



## **CHAPTER 2: Historical Setting**

The Alexandria Monroe Township Historical Society was started in 1979 by John and Marsha Madden, Max and Nancy Draper, Curt and Rosemary Ellis, Jim Donahue and John Noffze. John Madden was the first president. The Historical Society is located at 313 North Harrison. The museum contains a great collection of articles and have displays including Aladdin Lamps, and memorabilia from Lippincott Glass, Kelly Axe and the Union Traction Co. It also includes a large library with many research books from other states.

### **HISTORY**

Alexandria was laid out in June 1836 by Ninevah Barry, Madison County surveyor. It was named for Alexander the Great. Speculators and investors bought lots for as much as \$50 with the hope that the town would grow quickly when the Indiana Central Canal went through town as plotted. The canal program in Indiana failed, however, and the speculators' dreams of wealth died. Alexandria was incorporated as a town in 1876 and as a city in 1893. Town growth again increased as two railroads, the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan and the Lafayette, Muncie & Bloomington, were completed through Alexandria in 1876.

Alexandria again experienced a growth period as Madison County entered the gas boom era. The first gas well in Madison County was located in Alexandria. Gas was discovered on March 27, 1887 in Well No. 1 of the Alexandria Mining and Exploring Company. In 1880, Alexandria's population was 488, but it had grown to 5,300 by 1892. After the discovery of gas, factories began to locate in Alexandria. Local landowners lured manufacturers with promises of free lots and free fuel to reputable industries. The town was a good manufacturing location not only because of the abundance of gas, but because of the underlying layers of quality limestone.

Among the industries that located in town during this period were the Alexandria Window Glass Company and the DePauw Plate Glass Company. DePauw Plate Glass Works (now know as the American Plate Glass Company) moved from New Albany, Indiana to Alexandria which was in the center of the gas region. The DePauw Plate Glass Division was located north of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad and West Washington Street Road one block west of the Mud Creek Bridge. Its Window Glass Works lay on the east side of town between Third

Street and Lake Erie & Western. Glass industries predominated in Alexandria in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Other factories locating in Alexandria during the gas boom included Lippencott Chimney Works, located between West Washington and the Lake Erie & Western Railroad east of Belmont Street; the Indiana Brick Works, located south of the city; the Keely Ax Manufacturing Company, located north of Alexandria; and Union Steel, which employed 1,600-2,000 people and was located south of the city. Union Steel was one of the largest plants in the world at this time.

The decade of the 1890's was a time of great growth for Alexandria. In 1892, the "Alexandria Record" was established as a newspaper by Moore and Myers for the purpose of "booming that thriving little city." Before this, Joseph Fenimore published a paper in Alexandria called the "Alexandria Bee." The Alexandria Press Weekly and semi-weekly was established in 1893 and later became known as the Daily News. The Gas Belt News was established in 1895.

Also at this time, two banks, the Alexandria Bank and the Commercial Bank, were established. In 1890, an opera house was built at the southeast corner of Harrison and Church Streets.

A comprehensive electrical railway system connecting towns in the gas region was completed in the 1890's. The Union Traction Company interurban furnished transportation to Alexandria beginning in 1893. In fact, the first interurban in the state ran from Anderson to Alexandria.

Alexandria's Public Library was built in 1902. Several commercial structures were also built at this time such as the Neoclassical Perry Block and Davis Block on Harrison Street.

By the second decade of the 1900's, Alexandria and other cities in the gas region experienced the disastrous failure of natural gas. It was not until the late 1920's that Alexandria's economy began to make a slow comeback. Alexandria's great glass industry finally faded out in 1952.\*

