development Corporation in about 1975.

413 South Main. Carstensen Building, 1912-1913. Contributing
Right side of photo 0012
The building is two stories tall and its walls are brick. The building has a single storefront with a stairway door in the north side of its front wall. The stairway door is a new metal door with a tall transom window composed of glass blocks. A brick pilaster with a stone base and capstone is on each side of the door and transom. A matching pilaster is on the south corner of the front wall. The storefront has a recessed entry centered in it. Wood and glass display windows are on each side of the recessed entry. The display windows have Luxfer-type or prism glass transoms. The wall beneath the display window is composed of limestone ashlars. The windows have limestone sills. The entry door is a new metal door with windows composed of art glass. The door has a tall transom composed of small squares of art glass. A belt course composed of brick dentils is across the full-width of the front wall at the top of the storefront and stairway entry.

The second story's front wall has two 1/1 wood windows. The windows have stone sills. The top of the front wall has an entablature composed of a row of brick dentils, four corbelled courses of bricks, and a thin stone cornice. A brick parapet wall is above the entablature. It has a rusticated capstone.

Emma Carstensen constructed this building in 1913 to accommodate the meat market begun by her husband, Conrad. He came to Hobart in about 1904 and bought out the Roper meat market started by James Roper in about 1890 at the corner of Main and 3rd Streets. Conrad died in 1911 but his wife continued the operation and lived upstairs until she remarried. She sold the business in 1915 to Rudolf Rinne and Paul Schutze. They sold the business in 1919, after which it changed hands again in 1929. The meat market closed during the 1940s. During the 1950s, the building was home to the Hobart Launderette. In the 1960s, Sanz Electric operated from the building.

433 South Main. Centier Bank, 1967. Non-contributing
The building is one story tall. Its walls are composed of bricks and it has a flat roof. A projecting bulkhead of metal panels encircles the top of the building. A drive-thru with a metal canopy is located on the north side of the building. It has aluminum and glass doors and windows. The entry is centered in the building's west wall. Pairs of large aluminum and glass windows are on each side of the entry.

The building was constructed for the Bank of Indiana in 1967. The exterior remains largely unchanged except the brick walls and the metal at the top of the walls has been painted.

Center Street, beginning at the south end of the district, west side of street.

426 South Center. German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church/School, 1876. Italianate. Contributing
The building is a one-story, gable-front former church. Its walls are brick and its roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building's side walls are divided into three bays by brick pilasters. The bays are framed by the pilasters; the top of the pilasters curve outward and merge with a raised brick frieze band that encloses the tops of the bays. A 1/1 aluminum window is located in each bay. The windows have stone sills and half-round multi-coursed brick arches. The top of the window opening is covered with wood. The front wall has the same recessed panel/raised pilaster treatment as the side bays. A door and side-lite are centered in the front wall. The door is a new door with a small window. The door has a half-round arch with projecting outer course that forms the opening for a transom window. The transom has been covered with wood. The building has a wood frieze board at the top of its walls. A small one-story addition is located on the back of the building; its walls are composed of concrete blocks.

John Earle, the son of the town's founder, George, donated the lot on which the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation constructed their first house of worship in 1876. The congregation, which had been organized in 1873, was primarily composed of German immigrants to the community. The church's cornerstone was laid on October 6, 1873. The church was dedicated in 1876 after the interior was finished. A parsonage was added north of the building, but it is no longer extant. The congregation outgrew the building and constructed a new house of worship in 1900 at the corner of Main and 2nd Streets. The Trinity Lutheran School moved into the building then vacated by the congregation. In 1949, a new school was constructed after which time the Unitarian Church purchased the property and used the building as a social hall. In 1957, the building was purchased by the Wooddale Baptist congregation who worshipped here until their merger with Hillcrest Baptist Church, after which time the building was used for commercial purposes.

426 South Center (rear). Commercial building, c. 1965. Non-contributing
An L-shaped building wraps around the west and north sides of the former church building. The north-south leg of the building is two stories tall and its walls are composed of concrete blocks. It has side gables. The east-west leg of the building is one story tall. Its walls are also composed of concrete blocks; the front wall is composed of bricks. It has a front gable.

The building was constructed in about 1965 for classroom space for the Wooddale Baptist Church that had purchased the former German Lutheran Church building in 1957. The building was later used for offices.

222 South Center. Commercial building, c. 1970. Non-contributing
The building is three stories tall. Its first floor walls are composed of bricks. Its second and third floor walls are covered with a tall mansard roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A wide entry hall is located in the south side of the front wall. The entry is composed of glass and wood and is two stories tall. There are three narrow bays with windows on each floor located in the front wall north of the entry hall. The bays cut through the mansard roof; they have wood on their walls. The windows are wood casements.

Center Street east side going south.

219 South Center. Hobart Masonic Temple, 1925. Neo-Classical Revival/Craftsman. Contributing
Left side of photo 0014
The building is two stories tall and its walls are brick with stone trim. Its front wall is divided into three bays by pilasters composed of narrow stone trim on their corners and an interior field of bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. The pilasters have stone bases and capitals at the top of the second story. The year 1925 is engraved in the south corner base. The front wall's center bay is wider than the outside bays. It has an entry in its first floor; the entry is composed of a pair of aluminum and glass doors and a transom window. The entry has a portico composed of stone fluted Ionic pilasters, against the wall, and columns. The columns and pilasters support the portico's stone entablature, which has a row of dentils. The center bay's second story wall has a wide window with a stone sill course. The window has rows of soldiers framing the opening. The upper corners have stone blocks with a lotus flower carved on them. The window is composed of glass blocks with a small awning window in its center.

The outside bays have a window on each story. The windows have a stone sill course and rows of soldiers framing the opening. The upper corners have stone blocks with a lotus flower carved on them. The windows are composed of glass blocks with a small awning window in the second story windows only. A stone belt course is located at the top of the second story's front wall. It connects the tassel-like capitals of the pilasters that divide the wall into bays. The pilasters continue above the stone belt course and divide the parapet wall into three bays. The center bay has a stone building block with MASONIC TEMPLE engraved on it. The block is framed by rowlocks with square stones in each corner. The outside bays have panels framed with rowlocks and square stones in each corner. The top of the wall has a thin stone cornice. The pilasters continue above the cornice and have an ornamental, stylized shield in relief projecting above the center of each pilaster. The center bay has a gabled parapet with a stone cross centered in the gable wall.

The building was constructed on the grounds of the town's first schoolhouse. The school was constructed in 1845. The M. L. McClelland Lodge No. 357 of the Free and Accepted Masons was formed in nearby Wheeler in 1866. Because a large majority of the lodge's members were from Hobart, the group relocated to the community in 1867. The lodge met in various rented halls in the second floors of downtown buildings until their permanent home was constructed in 1925. The lodge had purchased the property in 1916. The building was constructed under the leadership of Harry Livingston, a local business man and contractor who served as Hobart's second mayor from 1926-1929.

223/227/233 South Center. A. G. Miller Building, 1926-1929. Contributing
Right side of photo 0014
The building is two stories tall and was constructed in two parts: the north and south sides. The building's walls are composed of bricks. The north part has a stairway door in the south side of its front wall. The stairway door is wood with a full window and transom. The storefront has a recessed center entry; the entry door is wood. There are large display windows on each of the recessed entryway walls. Large display windows are located on each side of the recessed entry wall. The wall below the display windows is covered with wood. The transom area is also covered with wood. The brick pilasters that are on each corner of the front wall have thin stone capitals at the top of the storefront wall. A belt course of soldiers is located across the top of the storefront. The second story's front wall of the north part of the building has two pairs of windows. The windows are 1/1 aluminum with stone sills. A thin capstone is at the top of the building's front parapet wall.

