

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number

city, town Taylorville, vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Christian 22nd Congressional District code 021

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple owners/more than 50

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Christian County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Taylorville, state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Historic Preservation

city, town Springfield, state Illinois

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<input type="checkbox"/> date

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

**SUMMARY:** The Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District embraces thirteen one-half square blocks and one quarter block surrounding one full courthouse block. This area comprises the public square and most of the central business district of Taylorville, Illinois. The District includes a fairly broad range of building types and architectural styles, ranging from the stone courthouse to old, frame residences. Most of the buildings are two and three story brick commercial buildings from the District's two major periods of growth before and after the turn of the 19th century.

**SETTING, LAYOUT, STRUCTURES AND MATERIALS:** The Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District is located in the central part of Taylorville, the county seat of Christian County, Illinois. The District and the city itself are located in a flat to slightly rolling agricultural area about 30 miles southeast of Springfield and the same distance southwest of Decatur, two central Illinois metropolitan areas. The city has a population of 11,400 and is in the center of the county. The District contains a significant number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings with a high degree of integrity. Taylorville serves as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area, and has a fairly diversified economic base with 1,200 persons employed in manufacturing and 6,410 working in non-manufacturing jobs. Residential areas surround the District on all four sides.

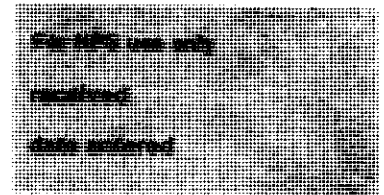
While there are several outlying strip and strip mall business areas on the north side of the city, the square and central business district is still the main focus of the community's business and cultural life. The District is dominated by the three story courthouse with its 40' high clock tower, which sits in the center of the courthouse block. The courthouse block is bounded by Main Cross on the north, by Main Street on the east, by Market Street on the south, and by Washington Street on the west. These streets are continuous and are a part of the city's rectilinear grid plan. The business district is a fairly compact unit occupying the eight square blocks surrounding the square. Beyond are residential areas, with the exception of the areas immediately along Webster Street north of the District, where strip commercial uses are found.

Over 70 percent of the buildings in the District are one to four story, nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, some of which have been completely refaced with contemporary materials. Most of these structures are of brick, with several having a stone foundation. Other buildings in the District include: one 2-story stone commercial building, one stone public building, three brick public buildings, two brick institutional buildings, two block commercial buildings (one with terra cotta), four frame residential structures, and five one and two story modern brick buildings. Most of the commercial structures are flat roofed and built to occupy one to three of the long narrow lots from the Original Town Plat.

A significant number of the facades and storefronts have been altered, ranging from the replacement of original doors and windows with metal ones, to the total replacement of storefronts with stone or aluminum/vinyl siding. However, there are several unaltered storefronts from both the late nineteenth and early twentieth century eras,

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all of which help to enhance the District's character. Also in many cases, the second and third floor fronts and fenestration have remained fairly intact; although some of the decorative cornices have been removed. Only about one half dozen late nineteenth century buildings have been substantially altered with the addition of full, contemporary fronts. In some cases, these could be removed to reveal much of the original fabric of the facades.

There is a considerable variation in the windows and cornices of the commercial and public buildings. They range from simple, straight, stone-headed windows and plain cornices to the curved, stone-hooded windows and heavy bracketed cornices that were popular in late nineteenth century commercial buildings. Styles and stylistic influences represented in the District include: Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Beaux Arts Classicism, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission, and styles derived from the Prairie School.

The most imposing structure in the District is the Romanesque Revival Style Courthouse, which is one of the four governmental buildings in the District (Bldg. 45, Photo 28). It is a rock-faced, coursed, white limestone building 90'x 117', three stories high with a roof comprised of intersecting gables. Above this is a 40' high, stone clock tower with a copper gabled roof. There are flat roofed porticos on the north and south sides with decorative stone balustrades. The porticos feature four rusticated columns with decorative capitals, a large arched opening, and an archivolt decorated in the manner of Louis Sullivan.

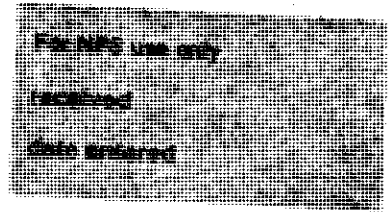
Other public buildings in the District are the 1904, brick 1½ story, Mission Style Public Library (Bldg. 56, Photo 36), the one story brick neoclassical Post Office constructed in 1917 (Bldg. 81, Photo 54), and the two story brick, neoclassical Memorial Elementary School south of the Post Office, which was completed around 1920 (Bldg. 84, Photo 57).

Several frame residences remain, one which is probably the oldest structure in the District. This two story, Italianate house is on the corner of Walnut and Franklin (Bldg. 74, Photo 48). Another early house is the two story H. M. Powell residence, one block north of the square on Main Street, a structure that has been occupied by the Powell family since 1872 (Bldg. 28, Photo 16).

RELATIONSHIPS, VISUAL ASPECTS, USES AND BOUNDARIES: There is a great deal of visual variety in the buildings around the square, with variations in building heights, facade treatments, architectural styles, texture and color. The fact that there are no missing buildings or openings in the street face around the square provides a sense of enclosure that helps to define a distinct urban space. The streets around the square are 80 feet wide, which allows for the focal distance required to give the massive courthouse a proper visual setting. These characteristics of the square are among the features that have made it an enjoyable urban enclave since it fully matured after the turn of the century.

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From its beginning, the uses in the District have been commercial, public, semi-public or institutional, and residential. Many of the buildings are well maintained, particularly at the lower levels. However, most upper floors are empty and deteriorating. There are also several large, mostly or fully empty buildings on the east side of the District that are in need of rehabilitation.

The District generally extends to the alley behind the streets around the square on the north, south and west sides, and to the next street beyond the square on the east. It also drops south a block on the southeast side to include an assemblage of four neoclassical, public and institutional buildings that occupy an entire block. There are a few commercial structures on East and West Main Cross that are not included in the District; also the relatively new city hall on North Main is just out of the District, as are several other commercial structures - including the old freight depot north of the District. These were not included in the District due to the fact that they were not contiguous to other contributing buildings. Basically, the District is fairly well surrounded by residential areas characterized by large, older frame residences, many of which have been remodeled for multi-family use.

The building listed below as contributing to the Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District meet several criteria. They were constructed during the Period of Significance (1875-1930); they are generally of recognizable architectural styles or were influenced by such styles; and they retain enough integrity of their original, exterior visual appearance to provide a positive contribution to the District. The major details examined were the upper floor fenestration, cornice, decoration and massing, which were examined in terms of design, materials, workmanship and physical setting. Those buildings that were built after the end of the Period of Significance, or that have been latered to the point that they are no longer recognizable as having been built within the Period of Significance, are listed as non-contributing. There are 66 contributing and 18 non-contributing buildings.

Exhibit 1 shows the boundaries of the District and the numbers of the 84 buildings included in the District. Exhibit 2 illustrates the locations from which the numbered photos were taken.

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

\* All property in the Historic District is in the Original Town Plat

Building No.

1. 219 W. Main Cross  
Lot 8, Block 13, Original Town\*  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Current Use: Plumbing & Heating Co. & storage  
Photo No: 1
2. 215 W. Main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, Block 13  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Barbre & Krumsiek Monuments-1925; Stout's Hatcher-1940)  
Current Use: Retail and Office (Second Hand Clothing/Law Office)  
Photo No: 1
4. 211 West main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 10, Block 13  
Built: c. 1910  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Queen Anne-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail and Tavern (Jas. Bourne Grocery-1925; Red's Tavern-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Taylorville Auto Supply)  
Photo No: 2
6. 207 West Main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 11, Block 13  
Built: c. 1910  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Queen Anne-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail and Tavern (J. W. Smith Autos-1925; Clyde's Barber Shop/  
Capitol Tavern-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Vacant/Comic Shop)  
Photo No: 2
8. 123 West Main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 7, Block 14  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (W. R. Calloway Sons Grocers-1925; Willenborg's hardware-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Duke's Office Supply)  
Photo No: 3
9. 121 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 7 & W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 8, Block 14  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Mallach & Walker)  
Current Use: Retail (J. C. Penney)  
Photo No: 3

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Building No.

