National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Springfield

city, town

For NPS use only

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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY: The Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District includes twelve large one-quarter blocks surrounding one full courthouse block. They constitute the public square and central business district of Carrollton, Illinois. The District includes a wide range of building types and styles ranging from the stone courthouse to one-story concrete block buildings. The majority of the buildings are two-story brick commercial buildings. This business district remains the only significant concentration of businesses in Carrollton.

LAYOUT, STRUCTURES, MATERIALS: Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District is located in the northern section of Carrollton, the County Seat of Greene County, Illinois. The square, and the rest of Carrollton, is located in the slightly rolling high ground between a series of shallow valleys running east—west and connecting with the Illinois River. Carrollton is a town of slightly less than three thousand people and is located in the southern third of the county. It is characterized by a large percentage of substantial nineteenth—century buildings with a high degree of integrity. The town is dominated by agriculture and agricultural—related business and industry. The residential areas surround the square but stretch furthest to the south.

Although the square is not truly central in town, it is the main focus of business for Carrollton; only a few businesses are located off the square. These are located along the main highway, Route 267, and where North Main crosses the railroad tracks at the eastern edge of town. The square is dominated by the large courthouse which occupies the center of the courthouse block. The courthouse block was a full city block before sections were sliced off all four sides of the lawn to expand parking on the square. The courthouse block is bounded on the north by North Main Street, on the east by West Fifth Street, on the south by South Main Street, and on the west by West Sixth Street. These streets are continuous and comprise an uninterrupted part of the towns rectilinear grid plan. The business district forms a compact unit with most buildings facing the square. Only on the corners to the northeast and southeast do contributing business buildings occupy the streets entering the square. These businesses only extend to the alleys a half block from the square. Beyond this the residential area surrounding the square begins, except along North Main east of West Fifth where the Post Office occupies lots past the alley.

Most of the buildings in the district are nineteenth-century two- or three- story commercial buildings, including a number of the non-contributing structures which are altered beyond recognition. Almost all of these are built of red brick of differing characteristics and hardness. Of the buildings that do not fall into this category, one is an early nineteenth-century residence, three are masonry public buildings, two are artificial stone buildings, nine are one-story brick buildings, one is a one-story tile commercial building, one is a modern large two-story brick, five are one-story concrete block buildings. Two parking lots on building lots front the square. Forty-four structures are two- or three-story brick commercial buildings. These had ground floor storefronts facing the sidewalk with the typical long narrow storerooms.

Most of the storefronts have been modernized to some extent, ranging from replacement of the wooden door by one with a metal frame and jamb to the total replacement of the storefront by a modern brick front. The windows and doors to the sides of buildings along streets or alleys have almost all been bricked up. The second and third floor fronts and fenestration below the cornices have remained more intact with only a few being altered or covered over by metal facades. The original cornices have not fared as well. While a substantial portion have remained, about fifteen have been altered from their original configurations. In one case the original cornice with dentils on the Federal style building in the middle of the east side of the square had a wooden Italianate projecting cornice put over its original cornice. This was then removed sometime before the present metal facade was placed over the upper story.

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The greatest architectural variation occurs in the windows and cornices of the commercial and public buildings. They range from the very simple Federal rectangular straight stone headed windows and plain eaves to a fanciful cast iron front reminiscent of Beaux Arts Classicism and the large projecting bracketed cornices of the late nineteenth century. Other styles or stylistic influences found in the buildings in the District are Italianate, Gothic, Richardsonian Romanesque, Second Empire, and Georgian Revival. None of the styles can be said to be carried to their extreme or be outstanding examples, but together they exemplify the range found in small county towns.

The courthouse itself is the most important building of the District and is one of three government buildings in the District. It is a rock-faced, coursed, white Berea limestone building 80 by 125 feet, two stories high capped by a mansard roof with straight sides. Above this is a hundred foot high central stone bell tower. There are two low decorative parapet gables on both the east and west sides, and one more prominent gable on the north and south over the main entries. The north gable has a terra-cotta statue of Justice above it. The courthouse is in the Richardsonian Pomanesque style and was built 1891-1892.

The public library is on the east end of the south side of the square. It is a 1902, Georgian Revival, hipped-roofed, brick building that stands alone both in its architecture and in its placement in the center of two lots. The last public building in the District is the post office. It is off the square and is a one-story, buff brick, hipped-roof building. The main entry is headed by a fan light as are the flanking windows. These windows are separated from the less ornate single windows to the sides by concrete pilasters which are repeated at the corners. The post office was com- pleted in 1932, and is a common governmental style building.

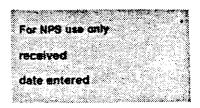
Only one residence remains, that is the Hodges House on the west end of the north side of the square. It is brick with a one-and-a-half-story Federal style wing and an Italianiate, mid-1850s addition. The Hodges House is listed individually on the National Pegister of Historic Places.

RELATIONSHIPS, PANORAMA, USES, CONDITION, BOUNDARIES: The visual aspect of the square is irregular, with a significant variation in building height, placement, or roof treatment as well as differences in texture and color. The public library occupies a full lot with open space in front and on either side. The early nineteenth-century residence and the empty corners at the southeast and southwest all contribute to a feeling of openness that is common to small town country squares, where the sky and the courthouse truly dominate the scene. In Carrollton, this ambience is enhanced by the large size of the blocks that make up the square. This openness and irregular skylines have been features of the square since it matured in the mid-nineteenth century.

The use of the District remains commercial, residential and public, as it has been from the beginning. The buildings are reasonably well maintained on their exteriors, but loss of tenants for second floor areas have caused these spaces to be ignored and deteriorate.

