United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name LaFontaine Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Roughly the blocks lining Kendall and Branson Streets between Walnut and Gruell Streets ☐ not for publication

city or town LaFontaine ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Wabash code 169 zip code 46940

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ **national** ___ **statewide** _x_ **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

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

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

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
56	16	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
4	0	structure
0	0	object
60	16	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
SOCIAL: meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: city hall
RELIGION: religious facility
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
SOCIAL: meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: post office
RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
LATE 19TH CENTURY & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: granite
walls: BRICK
WOOD: Weatherboard
roof: SYNTHETICS: Fiberglass
other: METAL: Cast Iron
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The LaFontaine Historic District comprises approximately six blocks of the oldest areas of the community. It includes the small downtown commercial area, residential areas, and one block that contains a historic transportation building. The district's southern boundary is generally Grant Creek. The land between Grant Creek and the northern boundary of the district generally slopes downward toward the creek and provides a considerable grade change. The district contains the oldest building in the community and several other mid-19th century homes and commercial buildings. There are also several commercial buildings and homes in the district that were constructed during the early part of the 20th century. Most of the architecture is vernacular; however there are also some fine examples of styles that were popular during the period of significance.

Narrative Description

Hale Street

8 Hale Street (east side). Merritt Bannister House, Queen Anne, c. 1900. Contributing (right side of photo 0019)
The house is two-and-a-half stories tall with a wide front gable wall. The house has lower cross gables on each side near the back of the house. The house's foundation is composed of granite stones that are cut into blocks. The house's walls are covered with clapboards and wide corner boards. The windows are mostly 1/1 wood windows with wide trim boards and simple crowns. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A porch is located on the front wall and it wraps around the southwest corner and is located on the west half of the south wall. The porch is composed of wide Doric columns and a balustrade with turned spindles. The porch floor and ceiling are wood.

The front wall has steps to the porch on its north side. The steps are covered with a small gable in the porch roof. The gable is enclosed with a cornice that is supported by modillions. A carved fan is located in the gable wall. A vestibule is located in the north side of the front wall. The vestibule is recessed back from the front wall slightly. It has a large wood entry door with a full window. A wide picture window is located in the first floor's front wall south of the vestibule wall. The second floor's front wall has a porch on its north side; it is covered by the gabled wall above. The porch has square columns on its outside corners. A balustrade with turned spindles is located between the columns and extends toward the street. Newel posts are located on each corner of the railing's front wall. The top of the porch's outside walls form arches with carved wood panels on each side of the tops of the columns. The front wall of the house inside the porch has a tall 1/1 wood window with a wood transom centered in it. A 1/1 window is centered in the front wall of the house's second story south of the porch.

The attic's gabled wall is enclosed at the bottom by a cornice. Modillions support the gable ends which have a slight curve near the bottom. The gabled wall has a row of three small windows centered in it. The windows are divided into four panes of glass. The top of the gabled wall forms a slight eyebrow above the row of windows. The eyebrow's wall is covered with slate tiles; the bottom of the wall is supported by modillions above the row of windows.

The north wall of the house has a row of three windows that are stair-stepped with the interior stairs. They are joined by wide wood trim and carved wood panels below each window. A fourth window is located at the landing level. The south wall of the house has a curved, two story bay. The bay's walls are covered with diamond-shaped wood shingles.

Merritt Bannister was a carpenter in the area during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Bannister constructed this home for his wife, Helen, and their family in about 1900. Based on the style of this home, Bannister probably was responsible for the number of Queen Anne/Free Classic and Stick Style homes in LaFontaine. The most elaborate of these is the Criswell House on Wabash Avenue; it is unclear if Bannister constructed that home. The house became home to the Lewis Morris family in the later part of the 20th century.

10 Hale Street (east side). G. T. Vandegrift House, Gothic Revival, c. 1853. Contributing (left side of photo 0019)
Iron Fence, c. 1880. Contributing (structure-left side of photo 0019)
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall with a gabled-ell plan. The house has a foundation composed of molded concrete blocks. Its walls are covered with wide shingles. The house has a steeply-pitched roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. A full front porch is located on the house's front wall. The porch has been enclosed with a short wall composed of molded concrete blocks and rows of wood windows. The porch roof is hipped. A wood porch door with side-lites is located south of center on the front wall. The front gabled wall has a 1/1 wood window centered in it. The front wall of the ell has a gabled wall dormer centered in it with a 1/1 wood window. The gables have wide frieze boards that are shaped to accentuate the steep pitch of the roof.

George T. Vandergrift was born in 1823 in Fayette County, Indiana. He moved to Wabash County in 1841 and to this house in 1853. He married Wilhelmina Fisher, who was born in Germany, in 1854. They had seven children: Jacob, Mary, Carrie, Laura (married Samuel Parker), Abraham, Alice, and Stella. Vandergrift was a Free Mason and member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He also was elected trustee of Liberty Township in 1878 and served two terms.

Main Street (west side, beginning at Grant Creek, going north)

108 South Main Street. House, Pyramidal Cottage, c. 1875. Contributing
The house is one story tall with a pyramidal-shaped roof. The house has a full basement that is partially exposed and has living space. The ground falls away in this area due to its proximity to Grant Creek. A porch is located on the northeast corner of the house. The porch roof has a small gable that covers the steps located on the northeast corner. The basement walls are composed of limestone and the first floor's walls are covered with clapboards. The house has 1/1 metal windows and its front door is located on the north wall of the house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A chimney is located near the center of the roof.

108 South Main Street (rear). Carriage House, c. 1875. Contributing

106 South Main Street. House, I-House. c. 1865. Contributing (right background of photo 0007)
The house is two stories tall and has a full front porch. The house's foundation is composed of limestone cut into blocks. The walls are covered with clapboards. The windows are a combination of 1/1 wood and metal windows. The windows have simple trim boards and crowns. The porch has a wood floor and wood posts that support the roof. A balustrade composed of square pickets is located on the porch. The porch's roof is hipped. The house and porch roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The first floor's front wall has two doors and three windows. The middle window is centered between the doors. The doors are wood with full windows and new storm doors. The doors have short wood transom windows above them. The windows on the first floor are wood. The second floor's front wall has two metal windows. The south window is shorter than the north window; the bottom part of the original window opening has been covered with wood.

106 South Main Street (rear). Carriage House, c. 1865. Contributing
A carriage house is located at the back of the property. It has side gables that face east and west. The building's walls are covered with wood boards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A small wood window is located in the east gabled wall. A wide door on a track is located on the west side of the north wall, facing the alley. A hay hatch is located above the door in the building's hay mow. The doors are composed of wood boards.

104 South Main Street. McDonald Funeral Home, House, c. 1865. Non-contributing (right side of photo 0007)
The building was formerly known as the Hunter Funeral Home. Its parking lot on Branson Street had several commercial buildings that were razed during the 1960s to make way for parking.

8 South Main Street. Former Garage, c. 1915. Contributing

2 South Main Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1890. Contributing

Main Street (east side, beginning at Grant Creek, going north)

105 South Main Street. House, Double-pen, c. 1860. Contributing (left side of photo 0007)
The house is situated near the street. It is one story tall and has side gables. The foundation is composed of limestone ashlars. The walls are covered with clapboards and wide corner trim boards. The house has a full front porch with a pent roof. The porch has simple wood posts and balustrade. The top of the porch's walls have a wood saw tooth pattern. The porch and house roofs are covered with metal. The front wall of the house has two wide doors with transoms and four 1/1 wood windows. There are two windows in the middle of the front wall and a window near each outside corner of the wall. The doors are wood with full windows. The transoms have been covered with wood. A chimney is located in the center of the roof on the ridge.

101 South Main Street. Former Shop, Gable-front, c. 1865. Non-contributing (left side of photo 0021)
The building is one-and-a-half stories tall with a wide front gable. The building is situated near the edge of the street at the intersection of Main and Branson Streets. The foundation is composed of limestone ashlars and its walls are covered with vinyl. The front wall faces west. It has a recessed entry with a wood door with a window in its upper half. There are metal windows in the recessed entryway's walls. A wide 1/1 metal window is located in the walls north and south of the recessed entry. A gabled porch canopy is located above the recessed entry.

The building was the LaFontaine Hardware during the middle part of the 20th century. Orley Cain was the proprietor of the small hardware. Oral tradition states that this was one of a few buildings relocated to LaFontaine from America when the town was deserted in the 1870s.

11 South Main Street. Matthews Service Station, c. 1915. Contributing (right side of photo 0021)
The building is one story tall and has a gable on the north side of its front wall. The building's foundation is concrete and its walls are covered with clapboards. The building has 6/1 and 1/1 wood windows. The roof is covered with asphalt and asphalt shingles. The front wall of the building faces southwest and is angled toward the intersection of Branson and Main Streets. The south side has a wide window that has been covered with wood. The north side has a gable. The south side of the north half of the front wall has a wide wood door with a window in its upper half. A wide picture window with a transom is located north of the door. The transom is divided into eight panes of glass. The gabled wall has a small metal canopy across the top of the door and picture window.

The gas station replaced the H. U. Blood Grocery that burned in 1909. The top floor of the grocery building was the meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias until they established their lodge hall in the building occupied by the LaFontaine Bank. Then the second floor was used by the Masons until it burned in 1909. Bert and Mildred Matthews operated the gas station during the middle part of the 20th century.

