Trefoil

Architectural Survey of Napoleon, Logan County, North Dakota

Prepared for the State Historical Society of North Dakota

by Richard Rothaus, PhD

with contributions from Thomas Isern, PhD and Aaron Barth, M.A.

25 June 2013

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Project Summary

Level of Work:	Architectural Survey
Principal Investigator:	Dr. Richard M. Rothaus
Other Researchers	Dr. Thomas Isern; Aaron Barth, M.A.; Mike Black; Chris DeMartlelaere.
Survey Dates:	1 March – 15 July 2013
Location (Legal Description):	T135, R72, SE ¼ of the SE ¼, S ½ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼, SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Sec 18.
Survey Area Description:	The survey includes the downtown area, the railroad corridor and housing areas to the south and north of the railroad line in Napoleon, N.D.
Survey Methods	Archival research, visual inspection.
Survey Results:	The survey area included 124 structures. Of these, sixty-nine structures were less than fifty years old and excluded from the architectural inventory. Of the historic structures, seven were determined to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. An additional six structures were identified as having local importance, but insufficient integrity or distinction for National Register eligibility. Most of the downtown buildings have lost their historic integrity or are new constructions. No potential National Register Historic Districts were noted.
Number of Locally Significant Properties	6
Locally Significant Recommendations:	TR6, TR14, TR35, TR39, TR103, TR113
Number of Historic Properties:	55
Number of NRHP eligible properties:	7
Eligibility Recommendations:	Structures TR5, TR8, TR15, TR63, TR84, TR89 and TR91.

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Historic Overview of Napoleon, ND

Geography

The town of Napoleon lies on the border of the Missouri Coteau and the Coteau Slope district and is characterized by ground moraine superimposed on pre-glacial stream topography. The Coteau Slope has stream dissected topography and is characterized by thin drift and mostly integrated drainages that flow westward to the Missouri River. The Missouri Coteau has largely high relief dead-ice moraine topography and is characterized by thick drift, nonintegrated drainages and undrained depressions. Surface sediments in Napoleon are primarily Holocene, and bedrock is primarily Pleistocene. Sediments types include glacial till, river deposited silt and windblown sand (Bluemle, 2000; Clayton, 1962; Lee, 1980).

The glacially derived soils around Napoleon are relatively fertile, and the outwash plain areas are suitable for agriculture. Ground water is present at shallow depths in the sands, sandstone and gravels in the area of Napoleon. Many of the lakes around Napoleon are floored by clay, and they are not fed by groundwater. The town is situated approximately 1 mile west of McKenna Lake. McKenna Lake never figured large in the history of Napoleon, and it periodically went dry, as in 1911 when a roadway was built across it. Evaporation concentrates salt and minerals in the water of these lakes, rendering the water unsuitable for drinking in dry periods. The surface waters are, however, usually suitable for cattle. The abundant small lakes and wetlands make the area prime habitat for seasonal birds and wildlife (Bluemle, 2000; Brunner, 1959; Clayton, 1962; Lee, 1980).

Early History and Native American Occupation

Archaeological and historical sources indicate that the area has been used by the Yankton-Yanktonai, Teton Sioux, and the Mandan people. The Cheyenne were also present in this area during the 18th century. The cultural affiliations of American Indian groups in the region prior to EuroAmerican contact have not been

determined. Archaeological survey in Logan County in 2009 found numerous small lithic scatters in the area around Napoleon (DeMallie, 2001a, 2001b; Moore, Liberty, & Straus, 2001; Rothaus, 2009; Wood & Irwin, 2001)

Regional and Ethnic History

Logan County was created in 1873 by the territorial legislature and is named after General John A. Logan who served with the Union Army and later became an Illinois senator. The county was organized in 1884, and Napoleon has always been the county seat, except for 1898 when the town of King briefly assumed that role. Napoleon was settled in 1884, and by 1886 several railroad surveys through the county were complete. These surveys sparked eastern interest, and settlers from Pennsylvania arrived the same year. As in many such counties, the original settlers and surveyors did not remain long. Permanent settlement in south central North Dakota, including Logan County and the neighboring counties of Emmons, Kidder, LaMoure and McIntosh, was dominated by Black Sea Germans, the *Schwarzmeerdeutshce* (Brunner, 1959; Robinson, Tweton, & Danbom, 1995; Sherman et al., 1986).