*\*excerpt from the Madison County Interim Report*

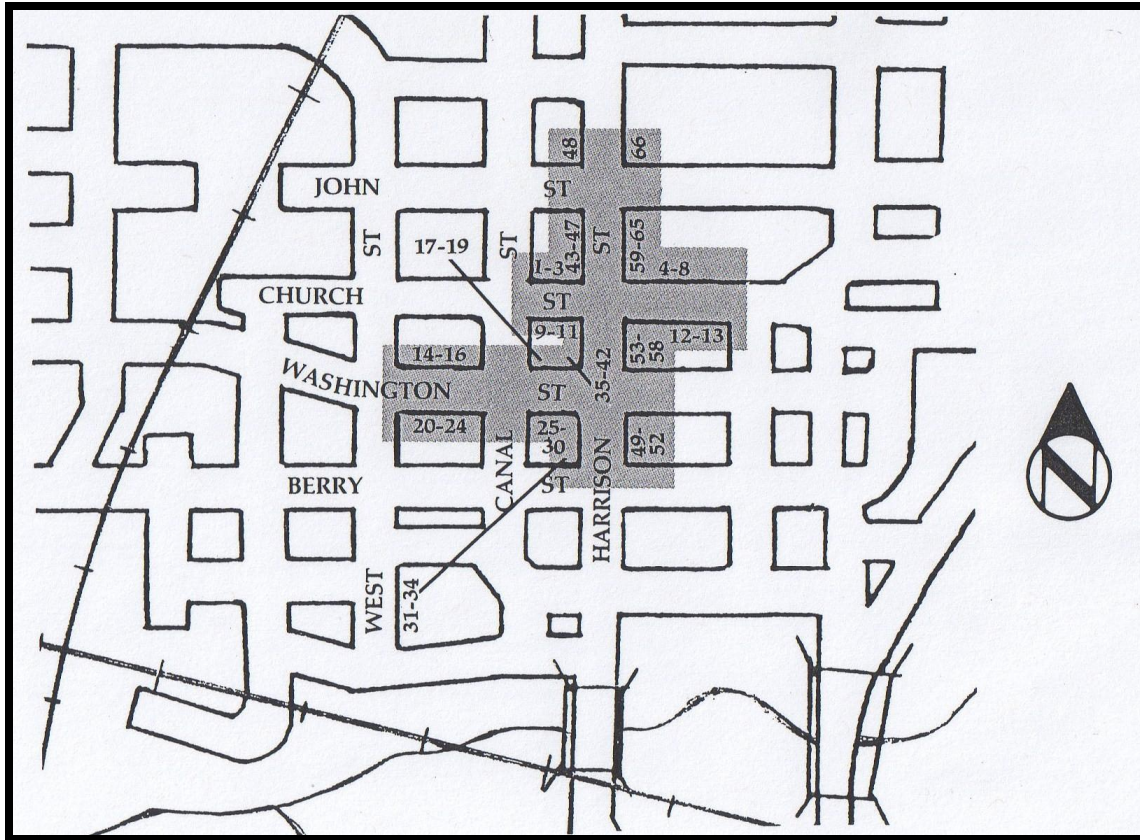
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC SITES

We reviewed the State Historic Sites and Structures listings and the National Register of Historic Places listings from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Internet site to identify structures listed within the Planning Area. We also reviewed the Interim Report of Historic Sites and Structures for Madison County to identify potentially historic sites located in the Planning Area. Several sites located within Alexandria are identified in the Interim Report. A map and a listing of the individual sites of the Historic District described in the Interim Report are shown in can be seen in **Table 1**. A map and a listing of the individual sites of the scattered sites described in the Interim Report can be seen in **Table 2**.