9 South Main Street. John Finkenbiner Blacksmith Shop, Gable-front, c. 1885. Contributing

1 South Main Street. House, Italianate, c. 1885/c. 1920. Contributing (photo 0008)
The house is a two story Italianate cube. Its foundation is composed of stone and its walls are covered with vinyl. Decorative wood brackets are located at the top of the walls to support the eaves. The hipped roof has a flat, square section of roof in its center. The house has 1/1 wood windows with aluminum storm windows. The front wall has a full porch. The porch walls and piers are composed of brown-colored bricks. The walls and piers have stone caps. The porch was constructed in about 1920. The house and porch roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The first floor's front wall has a wide picture window in its south half and an entry door on its north side. The entry door is a wood door with a full window. The second floor's front wall has two short 1/1 wood windows. The south wall has a three-sided window bay. The bay is one story tall and its roof is supported by decorative wood brackets. A tall 1/1 wood window is in each of the bay's walls.

Western Avenue

5 Western Avenue (east side). House, Bungalow, c. 1920. Contributing
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall and has side gables. The foundation is composed of molded concrete blocks. The walls are covered with vinyl. The house has 1/1 metal windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front wall has a full porch with a pent roof. The porch's walls and piers are composed of brown-colored bricks. The walls and piers have stone caps. The south side of the porch is enclosed with metal and glass windows. The back wall of the

porch's north side has the entry door. The door is a wood door with a full window and a storm door. A 1/1 window is located south of the door.

No address, Western Avenue. Interurban bridge abutments, 1908. Contributing (structure)

Wabash Avenue (east side, beginning at Western Street intersection)

1 South Wabash Avenue. Sinclair Service Station, c. 1940. Non-contributing
The building was a Sinclair Service Station in 1958. Its walls are composed of tile block but are covered with metal.

2 North Wabash Avenue. Snyder Tire & Battery/Snyder Marathon Service Station, c. 1952. Non-contributing (background of photo 0015)
The building was constructed in about 1952. The site was the location of a livery barn that had been constructed in about 1890. The barn was converted to a garage in about 1925 and was one of the first gas stations in LaFontaine. The old livery barn was used as the high school gymnasium during the first decades of the 20th century. Alva Harvey and Pat Patterson were the owners of the "livery garage".

Wabash Avenue (west side, beginning at north end of district)

No Address, North Wabash Avenue. Criswell House/Masonic Lodge, Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing (photo 0010)
The building is two stories tall with lower cross gables that face south and east. The building's foundation is composed of dressed granite. The walls are covered with clapboards and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The second story has trim boards that divide the wall into sections to create a half-timbered appearance. The house has a porch on its south and east walls. The porch's walls are composed of dressed granite with a concrete cap. The wall continues north to form a garden wall. The porch has fluted Doric columns that support the roof. The roof was probably originally flatter, but is now hipped. The corner entry porch is joined to a porch on the south side of the building by the stone wall. The building's windows are 1/1 wood windows with tall crowns. The second floor does not have windows on its south and east walls; they were infilled with siding at the time the building became a lodge.

The building has a corner entry that faces southeast. The entry door is in a wall that is cutaway and faces southeast. The door is a wide wood door with a window in its upper half. The entry has fluted pilasters and a tall cornice. The first floor's east wall has a row of three narrow windows with transoms on its south side. Its north side has a gabled wall with its corners cutaway on the first floor. The cutaway walls have 1/1 windows. The gabled wall's front wall has a row of three small 1/1 windows. The second story overhangs the first floor and is supported by wood modillions. Two small windows are located in the top of the east gabled wall. The first floor of the south wall has a 1/1 window on its east side and a gabled wall in its center. The gabled wall also has cutaway corners with 1/1 windows in the cutaway walls. A wood door with a full window is centered in the gabled wall.

The southeast corner has a round tower on its second and attic floors. The tower's second floor is a porch. The porch has large turned columns with spindlework between the columns at the top of the porch. Decorative brackets are located on each side of the columns to create an opening at the top of the porch walls with a slight arch. The tower's attic level has wood shingles that covers its walls. There are three square windows in the attic level. The tower's roof has a slight hip near the middle of it and is segmented. The roof is covered with slate tiles and decorative tiles form ribs that separate the roof segments. A metal finial is on the peak.

The house was constructed by George Criswell for his family that included his wife, Susan and their daughter Rilla. Criswell established a drugstore in LaFontaine in the late 1800s. He died leaving his wife a widow by 1910. Their daughter, Rilla, married John Johnson, who took over the drugstore from his father-in-law. John and Rilla continued to live with Susan Criswell in the home.

The Free Masons purchased the building in 1924 to use for their meeting place after their lodge hall burned in 1909. Lodge Number 295 was established in LaFontaine in 1862. The original membership included three Miami Indians. The charter members were William Snyder, G. T. Vandegrift, William Lines, William Woodgard, John Hall, John Stone, John Bannister, H. K. Hendricks, and Samuel Cope. The lodge had established a hall by 1867. For a long period of time they met in the second floor of the Parker Building. The building continues to serve as the lodge hall for the Masons.

2 South Wabash Avenue. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1865. Non-contributing
The house has aluminum siding covering its walls, a new metal corner porch post, and a new door with side-lites. These changes render the building non-contributing.

12 Wabash Street. LaFontaine/Liberty Twp. Fire Station, 1984-1985. Non-contributing (right side photo 0011)
Prior to the construction of the fire station, the site was the location of the town hall and fire department building that were constructed during the early 1900s. Prior to those buildings, the site was the location for a large three story hotel. The hotel was constructed out of wood in c. 1875 and had a cupola.

Walnut Street

No address, South Walnut Street (rear). Interurban Power House/Sale Barn, 1904. Contributing (photo 0012)
The building's foundation and walls are composed of bricks. The building faces south and has two gabled parapet walls on its south and north walls. The east parapet wall is wider than the west wall. The building's walls are divided by brick pilasters. The walls between the pilasters have wide arched window or door openings. The openings are all the same height and width. The openings have three courses of bricks that form the arches. The windows have stone sills. Most of the windows and doors have been covered with wood or have been filled in with concrete blocks. The space between the pilasters at the tops of the walls has rows of brick corbels. The parapet walls are capped by tiles. The roof is covered with metal. There are three historic metal ventilators on the ridge of the roofs.

The front wall has eight window and door openings. The east gabled parapet has three and the west gabled parapet has five. The two openings near the outside corners and the two middle openings are doors. Only the west middle door opening has a door. It is a garage door composed of metal.

The Indiana Northern Traction Company constructed an interurban electric railroad line in 1904. The interurban line, which linked Wabash and Marion and points further north and south, was constructed through the middle of Western Street on the west side of the downtown. The building operated as a powerhouse for the railroad. After the interurban ceased operations in about 1930 the building became a sale barn for livestock auctions. The sale barn was operated by R. J. Alexander and then by C. W. and Estella Speicher during the 1950s.

10 South Walnut Street (west side). House, Craftsman, c. 1920. Contributing (left side of photo 0013)

No address, South Walnut & West Branson Street. Concrete culvert (structure), c. 1930.

Kendall Street (south side beginning west of Walnut Street, going east)

201 West Kendall Street. House, Stick Style, c. 1890. Contributing (right side of photo 0013)
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall in a gabled-ell plan. The foundation is composed of limestone ashlars and the walls are covered with clapboards. The house has rows of wood trim in a picket design at the tops of its walls and at the bottom of the gable walls. The gable walls are covered with wood shingles. The house has 1/1 metal windows with simple wood trim boards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has a replacement porch that wraps around the north and east walls of the house. The porch has a small gable roof that is located at the northeast corner of the house. It covers the wood steps and forms the entryway to the porch.

The first floor has a cutaway wall that faces northeast toward the intersection of Walnut and Kendall Streets. A wood door with a window in its upper half is located in the cutaway wall. A wide window is located on the first floor of the north gabled wall and the east gabled wall. A window is centered on the east wall of the north leg of the ell. A new metal door is centered in the north wall of the east leg of the ell. A window is centered in each of the gable walls. A small window divided into two panes of glass is centered in the second story's east and north walls of the ells.

107 West Kendall Street. House, Bungalow, c. 1925. Contributing

No Address, West Kendall Street. Bridge/Railing, c. 1930. Contributing (structure) (photo 0015)
A cast concrete bridge is located on Kendall Street, just west of Wabash Street. The bridge has side walls with four panels in each wall. The bridge has cast concrete abutments and a cantilevered concrete sidewalk on its south side. The

sidewalk has a historic metal handrail composed of steel I-beams, used for posts, and flat metalwork in a lattice pattern for railings. The bridge crosses a small stream that is a tributary to Grant Creek.

11 West Kendall Street. House, Craftsman/Bungalow, c. 1925. Contributing (photo 0016)
The house is one story tall with attic dormers. It has a concrete foundation and its walls are composed of orange-colored bricks. The house has side gables and a front gable above its porch; the gable walls are covered with stucco and half-timbering. The house has 6/1 wood windows with stone sills. The front wall has a large porch on its east side. The porch's walls and corner piers are composed of bricks. The walls and piers have stone caps. The porch has a gable roof; the gable wall has a short arched window composed of three sashes that are divided into six panes of glass. Wood brackets are located at the bottom corners of the roof. The entry is located on the east side of the front wall; it has a wide wood door and side-lites. The door has a full window. A 6/1 window is located west of the door. A large picture window composed of a wide middle window and two narrow 6/1 windows is located west of the porch on the front wall. The west corner of the front wall has a buttress. A small shed dormer is centered on the roof west of the porch. It has two small windows. A sun porch is located on the west side of the house. Its walls are composed of bricks and large windows. The roof is flat and has decorative rafter tails that are exposed.

9 West Kendall Street. House, Colonial Revival, c. 1925. Contributing

7 West Kendall Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1865. Non-contributing
The house has vinyl siding, new windows, new metal porch posts, and a new entry door. These changes render the house non-contributing.