The south part of the building has a stairway door in the north side of its front wall. The door is aluminum and glass. The storefront has a recessed entry center in the wall. The entry is composed of a wood door with a full window and a transom. The transom is covered with wood. The ceiling of the entry is composed of pressed tin; the floor is covered with ceramic tiles. There are display windows on each of the walls of the recessed entry. Display windows are located on each side of the recessed entry. The display windows are metal and glass and they have transoms above them. The wall below the display windows is covered with wood. The brick pilasters that are on each corner of the front wall have thin stone capitals at the top of the storefront wall. A belt course of soldiers is located across the top of the storefront. The second story's front wall of the south part of the building has two pairs of windows. The windows are 1/1 aluminum with stone sills. The south part's front parapet wall is stepped up in the center and has a building stone in it. The stone is engraved with A. G. MILLER. The top of the parapet is covered with metal flashing.

Dr. A. G. Miller constructed this building in about 1929; his physician's offices were located on the first floor. The Hobart Bowling Lanes were located here during the 1950s-1960s. Luigi's Pizza shop was also located in the building during the 1960s.

301 South Center. Commercial building, c. 1925/c. 1975. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 0013
The building is a large two-story corner building located on the southeast corner of Center and 3rd Streets. The building's walls have been entirely covered with stucco panels and false half-timbering to give the building a Tudor appearance. The first floor has two entries on its Center Street side and no entries on its 3rd Street side. One entry is located in the south side of the west wall. The other entry is located near the center of the west wall. It has a large gabled roof sheltering it. There are four large display windows in the Center Street first floor wall. There are three display windows in the 3rd Street first floor wall. The second floor wall facing Center Street is divided into seven gables with a 1/1 aluminum window centered in each gable wall. The second floor wall facing 3rd Street is divided into four gables with a 1/1 aluminum window centered in each gable wall. A shed roof extends around the building at the top of the first floor wall. It is covered with wood shakes. The top of the second floor walls is covered with wood shakes to give the building the appearance of a mansard roof. The changes to the building occurred in c. 1975 and render the building non-contributing, though they may easily be reversed.

The building was originally a long single story structure that housed an auto garage, sales, and auto supply store during the 1930s through the 1950s. Sanz Electrical and Gift Shop were located in the building during the 1950s. Express Automotive Supply was located in the building during the 1960s. The Hobart Development Corporation extensively remodeled the building in about 1970 after which time Epperson's Furniture Store rented the building.

311/315 South Center. Commercial building, c. 1915. Contributing
The building is two stories tall. Its front wall is brick and its south wall is clay block. The storefront has a stairway door in its north side. The stairway door is a new door. The storefront entry is recessed in the north side of the storefront, south of the stairway door. The entry door is an aluminum and glass door. The storefront is composed of aluminum and glass display windows with transoms. The wall beneath the display windows is covered with wood. Non-historic wood pilasters and a cornice with dentil trim are located on the sides and above the storefront. A sign board is located just below the cornice. The second story's front wall has a sill course of rowlocks beneath its windows. There are three large window openings that have been partially filled in with bricks. The middle window has a pair of 1/1 aluminum windows. The outside windows have one 1/1 aluminum window. Lintels composed of soldiers are located above the former openings. The top of the wall has a short corbelled cornice.

The building is identified as a one-story garage in the 1922 Sanborn map. The walls were identified as cement-filled tile construction and the capacity was for twenty automobiles. During the 1950s the building housed Dickson's Paint and Wallpaper store.

Fourth Street

551/555 East Fourth. Commercial building, c. 1940. Contributing
The building is one story tall and its walls are of variegated light brown brick. It has two storefronts, but has an entry for both storefronts through a central vestibule. The entry is composed of two aluminum and glass doors and transoms with a single side-lite between the doors. Each storefront has a wide aluminum and glass window. The building has a front parapet; the top of it is covered with flashing.

The building was constructed on the back half of a lot fronting Center Street in about 1940. During the 1950s and early 1960s Piper's Beauty Salon operated from the west storefront. Jerome Mazurek had his optometry office located in the east storefront during the 1960s.

512 East Fourth. House, c. 1875/c. 1915. Upright-and-wing. Contributing
Seen on far right side of photo 0011
The house has a two-story gable-front portion on its east side and a one-story wing on its west side. A porch the full-width of the front wall is located on the house. The foundation is composed of molded concrete blocks. The walls are covered with wood clapboards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house's front wall has a wood door with a window in its upper half in the east side of the gable-front portion. The house has three 1/1 wood windows west of the door.

There are two 1/1 wood windows in the front gable wall. The front wall of the wing part of the house has been covered by an enclosed porch. The open part of the porch has square wood columns on piers composed of molded concrete blocks. The porch floor is wood. The southwest corner of the porch wall is curved. Concrete steps are located on the front wall of the porch; they are aligned with the front door. While the house does not contribute to the commercial nature of the district, it has a significant amount of historic architectural integrity and is considered contributing.

The one-story portion of this house and porch were added to the two-story portion in about 1915. The house was home to the Smith family, who operated the jewelry store next door during the 1950s and 1960s.

Third Street, beginning at the east end of the district, north side of the street

614/618 East Third. Freidrich Block, 1910/c. 1940. Classical Revival. Contributing
Right side of photo 0015
The Freidrich Block is a two story brick building. The building has two storefronts separated by a stairway door. The front wall of the building is symmetrical. Brick pilasters are located on each side of the storefronts. The brick pilasters have stone bases, stone banding, and simple capitals. The building's storefronts were replaced in c. 1940. The storefronts have deeply recessed entries. The doors are aluminum and glass. The storefront display windows are composed of aluminum and glass. The wall beneath the display windows is covered with porcelain enamel steel panels that are burnt orange in color. The stairway door is wood and has a transom window above it that is trimmed in stone. A fabric awning covers the transom area above the storefronts.

The second story's front wall has two wide 1/1 wood windows in its center. The windows have a stone sill course that extends across the full width of the front wall and stone lintels. An oriel bay is located in each side of the front wall. The bays' walls are covered with metal. The bays have three walls; the front wall is wider than its side walls. Each wall has a 1/1 wood window below which is a flared base, row of square, recessed panels, and cornice-like window sill. The metal cornice-sill acts as a continuation of the sill course on the front wall of the building. The oriel bays have a row of metal dentils and a cornice that act as a continuation of those located at the top of the wall. Each bay has a parapet with square panels and cornice. A row of brick dentils is located at the top of the second story's front center wall, beneath the stone cornice that continues the oriel bays' cornices. A masonry parapet wall extends above the center stone cornice. A stone cornice-coping is on top of the parapet wall. A wide building block is centered in the parapet. It has "FREIDRICH BLOCK" in raised letters. An oriel bay that matches those on the front of the building is centered in the east wall's second story that faces an alley.

Dr. Louis Martin Friedrich constructed this building in 1910. Friedrich was a physician who practiced in Hobart for 55 years. He arrived in Hobart after medical college in 1902 and established his practice. He built the building as his residence and physician's office. He became the city health officer during the 1940s and was deputy coroner for Lake County. The building housed Severin Baumer's bakery and restaurant during the 1910s. A photographer also used a business room during this time. The Hobart Post Office used the building from 1923-1927 and the *Hobart Gazette* published its paper here during the 1930s. The Hampsten Agency and the Hobart Beauty Salon were located in the building during the 1960s.

600/604/608/610 East Third. Commercial building, c. 1940. Contributing
Second from right side of photo 0015
This brick building is one story tall and has five storefronts that face 3rd Street. It has a parapet wall with a stone cap. The eastern three storefronts are nearly identical. They have a recessed center entry and aluminum and glass display windows on each side of the entry. The wall below the display windows is composed of bricks. The display windows have stone sills. The entry doors are aluminum and glass with side-lites except for the middle storefront which has a wood door with a full window. Fabric rollout awnings are above each storefront. The storefront that is fourth from the east side of the building has been incorporated into the storefront at the west corner of the building. It has had its entryway closed off and a large aluminum and glass display window on a stone sill is located across the full-width of the former storefront.

The storefront located at the corner of Center and 3rd Streets has a corner cutaway to form a recessed entry with a brick pilaster on the outside corner. The entry is composed of an aluminum and glass door and transom. Aluminum and glass display windows are located in the recessed entry's walls to each side of the door. A wide aluminum and glass display window is located in the corner storefront's south and west walls. The windows have stone sills. A canvas awning is

located at the top of the corner storefront's walls. The Center Street wall has a pair of steel doors at a loading dock near the north end of the wall. The loading dock has a stone threshold. An aluminum and glass door and side-lite are located in the north end of the Center Street wall.