Generally, the District extends to the alley behind the streets that comprise the square including the quarter blocks at the corners (except for the southwest corner quarter block which is excluded). However, the boundary does extend beyond the alley on the south side of North Main Street; there it extends to Fourth Street to include the post office. The demarcation between the commercial courthouse square district and the surrounding residential area is quite clear at most

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points. The Historic District uses this as its boundary. The only area where the delineation is not clear cut is the southwest corner of the square which has been excluded from the District because it now contains only a parking lot at the corner and then further west on Fifth are a modern grocery and city hall.

Those buildings listed below as contributing to the Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District meet a number of criteria. They were built or in use during the period of significance, i.e. 1829 to 1932. They also retain enough integrity of exterior visual appearance from either the period of their construction or from alterations during the period of significance to provide a positive contribution to the District. The major details evaluated were the storefront, upper floor fenestration, decoration, cornice, height, and massing which were examined in terms of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. Those structures that were built outside the period of significance or lack exterior physical integrity to the degree needed to be important in terms of information are listed as non-contributing. Some of the alterations to buildings listed as non-contributing are reversable. If these alterations were reversed, then these structures could be re-catagorized as contributing.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

List is keyed to photographs.

1. 327-329 West Sixth Street

Lots 48 and 47

Name: Hinton House

Built: c. 1832

Type: 2-Story, Federal-Style, Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: James Reno Original Use: Tavern/Inn

Later Uses: Hotel; Historical Society, Apartments; Bus Station; Retail

Current Use: Beauty Shop and Doctor's Office (Brush and Comb; Hawks Chiropractic)

Photo No. 2

2. 325 West Sixth Street

Lot 47

Name: Sons of Temperance Hall

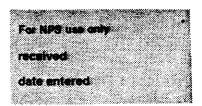
Built: c. 1840

Type: 2-Story, Federal-Style, Brick Commercial Building

Uses: 1857 - Sons of Temperance Hall

Current Use: Office (Gustine's)

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3. 323 West Sixth Street

Lots 46 and 47

Name: Carrollton House

Built: 1847

Type: 2-Story, Federal-Style, Brick Commercial Building (Parapet Gable)

Owner/Builder: John Headrick

Original Use: Hotel

Current Use: Office (Robert H. Merhoff's)

Photo No. 2

4. 321 West Sixth Street

Lot 46

Built: c.1850-1870

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building (Flat Roof)

Current Use: Office (1/2 Farm Bureau)

Photo No. 3

5. 319 West Sixth Street

Lot 46

Built: c. 1870

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Office (The Farm Bureau Building)

Photo No. 3

6. 309 West Sixth Street

Lot 38

Name: Yates & Walker Grocery

Built: 1889

Type: 2-Story, Beaux Arts Classism-Style, Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: David Pierson Original Use: Retail (Grocery) Current Use: Retail (Sullivan's)

Photo No. 4

7. 307 West Sixth Street

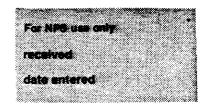
Lot 38

Built: Post-1893

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Betty's)

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8. 305 West Sixth Street

Lot 37

Name: George Wright's Store

Built: c. 1840

Type: 2-Story, Federal-Style, Brick Commercial Building

Original Use: Retail

Later Use: Restaurant (Eberlein's)

Current Use: Retail (Flower's Plumbing)

Photo No. 4

9. 301-303 West Sixth Street

Lot 37

Name: First Greene County National Bank

Built: 1859

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: David Pierson

Original Use: Bank

Later Uses: Doctor's Office; Post Office; Grocery Store

Current Use: Retail (Enoch's; OK Corral)

Photo No. 5

10. 603 North Main Street

lot 37

Built: c. 1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Current Use: Retail (Enoch's back half)

11. 600 North Main Street

Lot 36

Name: Greene County National Bank

Built: 1905

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Owner/Builder: Greene County National Bank

Original Use: Bank Current Use: Bank

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12. 532 North Main Street

Lot 19

Name: Hodges House

Built: 1-Story (West) Part c. 1829; 2-Story Part c. 1850 Type: 1-Story Brick with 2-Story Brick Addition Residence

Owners/Builders: c. 1829 Samuel Lee, Jr.; c. 1850 Judge Charles Drury Hodges

Original Use: Residence

Current Use: Historical Society Listed on National Register: 11/3/80

Photo No. 9

13. 524 North Main Street

Lot 20

Built: Post-1900

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building
Current Use: Office (Sample Insurance Agency)

Photo No. 11

14. 522 North Main Street

Lot 20

Built: c. 1900

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Office (McDonald, Strickland & Clough)

Photo No. 11

15. 520 North Main Street

Lot 21

Name: Carrollton Bank

Built: c. 1877

Type: 2-Story, Italianate-Style, Brick Commercial Building - Now 3-Story with addition

Owner/Builder: Judge Charles Drury Hodges

Original Use: Bank Current Use: Vacant

Photo No. 11

16. 516 North Main Street

Lot 22

Built: c. 1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Offices (Vivell's)

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17. 514 North Main Street

Lot 22

Built: 1857

Type: 2-Story, Italianate-style, Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Restaurant (Joe's Pizza)

Photo No. 12

18. 512 North Main Street

Lot 22

Built: 1857

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Current Use: Retail (1/2 Sewing Shop)

Photo No. 12

19. 502-506 North Main Street

Lot 24

Name: Masonic Block

Built: c. 1860 (before 1861)

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Block

Owners/Builders: John Marmon and W. P. Marmon

Photo No. 14

20. 223-225 West Fifth Street

Lot 24

Built: c. 1860 (before 1861)

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Current Use: Apartments (Meda Dowdall)

Photo No. 14

21. 222-224 West Fifth Street

Lot 7

Built: c. 1910

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building (Tin Cornice)

Current Use: Retail (Business Systems; Alice Benz's Beauty Shop)

Photo No. 14

22. 432 North Main Street

Lot 7

Name: Keeley & Cavahaugh's Grocery

Built: c. 1870

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Building

Original Use: Retail (Grocery)
Current Use: Retail (Carmody's)