11. 113-115 West main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, Block 14  
Name: Jayne-Cheney Building  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -Story Red Stone, Romanesque Revival Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Jayne and Cheney  
Uses: Retail (Bierman's Harness & Awning Shop-1900; A&P Tea Co./Morton's  
Rexall Drug Store-1946)  
Current Use: Retail (Mar-Mae Fabric Shop in west side; east side torn down)  
Photos No: 4 & 5
  
13. 107-109 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 10 & W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 11, Block 14  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Morton's Drug Store-1925; Walker's/D. Plotti Shoe Stor-1940)  
Current Use: Retail ( Sherman's Clothing/Jazzy Jeans)  
Photo No: 6
  
14. 105 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 11, Block 14  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building (upper facade-green glazed brick)  
Uses: Retail (Chas. Rambach-Ladies Ready to Wear-1925)  
Current Use: Retail (Jubelt's Variety, Bakery & Coffee Shop)  
Photo No: 6
  
15. 101-103 West Main Cross  
S. 90' Lot 12, Block 14  
Built: c. 1910  
Type: 2-Story Brick (with terra-cotta trim) Commercial Building  
(Some neoclassical features)  
Original Use: Bank (Taylorville National Bank)  
Later Uses: Retail (Dixon & Moore Cigar Mfr.-1925; F. W. Woolworth Co.-1940)  
Current Use: Retail/Tavern (Little Professor Book Store/Ritz Tavern)  
Photo No: 7
  
16. 111-113 North Main Street  
N 32' Lot 12, Block 14  
Name: Larkin Building  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Picker's Liquor Store/Hal's Taxi-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Bill's Toasty Shop/Tae Kwon Do & Self Defense, Inc.)  
Photo No: 8

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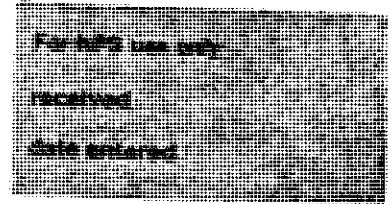
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Building No.

17. 101-105 East Main Cross/110 North Main Street  
S 117' Lot 7, Block 15  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 3-Story Brick, Queen Anne-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail/(C. R. Johnson-Decorator-1925; Stokes Drug Store/Meinecke  
Office Bakery/Brass Rail/Home Bldg. & Loan Assoc.-1940)  
Current Use: (Band Box Music Co./Next to New Shop) (Pearce Drug Store  
closed at corner location in June, 1985)  
Photos No: 9 & 10
18. 107-111-113 East Main Cross  
Lot 8, Block 15  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (F.A. Taylor Barber-1925; L. D. Plowman Meat Market-1925;  
Alcove Lunch Room/Davis Auto Supply/C. R. Oller Cigar Store-  
1940)  
Current Use: Retail & Office (Barber & Beauty Shop/H&P Block/Law Office)  
Photo No: 9
19. 117 East Main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, Block 15  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Site of first store in Taylorville-Samuel Reese's Grocery)  
(The Candy Kitchen-1925; Model Laundry & Dry Cleaners-1940)  
Current Use: Tavern (B & B Lounge)  
Photo No: 9
20. 119-123 East Main Cross  
E 20' Lot 9 & W 14.5' Lot 10, Block 15  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Leader Dry Goods Co.)  
Current Use: Commercial and Tavern (Taxi Co./Cork & Keg Tavern)  
Photo No: 11
21. 125-127 East Main Cross  
E 35.5' Lot 10, Block 15  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Current Use: Retail (Maton Floral Shop/Midstate Heating & Refrigeration)  
Photo No: 11

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Building No.

- 22. 137 East Main Cross  
E½ Lot 11, Block 15  
Built: c. 1910  
Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Current Use: Retail (Resale Shop)  
Photo No: 12
  
- 24. 143 East Main Cross/101-104 North Walnut Street  
E½ Lot 12, Block 15  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 1-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Current Use: Tavern and Retail (Dooley's Corner Tavern/Second Hand Shop)  
Photo No: 12
  
- 25. 113 North Walnut Street  
S 50' Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 15  
Name: Illinois Consolidated Phone Company Building  
Built: c. 1925  
Type: 2½-Story Brick and Stone, Spanish Colonial Revival-Style Commercial Building  
Owner: Illinois Consolidated Phone Company  
Original Use: Illinois Consolidated Phone Company Headquarters  
Later Use: Office (Wilhite Distributing Co.)  
Current Use: Vacant  
Photo No: 13
  
- 26. 115 North Walnut Street  
Mid 47' Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 15  
Built: c. 1900  
Type: 1-Story Frame Residence  
Original Use: Residence  
Current Use: Residence  
Photo No: 14
  
- 27. 123 North Walnut Street  
N 47' Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 15  
Built: c. 1920  
Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Current Use: Retail (Liberty Market)  
Photo No: 15



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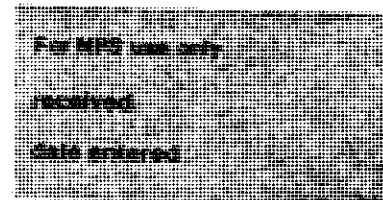
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Building No.

23. 122 North Main Street  
N 117' Lots 4, 5 & 6, Block 15  
Name: H. M. Powell House  
Built: 1872  
Type: 2-Story Frame, Victorian Residence  
Owner: H. M. Powell  
Original Use: Residence (H. M. Powell)  
Current Use: Residence (Powell Residence)  
Photo No: 16
29. 112 North Main Street  
S 25' Lots 4, 5 & 6, Block 15  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 1-Story Brick and Block Commercial Building  
Uses: Office (Cuthbert Wilkinson Insurance-1925/1940)  
Current Use: Office (Hughes Insurance/Attorney)  
Photo No: 17
30. 110 North Main Street  
N 25' Lot 7, Block 15  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Current Use: Office (Brady Insurance Co.)  
Photo No: 17
31. 106-108 East Main Cross  
E 60' Lot 4, Block 18  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Chas. N. Collins Barber/O. V. Lemmons Restaurant-1925;  
Hill & Wright Barber Shop/Ideal Cleaners-1940)  
Current Use: Retail and office (Wet Pet Shop/Insurance office)  
Photo No: 18
32. 116 East Main Cross  
E½ Lot 2, Block 18  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Queen Anne-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (C. P. Brown-1925; Western Auto Assoc. Store-1940)  
Current Use: Tavern (Jimmy's Place)  
Photo No: 19

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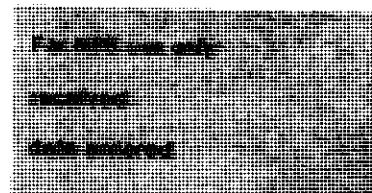
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33. 118-120-122 East Main Cross  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 1, Block 18  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Phillips Schreider Clothing/Gooden & Gooden Restaurant-1925;  
Jeweler/Shoe Repair/Dick Large Cafe-1940)  
Current Use: Retail/Tavern (Cliff's Kitchen/Cab Co./Rendezvous Tavern)  
Photo No: 19
35. 113-123 East Market Street  
Lots 11 & 12, Block 18  
Name: Antlers Hotel Building  
Built: 1893 (4th floor added in 1913; motor hotel addition-1965)  
Type: 4-Story Brick & Stone, Romanesque Revival-Style Commercial Building,  
with a 2-Story modern addition  
Architect: 4th floor addition designed by Deal & Ginzel, Lincoln, IL  
Owner/Builder: Taylorville Hotel Corporation  
Original Use: Hotel (Antlers Hotel)  
Later Use: Hotel (Frisina Hotel)  
Current Use: Vacant  
Photos No: 20, 21 & 22
36. 105-107-109 East Market Street  
Lot 10, Block 18  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Lester McWard Lunch-1925; LaSusa's Cafe/Shoe Shop/Archie's  
Beauty Salon-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Sewing Unlimited/Mike's Barber Shop/Taylorville  
Salon of Beauty)  
Photo No: 23
37. 124 South Main Street  
S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, Block 18  
Name: Brocamp Building  
Built: c. 1930  
Type: 3-Story Block & Terra-cotta, Moderne-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail/(J. L. & J. E. Spalding Billiards-1925; Henry Dorchy  
Office Billiards-1940; Commerce Loan Corp.-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Boutique Heselovs)  
Photo No: 24