Logan County was settled primarily by families from Bessarabia, Glückstal, and Beresan. Settlers in the town of Napoleon had their origins primarily in Glückstal, and Beresan. While early *Schwarzmeerdeutsche* settlers came to North Dakota via South Dakota, by the time Napoleon was settled, increasing numbers were arriving direct from the Old World. The *Schwarzmeerdeutsche* settlements were not limited to areas near railroad lines, and many were willing to travel overland with oxen and wagons. The first *Schwarzmeerdeutsche* settlers in Logan County and Napoleon were Protestants, but by 1905 Catholics from Kutschurgan were also settling there. Napoleon (like nearby Wishek) was a town inhabited almost entirely by German-Russians. In the early 1900s some Ukrainian families came to Napoleon, but left after a year or two for the larger Ukrainian communities in Belfield and Wilton. In the 1910s a small group of Bulgarians from

Bessarabia came to Logan County, some settling in and near Napoleon as renters and laborers (Perry, 1987; Sherman et al., 1986).

Town History (to 1965)

The town of Napoleon is named after Napoleon Goodsill, a businessman from Taylor, Iowa. Goodsill, with his brothers Marshal C. and Arthur B., were living in Steele where they ran a general store. Goodsill returned to Iowa to raise support for a townsite, and became president of the townsite organizing committee. The committee consisted of the Goodsill brothers, J.G. Kroeber (a German immigrant from Iowa), J. R. Gage (a surveyor), W. L. Belden, F. Pursian, E. N. Parker (an attorney) and G. Lightfoot. In 1883, the men built a shack to establish the town location at T135, R72, Sec 15 (about 2 miles east of the current town location). This townsite was named "Gage City," after the surveyor. Goodsill and others promoted the region for wheat production (Brunner, 1959; Unknown, 1978; Wick, 1999).



Figure 1: G. Bryant (Lehr, 1916)

The first two settlers followed shortly after. Samuel Barry, a civil war veteran and his son Lewis, came from Wisconsin via Bismarck in 1884. About the same time, Charles Hoof came from the Red River Valley and settled three miles east of Gage City. Upon a visit to the "city" he learned that Barry and his son were the only residents, and the shack and a barn were the only structures. Gage City failed and the townsite committee made a second effort in T135, R72, Sec 17 (the northeast portion of the current town). The new town location was named "Napoleon." Both Barry and

Hoof appear in newspaper accounts in the late 1890s, indicating they stayed on. Hoof was the first citizen of Napoleon to acquire a camera, and he took the earliest known photos of the town (Brunner, 1959).

The committee built the first structure, a wood frame one and a half story building in spring 1885. The structure was located near the current Napoleon High School (outside the boundaries of the current survey). The structure was purchased in 1886 by George A. Bryant, founder of the *Napoleon Homestead* newspaper, who came to Napoleon from Waterloo, NE after learning about the townsite during a visit to Steele. Bryant moved the structure a few blocks to the corner of Ave. East E and 4th St. E (formerly Grant Ave. and Marion St.) in 1888. Bryant's house was the only structure in Napoleon besides a shack that served as a courthouse. Bryant, his son O.F. Bryant, and W.M. Leonard the postmaster all lived in the house and were the only residents of the town in 1885 (Brunner, 1959; Unknown, 1978; Wick, 1999).

In 1886, one-hundred settlers from Pennsylvania, aptly called the "Pennsylvania Colony" arrived in Napoleon in anticipation of the promised railroad. A crop failure, severe winter, and recognition that the railroad would not arrive anytime soon led to the colony being abandoned within a year. Napoleon did begin to grow, however, aided by a road built in 1886 connecting it to Steele, the closest town with a railroad connection. A school was built in 1886 and a teacher began to teach there in 1887. By 1888 the population of Napoleon was sufficient to support a 4th of July celebration (Brunner, 1959; Unknown, 1978; Wick, 1999).

The position of Napoleon as county seat and viable town was challenged in 1887. The Aberdeen, Bismarck and Northwestern Railroad built a grade through Napoleon, but decided that the sidetrack would not be in Napoleon, but rather T134, R72, Sec 11 (Site 32LO12). Chief Engineer Richards proposed a town to be built there and named "Lowry" after the president of the railroad, Thomas Lowry. T.J. Butler built a store at

that location, but a vote in 1887 retained Napoleon as county seat and the plan for Lowry was abandoned. The Aberdeen, Bismarck and Northwestern Railroad never laid track, and was bought by the Soo Line in 1888. A siding was later built at the location by the Soo Line, however, and called "Peters Siding," after the farm located there. The town of Napoleon continued to grow, and by 1894 the *Napoleon Homestead* was running two columns in German prior to elections (Brunner, 1959; Gjevre, 1995; Schmidt & Vermeer, 2010).