5 West Kendall Street. House, Double-pen, c. 1860. Non-contributing (third from left, photo 0018)
The house has vinyl siding, new windows, and a new entry door. These changes render the house non-contributing.

5 West Kendall Street (rear). Carriage House/Blacksmith Shop, c. 1875. Contributing
The building is an English style barn with side gables and two large doorways on its south wall that faces the alley. The barn has a concrete foundation and its walls are covered with corrugated metal. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The barn's doors are also covered with metal and are on tracks. The barn has a hay hood on its west wall. A hay mow hatch composed of two doors is located in the west gable wall. The doors are also on a track that angles downward with the underside of the eaves.

3 West Kendall Street. House, I-House, c. 1885. Contributing (second from left, photo 0018)

4 East Kendall Street. House, Gable-front, c. 1890. Contributing (right side of photo 0009)

8 East Kendall Street. House, Gothic Revival, c. 1865. Contributing (second from right side of photo 0009)

12 East Kendall Street. House, American Four-Square, c. 1910. Contributing

14 East Kendall Street. House, Colonial Revival Cottage, c. 1950. Non-contributing

106 East Kendall Street. House, Craftsman/Bungalow, c. 1920. Contributing
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall with side gables. The foundation is composed of molded concrete blocks and the walls are covered with clapboards. The house has 1/1 metal windows with simple wood trim boards. The front wall has a porch covering about two-thirds of the front wall. The porch has a broad front gable that is supported by tapered square columns. The porch's foundation and walls are composed of molded concrete blocks. The blocks in the walls are staggered to make the walls more open. Steps are located in the center of the porch's front wall. The porch roof's gabled wall is covered with beaded boards with wide trim boards angled outward to give the appearance of half-timbering.

The front wall of the house has a wide door centered on the first floor. The door is wood and has two panels in its lower half and a window in its upper half. It also has a wood storm door. A wide 1/1 window is located on each side of the door. The house has a gabled dormer centered on the front wall. The dormer has a wide picture window centered on its front wall. Narrow 1/1 windows are on each side of the picture window. The house's roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Kendall Street (north side beginning at Walnut Street, going east)

108 West Kendall Street. House, Double-pile, c. 1885. Contributing (left side of photo 0014)

106 West Kendall Street. House, c. 1885. Contributing (right side of photo 0014)

10 West Kendall Street. House, Pyramidal Cottage, c. 1865. Contributing (right side of photo 0017)

8 West Kendall Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1890. Non-contributing

6 West Kendall Street. House, Gothic Revival, c. 1865. Contributing

4 West Kendall Street. Methodist Church Parsonage, Double-pile, c. 1885. Contributing

2 West Kendall Street. LaFontaine Methodist Church, Late Gothic Revival, 1902. S. S. Traley, contractor. Contributing (right side of photo 0018)
The building has a gabled-ell plan with a corner entry tower. The south gable is slightly shorter than the east gable. The building has a foundation composed of rusticated limestone. The walls are composed of bricks except in the gables. The gabled walls are covered with metal. The building's windows are a combination of pointed arch windows and windows with lintels composed of bricks. The windows have stone sills and are mostly 1/1 wood windows. The south gabled wall has a large window centered in it. It is composed of three pointed arch windows and three small diamond-shaped windows in its top. The east gable has a taller version of the same window. It also has two 1/1 pointed arch windows; one is located on each side of the larger window.

The corner tower has a pair of wood doors on its south wall. A 1/1 wood window is centered on the east wall of the tower. The tower has a pyramidal-shaped roof with flare eaves. A tall cross is located on the roof's peak. A one story addition was placed on the west and north sides of the building in 1975; its walls are also composed of bricks. A building cornerstone is located on the southeast corner of the south gabled wall.

The first Methodist congregation that organized in Liberty Township met in 1839 at Henry Bruner's house southeast of LaFontaine. They later met in a schoolhouse in America prior to the construction of a frame church in LaFontaine in 1858-1860. The original building cost $1000 and Reverend Kerwood was the pastor during its construction. In 1875 there were four churches in the Liberty Township area that were part of the same circuit for Methodist congregations. LaFontaine's Methodist church had 120 members and a parsonage in 1875. The current building was constructed in 1902 on the same site as the original church. It was remodeled with an addition on its west and north sides in 1975-1976.

1 East Kendall Street. Troyer Library, Ranch, c. 1960. Non-contributing (left side of photo 0009)

5 East Kendall Street. House, Pyramidal Cottage, c. 1865. Non-contributing (second from left, photo 0009)
The house has new siding and new windows. These changes render the house non-contributing.

7 East Kendall Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1865. Contributing (third from left, photo 0009)
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall and is a gabled-ell. The front gable is on the east side of the front wall. The foundation is composed of stones and the walls are covered with clapboards. The house has 1/1 wood windows with simple trim boards. A tall cornice board is at the top of the walls. The roof has wide overhanging eaves and is steeply pitched. It is covered with asphalt shingles.

The front wall has an enclosed porch on its west side. The porch has a concrete foundation. Its walls taper outward toward the ground; they are also covered with clapboards. The porch has five tall wood awning windows that are divided into two panes of glass. A metal screen door is located between the easternmost window and the second window. There are three awning windows on the west wall of the porch. The porch has a hipped roof. The gabled wall has two wide 1/1 windows on its first floor and one 1/1 window centered in its gable wall. The gabled wall that faces south has a 1/1 window centered on its first floor and its gable wall.

9 East Kendall Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1885. Contributing (fourth from left, photo 0009)

11 East Kendall Street. House, Gothic Revival, c. 1880. Non-contributing
The house has vinyl siding, new windows, and a replacement porch composed of bricks. These changes render the house non-contributing.

101 East Kendall. House, 2013. Non-contributing

Branson Street (north side, beginning at east end of the district, going west)

11 East Branson Street. House, c. 1890. Contributing
The house is a long narrow box with its narrow side facing the street. It is two stories tall and has a low-pitched hipped roof. The foundation is composed of stones and the walls are covered with clapboards. The roof has exposed rafter tails that are carved; the roof is covered with metal. The house has large 1/1 wood windows. A full width porch is on the front wall of the house and wraps around the west wall of the house. The porch has a wood floor and turned wood posts. Small decorative brackets are on each side of the tops of the posts. Wood pickets are located at the top of the porch walls between the brackets. The entry to the porch is on the southwest corner of the house. The entry has a small gable in the porch roof above the steps.

The southwest corner of the house is cutaway on the first floor. The entry door is located in the cutaway wall. The door is a wood door with a window in its upper half. The first floor's front wall has a wide 1/1 window centered in it. The second floor's front wall has a 1/1 window centered in it.

7 East Branson Street. House, Gothic Revival, c. 1880. Contributing (left side of photo 0020)
The house is one-and-a-half stories tall with side gables and a centered gable on the front wall. The foundation is composed of stones and the walls are covered with stucco. The house has 1/1 wood windows. The roof is steeply pitched and is covered with asphalt shingles.

The house has a full width porch on the front wall; the porch wraps around to the west side of the house. The porch is a later c. 1910 addition. The porch has large decorative cast concrete columns that are fluted. The porch floor is concrete. A small gable is located in the porch roof; it is centered with the steps on the front of the house. Wood pickets cover the porch gable wall. The front wall has a new metal entry door centered on the wall. A wide 1/1 window is located to each side of the door on the first floor wall. A 1/1 window is centered in the front gable wall and in each side gable wall.

5 East Branson Street. Cottage, c. 1915. Contributing

3 East Branson Street. Commercial Building, c. 1915. Contributing
The building was used as a veterinary office by A. F. Ferguson during the 1940s-1950s and then by James Beher during the late 1900s.

4 West Branson Street (east). O. W. Clark Grocery, parapet-front, c. 1910. Contributing (right side of photo 0001)
The building is a narrow, long commercial building. Its narrow wall fronts Branson Street; it has a cutaway southwest corner wall which is also the entry. The building's walls are composed of molded concrete blocks. The front wall has a tall parapet; the side walls' parapets step downward toward the back of the building. The front wall has a storefront window with a concrete sill. The window is composed of two 4/4 wood windows; clapboards are located between the bottom of the windows and the sill. The entry has a wide wood door with a window in its top half that is divided into nine panes of glass. A wood transom window is above the door. Aluminum covers the cutaway wall above the transom window.

Orin W. Clark and his wife Anna moved their grocery business from nearby Rich Valley, Indiana to LaFontaine in 1915. He established his business on the northwest corner of Branson and Main Street in a building that already had a grocery established in it. His son Robert became the owner of the grocery in 1948 and continued to operate the business at the same location until 1971 when they constructed a new building on Highway 15, west of the downtown. Robert Clark's children and grandchildren also worked in the grocery. The store became known as Clark's Market; it closed in 2000.

4 West Branson Street (west). Commercial building, parapet-front, c. 1910. Contributing (second from right, photo 0001)

8 West Branson Street. Clark's Tin Shop, parapet-front, c. 1925. Contributing (third from right, photo 0001)
The building was constructed by the Clark family after they moved their tin shop business from the south side of Branson Street, opposite this building, to this location in about 1925. Clark's Tin Shop was founded by John Clark in the early 1900s. It was continued by his son Robert, and then grandsons Ralph and Howard into the 1970s.

10 & 12 West Branson Street. I.O.O.F. Hall, Romanesque Revival, 1905. Contributing
(fourth from right, photo 0001 & far right, photo 0002)
The building is two-and-a-half stories tall with two storefronts. Its foundation is composed of limestone ashlars and it has a limestone drip ledge. The walls are composed of tan-colored bricks with limestone trim. The first story's front wall was remodeled in c. 1960. It is covered with limestone bricks and has a canopy that is covered with wood shingles. The first story has a wide recessed area centered on the wall. The recessed area has entry doors for both storefronts and a stairway door that is centered in the wall. The entry doors are aluminum and glass. Each storefront has a wide aluminum and glass display window centered on their front walls. A metal cornice is at the top of the canopy; a stone belt course is above the cornice.