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40. 110 South Main Street  
S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 6 & Lot 7, Block 18  
Built: c. 1890; refaced c. 1930  
Type: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Story Brick Commercial Building, refaced in the Moderne-Style  
Uses: Retail (King's Cafe/Piggly Wiggly Store-1925, 1940)  
Current Use: Retail (F. W. Woolworth Co.)  
Photo No: 25
42. 106 South Main Street  
S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 5, Block 18  
Built: c. 1915  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building (some neoclassical features)  
Uses: Office & Retail (Geo. G. Seaman Loans/R. C. McCauley, Pianos-1925;  
Bretns-patterson Abstract Co.-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Marky's Hallmark II)  
Photo No: 26
43. 104 South Main Street  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 5, Block 18  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (V. E. Kauf Drug Store/Taxi Co.-1925; McDaniels Drug Store-1940;  
Sears Roebuck & Co.-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Shirlee's Clothes Just For Your)  
Photo No: 26
44. 100-102 South Main Street  
W 78' Lot 4, Block 18  
Name: H. M. Powell Building  
Built: 1876  
Type: 3-Story Brick, Italianate Commercial Building  
Owner: H. M. Powell/Masonic Lodge  
Original Use: Retail and Masonic Lodge  
Later Uses: Retail & Lodge (Eureka Confectionary/Sol Broverman Clothing-1925;  
George's Candy Shop/Broverman Clothing-1940)  
Current Use: Office and Retail (Heights Finance/Federal Auto Parts)  
Photo No: 27
45. Christian County Courthouse  
Block 19  
Built: 1902  
Type: 3-Story Stone, Romanesque Revival-Style Public Building  
Architect: J. W. Gaddes, Terre Haute, Indiana  
Contractor: V. Jobst & Sons, Peoria, Illinois  
Original and Current Use: County Courthouse  
Photos No: 28 & 29

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46. 101 South Washington Street  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 1, Block 20  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (J. F. Henson & Son Hardware-1925, 1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Morton Pharmacy)  
Photo No. 30
47. 103-105 South Washington Street  
S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 1 & N 31' Lot 2, Block 20  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Romanesque Revival Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (M. J. Sewell Shoes/Royal Confectionary/Esslinger Shoe Store-  
1925-1940; Beauty Salon/West End TV Co-op Assoc-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Vacant/Taylorville Sporting Goods/Paul's Shoe Store)  
Photos No: 30 & 31
48. 107 South Washington Street  
S 16' Lot 2, Block 20  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Office (Christian Co. Savings & Loan Bldg. Assoc./Taylorville  
Abstract Co.- 1925)  
Current Use: Office (Christian County Title Company)  
Photos No: 30 & 31
49. 109 South Washington Street  
N 26' Lot 3, Block 20  
Built: c. 1890  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Tavern (Jeff's Tavern-1940)  
Current Use (Tavern (West Side Tavern)  
Photos No. 30, 31 & 32
50. 111 South Washington Street  
S 20' Lot 3, Block 20  
Built: c. 1835  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: John Colegrove  
Original Use: Bank (Coldgrove Bank)  
Later Uses: Bank and Retail (John B. Colgrove & Co. State Bank-1925;  
August's Lunch Room-1940)  
Current Use: Retail and Office (G & R Cafe/Christian County Shopper)  
Photo No. 32

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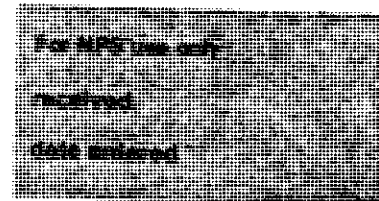
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Building No.

54. 121-123 South Washington Street  
Lot 6, Block 20  
Name: Slatten-Taylor Building or Union Block  
Built: 1887  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Slatten/James M. Taylor  
Uses: Retail (. Anderson & Son Jewelers/Slatten's Dept. Store-1925, 1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Anderson Jewelers-Since 1903)  
Photo No: 34
55. 223 West Market Street  
Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 20  
Name: Kimball Building  
Built: 1925  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Kimball  
Original Use: Retail (Kimball Ford)  
Current Use; Retail (Trinity Motors, Inc.)  
Photo No. 35
56. 222 West Market Street  
Lot 6, Block 21  
Name: Taylorville Public Library  
Built: 1902  
Type: 1½-Story Brick, Mission-Style Public Building  
Original Use: Public Library  
Current Use: Public Library  
Photo No: 36
57. 216-218 West Market Street  
Lot 5, Block 21  
Name: Morton & Bowyer Building  
Built: 1910  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Building (with some neoclassical features)  
Owner/Builder: Drs. Morton & Bowyer  
Original Use: Office (Dr. Morton, M.D.; and Dr. Bowyer, D.D,S.)  
Current Use: Residence (Duplex)  
Photos No: 36 & 37
58. 214 West Market Street  
W½ Lot 4, Block 21  
Name: Central Illinois Public Service Building  
Built: 1927  
Type: 1-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Central Illinois Public Service Co. (CIPS)  
Architect: Murray S. Hanes, Springfield, Illinois  
Original and Current Use: Office (CIPS)  
Photo No: 37

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Building No.

59. 212 West Market Street  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 4, Block 21  
Built: c. 1925  
2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Singer Co.-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Used Furniture)  
Photo No: 33
60. 210 West Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 3, Block 21  
Built: c. 1925  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Self Service Grocery-1928; C. A. Burnham Grocery-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Eddy's Studio)  
Photo No: 38
61. 208 West Market Street  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 3, Block 21  
Built: c. 1925  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Slaybaugh's Jewelers & Optometrists-1928, 1940;  
Holiday Sports Center-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (The Needle & i)  
Photo No: 38
62. 206 West Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 2, Block 21  
Built: c. 1925  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (F. W. Orr & Co. Hardware-1925; Long's Hardware-1940)  
Current Use: School (Chrysler Academy of Beauty Culture)  
Photos No: 38 & 39
63. 204 West Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 1, Block 21  
Name: Bulpitt Building  
Built: 1886  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: F. S. Bulpitt  
Original Use: Bulpitt Furniture and Undertaking  
Current Use: REtail (Bulpitt Furniture Store)  
Photo No: 39

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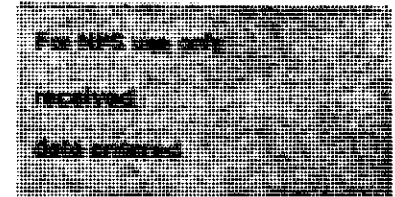
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Building No.