Dr. A. G. Miller constructed this building in about 1940. The building was home to Hobart Shoes during the 1960s. In 1962, the Hobart Beauty Salon was located in the building and in 1968, Mister Alley Restaurant was located here. Mitchell's Hobart Appliance Division was located at 225 3rd Street during the 1950s. Ben's Paint Shop operated from the west storefront during the 1960s.

534/538 East Third. E. H. Guyer Block, 1897. Queen Anne/Italianate. Contributing
Photo 0016
The building is located on the northwest corner of Center and 3rd Streets. It is two stories tall and has four storefronts. Two storefronts face Center Street, one faces 3rd Street and one faces the intersection. The storefront walls are mostly composed of aluminum and glass. A metal cornice is located at the top of the storefront walls; it has decorative end caps. The second story walls are composed of dark red-colored bricks. A belt course composed of three courses of black-colored rusticated bricks is located between the tops of the second story windows. A thin metal cornice is located at the base of the parapet walls. A tall sheet metal entablature is located at the top of the parapet walls. The entablature has decorative end caps and rows of simple brackets. Two stringcourses form friezes, one narrow at the bottom, and a taller frieze with recessed panels between the brackets is at the top.

The Center Street wall has a base composed of rusticated stones and a stone water table. The wall has a stairway door at its north end. The door is steel and it has a wood and glass transom; the door has three steps. A wide pilaster composed of bricks is on the north side of the stairway door. A pilaster composed of bricks is on the south side of the stairway door. The two Center Street storefronts are located south of the stairway door. The storefront immediately to the stairway's south side has a pair of cast iron pilasters with bases and capitals. The storefront entry and display window areas have been covered with plywood. Two small rectangular windows are located in the wood near the top of the storefront's wall. The other Center Street storefront is narrow. It is composed of an aluminum and glass door, transom, and side-lite. A wide pilaster composed of bricks is located between the two storefronts. Two aluminum and glass windows are located in the south half of the Center Street's first story wall. They have rusticated stone sills and jack arches composed of black-colored rusticated bricks.

The Center Street's second story wall has eight 1/1 wood windows and an oriel bay. The windows have rusticated stone sills and jack arches composed of black-colored rusticated bricks. The oriel bay is located in the north end of the wall and south of the northernmost window. The bay has three walls with a wide front wall. Each wall has a 1/1 wood window. The bay's walls are covered with metal with recessed panels of stamped sheet metal simulating rusticated stone blocks. The bay's roof has a metal cornice; the eaves are flared and the roof is covered with metal.

The storefronts that face 3rd Street and the intersection are composed of aluminum and glass display windows and doors. The wall below the display windows is of sandstone ashlars. A metal canopy that has mostly been covered with fabric awnings is located at the top of both storefronts. The canopy and awnings cover the transom area. The corner storefront's entry wall is cutaway into the corner of the building. The entry wall has a door and transom with a narrow display window on each side of the door. The corner storefront has a display window that faces Center Street; it is divided into two panes of glass. The corner storefront has a wide display window that faces 3rd Street; it is also divided into two panes of glass. A pilaster that is covered with metal is on the north end of the corner storefront's east wall and at the west end of its south wall. The 3rd Street storefront has a recessed entry with a door and transom in its east side. The storefront has a wide display window that is divided into three panes of glass. A pilaster composed of bricks and mostly covered with metal is on the west end of the storefront wall. This pilaster and the one that separates the 3rd Street storefront from the corner storefront have decorative metal capitals in the cornice above the storefronts.

The 3rd Street's second story wall has an oriel bay in its west side. It matches the oriel bay on the Center Street wall. A five-sided turret is located over the corner entry. The turret has a 1/1 wood window in each of its five walls. The walls are covered with pressed sheet metal and paneled with fields of simulated stone work. The turret has a tall cornice at the top of its walls; it matches the cornice at the top of the building's parapet. The turret has a flat roof. There are three 1/1 wood windows in the second story wall between the turret and the oriel bay. The windows have stone sills and dressed stone hoods with semi-circular pediments. The name of the building and the year of construction are located in a decorative metal sign board centered in the cornice on the 3rd Street wall. The year is 1897 and the name is E. H. Guyer. The year is located in the wall of a gable above the sign board; the sign board has brackets on either side.

The building was constructed by Elijah H. Guyer in 1897. Guyer was born in Calhoun County, Michigan in 1854. He came to Hobart in 1874 where his first job was driving teams at the brickyards. He later learned butchering and opened his own shop in 1884. His building first housed his meat market and the Wood and Roper drug store. He sold his market a year after the building was completed but remained active in the livestock business and in real estate development. In 1910, the building housed a grocery, the post office, and a shop that sold notions. By 1922, the grocery and post office remained but an electric supplies store had opened in place of the notions shop. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Brown-Carlson and later Streight TV & Appliance shops were located in the building.

530 East Third. Commercial building, c. 1955. Non-contributing
Seen on left side of photo 0016
The building is one story tall and has a wide storefront. The storefront has a recessed entry centered on the front wall. The entry is composed of a pair of aluminum and glass doors with a transom. Aluminum and glass display windows are located in the side walls of the recessed entry. The storefront wall has wide aluminum and glass display windows on each side of the recessed entry. The display windows are each divided into three panes of glass. The wall above and below the display windows is covered with metal. A fabric awning is located at the top of the storefront wall. Pilasters composed of stone ashlars are located on each end of the storefront wall. The building's parapet wall is covered with stucco. The materials that compose the storefront and cover the parapet wall are not historic and therefore render the building non-contributing.

The building was constructed during the mid-1950s due to a fire which destroyed an earlier building constructed on the site. This building was constructed for Elinor's clothing store. Elinor Greener ran a women's clothing store in Hobart during the middle part of the 20th century in a number of locations leading up to this site.

524/526 East Third. Commercial building, c. 1945. Contributing
The building is one story tall and has two storefronts. The storefront walls are composed of porcelain enameled steel panels and aluminum and glass display windows and doors. The storefront entries are centered in the front wall and recessed slightly from the sidewalk. The entry doors are aluminum and glass and have transoms. The doors are separated by wide side-lites. A wide display window is located in each storefront; the window is divided into two large panes of glass. A metal canopy is located at the top of the storefront wall. It is the full-width of the building's front wall. The southwest corner wall of the canopy is curved. The parapet wall is composed of orange-colored bricks. The parapet has a stone cap.

The east side of the building housed Wheaton's Appliance Shop during the 1950s and 1960s. Maurer's meat market was located in the west side of the building during the 1960s and 1970s. The storefront is still used as a meat market.

518 East Third. Commercial building, 1926. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 0008
The building is two stories tall and has a single storefront. The building's first story walls are composed of concrete blocks. The second story consists of a mansard roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front wall's first story has a pair of new wood doors in its west end. The first story has two wide display windows composed of wood and glass. The front wall's second story has five 1/1 wood windows. The windows are cut out of three locations in the mansard roof. One window is located at the west end of the front wall. The other windows are paired together in two locations in the mansard roof. The mansard roof addition to the front wall and new doors in the entry render the building non-contributing.

The building was constructed as part of a remodeling project of the bank on the corner of 3rd and Main Streets. A laundry was located in the building during the 1920s. The Oasis Bar was located in the building during the 1960s.

Third Street, south side

435 East Third. Commercial building, 1946. Non-contributing
Right side of photo 0017
The building is one story tall and has three storefronts. The front wall is covered with cast concrete stone veneer. The parapet is covered with wood. The east storefront is much wider than the middle and west storefronts. The east storefront has a deeply recessed entry with a new wood door with a full window. Three metal and glass display windows

are located in the wall on each side of the recessed entry. The other two storefronts are identical. They have recessed entries with new wood doors with full windows. A metal and glass display window is located in the west side of the storefronts and three metal and glass display windows are located in the storefront walls east of the entries. The new materials that compose the storefront walls render the building non-contributing.