The second and half story's front wall is divided into three sections with brick pilasters. The middle section is wider than the outside sections. Brick corbels are located between the pilasters at the top of the half story wall. The second floor's front wall has three 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and lintels in the middle section of the wall; one 1/1 wood window with a stone sill and lintel is in each outside section of the front wall. Panels of brick soldiers are located above each window on the second floor. An arched window is located in the half story above each window on the second story. The windows are wood and are divided into five panes of glass. They have stone sills and rusticated stone arches. The arches have cushion blocks and keystones. The top of the front wall has a metal cornice with decorative end brackets and rows of dentils. The cornice has a pair of decorative corbels that flank two swags in the center of the cornice. An arched building sign is above the center of the cornice. It is also composed of metal and has "I. O. O. F." and "1905" in raised letters on its front wall.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows established their lodge in LaFontaine in 1877. Lodge Number 533 was known as the Meto-Cin-Ia Lodge and they had thirty-one founding members. The lodge constructed their hall in 1905; they continued to use the lodge today. The I.O.O.F. also established a town cemetery on the west side of the community. The post office has operated from the first floor of this building since about 1950.

14 West Branson Street. Parker Building, Italianate, 1884. Contributing (right side, photo 0002)
The building is two stories tall with a single storefront. It has a foundation composed of limestone and a limestone drip ledge. The building's walls are composed of bricks. The front wall of the building has a wide recessed entry centered on its first floor. The entry has a pair of fluted metal columns on its outside corners. The entry is composed of a pair of narrow wood doors with tall windows. A raised panel is at the bottom of each door. The panels and windows are framed with wood trim and corner blocks. The pair of doors also have a pair of wood transom windows. The recessed area's side walls angle inward toward the door. These walls are composed of tall, narrow wood windows with transoms. The storefront has a large display window on the front wall to each side of the recessed entry. The bottoms of the display windows are located on top of the stone drip ledge. A wood transom window is above each display window. A metal cornice is at the top of the storefront. It has large decorative end brackets and a pair of decorative corbels that frame the recessed entryway below. Rows of corbels are located between the brackets and larger decorative corbels.

The second floor's front wall has three 2/2 wood windows with segmented arches and stone sills. The windows have fluted trim boards and decorative stone hoods. The hoods are bracketed and have pointed tops. A low-relief floral pattern is in the wall of the pointed top. The top of the front wall has a metal cornice. It has large decorative end brackets and two pairs of brackets. Three framed panels are between the brackets. The building has an original cast iron staircase on the west wall of the building. The interior of the building has remained virtually unaltered. Historic casework and an original freight elevator are extant.

The building was constructed by Adam Parker and his son Samuel in about 1881. The Parkers were merchant tailors who moved to LaFontaine from Kentucky in 1852. Adam and Nancy Parker purchased the home west of this building about the same year and in 1853 opened their first store. That building is located west of the house. The Parker Building had the family's business on the first floor and the second floor was known as Parker Hall. Parker Hall was an opera house and served as the community's cultural center as well as a meeting hall for the Free Masons. Community plays were conducted in the hall as early as about 1900. A staircase on the west side of the building provided access to the hall from the sidewalk. The business was expanded to carry other staples including coffee, beans, sugar, and candy. Glassware and hardware also were sold from the store. Samuel Parker continued to run the store after his father's death; he was joined by his son Kenneth. The establishment was known as Parker & Son. The Parker store closed in 1960 after Kenneth's wife Mabel retired. The closing was featured in the *Indianapolis Star's* Sunday Magazine on October 30, 1960 under the headline "Passing from the Hoosier Scene". The Parker building remains in the Parker family.

16 West Branson Street. Parker House, I-house, 1848 /c.1910. Contributing (left side, photo 0002)
The house is two stories tall and has side gables. The foundation is composed of limestone ashlars and the walls are covered with vinyl siding. The windows are 1/1 metal windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and a chimney is located on the ridge above each gable wall. A cast iron picket fence that was constructed in 1884 at the time the building to the east was built is at the front of the property. It has ornate newel posts and a gate centered with the front porch on the house.

The front wall of the house is symmetrical. It has semicircular front porch with a concrete step and floor around the full width of the porch. It has four large Doric columns that support the roof, which functions as a balcony for the second floor. Doric pilasters are on the inside corners of the porch. The entry is centered on the front of the house. It has a wide wood door with a window in its upper half and a panel in its lower half. A short wood transom window is above the door. Four windows are in the first floor's front wall. Five windows are in the second floor's front wall. The interior of the house is virtually unchanged since a c. 1910 remodeling. It has a wide, open semicircular staircase centered in the entry hall of the house.

The house was constructed by Thornton and Elizabeth Ro(d)gers in about 1848. The Rogers who were natives of Virginia are identified in the 1850 census in LaFontaine with four children: Achilas, Sarah, Augustus, and Rhoda. Thornton Rogers was a blacksmith and his property was valued at $900.00. Rogers established one of the first businesses in LaFontaine. The house was also used as a general store prior to its purchase by the Parker family. The Rogers completed the sale of their home to Adam and Nancy Parker for $600.00 in 1854. The Parkers were natives of Kentucky who established a tailor shop in the community in 1853. That business was expanded over the years to include other staples and hardware. The original Parker store is located west of the house; a second store building was constructed by the Parkers in 1881 east of the house.

Adam Parker became the postmaster and Justice of the Peace for the community. He was also an officer of the local chapter of Free Masons and was a founder of the LaFontaine Bank. The iron fence in front of the house was added at the time the second Parker store was constructed. Adam's grandson Kenneth also lived in the home. Kenneth married Mable Boys in 1906 after which time they became the owners of the home. Kenneth Parker made minor modifications to the house in about 1910. At that time the circular columned porch was added on the front of the house. The home remains in the Parker family.

16 West Branson Street (rear). Parker Carriage House, c. 1850. Contributing
The building has a front gable that faces east. It has a foundation composed of limestone ashlars and its walls are covered with metal. The building has a door on a track on the north side of its east wall. The roof is covered with historic metal. The barn has a hand-hewn timber and log frame. Wide wood boards cover the walls beneath the metal.

The carriage house was constructed either by Thornton Rogers or Adam Parker between about 1848 and 1854. Both men owned the house on the property; the first owner was Thornton Rogers, who operated a blacksmith shop. Adam Parker's wife, Nancy, continued to keep a cow and horse in the barn after her husband's death in 1904.

18 West Branson Street. Original Parker Store, Italianate/Greek Revival, c. 1850/c. 1885. Contributing
(third from left, photo 0003)
The building is one story tall and has a tall front parapet. The building has gabled roof behind the parapet. The foundation is composed of limestone ashlars. The front wall has a single storefront. The building's storefront is framed by cast metal pilasters and a tall front parapet wall. The pilasters have a base and rusticated front walls. The tops of the pilasters have large decorative corbels that support a finial. The storefront between the pilasters is covered with plywood. Two 1/1 wood windows are located west of the center of the front wall. The entry door is located on the east side of the front wall. It is a wood door with a full window that is divided into three panes of glass. The transom area is covered with historic clapboards. The metal parapet wall has a small cornice above the storefront. The cornice has egg and dart trim. A field of Greek keys is between the small cornice and the cornice at the top of the building. The cornice at the top of the front wall has large decorative end brackets with finials on top. A row of five corbels supports the cornice between the end brackets. The rear wall of the building is covered with wood. The gable wall is broad and has cornice returns.

The building was constructed in about 1853 and served as the first store operated by Adam Parker, a tailor who arrived in LaFontaine in about 1852. Parker purchased the house located east of this building and began a tailor shop in 1853. Parker constructed a new building in 1881 east of the house and at that time this building left the Parker family's ownership. A metal storefront was constructed over the gabled building in c. 1885. The building served as a bank during

the late 19th and early 20th century. In 1953 the building was used by Maxine Silvers as a beauty shop named Maxine's Beauty Shop.

20 West Branson Street. Commercial Building, parapet-front, c. 1900. Contributing (second from left, photo 0003)
The building has been used as a barber shop for more than sixty years. Bob Mills used the building for his barber shop during the early 1950s.

22 West Branson Street. Farmers State Bank, Neo-classical, 1919. Contributing (left side of photo 0003)
The building is one story tall. It has a limestone base. The walls are composed of brown-colored bricks and stone trim. The building has metal windows with stone sills. The windows are trimmed with brick rowlocks and stone corner blocks. The front wall of the building has wide brick pilasters on each corner. The pilasters have stone capitals and bases. A brick panel framed by rowlocks and stone corner blocks is on the front wall of the two pilasters. Stone pilasters with Ionic capitals form the entryway in the center of the building. The entry has stone trim and a metal and glass door. The transom area is filled with bricks. There is a window to each side of the entry door on the front wall. The transom area is also filled with bricks.

A narrow stone cornice is at the top of the storefront and pilasters. A stone name block is centered on the front wall above the narrow cornice. It has "FARMERS STATE BANK" carved on it in low relief. A stone cornice is at the bottom of the building's parapet wall. The parapet wall is composed of bricks. There area wide brick pilasters at each corner of the front parapet wall. The parapet wall and corner pilasters have stone coping. A stone year block is centered in the brick parapet wall; it has "1919" in low relief.