- 64. 202 West Market  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 1, Block 21  
Built: c. 1885  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Bank (Anderson 1st National Bank-1898; Taylorville Savings & Loan-1939)  
Current Use: Office (Association of Commerce and Industry)  
Photos No: 39 & 40
  
- 66. 116-118 West Market Street  
Lot 5, Block 22  
Name: Lee Building  
Built: 1892  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Jewelry Store/E. Bach & Sons-1925; Bach's Drug Store/  
Taylorville Fruit Market-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Midnight Sun Tanning Parlor/Lee's Apparel)  
Photo No: 41
  
- 67. 114 West Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 4, Block 22  
Built: c. 1395  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Marblestone & Sons-1925, 1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Marblestone's Inc.)  
Photo No: 42
  
- 70. 100-102 East Market Street  
Lot 6, Block 23  
Built: c. 1885  
Type: 3-Story Brick and Stone, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Bank, Office & Retail (Farmers National Bank-1925; Peabody Coal  
Co./Tex Furniture Store-1940; Frisina Enterprises/Bryan & Burns  
Furniture-1968)  
Current Use: Vacant and Retail (Coffee Cup Ceramics & Dollie Shop)  
Photo No: 45
  
- 72. 106-108-110-112 East Market Street  
Lot 4 & E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 5, Block 23  
Name: D. D. Shumway Building  
Built: 1905  
Type: 3-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Shumway Family  
Original Use: Retail (Department Store  
Later Uses: Retail (Katz Shoe Hospital/Martin Electric Shop/D. J. Ernske  
Furniture/Daily Courier-1925; Montgomery Ward-1940)  
Current Use: Vacant  
Photo No: 46

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Building No.

74. 117 East Franklin Street  
Lot 11, Block 23  
Built: c. 1850  
Type: 2-Story Frame, Italianate-Style Residence  
Original Use: Residence  
Later Use: Residence (M. C. Long-1880; Fitzell Family later)  
Current Use: Residence (Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lasswell)  
Photo No: 43
75. 115 East Franklin Street  
Lot 10, Block 23  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 1-Story Frame Residence  
Original Use: Residence  
Current Use: Residence  
Photo No: 49
77. 216-218 South Main Street  
Mid 46' Lots 7 & 8, Block 23  
Name: Horn & Jones Building  
Built: 1924  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Original Use: Retail (D. G. Horn Tailor/Roberts Radio Shop-1940; A & B  
Package Liquor/G.A.C. Finance-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Vacant/Mary Lou's Beauty Shop)  
Photo No: 51
73. 214 South Main Street  
23' of Lots 7 & 8, Block 23  
Built: c. 1925  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Prairie School Related-Style Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Paul's Market-1940)  
Current Use: Breeze Printing Co.  
Photos No: 51 & 52
79. 212 South Main Street  
N 23' Lots 7 & 8, Block 23  
Name: The Breeze Building  
Built: 1904  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style Commercial Building  
Owner/Builder: Frank Reed  
Original Use: The Breeze Newspaper Building  
Current Use: The Breeze-Courier Newspaper Building  
Photo No: 52



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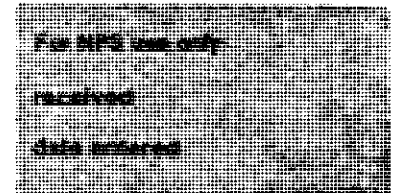
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Building No.

30. 208-210 South Main Street  
S 50' Lot 6, Block 23  
Name: Klondike Hotel  
Built: c. 1885  
Type: 3-Story Brick, Italianate-Style Commercial Building  
Original Use: Hotel (Klondike Hotel & Restaurant)  
Later Uses: Hotel and Retail (Hoover Hotel/Spurling Florist/Allman  
Millinery-1940)  
Current Use: Vacant, except for law office on first floor  
Photo No: 53
81. 300 South Main Street  
Pt. Lot 4 & Lots 5 & 6, Block 26  
Name: Post Office  
Built: 1917  
Type: ;-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style Public Building  
Owner/Builder: U. S. Government  
Original & Current Use: U. S. Post Office  
Photo No: 54
82. 114 East Franklin Street  
Lot 3 & Pt. Lot 4, Block 26  
Name: Masonic Temple  
Built: c. 1910 (addition c. 1960)  
Type: 2½-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style Lodge Building  
Owner/Builder: Masonic Lodge  
Original & Current Use: Masonic Temple  
Photo No: 55
83. 116 East Franklin Street  
Lots 1 & 2, Block 26  
Name: Presbyterian Church  
Built: c. 1910  
Type: 2½-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style Church  
Owner/Builder: Presbyterian Church  
Original and Current Use: Church  
Photo No: 56
84. 101 East Adams Street  
S½ Block 26  
Name: Memorial Elementary School  
Built: c. 1920  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Neoclassical-Style School Building  
Original and Current Use: Elementary School  
Photo No: 57

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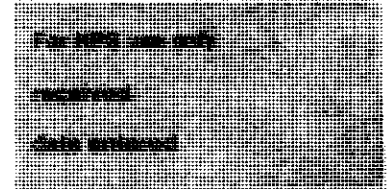
LIST OF NON CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Building No.

3. 213 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, Block 13  
Built: c. 1915 (Remodeled c. 1950)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Current Use: Retail (Patti's Dance Studio)  
Photo No: 2
  
5. 209 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 10, Block 13  
Built: c. 1895  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Queen Anne-Style Commercial Building (drastically altered)  
Current Use: Stephens Tour & Travel  
Photo No: 2
  
7. 201 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lots 11 & 12, Block 13  
Built: c. 1970  
Type: 1-Story Brick, Modern Commercial Building  
Current Use: Retail (Rene's Drug Store)  
Photo No: 2
  
10. 117 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 8, Block 14  
Built: 1946 (Remodeled c. 1975)  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Modern Commercial Building  
Current Use: Cinema I & II  
Photo No: 4
  
12. 111 West Main Cross  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 9, W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 10, Block 14  
Built: 1975  
Type: 2-Story Brick and Frame, Modern Commercial Building (Mall)  
Builder: MFC Construction Co.  
Uses: (Before fire destroyed older building on site) F. W. Woolworth-1925;  
Sherman's Dept. Store-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Mini-Mall)
  
23. 141 East Main Cross  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 12, Block 15  
Built: c. 1910 (Remodeled c. 1960)  
Type: 2-Story Brick, Vinyl Faced Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.-1925)  
Current Use: Vacant  
Photo No: 12

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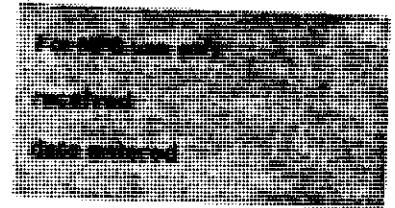
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Building No.

34. 101-109 South Walnut Street  
S 1/2 Lot 1, Block 18  
Built: c. 1890 (Remodeled c. 1960)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Auto Laundry-1925; Slattner Service Co.,-1948)  
Current Use: Retail (Turner's Liquor/Hair Unlimited/Barber Shop)  
Photo No: 20
39. 116-118 South Main Street  
Lot 3, Block 18  
Name: Vandevocr Opera House  
Built: 1883 (Remodeled 1924 and early 1930s)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Theater Building (originally Italianate) with  
later terra-cotta facing removed.  
Owner/Builder: H. M. Vandevocr (original); Dominic Frisina bought it  
in 1924 and remodeled it twice.  
Original Use: Vandevocr Opera House  
Later Uses: Gem Theater-1918; Capitol Theater-1924-1970s  
Current Use: Church  
Photo No: 24
41. 103 South Main Street  
N 1/2 Lot 6, Block 18  
Built: c. 1915 (Remodeled c. 1960s)  
Type: 2-Story Brick (with alum. facing) Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (King's Cafe-1925; G. M. Kennery Barber-1940; Walkin Beauty  
Salon-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Marcella's)  
Photo No: 26
51. 113 South Washington Street  
N 19' Lot 4, Block 20  
Built: c. 1890 (Remodeled c. 1950)  
Type: 2-Story Brick (with alum. facing) Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Sol Marblestone-pre-1925; C. W. Slaybaugh Jeweler-1925;  
McDaniel's Shop-1940; Edwards Jewelers-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Bell's Jewelery)  
Photo No: 33
52. 115 South Washington Street  
S 30' Lot 4, Block 20  
Built: c. 1890 (Remodeled c. 1950)  
Type: 2-Story Brick (with alum. facing) Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (F. B. Hershey & Sons Grocers-1925; Summers Clothing Store-1940;  
Jubelt Variety Bakeries-1968)  
Current Use: Office & Retail (Illinois Veterans Affairs Dept./Homespun)  
Photo No: 33

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Building No.