The building's east storefront was the location for Ken's (Ken Halsted) Barber Shop during the 1950s and 1960s. The building was constructed for Joy's Cleaners & Dyers and Joy's Men's Store which were located in the middle and west storefronts during the 1940s through the 1960s.

437/439/441 East Third. Commercial building, 1925. Colonial Revival. Contributing
Middle of photo 0017
The building is two stories tall and has two storefronts separated by a stairway door. The first story's front wall is composed of limestone pilasters on each corner of the storefronts. A stone cornice is located at the top of the storefronts across the full-width of the front wall. The stairway door is deeply recessed in the center of the front wall. It is composed of aluminum and glass. The doorway's hood is composed of a broken pediment with central urn and scroll brackets underneath. The storefronts are mirrored. They have recessed entries in the outside ends of their front walls. The doors are aluminum and glass. The storefronts have three wide metal and glass display windows. The wall beneath the display windows is covered with wood. The transom area above the storefronts is covered with a wood sign board.

The second story's front wall is composed of bricks with quoins composed of blonde-colored bricks on its corners. The second story has five 8/8 wood windows with stone sills and jack arches. The brick jack arches have stone keystones and end blocks. A stone cornice is at the top of the second story wall. A parapet wall composed of bricks is above the cornice. It has short pedestals composed of blonde-colored bricks on each corner and a pair of pedestals centered in its wall. A swag carved from stone is centered between the middle pilasters. The parapet has a thin stone coping.

The building was constructed by Harry Livingston for the telephone company, who used the second floor for their offices. Livingston conducted a hardware business on the first floor. The building was used as the community YMCA during the 1960s. Ann's Ice Cream Parlor and Holiday Billiards were located in the building during the late 1960s.

447 East Third. Commercial building, 1940. Non-contributing
Left side of photo 0017
The building is one story tall and is free-standing. Its walls are brick. Its windows are metal and glass and are divided into twelve panes of glass. The windows have stone sills. The front wall below the parapet wall is covered with rough-cut stone. A window is located in each end of the front wall. The front wall has a door centered in it. It is a wood door with a full window. A concrete stoop with a curved front is located on the wall in front of the door. It has half-columns against the front wall on the stoops corners. The parapet wall is framed with wood trim boards on its outside edges.

The building was first constructed as a physician's office for Dr. Lowell E. Dupes. The building housed the Hobart & East Gary Taxi Service during the early 1960s. The Little Pioneer Studio Antique shop was located in the building during the late 1960s.

515 East Third. Commercial building, c. 1915. Craftsman. Contributing
Middle of photo 0018
The building is one story tall. Its walls are composed of dark brown-colored bricks with stone trim. The building's front wall has a single storefront with a bay extended on the east side of the front wall. The storefront itself is symmetrical. It has a wide recessed entry. The entry is composed of a wood door with a full window and side-lites. A sign board is located in the transom area above the entry. A wood and glass display window is located on each side of the recessed entry. The display windows have transoms. A wood kick panel is below each display window. A brick pilaster is located on each side of the storefront. The pilasters have stone bases and thin caps. A course of soldiers is located at the top of the storefront across the full-width of the storefront wall and pilasters. The parapet wall is shaped like a stylized pediment and has stone trim on top of the wall. Four diamond-shaped stones are located in the parapet wall. A half-round arch of brick is centered at the top of the parapet. It has a round stone centered below the arch. The bay on the east side of the front wall has a wood and glass display window that matches those in the storefront. A course of rowlocks is across the top of the display window. The parapet on the bay is flat and has a stone cap.

The building was the location of a jewelry shop when it was first constructed in about 1915. It had a long history as a jewelry store; Jewel Shop jewelry store was located in the storefront during the 1960s.

517 East Third. Commercial building, c. 1890. Italianate. Contributing
Left side of photo 0018
The building is two stories tall and it is free-standing. Its walls are composed of bricks. The front wall's first story is covered with stucco. The front wall has a single storefront and a stairway door on its west side. The stairway door is a new metal door with a window composed of art glass. The door has a wood and glass transom. The storefront has a recessed entry door centered in it. The door is aluminum and glass and has a transom. The storefront wall has a display window located on each side of the recessed entry. The window is divided into two panes of glass. The front wall's second story has three 1/1 metal windows. The windows have stone sills and pedimented hoods with brackets. The hoods and brackets were added later. The building's parapet wall has a rusticated stone cap.

The building was identified as a saloon from the 1890s through the 1920s on Sanborn maps. The saloon was called "The Hub" for most of this time. In 1922, the saloon included a billiards hall. Hobart Billiards was located in the building during the 1960s.

555 East Third. MainSource Bank, 1961. Mid-century modern. Non-contributing
The building is located on the southwest corner of Center and 3rd Streets. It is one story tall and its walls are composed of bricks and stone. It has a flat roof and a parapet. The 3rd Street wall is divided into three bays. The middle and west bays' walls are composed of bricks. The middle bay is slightly taller and is narrower than the west bay. The east bay's east corner is a veneer of large square limestone block. The remaining part of the east bay is composed entirely of aluminum and glass windows and doors. The doors are recessed into the building from the sidewalk in the west side of the bay. A metal mansard canopy is located above the east bay. The Center Street wall is also divided into three bays. The north and south bays are of equal widths. Their walls are composed of large square limestone blocks that form a veneer. The middle bay is composed entirely of aluminum and glass windows. A mansard canopy is located above the center bay. It is covered with metal. The aluminum and glass windows and doors and the mansard canopies were installed in c. 2000; however, the configuration of the walls and masonry materials was not changed. The construction of the building also falls within the period of significance. Therefore the building is considered contributing.

The building was constructed in 1961 as the Hobart Federal Savings and Loan Association offices. It has served as a bank since its construction.

607 East Third. Wild Building, 1893. Italianate. Contributing
Third from left side of photo 0019
The building is two stories tall and it has a single storefront. The storefront has a wide recessed entry in the east side of its front wall. The recessed entry has a stairway door on its east side and storefront door on its west side. The stairway door is a five-panel wood door with a transom. The storefront door is a wood door with a full window and a panel in the bottom of the door. The transom above the storefront door is covered with wood. The storefront display window is divided into three large panes of glass. The window is composed of metal and glass. A sign board is located in the transom area above the display window. The wall beneath the window is covered with wood. Pilasters composed of bricks are located on each side of the first story's front wall. The pilasters have a recessed panel composed of bricks. Metal capitals are located at the top of the pilasters. A metal cornice is between the pilasters across the full width of the storefront wall.

The second story's front wall has three 1/1 wood windows. The windows have stone sills and pedimented metal hoods. The top of the second story's front wall has an elaborate metal entablature. The entablature has rows of fanlight-like sunburst panels and dentils in the frieze. The frieze has a row of four brackets. The cornice has large decorative end brackets.

The building was constructed by Alwin Wild in 1893 for his undertaking and furniture business. Wild continued to use a small frame building east of this building for hearse repair and storage until he constructed a building on that site in 1910. In 1922, a meat market was located in this building. Later the building housed the *Hobart Gazette* and Printing Company during the middle part of the 20th century.

611 East Third. Wild Funeral Parlor, 1929. Spanish Colonial Revival. Contributing
Second from left side of photo 0019
The building is one story tall and its walls are composed of cream-colored bricks with white-colored terra cotta trim. The front wall has a base of gray-colored terra cotta. The entry door is located on the east side of the front wall in a bay. It is

recessed slightly from the sidewalk and has three marble steps. The entryway and door are round arched. The terra cotta blocks lining the arch have raised edge margins and flower ornaments in the recessed center. Block of this type also form vertical bands at corners and flanking the window bay on the first story. The door is wide; it is a wood door with a full window that is also arched. The storefront display wall is recessed from the sidewalk to form a bay. The wall has a wood and glass window divided into two panes of glass. The window has a terra cotta sill. The storefront bay has a pair of turned terra cotta columns that support its ceiling. A terra cotta cartouche is located in the entry bay's wall above the recessed entry. A cornice composed of a water leaf molding topped by a cyma recta molding is at the top of the storefront and entry bays, across the full-width of the front wall.