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23. 430 North Main Street

Lot 7

Name: Wheeler Block

Built: 1868

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Use: A. Gears Building; Retail

Current Use: Storage

Photo No. 20

24. 428 North Main Street

Lot 8

Name: Gazette Building

Ruilt: c. 1880

Type: 2-Story Brick, Second Empire-Style, Commercial Building

Current Use: Office (1/2 Gazette)

Photo No. 20

25. 426 North Main Street

Lot 8

Built: c. 1890

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building

Use: Millinery

Current Use: Office (1/2 Gazette)

Photo No. 20

26. 424-420 North Main Street

Lots 8 and 9

Name: Hotel Pierson

Built: 1st Part (Old Keach Residence) c. 1840; 2nd Part c. 1876; 15 Rooms Added and Whole

Remodeled 1889

Owners/Builders: c. 1840 Hiram Keach; c. 1876 David Pierson; c. 1889 J. F. Patton

Type: 3-Story Brick addition to 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Original Use: Residence

Later Use: Hotel

Current Use: Retail (Nims Jewelry and Gift Shop)

Photo No. 21

27. 409 North Main Street

Lots 129, 128, 127 Name: Post Office

Built: 1931

Type: 2-Story Brick Public Building

Original Use: Post Office Current Use: Post Office

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419 North Main Street 28.

Lot 132

Built: c. 1910

Type: 1-Story Artificial Stone Commercial Building

Current Use: Office (Greene County Health Department)

Photo No. 23

425 North Main Street 29.

Lot 132

Built: c. 1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Later Use: Norris's Beauty Shop

Current Use: Vacant

Photo No. 23

300-302 West Fifth Street 30.

Lot 132

Built: 1886

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Original Use: Retail (Dry Goods)

Current Use: Retail (Furnishings Unlimited - Furniture Store)

Photo No. 25

304 West Fifth Street 31.

Lot 132

Built: 1867

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (1/2 Jeffrey's)

Photo No.: 26

32. 306 West Fifth Street

Lot 131

Name: John Long & Co. Bankers

Built: 1867

Type: 3-Story Brick Commercial Building Original Use: Bank (John Long & Co.) Current Use: Retail (1/2 Jeffery's)

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33. 318 West Fifth Street

Lot 130

Built: 1894

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Original Use: Charles A. Weimer Cigar Factory

Current Use: Retail (Pohlman's)

Photo No.: 27

34. 324 West Fifth Street

Lot 123

Built: c. 1880-1900

Type: 1-1/2 Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Auto Parts)

Photo No.: 29

35. 326 West Fifth Street

Lot 122

Built: c.1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Sears)

Photo No.: 29

36. 328 West Fifth Street

Lot 122

Built: c. 1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Later Use: Retail (Sam Edward's Grocery)

Current Use: Retail (Wildhagen's)

Photo No.: 30

37. Rear 328 West Fifth Street

Lot 122

Built: 1893

Type: 1-Story, Gable-Roofed, Brick Commercial Building

Later Use: Retail (Sam Edward's Grocery)
Current Use: Retail (Wildhagen's Annex)

Photo No.: 31

38. 428-426 South Main Street

Lot 121

Built: c. 1860-1870

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Current Use: Office (State Farm Insurance)

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39. 424-422 South Main Street

Lot 121

Built: c. 1860-1870

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Current Use: Retail (Carrico's Feed Store)

Photo No.: 31

40. 419 South Main Street

Lot 118

Name: Jacob Hunt's Livery

Built: 1878

Type: 50' x 180' 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: Jacob Hunt Original Use: Livery Stable

Current Use: Knights of Columbus Hall

Photo No.: 33

41. 431 South Main Street

Lot 119

Name: Chevy Garage

Built: c. 1935

Type: 1-Story Tile Commercial Building

Original Use: Automobile Repair Current Use: Service (Fit Tan)

Photo No.: 32

42. 509 South Main Street

Lot 91

Name: Library Built: 1902

Type: 63' x 40' 2-Story Brick, Georgian Revival Style, Public Building

Original Use: Library Current Use: Library

Photo No.: 34

43. 513-519 South Main Street

Lot 93

Built: c. 1890

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Joe Hartman's Ford Dealership)

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44. 521 South Main Street

Lot 94

Name: Kergher Block

Built: 1877

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: Conrad Kergher

Original Use: Retail (Furniture; Dry Goods and Clothing)

Current Use: Doctor's Office (Carrollton Chiropractic Center)

Photo No.: 36

45. 523 South Main Street

lot 94

Name: Kergher Block

Built: 1877

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Owner/Builder: Conrad Kergher Original Use: Retail (Hardware) Current Use: Office (Roberson's)

Photo No.: 36

46. 525 South Main Street

Lot 95

Built: Pre-1915

Type: 2-Story, Artificial Stone, Commercial Building

Current Use: Doctor's Office (Horn's)

Photo No.: 36

47. Greene County Courthouse

Built: 1891–92

Type: 2-Story, Romanesque Style, Stone Public Building

Owner/Builder: Greene County

Contractor: F. W. Menke, Quincy, Illinois)

Original Use: County Courthouse Current Use: County Courthouse

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LIST OF NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

List is keyed to photographs.

1. 602 South Main Street

Lot 48

Name: Sullivan's Cleaners & Laundry

Built: c. 1960

Type: 1-Story Concrete Block Commercial Building Current Use: Dry Cleaners, Laundry, and Car Wash

Photo No.: 1

2. 313-317 West Sixth Street

Lot 39

Name: The Carrollton Bank & Trust Co.

Built: c. 1975

Type: 2-1/2 Story Brick Commercial Building Owner/Builder: The Carrollton Bank & Trust Co.