The Farmers State Bank was organized in the early 1900s. The bank did not survive the Great Depression of the 1930s. The *LaFontaine Review*, which was established in 1884, was printed from a small frame building that was demolished to make way for John Johnson's drugstore on the south side of Branson Street. The *Review* then moved into the Farmers State Bank building after the bank had closed. The building was later used as the United Telephone Office during the middle part of the 1900s until about 1976 when it was converted to serve as the LaFontaine Town Hall.

104 West Branson Street. House, Double-pile, c. 1885. Contributing

106 West Branson Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1865. Contributing

<u>Branson Street (south side, beginning at east end of the district, going west)</u>

6 East Branson Street. House, Gabled-ell, c. 1890. Contributing (second from right, photo 0020)
The house is one story tall and it has an east-facing gabled wall near the back of the house. The house has a foundation composed of dressed limestone blocks. Its walls are covered with clapboards and its roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has 1/1 wood windows with simple trim boards and crowns. The house has a porch with a pent roof on its east wall. The porch has new wood posts and a wood balustrade. The entry door is located in the middle of the east wall. It is a wide wood door with a window in its upper half. The front (north) wall of the house has one window centered in the wall.

4 East Branson Street. House, I-House, c. 1885/c. 1910. Contributing (right side of photo 0020)
The house is two stories tall and has side gabled walls. The foundation is composed of stones and the walls are covered with insul-brick. The house has 1/1 wood windows and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has a full-width front porch that wraps around the west side of the house. The entry to the porch is located at the west end of the porch's front wall. The porch's walls are tapered outward toward the ground; they are covered with insul-brick. The porch has square tapered columns. The porch roof has a small enclosed gable that is centered on the front of the house. Two windows are located in the west side of the first floor's front wall. The entry door is located just east of the center of the front wall. The door is a wood door with a full window. A window is located east of the door in the front wall. The second floor's front wall has two windows. A one story addition is located on the southwest corner of the house. The porch on the west side of the house wraps around to the addition. The addition's front wall has a wood entry door. The door is divided into multiple panes of glass.

11 West Branson Street. Hardman Brothers Hardware, c. 1900. Contributing (left side of photo 0006)
The building is two stories tall and has two storefronts. The building's walls are composed of brick. The front wall has a wide recessed entryway in the center of the building. The doors to both storefronts and a stairway door, centered between

the two storefronts, are located in the center of the first floor in the recessed area. The doors are aluminum and glass. The first floor's front wall is covered with new bricks. The east storefront has a large aluminum and glass storefront display window. The west storefront has two small 1/1 windows in its front wall. The transom area above the storefronts and recessed entry area is covered with wood.

A metal cornice is at the top of the first floor. The cornice has egg and dart trim. The second floor's front wall has five windows with stone sills and rusticated stone lintels. The middle window has been filled in with bricks. The other four windows are 1/1 metal windows. The original windows were taller; a piece of wood covers the top of the opening above the new windows. A small field of brick is located between each window and the metal cornice at the top of the front wall. The building's cornice has large decorative end brackets with finials and a row of decorative corbels between the brackets.

The Hardman brothers constructed this building for their hardware in about 1900. Besides a hardware business the building also was a cream station for Schlosser Brothers creamery. The building became home to Faust Building and Supply in the middle part of the 20th century; John Faust was the owner.

13 West Branson Street. Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 211/LaFontaine National Bank, Romanesque Revival, 1893/1918. Contributing (second from left side of photo 0006, left side of photo 0005)
The building is two-and-a-half stories tall and has two storefronts. The building's walls are composed of brick. The two storefronts have been combined into one storefront; the west storefront has been filled in with bricks. The east storefront has a wide corner pilaster composed of limestone on its east corner. It has three narrow limestone pilasters on its front wall. There is a metal and glass window between each pilaster; the wall beneath the window is also limestone. An aluminum and glass door is recessed between the westernmost two pilasters. A stone cornice is above the east storefront. It has a row of dentils and "1893 LAFONTAINE NATIONAL BANK 1918" in low relief on the front of the cornice. A canopy that is covered with wood shingles is located above both storefronts, just below the stone cornice.

The second floor's front wall has six 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and lintels. The middle two windows are joined together in the center of the wall. A small panel of bricks is located between the second floor windows and arched windows in the half story's front wall. There are five arched windows with stone sills and stone arches with keystones. The middle arched window is wider than the other four. The middle window is covered with a metal panel with "1905 K of P No. 211" in raised letters on it. The other arched windows have wood covering them. The top of the building has a large metal cornice with decorative end brackets and a row of dentils between the brackets.

The bank was organized in 1893 by several businessmen of the community including Adam Parker, who owned the store across the street. The original stockholders were John, Joe, and Peter Neff, John and Joseph Harper, Adam Parker, Kate Emmery, John Moffitt, Jehu Banister, Tobias Miller, James Crow, Frank Mossman, James Bruner, Jerome Scott, and James McIlwain. The bank collaborated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge to construct the building. The Knights hall is on the second floor of the building. The LaFontaine Town Hall is located on the first floor today.

17 West Branson Street. Commercial building, Craftsman, c. 1915. Contributing (middle of photo 0005)
The building is two stories tall with a recessed entry for the staircase on the east side of the front wall. The building has one storefront with a recessed entry centered in it. The building's walls are composed of brown-colored bricks and stone trim. The storefront has large historic metal and glass display windows. The wall below the windows is composed of limestone. The storefront door and the staircase door are wood with full windows. A wide brick pilaster is on each front corner of the building. The pilasters have stone bases and capitals and decorative brickwork on their front walls. A belt course of brick soldiers is at the top of the first floor's front wall.

The second floor's front wall has a basket weave pattern composed of bricks just below its windows. A stone sill course is below the windows. A row of six wood windows, divided into eight panes of glass, are centered in the front wall. Two windows that are divided into eight panes of glass are on the west and east sides of the front wall. A belt course composed of brick soldiers is above the windows. Four ribbons of decorative brickwork are located at the top of the building's front wall. The ribbons have stone shields in their tops. A belt course of bricks in a basket weave pattern is at the top of the front wall. Stone coping is located on top of the parapet wall.

The building was constructed as a drugstore by John Johnson, who took over the drugstore business from his father-in-law George Criswell. The business was established during the late 1800s. The drugstore became known as Ted's Drugs in the second half of the 20th century when it was operated by Ted Checkouras.

19 West Branson Street. Commercial building, parapet-front, c. 1920. Non-contributing (right side of photo 0005)

23 West Branson Street. Commercial building, c. 1860/c. 1945. Non-contributing (background of photo 0011)
The building is composed of two buildings that were joined together in the last several years. There is a two story part located at the corner of Wabash and Branson Streets. It was constructed c. 1945 and its walls are covered with vinyl. There is a one story part with a side gabled wall on the east side of the two story part. It was a double-pen house constructed c. 1860 and its walls are covered with vinyl. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The building's windows are a combination of 6/6 metal windows and narrow casement windows. The corner part of the building has some limestone bricks on the west side of its north wall.

101 West Branson Street. Commercial building, Gable-front, c. 1860. Contributing (left side of photo 0004)
The building is a one story commercial building with a front gabled wall. The foundation is composed of stones and the walls are covered with vinyl. The building has a steeply-pitched roof and it is covered with asphalt shingles. The front wall of the building has a metal entry door centered on it. There is a large wood display window to each side of the door on the front wall. A wainscot composed of bricks is below the windows. A canopy with a hipped roof is above the storefront. Oral tradition states that this is one of a few buildings that were relocated to LaFontaine from the now abandoned town of America during the 1870s. It does not appear in LaFontaine in the 1875 atlas.

The building was a drugstore during the late 1800s and early 1900s. George Geyer conducted a drugstore business from this location during the 1910s and 1920s. His wife's name was Anna. The building became a tavern in the middle part of the 20th century and is used as a bar today.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1848 – c. 1930

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1848, the year the Parker house was constructed at 16 West Branson Street. The Parker house is the oldest extant building constructed in the town of LaFontaine. The period of significance ends in c. 1930, the estimated year the last contributing structure, a concrete culvert, was constructed near the intersection of West Branson and South Walnut Streets. The town was bypassed by Highway 15 later in the 20th century which changed the character of the community's business and residential areas.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
Not applicable

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

The LaFontaine Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The district is eligible under criterion A because of the significance the district played in terms of exploration and settlement of Liberty Township and the community of LaFontaine. The district is also significant because it contains the historic commercial center of the rural area. Another important historical aspect of the district is the role an interurban railroad played. An interurban route ran through a large portion of the district north on Western Avenue, across the creek, and then northwest on Wabash Avenue. A building that was part of the interurban operation is extant, therefore transportation is an area of significance for the district. Finally, the district qualifies under criterion C due to architecture. The district contains a few excellent examples of architectural styles popular during the period of significance as well as several good examples of mid and late 19th century vernacular architecture.

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

ARCHITECTURE

Vernacular architecture
As with most rural communities, examples of simple vernacular architecture are common in the district. LaFontaine has an array of vernacular building types: Gable-front, I-house, and Gabled-ell. Two other less common types of vernacular architecture also exist in noticeable quantities: pyramidal cottages and double-pen houses. Many of the community's early settlers were natives of Kentucky and Rush and Fayette Counties in Indiana. The number of houses constructed in these vernacular forms may be attributed to the settlers' or carpenters' central Indiana or Upland South origins.

Gable-front
There are a handful of examples of gable-front houses in the district; however some of the best examples of gable-front buildings are three commercial buildings that are located in the district. The building located at 101 West Branson Street is an example of a gable-front building that was constructed in about 1865; oral tradition states that these two buildings were relocated to LaFontaine from the nearby town of America when the railroad was constructed through LaFontaine in the 1870s. Another gable-front commercial building is located near the old lumber mill on the south side of Grant Creek on Walnut Street. It dates to about 1885.