### *Alexandria Historic District*



*Downtown Alexandria circa 1909*



**Table 1**

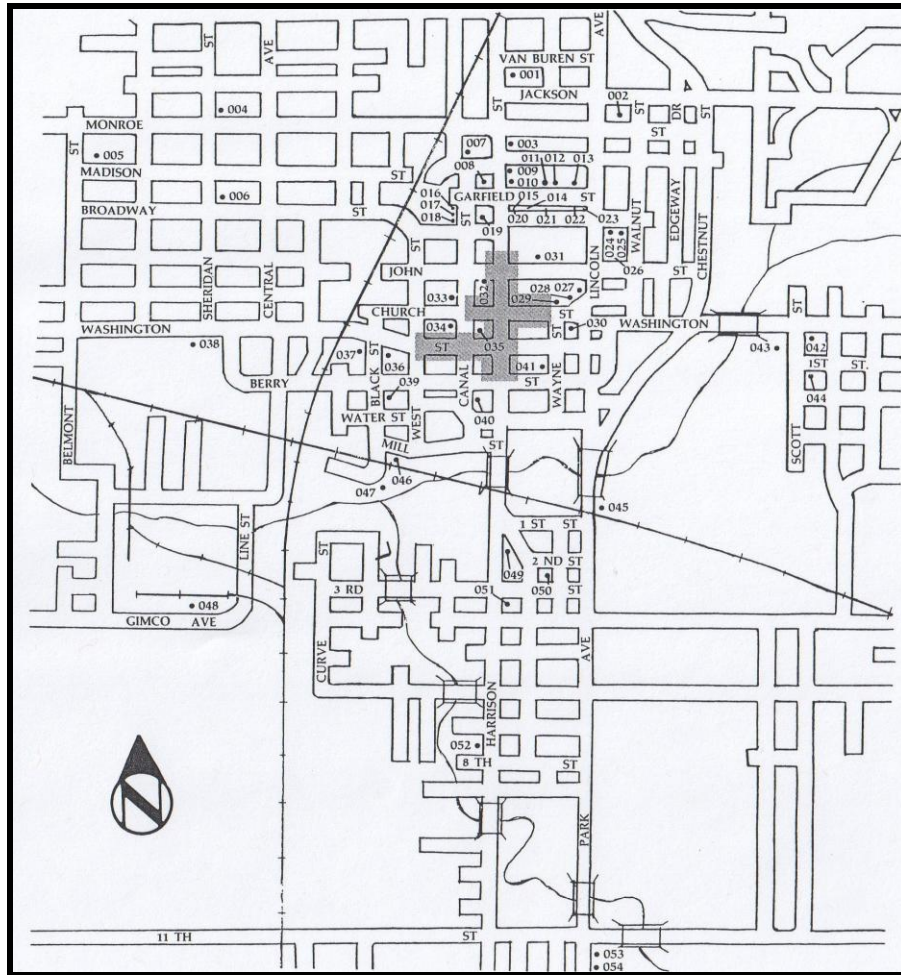
Number	Rating	Description	Location	Architectural Style	Date Built	Historic Significance
1	C	Commercial Building	W. Church St.	Italianate	c. 1900	Historic District
2	C	Commercial Building	W. Church St.	Italianate	c. 1900	Historic District
3	C	IOOF Building	W. Church St.	Romanesque Revival	c. 1890	Historic District
4	R	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
5	R	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
6	R	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
7	C	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1910	Historic District
8	NC	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1920	Historic District
9	R	Commercial Building	W. Church St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1910	Historic District
10	R	Commercial Building	W. Church St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1900	Historic District
11	C	Commercial Building	W. Church St.	Italianate	c. 1890	Historic District
12	R	Commercial Building	E. Church St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
13	N	Public Library	E. Church St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1902	Historic District
14	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
15	R	House	W. Washington St.	Carpenter Builder	c. 1910	Historic District
16	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
17	NC	Parking Lot	W. Washington St.		c. 1900	Historic District
18	NC	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	Modern	c. 1975	Historic District
19	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
20	NC	House	W. Washington St.	Modern	c. 1965	Historic District
21	R	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District



*Alexandria Comprehensive Development Plan July 2009*

22	NC	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	Modern	c. 1970	Historic District
23	NC	Parking Lot	W. Washington St.		c. 1900	Historic District
24	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District
25	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	Italianate	c. 1890	Historic District
26	R	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
27	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
28	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
29	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
30	C	Commercial Building	W. Washington St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
31	NC	Gas Station	S. Harrison St.	Modern	c. 1955	Historic District
32	R	Commercial Building	S. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
33	R	Commercial Building	S. Harrison St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
34	R	Commercial Building	S. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	C. 1890	Historic District
35	N	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Italianate	c. 1890	Historic District
36	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
37	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District
38	R	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
39	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
40	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Italianate	c. 1890	Historic District
41	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Italianate	c. 1890	Historic District
42	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
43	NC	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Modern	c. 1975	Historic District
44	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
45	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District
46	C	Perry Block	N. Harrison St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1902	Historic District
47	C	Davis Block	N. Harrison St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1902	Historic District
48	R	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1895	Historic District
49	R	House	S. Harrison St.	Queen Anne	c. 1900	Historic District
50	C	Knights of Pythias Hall	S. Harrison St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1902	Historic District
51	C	Commercial Building	S. Harrison St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District
52	NC	Bank	S. Harrison St.	Modern	c. 1970	Historic District
53	NC	Bank	N. Harrison St.	Modern	c. 1980	Historic District
54	NC	Bank	N. Harrison St.	Neo-Georgian	c. 1960	Historic District
55	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
56	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1890	Historic District
57	R	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
58	NC	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Indeterminate	c. 1900	Historic District
59	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District
60	R	May Block	N. Harrison St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
61	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1910	Historic District
62	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Historic District
63	C	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1910	Historic District
64	NC	Parking Lot	N. Harrison St.			Historic District
65	NC	Gas Station	N. Harrison St.	Modern	c. 1970	Historic District
66	N	Commercial Building	N. Harrison St.	Romanesque	c. 1890	Historic District