53. 117-119 South Washington Street  
Lot 5, Block 20  
Built: c. 1890 (Remodeled c. 1950)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail & Office (Calloway & Long Dry Goods-1925; The N & L Variety Store-1940; Brick Insurance & Majestic Finance-1968)  
Current Use: Retail (Summers Shoe Store & Clothing)  
Photo No: 33
65. 122 West Market Street  
Lot 6, Block 22  
Built: c. 1895 (Remodeled c. 1960)  
Type: 2-Story Brick (with alum. facing) Commercial Building  
Uses: Retail (Frank Morrison Dry Goods-1909)  
Current Use: Retail (Cohn's Furniture - Since 1934)  
Photo No: 40
68. 106-112 West Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 2, Lot 3 & E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 4, Block 22  
Name: Vandevor Block, Etc.  
Built: 1868/1895 (Remodeled c. 1975)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Bank Building  
Original Use: Vandevor Bank & Estates Office, Etc.  
Later Uses: Retail and Bank (E. H. Minnis Dry Goods/B. F. Molohon Hardware-1925; First Trust & Savings Bank/Vandevor Estates/M.W. Calloway Ladies Ready To Wear-1940; Evans Fabric-1968)  
Current Use: Bank (First Trust Bank)  
Photo No: 43
69. 100-104 West Market Street  
Lot 1 & E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 2, Block 22  
Built: c. 1895 (Remodeled c. 1960)  
Type: 2-Story Brick (Orig. Beaux Arts Classism-Style) with modern aluminum and stone facade, Commercial Building  
Original Use: Retail (Theodore Durr Dry Goods)  
Later Uses: Retail (Durr Milliners/Walgreen Drug Store-1940)  
Current Use: Retail (Blakely's Department Store)  
Photo No: 43
71. 104 East Market Street  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 5, Block 23  
Built: c. 1895 (Remodeled c. 1970)  
Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building (Modernized with new windows and wood frame awning with shake shingles)  
Uses: Retail (Stop & Shop Market-1925; Rual's Market-1940)  
Current Use: Office (Attorney)  
Photo No: 46

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Building No.

73. 118 East Market Street  
Lots 1 & 2, Block 23  
Built: c. 1900 (Remodeled c. 1948)  
Type: 2-Story Frame Residence with brick and glass block addition  
Original Use: Residence  
Later Use: Elks Club  
Present Use: Church (Grace Baptist Church)  
Photo No: 47
76. 220 South Main Street  
S 50' Lots 7 & 8, Block 23  
Built: c. 1940  
Type: 1-Story Block Commercial Building  
Original Use: Service Station (Schneiter-Luster Oil Co.-before present bldg.)  
Later Use: Service Station (Dominic Manietti Filling Station-1940)  
Current Use: Vacant  
Photo No: 50

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850-1930

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

**SUMMARY:** The Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, history and politics/government. The District reflects its transition from a politically designated county seat into a fully developed commercial center, including samples of structures pertaining to the varying periods of its development - particularly after 1875. The history and development of the Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District is similar to other mid-west courthouse squares in communities of comparable size. The District retains no commercial structures from its early stage of development (1840-1875), during which time it was an area about half residential and half commercial/governmental. A significant number of buildings constructed between 1875 and 1900, when the District matured and became largely commercial, are still standing. Following 1900, most of the remaining, earlier frame businesses and residences were replaced with two story business buildings in styles that were influenced by the Arts and Crafts and Prairie School movements. A significant number of public and institutional structures in various styles were also constructed in the era 1900-1930, including the Romanesque Revival style courthouse in 1902. The number of buildings and representative architectural styles in the District well chronicle the two major periods in the District's growth and development. While there has been some commercial development in other parts of the city, the Courthouse Square District is still a viable economic and cultural entity, and serves as the focal point of community life in Taylorville and the surrounding area. The Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District is a good example of the midwestern county courthouse square business district and is worthy of recognition. It is also typical with respect to its selection as a county seat, the layout of the square and town, and the development of the square area. It is also typical relative to its land useage, the types and styles of structures, the dominance of the courthouse, the enclosure of the square area with a ring of two and three story business buildings, and its overall relationship to the community as a whole. The square area is somewhat unusual due to the fact that there are businesses on the square that date back a hundred years or more, and because so little new construction has occurred in the District in the past 50 years. The District meets National Register Criteria B: "Associated with a broad pattern of our history" suggesting the evolution of county seats and their courthouse squares as commercial centers; and Register Criteria C: "Embodying the distinct characteristics of a type," as an example of the type of central courthouse square with the courthouse in the center of the square, the streets running along the sides of the square, and the square being a designated block out of the town grid.

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ORIGIN AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT - 1830-1850: The first entry of land in what is now Taylorville Township was made by Daniel C. Goode on January 25, 1830. The county in which Taylorville is located was created by an act of the legislature, meeting in Vandalia, on February 15, 1839. At first called Dane County, the new county was carved out of Sangamon, Montgomery, Macon and Shelby Counties. The County was named Dane in honor of Nathan Dane of Massachusetts, who had been a member of Congress and who was one of the authors of the Northwestern Ordinance which created the Northwestern Territory in 1787. Daniel Goode led a movement to have the name changed to Christian County, since many of the early settlers were from Christian County, Kentucky, and the change was effected and legalized by an act of the legislature on February 4, 1840.

It was on land entered by Goode in 1835 that a commission appointed by the legislature located the city of Taylorville as the county seat on May 24, 1839. Goode conveyed 80 acres for the site of the town. The deed was witnessed by Stephen A. Douglas, later a U.S. Senator and candidate for the presidency in 1860. The town was surveyed and platted by the county surveyor of Sangamon County for a proprietary company composed of Dr. Richard F Barrett, John Taylor, Marvellous Eastham and Robert Allen, all citizens of Springfield, Illinois. The town was named for Taylor, who was one of the commissioners appointed by the Legislature and for a long time a Registrar in the Land Office.

At the time of the location of the county seat, the existing towns of Edinburgh and Allentown were candidates for that honor. However, it was often the case that the site chosen for county seats in the midwest were not in established towns. The original town of Taylorville extended for four blocks east and west, and eight blocks north and south. The layout for the town was typical for a county seat in this area. The square was not subdivided into lots, and it appears that it was intended to be reserved for public use. It is designed according to the "Shelbyville Square" plan, named by geographer Edward D. Price in his article on courthouse squares\* after the prototype in Shelbyville, Tennessee. The Shelbyville Square was a block from the rectilinear grid, usually used as the courthouse square. The plan appears to have originated in middle Tennessee between 1810 and 1812. All the lots around the square face it, some running north and south, some running east and west.

The first building erected on the square (north side) was a small frame structure, 12 x 12 feet. It was erected by Horatio M. Vandever in 1839 and he occupied it as a clerk, a position to which he had been appointed when the county was organized. It served as his home, office, court room, and post office until the completion of the new 39' x 36' frame courthouse on the east side of the square in 1840. Vandever was an early settler who played a large part in the establishment of Taylorville, and who later became very wealthy from buying up land warrants issued to soldiers

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\*Price, Edward, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," Geographical Review (Jan., 1968) 28-60

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who had served in the Mexican War. He used them to buy 13,000 acres of land in Christian County 37½¢ per acre. Vandevveer, an attorney, held nearly all of the offices in Christian County, served in the legislature, and was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln. He was very active in civic affairs and in 1881 gave the city an opera house, a building ( in an altered state) which still stands on the east side of the square. He was the father of the first male child born in Taylorville in 1842 (William Thomas). His son later established the Vandevveer Bank on the south side of the square.