Gable-front design allowed for the narrower wall of a building to front the street; this permitted a better use of platted lots in towns and villages. Because gable-front commercial buildings were typically constructed out of wood and fires were notorious threats to downtowns, these types of buildings are not commonly found from railroad boom-era commercial districts.

Double-pen
A few of the town's oldest extant examples of vernacular construction appears to be three double-pen houses. All three are shown on an 1875 atlas of LaFontaine. They were likely constructed between about 1850 and 1860. The only contributing example is located at 105 South Main Street. It has a full front porch. Double-pen houses typically started as a single room (or pen) and as funds permitted a second room was added to the side of the first room.

I-House
The I-house type became popular during the middle part of the 19th century particularly throughout the Midwest. I-Houses are typically two rooms wide and two stories tall. There are four examples of I-Houses in the district. The earliest is located at 16 W. Branson Street; it was constructed in about 1848. The other three examples were constructed between about 1865 and 1885 at 106 South Main, 4 East Branson Street, and 3 West Kendall Street. These three examples have full front porches; the house on Main Street is probably the best example with a significant amount of historical material intact.

Pyramidal Cottage

There are three examples of this house type in LaFontaine. They were constructed between about 1855 and 1875. Two are located on Kendall Street on lots platted as part of Kendall's addition that was created in 1854 (10 West Kendall and 5 East Kendall, which though non-contributing for exterior changes, represents the type). The third house is located at 108 South Main Street near the north bank of Grant Creek. While the examples located at 108 South Main and 5 East Kendall Streets are very simple examples of the house type, the example located at 10 West Kendall is more elaborate and has gabled dormers on its south and west walls. The houses at 108 South Main and 10 West Kendall also have porches that wrap around one of their front corners. In all three examples the roofs form pyramids but the top of the roof is flat and does not come to a point. Pyramidal cottages are typically two rooms deep and two rooms wide and are one or one-and-a-half stories tall. The house gets its name from the pyramidal-shaped roof that forms on top of the square footprint of the house.

Gabled-ell

One of the most popular vernacular building types in the LaFontaine district is the gabled-ell house. There are approximately a dozen examples of this type; some were designed in styles popular at the time of their construction such as Gothic Revival and the Stick Style. Two excellent examples of the gabled-ell type are found adjacent to each other at 7 and 9 East Kendall Street. The house at 7 East Kendall Street was constructed in about 1865 while the house at 9 East Kendall Street was constructed in about 1885. The houses are both one-and-a-half stories tall and are oriented with their front gable on the east side of the front wall. The houses also have porches on the front wall of the side gabled wall. The house at 7 East Kendall Street has a slightly smaller scale and a more steeply-pitched roof suggesting its design may have been influenced by the Gothic Revival-styled homes that were constructed in the district during the period.

Architectural Styles

The architectural styles present in LaFontaine are for the most part typical of late 19th and early 20th century towns. The buildings' scale and attention to stylistic details is typical of rural communities; however LaFontaine's architecture exhibits a broad collection of excellent examples of architectural styles which is not frequently found in rural communities.

Gothic Revival

The LaFontaine Historic District has an unusually large number of Gothic Revival-styled homes. The earliest example appears to be the Vandegrift house on Hale Street. That house was constructed in about 1853 for George Vandegrift. The house is a gabled-ell with a wall dormer on the front wall of the ell. The house has a steeply-pitched roof and shaped rake boards on the gable walls. There are three contributing examples of the Gothic Revival style with a centered gable; two of those are on Kendall Street at 8 East Kendall and 6 West Kendall. The third is located at 7 East Branson Street. Each of these has full porches with simple details. The example located at 7 East Branson Street has walls that are covered with stucco and a large wrap-around porch. All of these examples are simple interpretations of the style and could be classified as "Carpenter Gothic". They were constructed between about 1855 and 1875. Because many of these were located on Kendall Street and that area was not platted until 1854, it is assumed that they were constructed after that time. Given their similarities, they may also have been constructed by the same carpenter. The Methodist Church which is located at 2 West Kendall Street is an example of the Late Gothic Revival style. Its best stylistic features are its pointed windows. It was constructed in 1902.

Italianate

Unlike many railroad-era boom towns, the Italianate style had limited popularity in LaFontaine. There are only two examples of the style in the district. One is a two story Italianate cube house that is located at 1 South Main Street. The house has a pyramidal-shaped roof and its eaves are supported by decorative brackets. The other example is an excellent example of a commercial building constructed in the style. The Parker building, located at 14 West Branson Street, is two stories tall with a single storefront. The storefront is composed of large display windows, metal columns, and a metal cornice. The second story windows have decorative metal window hoods and the top of the building has a large metal cornice with decorative brackets. The interior of the building has remained virtually unaltered since it was constructed in 1884. A large amount of display casework is extant and was created in the Stick style with details similar to the trim work on the front entry doors. A lesser example of the style is located at 18 West Branson Street which was the original Parker store. That building was constructed in about 1853, but had a new cast metal front wall added to it in about 1885. The metal façade has a cornice with corbels and urn finials.

Romanesque Revival
There are two large examples of the Romanesque Revival style in the district. They are both commercial buildings with two storefronts and are two-and-a-half stories tall. They are the LaFontaine Bank/Knights of Pythias Hall Building located at 13 West Branson Street and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall located at 10/12 West Branson Street. The buildings were constructed in 1893 and 1905 respectively. The buildings have walls composed of bricks and stone trim. The windows on the second story's front walls have stone arches.

Stick Style/Queen Anne
The Stick style and Queen Anne style have some similar attributes and for the purpose of this document will be discussed together. LaFontaine has only a few examples of these styles that became popular during the 1880s and lasted until about 1910. There are three excellent examples located in the district. The Merritt Banister house, located at 8 Hale Street, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. It has a large wrap-around front porch and a second story incised porch above the entry. The front gable wall has wood shingles that curve outward above the windows in the gable wall. Bannister was a carpenter and is attributed to the construction of this house which occurred in about 1890. The best example of the Queen Anne style is the Criswell House/Masonic Lodge located on North Wabash Avenue. The house has a corner entry tower and lower cross gables whose first floor corners are cutaway to form bays. An example of the Stick style is located at 201 West Kendall Street. It is a gabled-ell house with a porch that wraps around the front of the house. It has simple trim details that include wood pickets in the bottom of the gable walls.

Classical Revival
There is only one example of the Classical Revival style located in the district. The Farmers State Bank is located at 22 West Branson Street; it was constructed in 1919. The bank's front wall is composed of bricks and stone trim. There are four pilasters on the front wall; the two middle pilasters are stone and have Ionic capitals. The top of the wall has a shaped parapet with stone coping on top of the wall and a stone cornice at the bottom of the parapet wall. While the details of the building are distinctly classical, the influence of more modern architecture is clearly visible. The corner pilasters have decorative brickwork and stone trim in designs more associated with the Craftsman style.

Craftsman
There are several examples of the Craftsman style in the LaFontaine District. There are five Craftsman/Bungalow style houses and one Craftsman style commercial building on Branson Street. All of the examples were constructed between about 1915 and 1930. Two of the houses have side gables with centered dormers on their front walls and front porches. They are located at 10 South Walnut Street and 106 East Kendall Street. Two houses have side gables and incised corner porches. They are located at 5 South Western Avenue and 107 West Kendall Street. The latter appears to be the latest of the examples constructed in the district. It also has a full shed dormer on its second floor. The best example of the Craftsman/Bungalow style in the district is located at 11 West Kendall Street. The house's walls are composed of bricks and its gable walls have half timbering and stucco. The house has a large front porch with a gabled roof extension of its second floor; an arched window is located in the gable wall of the roof extension. The south wall of the house has a sun porch with carved rafter tails extended from its roof.

The commercial building located at 17 West Branson Street also has Craftsman details. Its walls are composed of bricks and stone trim. The Craftsman details are primarily located in the decorative brickwork on the building. Belt courses composed of bricks in a basket weave pattern are located at the top and bottom of the second story's front wall. The front wall also has pilasters on each corner of the first story; the pilasters also have decorative brickwork on their front walls and in their capitals. The building parapet has patterned brickwork that forms ribbons with stone shields at the top of the wall.

COMMERCE

The town of LaFontaine's commercial importance was not fully realized until after the construction of the railroad between 1868 and 1873. Prior to the railroad the commercial activity in LaFontaine was typical of small settlements of the early to mid 1800s. The first store was opened in 1846 by A. G. Wells, who also operated the ashery. A cabinet shop was started by D. Branson in 1847. In 1848 a blacksmith shop was established by Abraham Stover, a hotel, in a log house, was kept by George Moore, and a grocery was started by Corbin Jackson. Only a few additional businesses were established

during the 1850s and into the 1860s. A harness shop and tannery was established by H. McNeal during the 1850s and Adam Parker established his tailor shop in 1853. A hotel was established by Hugh Bannister in 1865.