Original Use: Bank Current Use: Bank

Photo No.: 4

3. 311 West Sixth Street

Lot 38

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building New Facade, Extensively Altered

Current Use: Retail (Sullivan's)

Photo No.: 4

4. 206 West Sixth Street

Lot 19

Name: Tri-County Counseling Center

Built: c. 1960

Type: 1-Story Concrete Block Commercial Building

Current Use: Office (Tri-County Counseling)

5. 510 North Main Street

Lot 23

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building Extensively Altered

Current Use: Retail (1/2 Sewing Shop)

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6. 508 North Main Street

Lot 23

Name: Variety Store

Built: c. 1960

Type: 1-Story Concrete Block Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Variety Store)

Photo No.: 12

7. 221 West Fifth Street

Lot 24

Name: Downey Shoe Repair

Built: c. 1960

Type: 1-Story Concrete Block Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Shoe Repair)

Photo No.: 14

8. 421-423 North Main Street

Lot 132

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building West Half Extensively Altered

Current Use: Office/Retail (R. D. Clough, Dentist, and Barber Shop)

Photo No.: 23

9. 308-314 West Fifth Street

Lots 131 and 130

Built: North one-third of building 1854

Type: 2-Story Brick (Was 3-Story, but top story removed) commercial brick; extensively

altered

Current Use: Tavern and Office (John's Tavern and Public Health)

Photo No. 27

10. 316 West Fifth Street

Lot 130

Built: c. 1850

Type: 2-Story, Federal Style, Brick Commercial Building (Parapet Gable)

Note: This building could become a significant contributing structure if the metal front on the second story were removed. The original wall surfaces and fenestration are intact

under the false front.

Current Use: Retail (Clough Pharmacy)

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320 West Fifth Street

Lot 123

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 1-1/2 Story Brick Commercial Building - Extensively altered including all new brick

Current Use: Retail (Cochran's Auction)

Photo No.: 29

330-332 West Fifth Street 12.

Lot 121

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building - Extensively altered including solid metal facade

above store front

Use: Retail (Western Auto Store)

Current Use: Vacant

Photo No.: 30

13. 334 West Fifty Street

Lot 121

Name: Scott Stove Co.

Built: 1868

Type: 20' x 84', 2-Story Brick Commercial Building - extensively altered

Owner/Builder: Thomas Scott, Jr.

Original Use: Heating Stove Manufacture Current Use: Restaurant (Wallace's Dairy Bar)

Photo No.: 30

14. 430 South Main Street

Lot 121

Name: Scott's Tin Shop

Built: 1868

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building - Extensively altered including false front

Owner/Builder: Thomas Scott, Jr. Original Use: Manufacture (tinner)

Current Use: Restaurant (Wallace Dairy Bar Annex)

Photo No.: 31

15. 433 South Main Street

Lot 120

Built: c. 1950

Type: 1-Story Concrete Block Commercial Building with Porcelain Tile Facade

Original Use: Gas Station (Munze Brock's)

Current Use: Vacant

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16. 527-529 South Main Street

Lot 95

Built: Pre-1900

Type: 1-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Tavern (Brass Door)

Photo No.: 36

17. 531 South Main Street

Lot 96

Built: Pre-1915

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Use: Office

Current Use: Retail (Arnette's Wardrobe)

Photo No.: 36

18. 533 South Main Street

Lot 96

Name: Bijou Theater

Built: Pre-1915

Type: 2-Story Brick Commercial Building

Current Use: Retail (Linn's Shoes)

Photo No.: 36

19. 414 West Sixth Street

Lot 96

Built: Pre-1893

Type: 2-Story Brick & Tile Commercial Building

Original Use: Blacksmith Shop

Current Use: Retail (Joe Hartman's Hercules Tire)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	X community planning landscape a law literature education military engineering music exploration/settlement industry invention	architecture religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater vernment transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1829 - 1932	Builder Architect	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY: The Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning, and politics/government. It embodies the transition from an artificially selected town site to a well developed commercial center including surviving examples of structures that were common to the differing periods of its development. The Carrollton Courthouse Square retains much of its early character due to the size of its square and the spacing and proportion of its structures, and so is representative of common midwestern courthouse squares in smaller county seats. Its history and development as a courthouse square parallels those of most such towns that did not become major market centers. However, in Carrollton it is possible to trace the ways in which the form and plan of the courthouse square influenced the use, architectural style and plan of succeeding buildings and of the whole District at differing periods in time. The square retains at least eight prominent structures from its early stage of development (1821 to 1855) when it went from primarily residential mixed with business and government to predominantly business with a significant number of residences and the same number of governmental buildings. A large number of buildings built between 1856 and 1915, when the square matured and became almost entirely commercial, survive. A few buildings in the district, but none on the square itself, reflect the period from 1916 to 1935 when the commercial district remained viable but static. Since 1935 only three buildings facing the square and three more in the district have been built, and all but one of these have been one-story concrete block buildings. The range of buildings and building types within the Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District provides a valuable representation of the first three periods of the square's development. Significantly, the square remains today the central business focus of the community; only a few scattered commercial or industrial establishments exist outside the square district. The square has retained the relationship to the rest of the community that developed during the middle of the 1800s. The Carrollton square is a good example of a spacious midwestern county seat courthouse square. Despite the fact it is a particularly early square, its history is typical in terms of the county origin, the selection of the county seat location, the plan of the square and town, and the development of the square. It remains typical of many such squares in the Midwest in the kinds of establishments, the types and styles of structures, the massing and impact of the ringing buildings, the dominance of the courthouse, and the relationship to the surrounding community. The District meets Register Criteria C: "embodying the distinct characteristics of a type," as a good example of the type of Central Courthouse Square with the courthouse in the square, the streets running along the sides of the square, the square is a designated block out of the town grid, and the square has become the commercial center of town; and Criteria B: "associated with a broad pattern of our history," as a form reflecting the evolution of planned county seats and their courthouse squares as commercial centers.