In 1898, Napoleon briefly lost its position as county seat. Napoleon's competitor was the tiny nascent town of King. In the general election of 1898, 105 votes were counted for moving the seat, fifty for keeping it in Napoleon. Allegations were made of illegal voting, but a judge refused to grant an injunction against the removal. Later investigation, however, upheld the allegations, indicating eleven illegal votes for removal, and three against. The court ordered the seat returned to Napoleon. In an 1899 special election, the county seat was again assigned to Napoleon. Two-hundred and eleven individuals voted, making it the largest electoral turnout to that date in the county. Such wrangling over county seats was not uncommon, as being the county seat promised growth and financial gain. In the same period, the seat of Emmons County was moved from Williamsport to Linton by the seizure and transfer of the county records to Linton, despite a court injunction forbidding the removal (Brunner, 1959; Schmidt & Vermeer, 2010; Unknown, 1978).

The Soo Line arrived in Napoleon on 20 September 1898, using the grade built by the Aberdeen, Bismarck and Northwestern over a decade earlier. The arrival of the railroad, while late, secured Napoleon's position as the county seat and largest town in the county. The Soo line positioned Napoleon for growth, by making goods and materials much more easily available. Previously Steele, the closest town with a railroad connection was a two-day journey away. The railroad also made it possible for Napoleon to pursue its ambitions in wheat and livestock production. Construction immediately began on the Woolworth elevator

(which later became the Peavey elevator). The Soo Line also surveyed and laid out lots along the railroad corridor. Sale of such lots was an essential for the Soo Line which, lacking land grants, financed construction through the sale of town lots (Brunner, 1959; Lehr, 1916; Schmidt & Vermeer, 2010; Sperle, 2003).

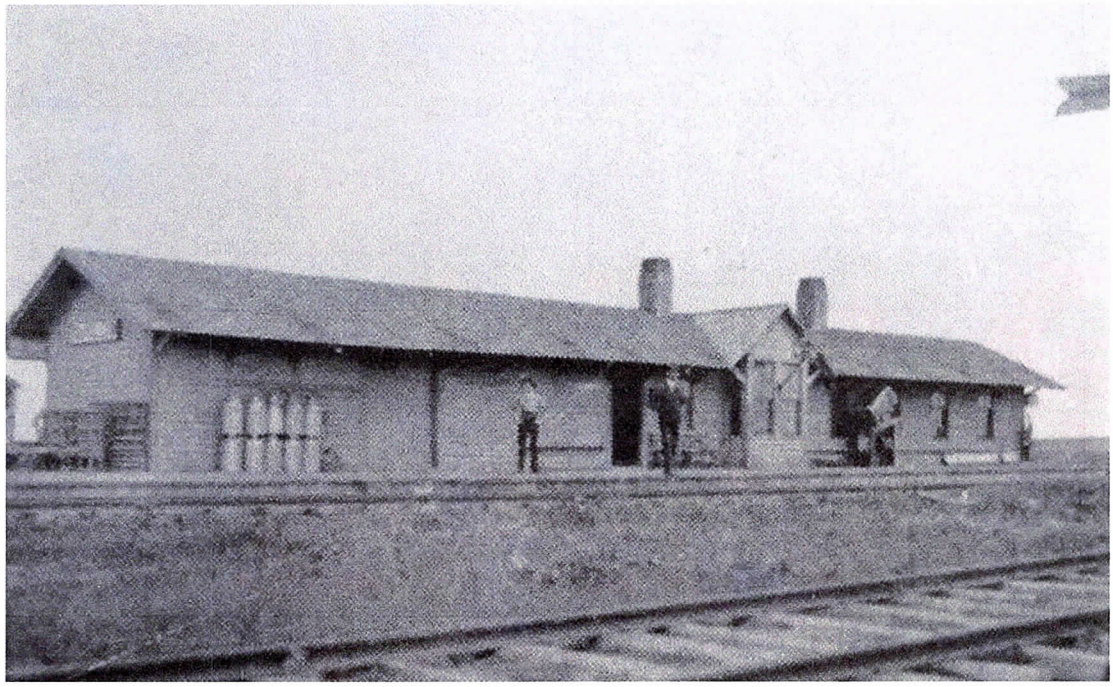


Figure 2: Soo Line Depot (1900s) (Brunner, 1959)

The late arrival of the railroad and the sale of the railroad lots is responsible for the diagonal division of the town along 5th St. W and 3rd St. W. All of the additions west of Broadway (formerly Bath Gate) post-date the arrival of the Soo Line. The downtown of Napoleon (Main Ave), was part of the Soo Railroad addition. The Donahue addition was platted in 1908. In 1914 Napoleon incorporated as a village and in 1916 a plat book for Logan county and the town was produced. The Delaney, Merrick and Sheeler additions were platted between 1898 and 1916. Scheeler and Merrick were active in Napoleon in the years around 1905, and the additions likely date to then. The additions are indicated in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The current street layout of Napoleon is included as Figure 5. Readers should note that after 1916 no additional plat maps were produced for Logan County until 1960 (Brunner, 1959; Lehr, 1916; Wick, 1999).