The 1875 atlas of Wabash County included a directory for the following merchants and professionals in LaFontaine: W. G. Armstrong (physician), Jessee Frazee (music teacher), Jacob Gruwell (harness maker), Thomas Linn (liquor dealer), E. Sailors (merchant), J. J. Sailors (merchant), Benjamin Scarlett (miller & lumber dealer), William Snyder (carpenter & builder), G. T. Vandegrift (blacksmith), C. H. Watson (liquor dealer), and T. E. Whiteside (merchant). Three of these merchants arrived after the construction of the railroad had begun. Jacob Gruwell lived on the east edge of town on the south side of Branson Street. He was born in Rush County, Indiana and arrived in LaFontaine in 1869; a street on the east side of town is named for Gruwell, but is spelled Gruell. Gruwell disposed of his harness business after twelve years and began a general store in the town. William G. Armstrong lived on the south side of Grant Creek and the east side of Main Street that leads south out of town. Armstrong arrived in LaFontaine from Maryland in 1850. He had attended the Ohio Medical College. The 1875 atlas identifies a sawmill, hotel, two blacksmith shops, a cabinet shop, Methodist Church, and nine buildings marked “store” on the map. A stave factory, school, and depot are also marked on the map just outside of the town’s boundaries.

In the first fifteen years after the railroad was constructed, the number of businesses increased from a total of eight to over thirteen merchants and thirty-five other business establishments. By 1884 there were four dry goods stores, two drug stores, a tin shop, two groceries and notions stores, two liveries, two hotels, two saloons, two blacksmith shops, and two wagon shops. There was also a milliner, barber, dress maker, and a restaurant, shoe shop, butcher shop, and harness store. There were also a flour mill and steam saw mill in operation in the community and a tile factory that had begun in 1869 on the pike road. There were also five physicians practicing in LaFontaine and three builders: Stephen Lewis (who settled in 1841), Merritt Bannister (who settled in 1874), and Charles Sutton (who settled in 1880). A newspaper had also been established in the town by W. G. Middleton in 1884. The *LaFontaine Review* was printed from a small frame building that was demolished to make way for John Johnson’s drugstore at 17 West Branson Street; the *Review* then moved to the Farmers State Bank building. In 1896 the *LaFontaine Herald* was established; it continued operations into the 1930s.

By the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century LaFontaine’s commercial center was developing quickly with several new business blocks that were constructed during the 1890s into the 1910s. Two banks were established in the town: the LaFontaine Bank in 1893 and the Farmers State Bank in 1919. The continued growth of business was due in part to the discovery of oil and gas reserves in the area. By 1908 a new school building and church were constructed and several business blocks were built on Branson Street in the downtown. An organ factory was established and a new hotel was constructed. O. W. Clark opened his grocery store in 1915 on the northwest corner of Main and Branson Streets. In 1908 an electric railroad was constructed through the downtown on Western/Wabash Avenues.

A LaFontaine directory from 1918-1919 listed the following businesses and professionals: Merritt Bannister (carpenter), Orin Clark (grocer), Hugh Crumley (barber), Hugh Dare (druggist), John Finkerbiner (blacksmith), George Geyer (druggist), James Grant (implements & proprietor of the Keystone Theater), Hardman Brothers Hardware (Rollin & Thomas Hardman, proprietors), Allen Harris (carpenter), Alvah Harvey (livery garage), Vivian Neal (publisher, *LaFontaine Herald*), Homer Howard (agent for the Union Traction Company), William Howard (men’s furnishings), Frank Johnson (carpenter), John Johnson (druggist), Tobias Miller and James Crow (president and vice-president of LaFontaine Bank), Joel Martin (general store), William Martin (carpenter), Earl Mendenhall (baker), Rose Morrison (restaurateur), John Mayer (carpenter), Arthur Newell (carpenter), Dwight Painter (hardware owner), Parker & Son (general store), Clarence Royce (grocer), Roy Smith (barber), John Sumpter (meat market owner), Ross Toles (agent for Standard Oil Company), and William Whiteside (blacksmith).

Several factors reduced the commercial activity in LaFontaine. The slow shift from rail to road for transporting goods negatively affected the community; however the town’s location on State Road 15, which was routed through the center of town, provided continued traffic in the downtown. Gas stations were constructed to take advantage of the highway’s automobile use between Wabash and Marion. However, the state bypassed LaFontaine and constructed a new route for Highway 15 on the west side of town during the second half of the 20th century. One business, Parker & Sons, which had been in operation since 1853, closed its doors in 1960. Clark’s grocery store, then operated by a second generation family member, moved with the highway’s designation to the new bypass, but closed in 2000.

TRANSPORTATION

Railroad Development

In 1868 the "Big Four" railroad was partially constructed through Ashland. The railroad was formally known as the Cincinnati, Wabash, and Michigan Railroad; it linked Goshen with Marion by 1875 and was later developed to points further south. The railroad led to the establishment of a post office in Ashland but because there already was a post office established with that name in Indiana, the citizens changed its name to LaFontaine. The town was named in honor of the last chief of the Miami nation of American Indians, LaFontaine. When the railroad was completed in 1873 the center of commerce shifted to LaFontaine from America, which previously had also been the township's polling place. At one time there were four stores, two hotels, and two or three blacksmith shops in America, but by the 1880s business had ceased. In 1884 there were only two businesses in operation in America; according to oral tradition, a few of the buildings were transported across country from America to LaFontaine, a distance of about one-and-a-half miles.

The town's railroad-era development included three new additions to the town that were created in 1870, 1874, and 1878. Adam Parker created the addition on the north side of Kendall's addition in 1870. John Logan created the plat that was located on both sides of the railroad on the southwest side of town in 1874. And also in 1874 George Vandegrift created an addition on the east side of town, which resulted in a plat on the east side of the old Miami Indian reservation boundary line. Through the end of the 19th century a variety of new businesses, factories, and lumber-related establishments were created in LaFontaine in order to take advantage of the shipping port the new railroad created. The railroad also provided an important shipping port for the township's livestock and grain producers.

The *Wabash County Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* lists seven other communities in the county whose growth can be attributed to the development of railroads in the 1800s. The list includes Ijamsville, Roann, Liberty Mills, Servia, Speicherville, North Manchester, and Wabash. The first railroad through Wabash County was constructed in 1856 and followed very closely the same route as the Wabash and Eerie Canal through the county seat of Wabash. Two other important railroads followed approximately fifteen years later. The Detriot, Eel River, and Illinois Railroad was constructed through Roann, North Manchester, Liberty Mills, and Ijamsville in 1871. Both North Manchester and Liberty Mills were platted in the 1830s, but the construction of the railroad contributed greatly to the commercial development of the communities. Ijamsville, like Roann, was platted in response to the railroad. Ijamsville was platted in 1872; one year after the railroad was constructed. Several businesses developed in the community, particularly related to the production of lumber and other building materials and grain. The businesses used the new railroad to ship their products to outside markets. By the 1950s most of the businesses had left the community, due in large part to the decline of the railroad and competition with markets in larger population centers in the county. Only a few houses and two churches remain in Ijamsville. Comparatively, Roann developed a larger business district than Ijamsville and consequently was able to sustain economic activity well beyond the loss of the railroad. Servia was platted first as New Madison in 1856 on the east side of the county. The Eerie Railroad was constructed through the town in 1883 and the residents changed the name to Servia. The town expanded due to the railroad, but as commercial activity associated with the railroad declined, so did the community's businesses. By the 1970s the community had approximately 80 homes, but only a grain elevator and fertilizer plant were in operation.

The railroad that ran through LaFontaine, known as "The Big Four", was constructed between 1868 and 1873. It divided the county nearly in half and ran north/south. The Big Four was routed through North Manchester, Wabash, Speicherville, and LaFontaine. With the exception of Speicherville, the other three communities were platted before the railroad was constructed but trace a great deal of their growth to the coming of the railroad. Speicherville was platted in 1881, about ten years after the railroad was established. The town never grew beyond a small village with a handful of businesses, the primary one was a grain elevator, and about fifteen houses.

LaFontaine's population had grown from less than one hundred to approximately four hundred people by 1884. A three-room schoolhouse, three churches, and about eighty dwellings had been constructed by that year. The town was incorporated in 1880; that incorporation existed only three years after which time the community leaders withdrew the incorporation. The town was incorporated again in 1904. Two fraternal organizations, the Free Masons (established in 1862) and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (established in 1877) were also in operation during the 1880s. The Knights of Pythias also constructed a lodge in collaboration with the construction of the LaFontaine Bank in 1893. The I. O. O. F. constructed their lodge in 1905. A few public improvements were made during the early part of the 20th century when an interurban railroad was constructed through Western Avenue in 1908. A bridge and sidewalk handrails

are located across a tributary to Grant Creek on Kendall Street. Grant Creek and the small tributary also appear to have had bank improvements with concrete retaining walls during this time. By 1919 the town had a population of 700.

Interurban Railroad
An interesting link to the town's location on the Indiana Northern Traction Company's interurban electric railroad line is extant in the district. The interurban line, which linked Wabash and Marion and points further north and south, was constructed in 1908 through the middle of Western Avenue on the west side of the downtown. A power house for the railroad, along with workshops, was constructed in the community in about 1904 prior to laying track. The powerhouse is extant on the south side of Grant Creek. The interurban operated until about 1930-1931. After the interurban ceased operations, the building became a sale barn for livestock auctions. The interurban also constructed a bridge across Grant Creek at the end of Western Avenue. The bridge abutments are also extant and provide support for a pedestrian bridge that was constructed by the fire department.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Pre-Railroad Settlement
William Grant was the first settler of European descent in Liberty Township; he settled in 1834 near what would become LaFontaine. William Grant created a wolf trap in that area and the creek that flows through LaFontaine is named for him and his two brothers, Daniel and Smith, who later joined him. The town of LaFontaine was originally platted in 1845 by Daniel Grant. The first house, which was a log cabin, was constructed in 1841 by Jacob Sailors. The town was originally called Ashland and there are two possible origins for the name. One account states that it was named after an ashery that was begun by A. G. Wells in 1846 near the site of the town. Another account states that Daniel Grant named it in honor of Henry Clay's Kentucky home. The settlement acted as a trading post for the Miami Indians which lived on a nearby reservation. A few stores were established in the years following Daniel Grant's plat, but growth was slow. This was partly due to a road that was constructed through the town of America. America was platted in 1837 and was just over a mile east of Ashland; after the road's construction America boomed during the 1850s and 1860s.