The wall above the cornice forms a tall parapet on the front of the building. It has terra cotta trim that frames rectangular panels of bricks in each of its sides. Between the panels are square terra cotta medallions in the shape of leaves. Between the medallions is a panel of bricks in the shape of an upside-down T framed by terra cotta trim. A large terra cotta block with a shield in it is centered in the panel. "1929" is in low-relief on the shield. The top of the parapet wall has a thin stone cap.

The building was constructed by Alwin Wild for the sole purpose of a funeral parlor in 1929. Wild had come to Hobart in 1886 and began an undertaking and furniture business. He constructed buildings on the east and west side of this building in 1910 and 1893, respectively.

615/617/619/621 East Third. Wild Building, 1910. Neo-Classical Revival. Contributing
Left side of photo 0019
The building is a two-story, flat-roofed commercial block. The building has two storefronts separated by a stairway door. The front wall of the building is symmetrical. Brick pilasters with stone bases are located on each corner of the front wall. The storefronts have deeply recessed entries in the center of the front wall. The stairway door is recessed with the entry doors. All three doors are wood with full windows and Luxfer-type prism glass transoms. Brick pilasters separate the doors. The storefront display windows are composed of aluminum and glass with wood kick panels below. The transom area is covered with wood on the front wall. The transom area above the display windows in the recessed entry area is composed of Luxfer-type prism glass. Cast metal columns are located on the inside corners of each storefront wall.

The second story's front wall has two wide 1/1 wood windows in its center. The windows have a stone sill course that extends across the full width of the front wall. The windows have jack arches composed of gauged brick with keystones and stone end blocks. An oriel bay is located in each side of the front wall. The bays' walls are covered with sheet metal, forming recessed panels. The bays have three walls; the front wall is wider than its side walls. Each wall has a 1/1 wood window. The windows have a metal cornice that acts as a continuation of the sill course on the front wall of the building. A stone cornice is located at the top of the second story wall. The oriel bays have a cornice that act as a continuation of the cornice located at the top of the second story wall. A parapet wall extends above the stone cornice. A stone cornice is on top of the parapet wall. A wide building block is centered in the parapet but it is not engraved. A hip-roofed oriel bay similar to those on the front of the building is centered in the east wall's second story that faces an alley.

Alwin Wild had this building constructed for his furniture and undertaking business in 1910. Wild was born in Illinois in 1862 and settled in Hobart in 1886. He built his first building on this block in 1893 at 607 East Third Street. As his business expanded, he constructed this building. Wild was active in the civic affairs of the community, including serving as Hobart Township Trustee from 1904-1908. Wild later constructed the building at 611 East Third Street, connecting all three of his buildings together.

A wood hearse room and repair shop is identified in the area this building occupies on Sanborn maps of 1895 and 1902. The building is identified as a furniture and undertaking business on the 1910 Sanborn map, and just furniture on the 1922 map. During the middle part of the 20th century the building became home to Epperson's Home Furnishings store.

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.)

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1869-1963

Significant Dates

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Reinert, Keith
Simon, Louis
Lightner, Seward

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1869 when the first extant building in the district was constructed at 337 South Main Street. Due to the continued importance commerce played in the district into the 1960s, the period ends in 1963.

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.)

Downtown Hobart was and is the financial, commercial and civic core of the surrounding township. Serving as an early commercial crossroads and rail stop, Hobart's downtown is among the oldest surviving commercial centers in Lake County. The district meets Criterion A for its local role in the evolution of commerce in Hobart Township and Lake County. The commercial district was always the location of Hobart's civic buildings. While the present City Hall is several years too young to be a contributing building to the district, the WPA-funded Hobart U.S. Post Office, 1937, still serves the community. Its singular role as a governmental services building in Hobart augments the district's significance under Criterion A. Under Criterion C, the district includes a spectrum of commercial building types and styles that reveal the long-term role of the commercial center. Early parapet-front types, brick Italianate blocks, 1930s-era simple brick shops, and ornate Neo-Classical, stone-veneered bank buildings are just a few indicators of the variety of the district.

COMMERCE

George Earle was a resident and became the owner of an earlier settlement in the area known as Liverpool during the 1830s; the community was briefly the county seat in 1839. Earle later constructed a mill on Deep River in 1846, a few blocks north of the present Hobart Commercial Historic District. The following year he platted the village of Hobart which quickly became the center for trade and commerce in the eastern region of Lake County. Though Earle's mill was in operation and the post office was located in the mill, the first store in Hobart was established by Daniel Taylor in 1847. Taylor traded with Native Americans who were still living in the region. George Earle sold his mill in 1854; it burned on February 15, 1953 but is depicted in the New Deal-era mural located in the post office. In 1855-56 Joseph Black established a general store at the current post office location. The store was named "Black's Trading Post"; in 1860 Black was appointed postmaster and the post office was relocated to his store until 1868.

The village's location on the Chicago-New York stage coach line, which operated as early as the 1830s, and the routing of the Pittsburg-Ft. Wayne-Chicago Railroad through town in 1858, at the south edge of the district, provided excellent access for the delivery and trade of goods to markets outside of Hobart. In 1867, the three-story Hobart House was constructed in the general location of the Art Theater, across from Black's Trading Post. The Hobart House was built by Edward Roper and catered to travelers by coach and rail. The access to outside markets allowed the community's commercial district to grow dramatically after the Civil War. By 1871, Hobart had a flour mill, four dry goods stores, a hardware store, drugstore, furniture store, agricultural implements shop, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, one shoe store and three shoemakers. The town also had a harness shop, cooper, one bakery, a lawyer, three doctors, a millwright, three carpenters, one plasterer, one gardener, and four dressmakers. The oldest building in the district dates to this post-Civil War period; it was constructed in 1869 at 337 South Main Street (left side of photo 0011).

The first bank was organized in Hobart in 1884 at 232 South Main Street. The bank was organized by Joseph Gardner of Valparaiso. The building is one story tall and has a narrow storefront; it is extant. The Stocker Building, also known as the Lake George Hotel, was constructed in 1888. The First State Bank

was organized in 1899; the bank renovated the north half of the Stocker building in 1922 (301 South Main Street, left side of photo 0009). The city's first newspaper, the *Hobart Gazette,* was founded in 1889; a second paper, the *Hobart News*, was founded in 1907. The *Gazette* was published well into the middle part of the 20th century from a number of storefront locations in the district. Most of the district's early commercial growth is evident by the business blocks that were constructed during the 1890s through 1910. During this period the Roper Building (later the American Trust & Savings Bank, located on the northeast corner of 3rd and Main Streets), the Fiester Block (located on the northwest corner of 3rd and Main Streets, left side of photo 0004), two Wild buildings (607 and 619 East 3rd Street, photo 0019), the Guyer Block (located on the northwest corner of 3rd and Center Streets, photo 0016), the Fiester Building at 310 Main Street, and the Friedrich Block (614/618 East 3rd Street, left side of photo 0015) were constructed by merchants or local businessmen who leased storefronts to tenant-merchants. These business blocks are two stories tall and constructed out of brick and stone; they typically replaced earlier single-story buildings constructed out of wood.

During the 1920s, Hobart was incorporated as a city; its population had nearly tripled since the turn of the century. The need for additional commercial buildings for the growing population is evident in a short building boom that ended with the economic downturn of the 1930s. Prior to that, local merchants commissioned several building blocks including the third Wild Building, located at 611 East 3rd Street which was used as a funeral parlor (middle of photo 0019). The Verplank Building (318/322/326/328 South Main Street, photo 0003) was built in 1928 and has four storefront bays. The two-story Livingston Building (437/439/441 East 3rd Street, right side of photo 0017) was built in 1925 for a hardware store and telephone exchange. The Masons also constructed a new building in 1925 at 219 Center Street for their meeting hall (left side of photo 0014). The Ben Ack building (216/218/220 South Main Street, middle of photo 0006) was constructed in 1926; it is two stories tall and has three storefronts. The A. G. Miller building (223/227/233 South Center Street, right side of photo 0014) dates to between 1926 and 1929; it also is two stories tall and has three storefronts. The first floor was used as Dr. Miller's physician offices. The classically-inspired remodeling of buildings by banks during the 1920s, on the northeast and southeast corners of the downtown's main intersection at 3rd and Main Streets, defines the period's economic prosperity in the district (photos 0008, 0009).