The little town grew slowly. In the winter of 1839-40, buildings were moved from Edinburg and Allentown to the county seat for use as stores and a doctor's office. With the shifting of a business center goes the population, and many found it cheaper to move buildings already erected than to chance their lying idle while new ones were built at the newer town. Samuel Reese kept the first grocery store in a residence that was moved from Edinburg. The second store was opened by Alexander Ralston and a Mr. Gilbert in what had been Dr. Ralston's office. Benjamin Yates opened a general store and in 1846, Walker, Phelps and Co. of Carlinville, opened a store in a small building on the north side of the square; the stage lines operated through Taylorville, including the Great Western Stage Line that started out at the Long Hotel on the northeast corner of the square. These stage lines provided a little life and excitement to the town. Other activity was generated by the coal mines that began to open in the area in 1849.

THE ERA 1850-1875: In 1854, the county felt it needed a larger court house and decided to replace the small frame building that had served since 1840. The second courthouse was built in the middle of the square by J. Dennis and John C. Ream of Springfield at a cost of \$13,526. The two story, brick, Greek Revival style building was completed in 1856. It was used until the present courthouse was built on the same site in 1902.

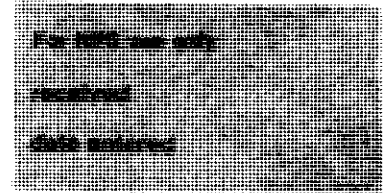
In 1867-68, a red brick building (one of the first brick buildings on the square) was erected on the south side of the square. It was known as "Vandevveer's Block" and was constructed in the Italianate style. It covered two lots, with one side being used as H. M. Vandevveer's law office and the other side for H. M. Vandevveer & Son Bank, which was run by Vandevveer's son Willie. Willie was one of the first seven commissioners appointed to build the new state captiol in Springfield. The Vandevveer Block (see exhibit 3) remained pretty much intact until 1978, when it was incorporated into the remodeled First Trust Bank (Bldg. 68, Photo 43).

By the end of the Civil War, Taylorville had grown in population to over 800 people. All around the courthouse square were buildings with wooden awnings extending over the wooden sidewalks. Wooden benches were built between the uprights of these awnings. A well with pulleys and bucket, and a water trough for horses were at each corner of the courthouse square. The completion of the Pana and Springfield Railroad in 1869 brought the first train through town and growth began to occur more rapidly. By the 1870's, the population had increased to around 3,000 residents. By 1875, the square was surrounded with primarily frame, business buildings, saloons



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and some dwellings. According to the reminiscences of an 81 year old man in 1939 (who had been born on the square in 1858) there were the following structures in what has been designated the Courthouse Square District: 22 residences, 18 stores, 5 saloons, 2 hotels, 1 bank, and 4 barns. (See exhibit 4).

Some of the frame structures that were around the courthouse square in 1875 were still in use as late as 1900 ( as can be noted in Exhibits 5 and 6). However, the only structures in the district at the present time that appear to predate 1875 are the two story frame residences at 117 E. Franklin (1851) and 122 N. Main (H. M. Powell House - 1872). Exhibit 7 shows the former house as it appeared in the 19th century and as it appears today.

YEARS OF MATURATION 1875 - 1900: Many of the buildings that remain in the District today were constructed in the period between 1875 and 1900. While some of these structures have been "modernized", many still exhibit prominent features from this era. This is the period during which a number of two and three story brick commercial buildings were built within the district, and which give the district much of its architectural appeal. The flat roofed, masonry buildings around the square and along the side streets were a major departure from most of the buildings that were originally in the district. The late 19th century buildings are similar in form and massing, but due to the varying architectural styles and ornamentation used, there is a pleasant variety ranging from Italianate ( in a number of versions) to Romanesque revival, to Queen Anne, to Beaux-Arts Classicism.

The first of these commercial buildings was built in 1876. The three story brick, H. M. Powell building - which anchors the northeast corner of the square - was built in an Italianate style that depends on brick relief to add visual interest to the cornice area rather than a bold, bracketed treatment. (Bldg. 44, Photo 27). Powell sold the third floor of the building to the Masonic Lodge with provisions that the lodge would maintain the roof and provide exterior access and egress to their quarters.

In 1881, construction started on the three story, brick, Vandever Opera House on the east side of the square. The building covered two lots and featured arched, hooded windows at the two upper levels, a cast iron front, and a pedimented cornice with brick relief. At its grand opening on November 5, 1883, the townspeople gave judge H. M. Vandever an ebony walking stick with an engraved head in appreciation of his gift of the opera house to the city. The facility was a great success and many road companies stopped off on their way between St. Louis and Chicago to give performances. Although silent movie houses opened in Taylorville in 1905 and 1907, the opera house continued to offer stage shows and vaudeville acts until 1918, when Ernest Hoover bought it and converted it to a movie palace called the Gem Theater. In 1924 it was bought by Dominic Frisina, who completely remodeled it and opened it as the Capitol Theater. A later terra cotta front has been removed and the "faceless" structure is now used by a church group. (Bldg. 39, Photo 24).

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In order to accommodate the travelling road show companies and other business travelers, the brick, three story Klondike Hotel was built a half block off the southeast corner of the square on South Main. The structure has a fanciful facade with a bracketed cornice and pressed metal ornamentation. The rows of windows are framed with applied columns with Corinthian capitals. The upper level of the structure looks much as it did c. 1885; however, the lower level is partially boarded up. (Bldg. 80, Photo 53).

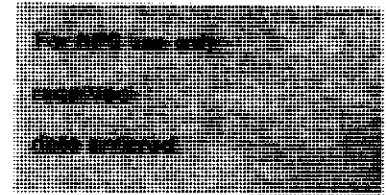
North of the Klondike Hotel on the southeast corner of the square, the three story brick and stone, Italianate Farmers' State Bank Building was constructed at about the same time as the hotel. In early photos (See Exhibit 8), it appeared to have had a corner tower. Still prominent are its heavy bracketed cornice, rows of paired, arched windows with eyebrows, and stone belt courses. (Bldg. 70, Photo 45).

Following the construction of these buildings, other impressive, two and three story business buildings began to liven up the district further. On the southwest corner of the square, Messrs. Slatten and Taylor build (1887) the fancifully styled Union Block, a two story, Italianate structure with pressed metal trim, a cornice with a center gable, two bay windows framing a series of three arched center windows at the second level. (Bldg. 54, Photo 34). In the middle of the same block, the two story Colegrove Bank Building was built at about the same time. While the original bracketed cornice appears to have been removed, the remainder of the facade, including the arched, three bayed, cast iron front and 4/4, hooded windows at the second level are unchanged. (Bldg. 50, Photo 32).

Across the street from the Union Block near the corner of Market and Washington, F. S. Bulpitt, a cabinet maker and undertaker from Edinburg, built a two story, Italianate structure in 1886 to house a furniture store and undertaking business. While the bracketed cornice remains, the cast iron front, window hoods (and the windows themselves at the second level) are gone. (Bldg. 63, Photo 39).

Other buildings with eye-catching facades appeared, including the Italianate Lee building (1892) on the south side of the square (a building similar in style to the Union Block), a boldly styled, two story building with raised embellishments on the cornice and applied masonry columns; (Bldg. 66, Photo 41) and a handsome Italianate structure on the northwest corner of the square with a very high, crenulated cornice. (Bldg. 8, Photos 3 & 4). In addition, a number of Italianate, business buildings were constructed on East and West Main Cross off the Square.