ORIGIN AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT: The earliest settlement in Illinois tended to be along the rivers, first along the Mississippi and Ohio, then the Kaskaskia, and then the Illinois. The western border of Greene County is formed by the Illinois River. Thus, it is not surprising that Greene County was settled relatively early. The first settlers are recorded as arriving in 1816. The land that now comprises Carrollton, including the square, was settled by Thomas Carlin during the year that Illinois became a state, 1818. Carlin, a Kentucky native, had served in the War of 1812 as a ranger and then owned a ferry on the Mississippi south of Alton before moving into the future

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Greene County at the age of 32. In January, 1821, the Illinois General Assembly in Vandalia passed legislation calling for the organization of the sparsely-settled area as a separate county. Prior to this the area was included in Madison County. The same legislation also authorized the fixing of the county's boundaries and the identification of a location for the county seat. Five commissioners were appointed to carry out these tasks: Carlin, Thomas Rattan, John Allen, John Green, and John Huitt. On February 20, 1821, the commissioners fixed the site of the county seat on Carlin's ground.

As was common, the moving force in the county organization was a highly ambitious individual who would later play a significant role in both the county and state's history. Carlin, who abstained from the vote to select his property as county seat, was elected sheriff in the first county elections, then was selected state senator for two terms. He commanded a spy battalion in the Black Hawk War. After serving as receiver of public monies for the federal government, he became governor of Illinois from 1838-1842 while great internal improvements and a financial crisis were dominating the Illinois political scene. He was selected to return to the legislature in 1849 to replace Jacob Fry who had resigned. After retiring from public office, Carlin died in 1852 while residing in Carrollton.

The selection of the seat of justice by a small committee which proceeded to opt for a location owned by one of the commissioners was common practice, not just in early Illinois, but in the Midwest. It was also typical that the site was not in an established town. Frequently, Illinois county seats have courthouse square plans. Most are either what Edward Price in "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat" calls the Shelbyville and Lancaster square plans. A number of different styles, such as the Four-Block square, also exist. The Lancaster square has a courthouse block cut out of the corners of four blocks; thus, the streets enter the square facing the courthouse. This same street pattern also occurs in a Four-Block square, but in this plan there are also streets at the corners of the square, and the square block is itself made up of four blocks.

After its selection, the town of Carrollton was platted and surveyed later in the spring of 1821. The layout of Carrollton in that plat, which was not recorded until 1825, was standard for early county seats in the whole region. The square is not subdivided into lots and so was apparently intended to be reserved for public purposes. It is laid out in The Shelbyville Square plan, named by the geographer Edward Price in his article on courthouse squares after the prototype in Shelbyville, Tennessee. The Shelbyville square uses a block from the rectilinear grid as the courthouse square. Thus the square does not interrupt the streets or plan as do other courthouse square plans. The Shelbyville plan is the most common courthouse square plan. It appears to have developed in middle Tennessee between 1810 and 1812. The layout of the lots around the square in Carrollton was also typical for early courthouse squares. Lots were a uniform size throughout the town. All of the lots around the square face it, thus, some run east to west while lots in the rest of the town uniformly run north to south. The square is distinctive, but not unique for Illinois in the size of the blocks. Each block contains twelve lots quartered into groups of three. This creates a large and spacious square.

In June, 1821, twenty Carrollton lots owned by Greene County were sold to private individuals. The first two buildings were soon built: a log tavern by Thomas Rattan on the east corner of the north

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side of the square, and a residence by Jacob Fry on the south end of the east side. Soon after other homes were built on the east side of the square. On the northern half of the west side, a long frame structure with its ridgeline parallel to the street was built to be the first courthouse. The location of this first courthouse, on the side rather than in the center of the square, was common; it probably reflected anticipation of construction of a more substantive building as courthouse.

By spring of 1823 Carrollton had grown, and the square was described by new emigrants from the East as follows: "Perhaps the central open space of the little town was a triffle more generous than some they had seen, for Carrollton was laid out as the county seat. On the west side stood the frame courthouse, unattractive, two-storied, presenting a high gaunt end to the street, and already looking dingy and weather-beaten, a fit companion to the log jail which flanked it. Diagonally across on the north side was the other frame structure in the place, a two-storied with portice. For the rest, there was the usual fringe of low log buildings."

Things were not much changed by 1829. According to the account of Professor J.M. Sturtevant of Illinois College, Carrollton "was but a cluster of log houses" when he visited it that year. In the years that followed, however, the square began to fill out, predominantly with frame structures, but also with brick buildings. The years from 1830 to 1855 were the ones in which the square lost its rough hewn character and became an urban center. By the end of this period there were only about ten residences on the square and almost fifty government and business buildings.

The earliest known building remaining in the Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District is what is now called the Hodges House. The present building has two parts, the older of which dates to ca. 1829–1832. This part was originally a simple, one-story brick house, vaguely Federal in style. It was constructed for the first county clerk, Samuel Lee, Jr. The later two-story brick addition in Italianate style was built in the 1850s by Judge Charles D. Hodges, who was at the time a lawyer. The Greene County Historical Society now occupies this outstanding building which is listed individually on the National Register.

At about the same time the first part of the Hodges House was built, the county built a new court-house. Designed by Moses Stevens and built by Thomas Rattan, this second courthouse stood in the central block of the square. It was an almost square, two-story brick structure with a hipped roof topped by a cupola. This courthouse was demolished to make way for the current structure.