During the mid-1940s through the 1950s, Hobart's population growth continued to be robust. Again, this is evident in the commercial construction that followed during this period in the district. Most of the new buildings constructed during this time were one story tall but often had multiple storefronts. Eleven buildings were constructed during this period; they include seventeen storefronts. Leading this next building boom was the Art Theater which was constructed in 1941 at 232 South Main Street (photo 0005). Other buildings constructed during this time include Schultz Brothers Variety Store in 1947 at 313 South Main Street (middle of photo 0010) and the Kostbade Building in 1950 at 339/341 South Main Street (middle of photo 0011), which housed a restaurant. A building at 551/555 East 4th Street was built during the 1940s and housed an optometrist. Dr. Miller constructed a second building during the 1940s with four storefronts on the northeast corner of East 3rd and Center Street (middle, right side of photo 0015).

The Hobart Commercial Historic District continued to be the center of commercial activity during the 1960s, though external development pressure was beginning to have effects on the district. Two banks and the city hall were constructed in the district in 1961 and 1967. During the 1970s, the Hobart Development Corporation attempted to foster economic activity in the historic downtown area through a series of projects that focused on reimaging the district. The result was the construction of new Tudor-esque facades over existing buildings' front walls. The largest evidence of this is seen in the south half of the west side of South Main Street in the 300 block (left side of photo 0002), and on the southeast corner of Center and 3rd Streets (photo 0013). Currently the commercial district is experiencing a resurgence in activity; the city has redeveloped a portion of the Lake George lakefront with a walking path and new streetscaping has been installed in the downtown area.

Comparatively, Hobart is one of the oldest commercial districts in Lake County. Outside of Hobart, early development in the county occurred away from Lake Michigan's south shore and was focused more in the central and southern part of the county. Lowell, in Cedar Creek Township, and Crown Point, in Center Township join Hobart as the oldest commercial districts in Lake County. Settlement first occurred in Lowell near Cedar Creek where a mill was established as early as 1836; the town was not platted until 1853. The community became a railroad town in 1881 when the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago Railroad was constructed. Lowell's historic commercial district has buildings of similar age to Hobart's district, the earliest were constructed in c. 1865. Crown Point is located where a settlement first occurred in 1834. Named for the owner of the land, Solon Robinson, Robinson's Prairie became known as Crown Point when the town was platted in 1840. Crown Point, being a central location in the county, was named the county seat in 1840. Crown Point's historic commercial district also has buildings of similar age to Hobart's district. One was constructed as early as c. 1860, though most of the district's architecture dates to 1878 and later. Given the city's central location and position as the county seat, the commercial district grew substantially around the courthouse square in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Crown Point's first received the benefit of a railroad in 1865.

The community of Lake Station, located just north of Hobart in Hobart Township, was laid out by the Michigan Central Railroad in 1852, six years prior to the construction of the railroad through the community of Hobart. It was an important shipping point only briefly due to the emergence of other communities, such as Hobart, that also had railroad access. No definable historic commercial district remains in Lake Station. Other communities in Lake County developed as port access on Lake Michigan improved. Communities like Hammond, Gary, and Indiana Harbor were established in the 1890s through the early 1900s; they saw tremendous growth in their commercial districts as industry and shipping became Lake County's largest economic generator.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The Hobart Commercial Historic District has two buildings that were constructed for governmental purposes. The city's post office was constructed in 1936-1937 at 221 South Main Street (photo 0007). Hobart's new city hall was constructed in 1967 at 414 South Main Street (photo 0001). The post office was constructed under one of the Federal Government's New Deal economic recovery programs of the 1930s, the WPA. It became the first permanent home of the United States Post Office in Hobart. Until the building was constructed the post office had operated from several storefront locations in the district. These include the extant buildings located at 307 South Main, 614/618 East Third (Freidrich Block), 534/538 East Third (Guyer Block), and 512/514 East Third. The first post office in the city traces its roots to the founder of Hobart, George Earle. Earle had been postmaster at a nearby earlier settlement known as Liverpool during the 1840s. Earle purchased land and developed a sawmill and small community he named for his brother, Hobart. When Earle relocated from Liverpool to Hobart, he moved the post office to his new mill in 1846. The current post office building is located on a site that was the location of an early Hobart business named Black's Trading Post; the town's post office had been located in that building from 1861-1868. The 1938 mural *Early Hobart*, on display inside the post office, portrays some of these early landmarks. William Dolwick painted the mural, which was funded by the Public Works Art Project. The United States Postal Service continues to operate from the 1937 building, which was expanded in 1966 to accommodate Hobart's growing population.

The other building related to governmental purposes is the Hobart City Hall. Government functions for the City of Hobart have a long connection with the site of the current city hall. The back half of the block on which the city hall is located was once the location of the town jail and fire station since about the time the town was incorporated. A prior city hall building that fronted 4th Street was constructed near the fire department on this same block during the 1920s. The current city hall replaced the other municipal buildings and a city garage on the site when it was constructed in 1967. An earlier building that served

city hall purposes was located where the Schultz Brothers building is located at 313 South Main Street during the 1910s-1920s; the building was razed prior to 1947. Although the current city hall falls outside of the period of significance, it is considered contributing due to its architectural importance and the long history municipal government has within the district.

ARCHITECTURE

The Hobart Commercial Historic District's architecture is composed largely of simple parapet-front 20th century vernacular commercial buildings (photo 0011). Several important exceptions include buildings that were constructed in architectural styles popular during the district's period of significance. These include several examples of the Italianate style, representing the earliest buildings constructed in the district, as well as examples of the Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles. Because the district is the community's historic commercial center, the buildings compose the largest and best collection of late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles found in the city.

Italianate

The Italianate Style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to communities and created a building boom during the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years.[1] The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling informal Italian farmhouses, but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style.[2] The first Italianate house was constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. The style was popularized by house pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing during the middle part of the 1800s, but its popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne Style in the last decades of the 19th century.

The style was translated particularly well to commercial buildings. The most common feature of the Italianate style on commercial buildings is a cornice, either out of brick or metal, that has decorative brackets or corbels. Decorative window hoods, often with arches, are also common features of the Italianate style found on commercial buildings. The district has ten examples of this style and the earliest extant buildings were constructed in the style. The earliest two examples are vernacular types with Italianate details versus higher style Italianate of later buildings. The building located at 337 South Main Street is the district's oldest extant building (left side of photo 0011). It was constructed in 1869 with Italianate details in its arched front windows. Another early building with Italianate details is the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church located at 426 South Center Street. It is a simple gable-front building constructed in 1876 and also has arched windows. The district's finest examples of the Italianate style were constructed between 1893 and 1910. During this period the Fiester Building (left side of photo 0004) and Wild Building (right side of photo 0019), were both constructed in 1893 (236/238 South Main and 607 East Third, respectively). The two buildings constructed in 1893 have ornate metal cornices with brackets and pedimented metal window hoods. The Guyer Block, constructed in 1897 (534/538 East Third), is an example of the transition between late Italianate and the Queen Anne style.

Neoclassical

The Neoclassical style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930's in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The Federal government adopted classicism for its expanding number of courthouses and post offices, beginning in the 1890's. While Americans had often chosen variants of classical-inspired architecture for civic projects,

[1] McAlester, pg. 212
[2] McAlester, pg. 212

the new classicism was usually more grand in scale. For the new classicism, architects often used detail that was "archaeologically" correct. The style coincided with America's political and economic rise, as well as the coming of age of American cities. By the late 1910's and into the 1920's, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling, and businesses increasingly were seeking its image.