LaFontaine was platted on the west side of the Miami Indian reservation's eastern boundary. Prior to about 1840 the reservation was free from settlers of European descent; a treaty in 1838 and survey in 1839 marked the end of the reservation. William Grant had settled on the east side of the boundary. After the reservation lands were opened for purchase, Daniel Grant acquired land and then platted Ashland. A road had been established in 1838 near the eastern boundary of the reservation; it became known as Boundary Line Road. Hale Street, in the northeast corner of the district, lies on what was originally known as Boundary Line Road. At one time this road extended south to the north side of Grant Creek. William Hale, after whom Hale Street is named, settled one mile north of Ashland on the boundary in 1835. The Hale, Grant, and Stone families were from Kentucky and many of the other early settlers to LaFontaine came from Fayette and Rush Counties in Indiana.

The original plat of Ashland included only a few blocks on the north side of Grant Creek. The primary street was Branson Street that ran east/west between West (later Western) and East Streets (or the boundary line). Owen Branson, for whom the street is named, began a sawmill on Grant Creek in 1845 and operated it for about ten years. Two additions were platted on the west and north sides of the original town in 1854. The addition on the north side of the original town was created by Hiram Kendall, after whom the other primary east/west street was named. Several buildings in the town date to this period before the railroad was constructed through the town. The Parker house and the original Parker store building and carriage house date to the late 1840s and early 1850s. A few other homes also appear to date to the 1850s-1860s. The community's primary link to the outside world was the Wabash and Ashland Pike (later it became Wabash Avenue); the road was constructed as a turnpike plank road and operated with tolls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 169-334-31000

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	607961	4503470
2	16	608358	4503507
3	16	608361	4503219
4	16	608100	4503100
5.	16	607954	4503077

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

Beginning at the northeast corner of North Walnut and West Kendall Streets, turn north and continue in a line with the east edge of North Walnut Street to south edge of Emery Street. Turn east and continue in a line with the south edge of Emery Street to the west edge of North Wabash Avenue. Turn south and continue in a line south with the west edge of Wabash Avenue to a line extended west from the north property line of 2 Wabash Avenue. Turn east and continue in a line with the north property lines of the properties that front Kendall Street on its north side to the east side of Hale Street. Turn north and continue in a line with the east edge of Hale Street to the north property line of 10 Hale Street. Turn east and continue in a line with the north property line of 10 Hale Street to its east property line. Turn south and continue in a line to the north edge of the alley separating Kendall and Branson Streets. Turn west and continue in a line with the north edge of the alley to the east property line of 11 East Branson Street. Turn south and continue in a line with the east property line of 11 East Branson Street to the south side of Branson Street. Turn west and continue in a line to a point extended north from the east property line of 6 East Branson Street; turn south and continue in a line to the north side of Grant Creek.

From the north side of Grant Creek, turn southwest and continue in a line with the north bank of the creek to the west property line of 108 South Main Street (on the west side of the carriage house on the property). Turn north and continue in a line north to the south edge of the alley between Branson Street and Grant Creek. Turn west and continue in a line west to the east edge of Western Avenue. Turn south and continue in a line to the south property line of the interurban station (rear of South Walnut St.). Turn west and continue in a line to the east edge of South Walnut Street. Turn north and continue in a line with the east edge of South Walnut Street to the south side of Grant Creek. Turn northeast and continue in a line with the south side of Grant Creek to the west edge of Western Avenue. Turn north and continue in a line to the south edge of the alley behind 101 Branson Street. Turn west and continue in a line to a line extended south from the west property line of 101 Branson Street. Turn north and continue in a line to the south side of Branson Street. Turn west and continue in a line to a line extended south from the west property line of 10 Walnut Street. Turn north and continue in a line to the northeast corner of North Walnut Street and West Kendall Street, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described above form the historic core of LaFontaine, Indiana. The boundaries include the original settlement area of LaFontaine and much of its original plat. Within the boundaries are the best preserved examples of architecture from the community's early period in the highest concentration.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt West Garner
organization Partners in Preservation, Inc./Indiana Landmarks date November 7, 2012
street & number 12954 6th Road telephone 574-936-0613
city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563
e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 Branson Street looking west from Main Street

1 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 Parker house & building, looking northeast

2 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 Branson Street looking east from Western Avenue
3 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 Western Avenue and Branson Street, looking southwest

4 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 West Branson Street, looking southeast

5 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 West Branson Street looking southwest

6 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Main Street, looking south from Branson Street
7 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 1 South Main Street, looking east

8 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 Kendall Street, looking east from Main Street

9 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 Criswell House/Mason Hall, looking northwest
10 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Wabash Avenue, looking southeast toward Western Avenue

11 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0012 Interurban Power House, looking northeast from Walnut Street

12 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0013 Walnut Street, looking southwest from Kendall Street
13 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0014 West Kendall Street, looking north from Walnut Street

14 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0015 Kendall Street bridge, looking east toward Wabash Avenue

15 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0016 11 West Kendall Street, looking south
16 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0017 10 West Kendall Street, looking north

17 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0018 Kendall Street, looking west from Main Street

18 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0019 8 & 10 Hale Street, looking northeast
19 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0020 Branson Street, looking east from Main Street

20 of 21.

Name of Property: LaFontaine Historic District

City or Vicinity: LaFontaine

County: Wabash State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0021 Branson Street, looking west

21 of 21.

Property Owner:

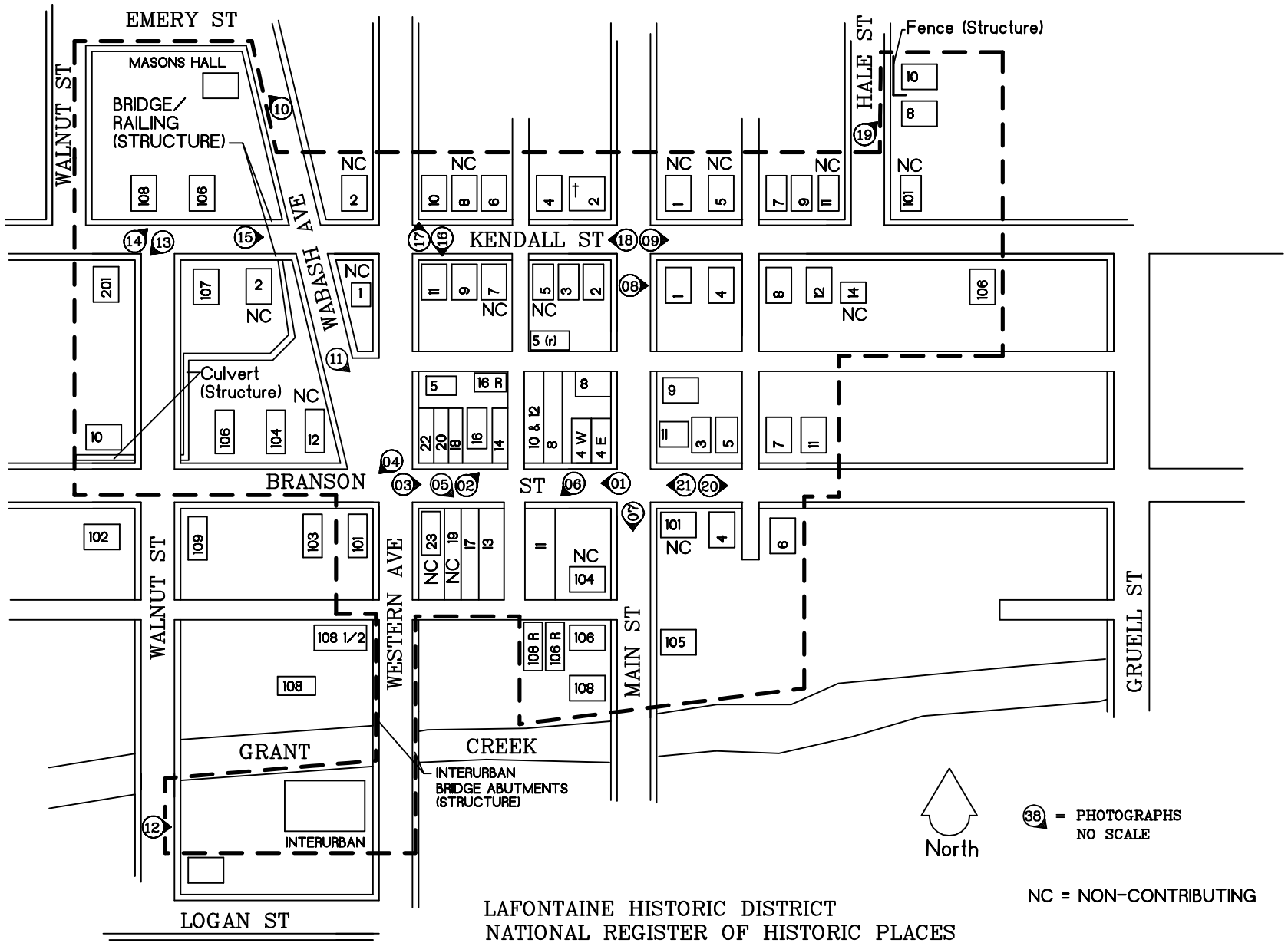
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



LAFONTAINE HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WABASH COUNTY, IN

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #2

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #3

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #9

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #12

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #14

LaFontaine Historic District, Wabash Co., IN #19