However, other masonry structures from this period survive. James Reno's drug store and hotel is now termed the Hinton House. This building, along with the two other early buildings to its immediate north, give a distinctive flavor to the west side of the square. All three of these two-story brick buildings were built before the mid-fifties, and their ridgelines form a unit and parallel the street. The building immediately north of the Hinton House was used by the Sons of Temperance who may have built the building in the late 1840s. The next building was built by John Headrick as a hotel, the Carrollton House, in response to a raise in the rent for the building he had been using as a hotel. Further north along the west side of the square is another early-nineteenth century two-story brick structure; it was George Wright's store in 1857. As in the previously discussed buildings, its gable faces away from the main facade, a facade almost devoid of embellishment. The

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four early commercial structures on the west side and the Hodges House just to the north give this part of the square a unique character that is enhanced by the massive, modern, hipped-roof bank building in the center of the west side. The bank has in the last ten years replaced an early brick livery of similar dimensions which faced the square with it prominent gable. The west side of the square exemplifies the earliest period in the town's development.

A number of other structures deserve mention in a discussion of the period of early growth. The former Pierson Hotel on North Main Street just east of the square boasts as its east wing Hiram Keach's two-story brick house with little ornament and a hipped metal roof. This house was built around 1840 and sits back from the road about ten feet. The remaining sections of the hotel are brick and three-stories with a projecting bracketed cornice. Although the house has lost its residential character, it and the three story sections blend well together to preserve the image of a hostelry.

Another early structure near the middle of the east side of the square, the Clough Pharmacy, exhibits its early origins in its roofline which runs parallel to the street. This building has had an interesting life exemplifying the reaction on the square to various trends. The two-story brick building began, it appears, with a plain facade and a simple cornice with dentils. It was then "brought up to style" with decorated window heads and a bracketed projecting cornice. Finally, the cornice was removed and the upper story hidden beneath a metal false front. Although this indignity could be removed, another early building to the north in the same block has lost all of its character. Built in 1854 as a small two-story brick, it was incorporated with two other stores, had a third story added, then this was removed and buff brick placed over the outside of the combined but re-shortened facade.

MATURATION: It was in this period from 1856 to 1915 that the courthouse square matured and gained most of its present—day character. The date 1856 was chosen because soon after that date buildings were built (which still remain) of a clearly different style than before. This is the period of the two— and three—story brick commercial building, and it is these buildings that predominate on the square without truly dominating. The spaciousness of the square, the open spaces, the occasion—al one—story building, and the courthouse prevent the monolithic appearance found in smaller squares in larger towns. The flat—roofed brick commercial buildings along the square and side street represent a significant departure from the buildings that had gone before. In form and massing they are quite similar, but the degree and style of ornamentation applied yields a wide variety of styles ranging from Italianate, to Gothic, to restrained Beaux—Arts Classicism, to very vaguely commercial style, to styleless.

The first of these commercial buildings were built in the years from 1856 to the Civil War. Two major buildings represent these beginnings and the beginning of the square's commercial reign. David Pierson's three-story banking building, later the Greene County National Bank, was built in 1859 and features pedimented window lintels and a discrete brick cornice. Pierson was certainly one of the most powerful individuals in Carrollton. He had begun a store in 1834 and in 1854 expanded into banking. By 1857 his residence just west of the square on North Main was a prominent landmark. Later he started a flouring mill, woolen mill, railroad, and a newspaper. The bank was only one of a number of buildings built by Pierson. An interesting juxtaposition is created by the

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1859 Pierson Bank and its successor, the 1905 Green County National Bank, just across the side street. This low, light brown brick building is a conservative but up-to-date structure for its time just as the 1859 bank had been for its.

One of the other dominant buildings on the square was built before 1861. It is now called the Masonic Temple building and was a three-story hipped-roof commercial block built by the Marmon brothers anchored the northeast corner of the square as firmly as the two Pierson banks did the northwest corner. A very substantial block, it had decorated pedimented window heads and a bracketed cornice. This building became even more prominent, if not better looking, after it was altered to be the Masonic Temple. From the head of the third-story windows up, it was remodeled and raised. The upper windows were given eyebrow arches and a large castellated cornice.

Not far to the west of the Masonic Temple, at 514 North Main, an early Italianiate store survives, relatively intact, from this period. It lacks the usual bold cornice setting; instead it depends on brick relief to add visual interest to the cornice area. This store's companion to the east seems to have been built at the same time, but it was altered later and now provides a drastic contrast. 512 North Main's windows are mere rectangular openings. It, too, uses brick relief for its cornice, but by attempting to mimic a bold projection, it merely emphasizes its lack of depth.

After the Civil War, Italianate and other flamboyant styles flourished in Carrollton and resulted in buildings that give life to the District. In 1868 and ca. 1870, with the construction of one two-story and one three-story business building on North Main just across Fifth from the Marmon Block, the northeast corner of the square began to compete for the square goer's eye. Both were characterized by arched windows and high projecting bracketed cornices. Unfortunately, the corner store has had its cornice removed. On the east side of the square, John Long and Company, Bankers, occupied the south half of another three-story Italianate brick block at 304-306 West Fifth. Other Italianates are found on the north side of South Main east of Fifth. These two buildings match in style and size and were probably both used as a hotel. They exhibit the characteristic eyebrow windows but do not have the projecting cornice. Across the street is a representative of a slightly later, but even more gaudy style, the Gothic. Jacob Hunt's 1878 livery certainly was intended to belie the concept that a stable was just a barn. This exotic building appears to be more a house of pleasure than a manure production area.

Very different from the livery, but just as flamboyant, was the Kergher Block across Fifth just west of the middle of the square. It relied on cast iron for its ornament in the part occupied by Conrad Kergher, the owner/builder, and was more restrained in the west half. Perhaps Kergher, who had two businesses--furniture and undertaking--intended the more dignified store for undertak-All the cast iron is gone, as are the broken scrolled pediment cornice, the eyebrow window heads, and the scrolled top of the store front.