With relative maturity came a willingness to experiment further with architectural styles, leading to the development within the district of buildings in the Queen Anne, Romanesque and Beaux Arts Classicism styles. Across from the Powell Building on the northwest corner of the square, a large Queen Anne style structure was built. (Bldg. 17, Photo 9). It featured bay windows and a stepped parapet along the west facade. A handsome two story building in the Beaux Arts Classicism style was built on the southeast corner of the square by Theodore Durr for a dry goods store. The front has been modernized but its handsome brick and rusticated stone styling can still be seen on the east facade along Main Street. (Bldg. 69, Photos 43 & 44). The

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The Romanesque style was well represented by the red stone, Jayne-Cheney Building on the north side of the square (Bldg. 11, Photos 4 & 5), the three story, brick and stone Antlers Hotel (a block east of the square on Market; see Exhibit 9), and a finely detailed City Hall one block north of the square on Main Street) in 1899. Only the west half of the Jayne-Cheney Building survives, the other half a victim of a redevelopment project next door; the City Hall was replaced by a new one in 1972; and the Antlers Hotel was altered in 1905 with the removal of the peaked, tower roof, and the addition of a fourth floor. This remodeling was done by the prominent, Lincoln architectural firm of Deal & Ginzel. The hotel later became the Frisina Hotel, a holding of the leading Taylorville family that owned a chain of theaters in central Illinois. Deominic Frisina's first theater in Taylorville (The Elks Theater) was purchased from Hogan and Assoc. and was located one half block east of the square on Main Cross. As noted earlier, he also bought the Gem Theater (old Opera House) and reopened it in 1924 as the Capitol Theater; it was refaced with terra cotta in 1935. (Bldg. 39, Photo 24). In 1946, he built the Frisina Theater on the north side of the square (now Cinema II). (Bldg. 10, Photo 4).

A FULLY MATURED DISTRICT, 1900-1930: The new century ushered in another era of growth and development for Taylorville and the courthouse square district. The city had grown to a population of 4,248 and it was time, once again, to replace the courthouse with a newer and larger edifice. At its June, 1900 meeting, the Christian County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to authorize the submission to a vote the levying of a special tax to raise \$75,000 for the construction of a new courthouse. In the November election, the voters approved the tax by a majority of 990 in a total vote of 7,408. The board advertised for plans and specifications and selected those submitted by J. W. Gaddes, an architect from Terre Haute, Indiana. The contractor was V. Jobst and Sons, Peoria, Illinois. The three story, 117' x 90' building was completed on September 29, 1902 at a total cost of \$100,533 including building and furnishings. It was constructed of limestone in the Romanesque Revival manner and featured a 40' high central clock tower that dominated the city's skyline. All the brick in the old courthouse was bought by banker L. D. Hewitt for \$500 for use in building foundations in nearby Hewittsville.

Another key public building, the 1½ story, Mission styled Public Library, was built soon after in 1904. Andrew Carnegie contributed \$14,000 towards its construction costs. The 1918 History of Christian County noted that "The rooms are large, furnished in fine woods with several fireplaces, and a decided air of comfort and progress pervades." (Bldg. 56, Photo 36).

Following the construction of the library, the owners of "The Daily Breeze" erected a neoclassical, two story building with "BREEZE" cast in stone letters across the upper front. (1904) (Bldg. 77, Photo 51).

Another important building at this time was the three story, red and white brick Shumway Building, a half block off the square on Market Street. (1905) Shumway originally used the new building as a department store. While presently vacant, its appearance has changed very little since 1905. (Bldg. 72, Photo 46)

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By 1910, Taylorville was booming and expansion occurred in all directions. About 1910, the Railway, Heat and Power Company was formed. Soon after, it installed a street car system in Taylorville that operated from 1909 to 1925 when buses replaced street cars. The trolley car line extended from the entrance gate of the coal mine in Hewittsville to the paper mill on East Elm Street with the track circling the square. (See Exhibit 10)

The area's prosperity became more evident with the addition to the district of the impressive, neoclassical Masonic Temple and the Presbyterian Church on East Franklin. The neoclassical Post Office followed in 1917 at the corner of Franklin and Main, and the Memorial Elementary School, in a similar style, was built on the half block just north of the Post Office in 1920. (Bldgs. 82, 83, 81 & 34; Photos 55, 56, 54, & 57).

In addition to the Mission and Neoclassical styled buildings that were being added to the district in the early part of the 20th century, business buildings reflecting aspects of the Prairie School style were erected after 1910. With roots deep in the 19th century, the commercial architecture of Chicago, and the English Arts and Crafts movement, the Prairie School style provided the seeds from which a new, distinctly American architecture was to grow. It was an indigenous architecture that exalted nature through materials used, explored new ways of relating buildings to their settings, and enhanced the experience of living through new concepts of interior space.

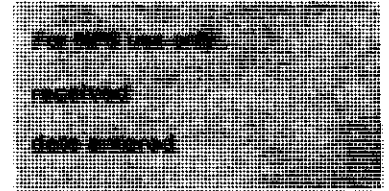
About 20 buildings were constructed in the district in a manner that was influenced by the Prairie School movement. Many of them were constructed along West Market in the block just west of the square, as well as on the north side of the square itself where Italianate buildings had not replaced some of the earlier frame buildings. The style is noted for its simple lined, often with emphasis on the horizontal; the use of brick relief patterns to provide "common sense" decoration, and the borrowing (from time to time) of some of the elements from the neoclassical style.

Three of the Prairie School style related buildings in the district are worthy of particular note - two buildings on West Market and one just off the square on North Main. The first is a two story duplex next to the Library that was originally constructed in 1910 for the offices of a physician (Morton) and a dentist (Bowyer), whose names appear on the building. It features raised, pedimented doorways flanking a pedimented center window. The second is the well preserved Kimball Building (1925) that was designed as a luxurious Ford dealership. Still intact are its stained glass transoms, ceramic tile showroom floor, and decorative chandeliers and wall sconces in the showroom. Repair work and servicing were done on the second level, and for years the roof was used to park automobiles. The third example, the Larkin Building at 111-113 North Main, is an unaltered, two story brick building noteworthy for its use of brick relief over the windows at the second level. (Bldgs. 57, 55 & 16; photos 37, 35 & 8)

An unusual building that departed from the Prairie School related style is the Illinois Consolidated Phone Company Building (c. 1925) at 113 North Walnut on the northeast side of the district. The 2 1/2 story, Spanish Colonial Revival Style building has a stone foundation with brick upper levels, and a green tile canopy at the cornice level. (Bldg. 35; Photo 13).

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THE DISTRICT TODAY: There have been very few new buildings built in the District since 1935, the principal one being the mini-mall on the north side of the square around 1975. The other significant change was the major remodeling on the south side of the square that incorporated the old Vandever Block and other buildings into the contemporary faced First Trust Bank Building. Otherwise the District's character has changed very little since 1935 with the exception of a few false fronts, the removal of some cornices and other changing trends in storefronts and signage. Nearly all of the buildings around the square and on most side streets are occupied (at least at the lower levels). The only major vacant structures are the two former hotels (Klondike/Hoover, and Antler/Frisina (Bldgs. 80 & 35; Photos 51 & 21), and the buildings along the north side of West Market Street, including the Shumway Building (Bldg. 72; Photo 46). Due to the few changes that have been made over the past fifty years, the District still exhibits the character and architectural charm of an early, evolved courthouse square business district.