One of the most common commercial buildings that used the style was financial or banking institutions. The style portrayed permanence and stability by reflecting ancient precedents of the Greek world. The district has two examples of the Neoclassical style, both are financial institutions. In both cases the buildings' original Italianate facades were remodeled into their current Neoclassical style in the 1920s. The First State Bank building at 301 South Main Street (left side of photo 0009) was originally constructed in 1888; in 1922, the bank that then occupied the building remodeled its front wall with a new limestone façade. The wall is divided into three bays by two-story pilasters with complex capitals. The center bay has an impressive entry with a pediment and shield carved in low relief above the door. Not to be outdone by its competitor, the American Trust and Savings Bank (237 South Main-middle of photo 0008), on the opposite corner of the First State Bank, remodeled their building's 1890 façade in 1926. Their remodel was more substantial as it included not only its Main Street wall, but also its 3rd Street wall. American Trust and Savings used granite to form a base for the new façade, and limestone on the first and second story walls. The Main Street and 3rd Street walls are divided into three bays each by engaged, fluted Doric columns. The entry, which is located on the corner, has a carved surround that includes a cornice topped with a clock flanked by horns of plenty.

Merchants who favored the image of classicism, but lacked a bank's budget turned to more typical building types. Often, these reflected classical ideas like symmetry but had modest classical details. The Freidrich Block and Wild Building, both constructed in 1910 (located at 614/618 and 615/619 East Third, respectively) were built in this way. The two buildings are located across from each other on opposite sides of 3rd Street (both seen in the foreground of photo 0015). The buildings are very similarly designed. They include two three-sided bays on their second story front walls and one three-sided bay on their alley walls. The buildings have simple cornices and stone name blocks in their front parapet walls.

The Hobart Post Office (photo 0007) was constructed between the years of 1936 and 1937 under the Federal Government's New Deal-era programs. It is an example of "Starved Classicism", an idiom of the style reduced in detail by budget restraints. The building's walls are composed of brick with stone trim. The front wall has a wide center entry bay composed of limestone. The bay is divided into three parts by stone pilasters. While the building shows the influence of the then-popular Art Moderne style in its entry bay, the building's windows are 6/6 wood with stone carvings of eagles styled as radial aircraft engines in their lintels, a modernized feature of classical architecture.

Other Styles

Other styles that were popular during the district's period of significance are also represented in the Hobart Commercial Historic District. The Guyer Block, constructed in 1897 (534/538 East Third), is an example of the transition between late Italianate and the Queen Anne style. While the Queen Anne style is not frequently used in the district, certain features, such as bays, turrets, and other elements of the style were used on buildings at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, during the time the style was popular.

The Livingston building (right side of photo 0017), located at 437/439/441 East 3rd Street was constructed in 1925 in the Colonial Revival style; it was built for the Hobart Telephone Exchange and Harry Livingston's hardware store. The building has limestone on its storefront wall and bricks that compose the second story front wall. The second story's stairway entry is centered on the front wall; it has a broken pediment with an urn above the door. The second story's front wall has quoins composed of light-colored bricks on its outside corners and jack arches with keystones above its windows. The Wild family

constructed a small building for use as its funeral parlor in 1929 at 611 East 3rd Street (middle of photo 0019). The building is an eclectic mix of Spanish and Moorish design. It has terra cotta trim, most notably spiraled columns that flank a recessed window bay on its front wall. The entry is also recessed and is arched and trimmed with terra cotta. Another notable building, though not a clear example of a particular style, is the Verplank building (photo 0003). It is located at 318/322/326/328 South Main Street; it was constructed in 1928. The building's front wall also has terra cotta trim and a terra cotta base. The building is divided into four storefront bays with shaped parapets above each bay, generally recalling the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

The Art Deco style is represented by the Art Theater which was constructed in 1941 at 232 South Main Street (photo 0005). Although portions of the theater's front wall has been covered by stucco, the building has stylized terra cotta trim that forms a base, cornice, and decorative panels above its attraction boards. Most notable are the bays formed around the attraction boards. Vertical bands of ribbed terra cotta blocks form pilasters on each side of the attraction boards. Tall panels of gilded terra cotta blocks are located above the attraction boards between the pilasters.

The mid-century movement of architectural design also left its mark on the district. New buildings were constructed in 1961 and 1967 following the ideas of simple rectangular shapes in composing facades and building stories. These three buildings are the Mainsource Bank building located at 555 East 3rd Street (1961), Hobart City Hall located at 414 South Main (photo 0001, 1967), and Centier Bank located at 433 South Main (1967). While considered non-contributing, the buildings, particularly city hall, may be re-evaluated at a later date for eligibility.

Buildings located at 314, 235, and 337 Main Street are examples of regional vernacular commercial architecture. The simple parapet-front buildings have gabled roofs hidden by their parapet walls; often the apex of the roof is expressed on the parapet as a raised gable at the center. This appears to be an early construction technique in the Chicago and Calumet region of Indiana, expressed in either wood frame or masonry. The three two-story buildings include the earliest extant building in the district (337 Main Street, 1869) and buildings constructed in c. 1880 (235 Main) and 1915 (314 Main). The gabled roofs are evident from the back of the buildings and their eaves extend slightly past the facades on the sides of the buildings.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

In 1846, George Earle, who had a mill and was postmaster of a nearby village named Liverpool, purchased land and constructed a new mill by damming Deep River a few blocks north of the Hobart Commercial Historic District. Earle relocated the post office to his new mill site and within a few years platted a new village he named for his brother, Hobart. The first schoolhouse in the region was constructed in 1845, near the future mill site, at the current Hobart Masonic Temple location. In 1849, Lake County organized Hobart Township, in which the newly established village of Hobart would become the center for community life in the township. Earle built the first cabin in the village; his son, John, constructed the first residence a few years later. The new village was located on the Chicago-New York coach route, which allowed the community to reap the benefits of frequent travelers and trade.

Hobart became the second railroad center in Lake County when the Pittsburg-Ft. Wayne-Chicago Railroad was established through the town in 1858. The railroad was the only line located in the county until after the Civil War; therefore farms and industry in the region brought their goods to Hobart for shipment to outside markets. By the 1870s, the population reached 500; there were 95 families recorded in 1871. Hobart was incorporated as a town in 1889. In 1895, the Hobart and Western Electric Railway

was constructed down 3rd and Washington Streets; it connected Hobart to the booming city of Hammond in northwest Lake County. The railway remained active until after World War II.

James Guyer established a brickyard in the town in 1872. Brick making became the largest industry in the community; there were four brickyards employing over 100 people by the early 1900s. W. B. Owens Hollow Porous Clay Tile Works and Kulage Brick & Tile were the largest companies in the early 1900s. The National Fire Proofing Company operated from Guyer's former brickyard until 1966. The company produced fire-proof brick and tiles. The town also had four lumberyards.

The railroads and subsequent industry accelerated the community's growth during the first decades of the 20th century. In 1900 the population was 1,200. It grew to over 6,500 by 1935. The town responded by incorporating as a city in 1921 at which time the population had already nearly tripled to 3,500. S. H. Henderson was the city's first mayor. Hobart's population continued to climb dramatically through the middle part of the 20th century. In 1950 the population had reached over 10,000 and by 1960 had grown to more than 18,000. Hobart's population currently is just over 29,000.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

An Old Fashioned Fourth. Hobart Chamber of Commerce, 1982.

Ballantyne, Dorothy & Robert Adams, Along the Route: A History of the Hobart, Indiana Post Office & Postmasters. *Hobart Gazette*, 1979.

Cannon, Thomas. History of the Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana. Historian's Association Publishing: Indianapolis, 1927.

Christianson, Elin B. Hobart's Historic Buildings. Hobart Historical Society, 2002.

"Downtown Hobart 1979: Hobart History Blog". http://hobarthistory.blogspot.com/p/street-views.html. Ainsworthiana@gmail.com, site author. The blog includes information about an article created by the Hobart Historical Society in 1979.

Hobart City Directory. Nappanee: *Advance-News*, 1952-53.

Howat, William Frederick, M.D., Standard History of Lake County, Indiana and the Calumet Region. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1915.