The 1877 Carrollton Bank just west of the alley on the north side of the square is another example of the bold styles in vogue. It also has been decapitated, but it retains much of its original decorative flavor, a flavor achieved through strong relief in the brickwork and some use of cast iron. A windowless floor was added after 1900 which detracts from the building's charm.

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The brash and fanciful styles gave way in the later part of the century to a variety of more restrained buildings characterized by simpler windows and less bold, but still definitive, cornices. These are found all around the square. The Carrollton Machine Shop and Foundry was producing iron building fronts and decorations by 1877 in response to the demand for applied decoration for commercial buildings. The 1886 dry goods block on the southeast corner of North Main and Fifth is a good example of this kind of building. It has a prominent, yet not dominating, applied cornice broken by a projecting gable. The windows provide the greatest degree of decoration through the use of shallow arches, a broken water table, and a symmetrical mix of single, double, and triple rectangular windows within the openings. The effect is visually interesting, yet remains dignified. This restrained use of cornice windows and height is found all around the square.

Another prominent example is the Hartman Ford building on the south side of the square. Here the very "proper" effect is quite apparent even though modified by the signage and first floor alterations. Isolated examples of the more imaginative building styles from this period exist in the District. On the north side of North Main, third building east of Fifth, is a rather two dimensional Second Empire. A later building is the 1889 Yates and Walker Grocery built by David Pierson. This building has an ornate cast-iron front with a projecting bracketed cornice and paired columns flanking the windows in a manner indicative of Beaux-Arts Classicism.

During this period and at the turn of the century, some interesting variations began to appear in areas where vacancies showed up in the district. Slightly jarring in effect is an artificial stone building on the south side of the square in the middle of the west block. Not only is the texture different, but the jagged roofline with three small gables separated by crenelles is a unique element to the square. Only one other artificial stone building appears in the district and that is east along North Main on the south side of the street just to the west of the post office. It is one-story and its sole decoration is the use of smooth blocks at the corners to form quoins.

The dominant fin de siecle building was the 1891-2 Richardsonian Romanesque courthouse. It is symbolic in its style, size, and cost of the optimistic mood of the mature square. Progress had continued, with ups and downs, since 1821 and was expected to continue. The square at this point had reached a full maturity. But the seeds of its decline were in the air with the coming of the automobile. The building was designed by Henry Elliot of Jacksonville and built by F.W. Menke of Quincy. It is two stories and of white Berea sandstone from Cleveland, Ohio. Originally it had a red slate shingle roof with galvanized cornice and cresting. The interior still has much of the original ornate decoration and woodwork.

After the turn of the century a number of one-story brick buildings were constructed with some embellishment of their cornices. But the truly outstanding buildings were the Library and the Greene County National Bank , sitting prominently on the southeast and northwest corners of the square. The Library was finished in 1902 and was a departure from the standard on the square in a number of ways. It was placed centrally on two lots well back from the street. Done in Georgian Revival style, its dominant entry, hipped roof, classic cornice, raised foundation, and fenestration all are in stark contrast to the flat roofed commercial buildings built around the square in the last half of the nineteenth century. The Bank building is not nearly so jarring. It achieved, in 1905, a modern look through the use of colored brick and concrete, but its placement, massing, and

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decoration allowed it to be distinctive without clashing even when viewed in juxtaposition to its much earlier neighbors, its 1859 predecessor and the Hodges House.

STABILITY: By 1916 most of the spaces on the square had been filled with substantial buildings that were in good condition and most of the new growth was directed along the highways, although the District includes the site of an early gas station on the southeast corner and immediately to its east an extant tile auto dealership and garage. This plain utilitarian building next to the fanciful Hunt Livery provides an interesting contrast.

The few buildings built in the District in the period from 1916 to 1935 are uninteresting except for the Post Office which is on the east edge of the District on the south side of North Main a block east of Fifth. Built in 1932, it reflects a style of architecture common to government buildings of the time. The hipped roof, fan lighted entry and windows, and the concrete pilasters and exposed beams are all typical of this form.

The District's buildings have changed very little since 1935 except for the loss of decorative elements like cornices (often lost due to lack of maintenance), changing trends in storefronts, signage and a few false fronts. The few buildings lost have been mainly replaced by low concrete block structures, offensive mainly because of their signage. But even with these changes, the District retains the character of an early, evolved central business district courthouse square.

NOTES

- 1. History of Greene and Jersey Counties, Illinois (Springfield, Ill.: Continental Historical Co., 1885), p. 567.
- 2. Edward Price, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," Geographical Review (Jan. 1968): 28-60.
- 3. Ibid, p. 44-51.
- 4. Ibid, p. 53.
- 5. Carrollton Business and Professional Women's Club, Carrollton 1818 Illinois 1968: An Album of Yesterday and Today (Carrollton, Ill.: 1968), p.4.
- 6. History of Greene and Jersey, p. 1028.
- 7. "Hodges House," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form.
- 8. Carrollton Gazette, 7 July 1847, p. 4.