Photo 58 is an aerial view of the Taylorville central business district.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9. page 2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 19.7 Acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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## Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District is defined on the maps which accompany this nomination. The verbal description is on Continuation Sheet 10. page 2.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Kirchner

organization Charles Kirchner & Assoc. date July 15, 1985

street & number 522 East Monroe telephone (217) 789-1330

city or town Springfield, state Illinois 62701

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

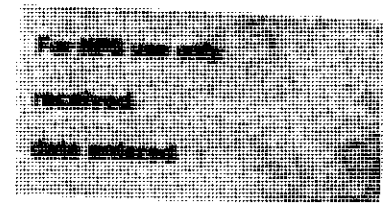
Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES;

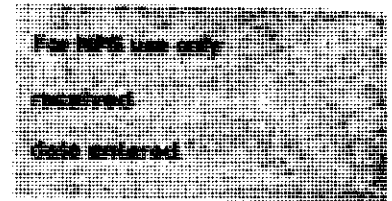
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10. Taylorville, Illinois, 1968 City Directory, Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Oral History was obtained from the following citizens of Taylorville:

1. Rose Marie Bell
2. Helen Broverman
3. Loren Colegrove
4. Mrs. James Cooper (who also provided various issues of her weekly column from the BREEZE-COURIER, "Genealogical Sketches of Christian County)
5. D. O. Hammell
6. Phillip Martin
7. Marilyn O'Brien
8. Mary Powell
9. John M. Siegrist

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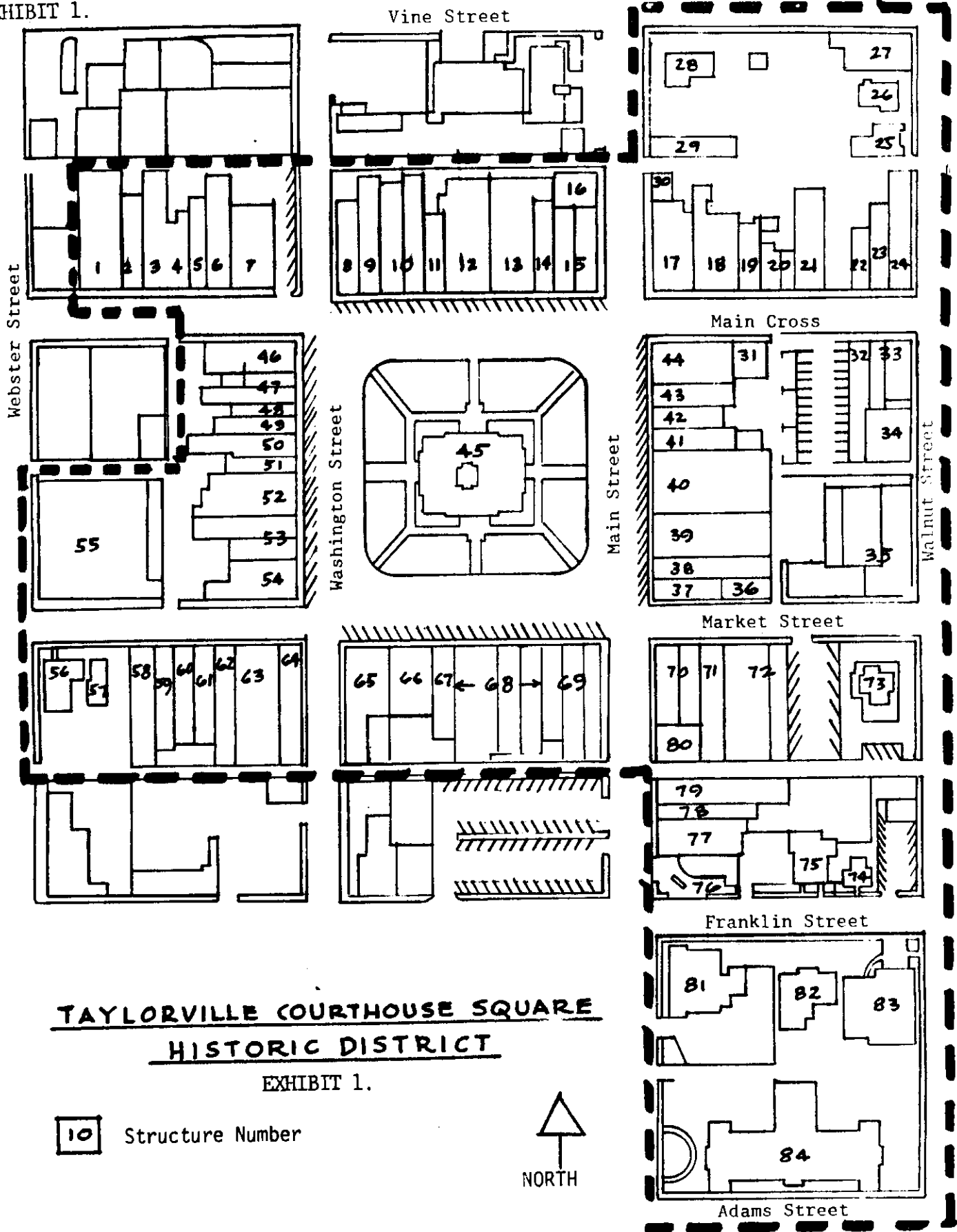
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point approximately 60 feet east of the centerline of Webster Street, thence north to the centerline of the alley between Vine Street and Main Cross, thence east to the centerline of Main Street, thence north to the centerline of Vine Street, thence east to the centerline of Franklin Street, thence south to the centerline of Adams Street, thence west to the centerline of Main Street, thence west to the centerline of Webster Street, thence north to the alley between Main Cross and Market Street, thence east to the alley between Webster Street and Washington Street, thence north to the centerline of Main Cross, thence west to the point of beginning



EXHIBIT 1.



TAYLORVILLE COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

EXHIBIT 1.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

DEC 13 1985

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning December 1, 1985 and ending December 7, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALASKA, Anchorage Division, Anchorage, Potter Section House, Off AK 1 (12/06/85)

ARIZONA, Cochise County, Douglas, Douglas Post Office and Customs House (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 601 - 10th St. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Gila County, Globe, Globe Post Office Courthouse (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), Hill and Sycamore Sts. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Santa Cruz County, Nogales, Nogales Main Post Office and Immigration Station (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), Hudgin St. and Morley Ave. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Yavapai County, Prescott, Prescott Post Office and Courthouse (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 101 W. Goodwin Ave. (12/03/85)

ARIZONA, Yuma County, Yuma, Yuma Main Post Office (Historic U.S. Post Offices in Arizona TR 1900-1941), 370 W. Third St. (12/03/85)

ARKANSAS, Montgomery County, Bonnerdale, Reeves--Melson House, SE of Montgomery adjacent to branch off Mazarn Creek (12/05/85)

ARKANSAS, Searcy County, St. Joe vicinity, Henley, Benjamin Franklin, House, Off US 65 (12/05/85)

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, Spratlen-Anderson Wholesale Grocery Company--Davis Brothers Warehouse, 1450 Wynkoop St. (12/03/85)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Woodcroft Sanatorium, 1300 W. Abriendo Ave. (12/03/85)

FLORIDA, Dade County, Homestead, Homestead Public School--Neva King Cooper School, 520 NW First St. (12/04/85)

FLORIDA, Dade County, Miami Shores, Grand Concourse Apartments, 421 Grand Concourse (12/02/85)

GEORGIA, Banks County, Homer, Homer Historic District, Along Main St.(US 441) and Silver Shoals Rd. (12/03/85)

GEORGIA, Cobb County, Marietta, Church Street--Cherokee Street Historic District, Church, Cherokee, & Campbell Hill Sts. (12/03/85)

ILLINOIS, Christian County, Taylorville, Taylorville Courthouse Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by Vine, Walnut, Adams, and Webster Sts. (12/02/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Swedish Club of Chicago, 1258 N. LaSalle St. (12/02/85)

KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Guilfoil Village Site (15FA176) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Fulton County, Running Slough Site (15FU67) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Logan County, Watkins Site (15 Lo12) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Mason County, Van Meter Site (15MS52) (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Oldham County, Pewee Valley vicinity, St. James' Episcopal Church, 401 Old LaGrange Rd. (12/05/85)

KENTUCKY, Scott County, Dry Run Site (15SC10) (12/05/85)