## Alexandria Scattered Sites



**Table 2**

Number	Rating	Description	Location	Architectural Style	Date Built	Historic Significance
1	C	House	E. Van Buren St.	Eastlake	c. 1890	Architecture
2	C	House	E. Monroe St.	Free Classic	c. 1890	Architecture
3	C	Hotel	E. Monroe St.	Neo-Classic	c. 1900	Architecture/Commerce
4	C	House	W. Monroe St.	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
5	N	St. Mary's Catholic School	W. Madison St.	Victorian Gothic	c. 1893	Architecture
6	C	House	W. Broadway	Tudor Gothic Revival	c. 1920	Architecture
7	C	House	W. Madison	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1870	Architecture
8	C	House	N. Harrison	Queen Anne	c. 1895	Architecture
9	N	House	N. Harrison	Free Classic	c. 1895	Architecture
10	N	House	E. Garfield	Colonial Revival	c. 1920	Architecture
11	N	House	E. Garfield	Bungalow	c. 1910	Architecture
12	C	House	E. Garfield	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1880	Architecture
13	C	House	E. Garfield	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1880	Architecture
14	C	House	E. Garfield	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1870	Architecture
15	C	House	N. Harrison	Tudor Revival	c. 1920	Architecture

*Alexandria Comprehensive Development Plan July 2009*

16	C	House	N. Canal	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1900	Architecture
17	C	House	N. Canal	Queen Anne	c. 1890	Architecture
18	N	House	N. Canal	Queen Anne	c. 1895	Architecture
19	O	First M.E. Church	W. Broadway	Late Gothic Revival	c. 1901	Architecture/Religion
20	C	House	E. Broadway	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1870	Architecture
21	C	House	E. Broadway	Dutch Colonial	c. 1900	Architecture
22	C	House	E. Broadway	Shingle	c. 1890	Architecture
23	C	House	E. Broadway	Queen Anne	c. 1890	Architecture
24	C	House	N. Lincoln	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1900	Architecture
25	N	House	E. Broadway	Colonial	c. 1890	Architecture
26	C	House	N. Lincoln	Free Classic	c. 1890	Architecture
27	N	House	N. Lincoln	Free Classic	c. 1900	Architecture
28	N	House	N. Lincoln	Dutch Colonial	c. 1890	Architecture
29	C	House	E. Church	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
30	N	Town Hall	E. Church	Classical Revival	c. 1905	Architecture/Govt
31	C	House	E. John	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
32	C	Commercial Building	W. John	Romanesque	c. 1900	Architecture/Commerce
33	N	First Baptist Church	W. Church	Romanesque	c. 1899	Architecture/Religion
34	N	Post Office	W. Church	Colonial	c. 1935	Architecture/Govt
35	C	Commercial Building	N. Canal	Romanesque	c. 1885	Architecture/Commerce
36	N	Lutheran Church	N. Black	Gothic Revival	c. 1900	Architecture/Religion
37	N	House	S. Black	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
38	C	Industrial Building	W. Washington	Art Deco	c. 1930	Architecture/Commerce
39	C	Apartment Building	W. Berry	Tudor Gothic	c. 1930	Architecture
40	C	House	W. Berry	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
41	N	House	E. Berry	Free Classic	c. 18900	Architecture
42	C	House	E. Washington	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
43	O	Farm	Scott St.	Italianate	c. 1867	Architecture
44	C	House	E. First	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
45	C	House	Park Av.	Queen Anne	c. 1880	Architecture
46	O	House	S. West	Italianate	c. 1870	Architecture
47	N	RR Depot	Black St.	Stick	c. 1800	Architecture/Trans
48	C	Industry	Gimco Av.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1918	Architecture/Commerce
49	O	House	S. Harrison	Italianate	c. 1880	Architecture
50	C	House	S. Clinton	Italianate	c. 1880	Architecture
51	C	House	S. Harrison	Carpenter-Builder	c. 1890	Architecture
52	C	House	S. Harrison	Colonial	c. 1912	Architecture
53	N	House	S. Park	Colonial	c. 1900	Architecture
54	N	Alexander Paper Mill	S. Park	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Functional	c. 1900	Architecture/Commerce