Lake County Interim Report/Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1996.

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

Pleak, Miriam. A Short History of Hobart. *Hobart Gazette*, c. 1955.

Polk's City Directory. Detroit: RL Polk & Co. Publishing, 1962 & 1968.

Profile of a Northern Indiana Community: Hobart, c. 1960.

Robinson's Hobart City Directory. Hillsdale, MI: George Robinson's Directory Service, 1956.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Hobart: 1895, 1902, 1910, 1922

United States Federal Census for Lake County: 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Weitgenant, Ann. Lake County Heritage. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:
____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 089-232-03001-048, 089-232-03086

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting:	478604	Northing:	4597948
2. Zone: 16	Easting:	478857	Northing:	4598045

3. Zone: 16 Easting: 479042 Northing: 4597654

4. Zone: 16 Easting : 478653 Northing: 4597670

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

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of the former Nickel Plate Railroad and South Center Street, follow a line west to the east shore of Lake George. Follow a line northwesterly with the east shore of Lake George, across 3rd Street, to a line extended southwest from the south edge of 2nd Street. Turn northeast and continue in a line with the south edge of 2nd Street to the west edge of Main Street. Turn southeast and follow a line with the west edge of Main Street to a point where a line extended southwest from the north lot line of Lot 23, on which the United States Post Office is located. Turn northeast and follow this lot line across Center Street and with the north property line of 219 S. Center Street, the Hobart Masonic Temple, to the west edge of the alley east of Center Street. Turn southeast and continue in a line with the west edge of the alley to the south property line of 311/315 South Center Street. Turn southwest and continue in a line with the property line across Center Street to the west edge of the alley located west of Center Street.

Turn southeast and continue in a line with the west edge of the alley across 4th Street to the south edge of 4th Street. Turn northeast and continue in a line with the south edge of 4th Street to the east property line of 551/555 4th Street. Turn southeast and continue in a line with the east line of the property to the south property line of 551/555 4th Street. Turn southwest and continue in a line with the south line of the property to the east edge of the alley west of Center Street. Follow a line southeast with the east edge of the alley to the north property line of 426 South Center Street. Turn northeast and continue in a line with the north line of the property to the west edge of Center Street. Turn southeast and continue in a line to the intersection of the former Nickel Plate Railroad, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described above was the historic commercial center of the community of Hobart. Within the boundaries are the buildings that contained the mid-19th to mid-20th century commercial and retail businesses of the community. Generally, residential neighborhoods are north and east of the boundary. Creeks separate the scattered residential areas just east of the district from the rest of town. Parking lots divide the small residential area north of district from the district. The lake is a firm boundary on the west side. The railroad became a fairly firm boundary on the south side of the district.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Hobart Redevelopment Commission/PIP
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: Indiana zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-936-0613
date: July 5, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 4, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 Hobart City Hall, looking southeast

1 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 South Main Street looking northwest from 4th Street

2 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 Verplank Building, looking northwest

3 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 South Main Street, looking northwest from 3rd Street

4 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 Art Theater, looking northwest

5 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 South Main Street, looking southwest from 2nd Street

6 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Hobart Post Office, looking northeast

7 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 Intersection of South Main and 3rd Streets, looking northeast

8 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 First State Bank and Stocker Building, looking east

9 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 East side of South Main Street, looking northeast

10 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Intersection of South Main and 4th Streets, looking northeast

11 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0012 Intersection of South Main and 4th Streets, looking southeast

12 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0013 Intersection of Center and 3rd Streets, looking southeast

13 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0014 Masonic Temple, looking southeast

14 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0015 3rd Street, looking west toward Center Street

15 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0016 Guyer Building, looking north

16 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0017 3rd Street, looking southwest toward Lake George

17 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0018 South side of 3rd Street, looking southwest

18 of 19.

Name of Property: Hobart Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Hobart, IN

County: Lake State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0019 South side of 3rd Street, looking southwest at Wild Building

19 of 19.

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.

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0001

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0003

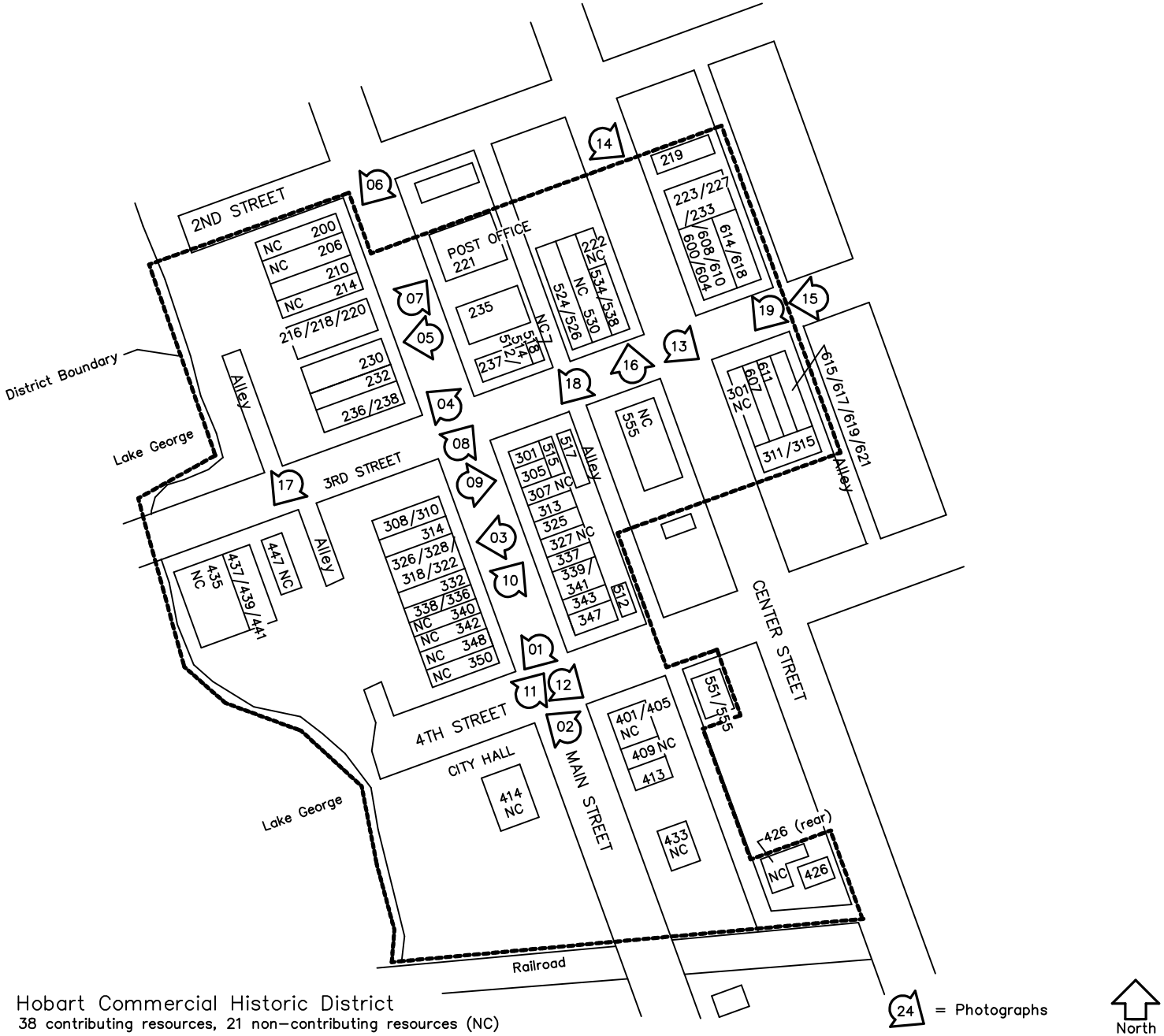
Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0004

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0006

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0007

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0010

Hobart Commercial H.D., Lake Co. Photo #0014



Hobart Commercial Historic District
38 contributing resources, 21 non-contributing resources (NC)

National Register of Historic Places sketch map
Approx. 9 acres
Hobart, Lake County, IN