9. Majo	or Bibliog	<u> </u>	I Refer	ences		
Business and reprinted by	Professional Eileen Smith	Women's Club; Cunningham, 1	The Patrio 976; Histor	t Souvenir y of Greene	red by the Carroll Edition: Carrollto e and Jersey Countine Notes, Section #	n, Illinois es, Illinoi
10. Ge	ographic	al Data				
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11. Fo	m Prepa	red By				
name/title	Peter and Ma	ry Rathbun				
organization	RATHBUN ASSO	CIATES		date	January 17, 1985	
street & number	1529 South P	ark Avenue		telephone	217 787-7205	
city or town	Springfield			state	Illinois	
12. Sta	ite Histo	ric Pres	ervatio	n Offic	er Certifica	tion
The evaluated si	gnificance of this p	roperty within the	state is:			
	national	≥ state	local			
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title Deputy 2	3. H. P. O	•	·		date 3/2/	85
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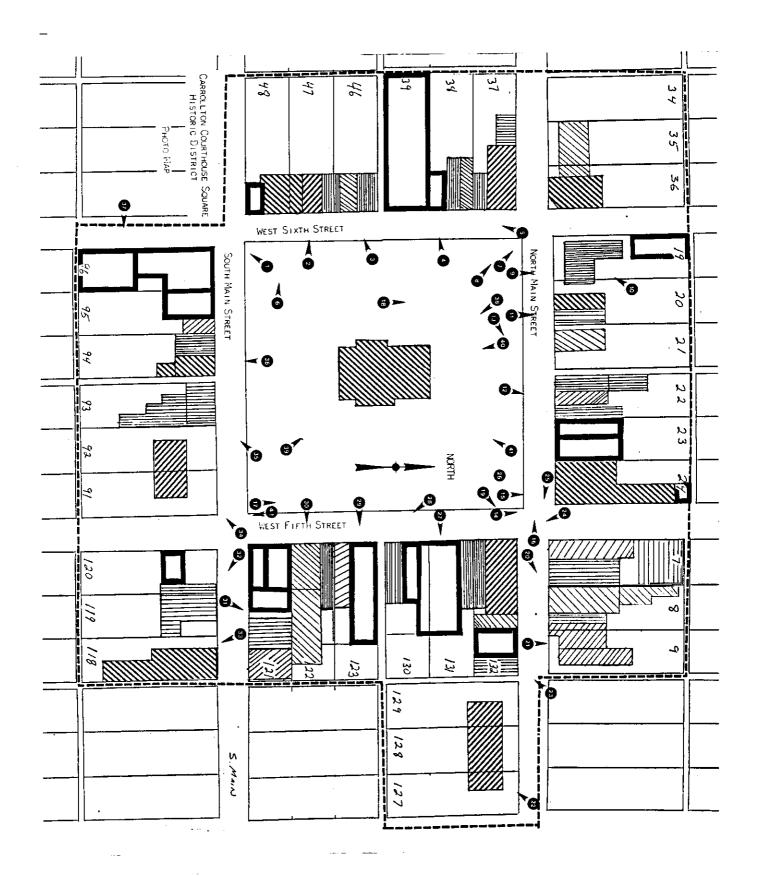
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THE CARROLLTON COURTHOUSE SOUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT is composed of those properties within the following boundries:

Beginning at the northwest corner of lot 34 in the town of Carrollton, county of Greene, state of Illinois, along a line to the east along the east—west alley parallel to and directly north of North Main Street to the northeast corner of lot 9, from this point south along the east property line to a point in the center of North Main Street, then turning east one—half block to the center of West Fourth Street, then turning south one half block to the alley running east west between North and South Main Streets, following this alley west for one—half block then turning south on the alley running north—south between West Fifth and West Fourth Streets, then following this alley south one—half block south to South Main Street and continuing south one—half block more to the southeast corner of lot 118, then running west from this point along the alley to a point in the center of West Sixth Street, continuing north to the centerpoint of intersection between South Main Street and West Sixth Street, from there one—half block to the intersection of the alley between West Sixth Street and West Seventh Street and the centerline of South Main Street, from this point running north to the northwest corner of lot 34, thus closing the line.





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

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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 July 29, 1985 and ending August 3, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

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

CALIFORNIA, Calaveras County, Angels Camp, Calaveras County Bank, 1239 Main St. (08/01/85) CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles County, Pasadena, Odd Fellows Temple, 175 N. Los Robles Ave. (08/01/85)

GEORGIA, Franklin County, Canon, Canon Commercial Historic District, Depot St. between Bond Ave. & Broad St. (08/01/85)

GEORGIA, Franklin County, Canon, Historic Churches of Canon Historic District, Broad St. at Canon Ave. (08/01/85)

GEORGIA, Hall County, Gainesville, Jackson Building, 112 Washington St. NE (08/01/85)

ILLINOIS, Greene County, Carrollton, Carrollton Courthouse Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by S. Main, W. Fifth, N. Main and W. Sixth Sts. (08/01/85)

KENTUCKY, Bath County, Owingsville, Owingsville Commercial District and Courthouse Square (Boundary Increase), 122 E. Main St. (08/01/85)

KENTUCKY, Campbell County, Newport, Mansion Hill Historic District (Boundary Increase), Roughly bounded by Washington Ave., Sixth, Saratoga and 3rd Sts. (08/01/85)

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Cowan Mill, Island Mill St. (08/01/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Pearl River County, Tiger Hammock Site 22 PR 594 (08/01/85)

NEBRASKA, Dodge County, Uehling vicinity, Uehling, Frank, Barn, Off U.S. 77 (08/01/85) NEBRASKA, Hamilton County, Aurora, Hamilton County Courthouse, Courthouse Square (07/29/85)

NEW MEXICO, Dona Ana County, Las Cruces, Mesquite Street Original Townsite Historic District, Roughly bounded by E. Texas, Campo, Tornillo and E. Court (08/01/85)

NORTH CAROLINA, Ashe County, Tuckerdale vicinity, Tucker, John W., House, SR 1353 (07/29/85)
NORTH CAROLINA, Hertford County, Winton, Brown, C. S., School Auditorium, Off NC 45 (07/29/85)
NORTH CAROLINA, Hyde County, Rose Bay vicinity, Credle, George V., House and Cemetery, US 264 (07/29/85)

NORTH CAROLINA, Rowan County, Salisbury, North Main Street Historic District, Roughly bounded by N. Main, 17th, Lee and Lafayette Sts. (07/29/85)

NORTH CAROLINA, Wake County, Raleigh, Boylan Heights (Early Twentieth Century Raleigh Neighborhoods TR), Roughly bounded by Norfolk & Southern RR, Mountford, Martin and Florence Sts. and Dorothea Dr. (07/29/85)