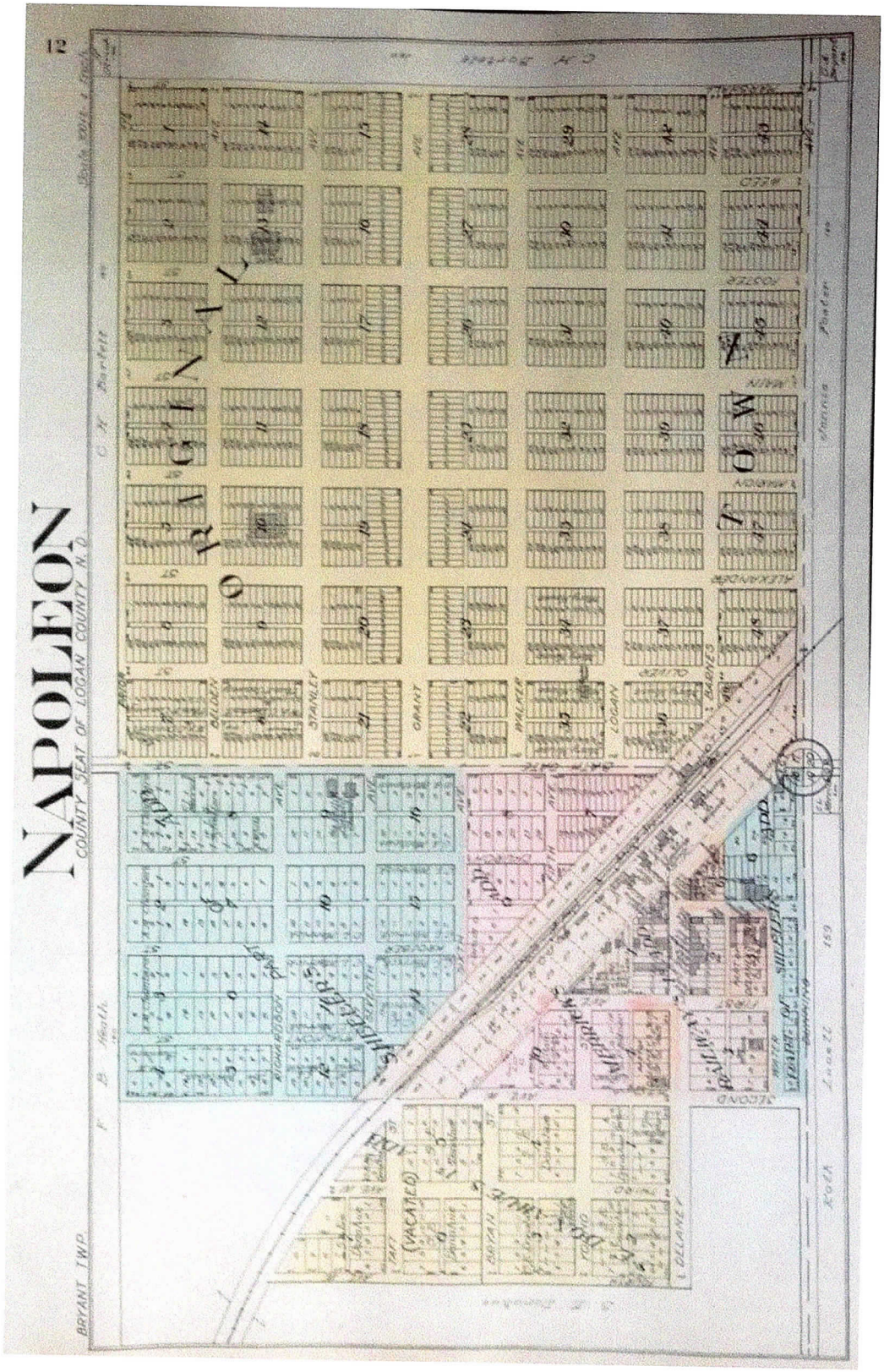


Figure 3: Napoleon 1916 Plat (Lehr, 1916)

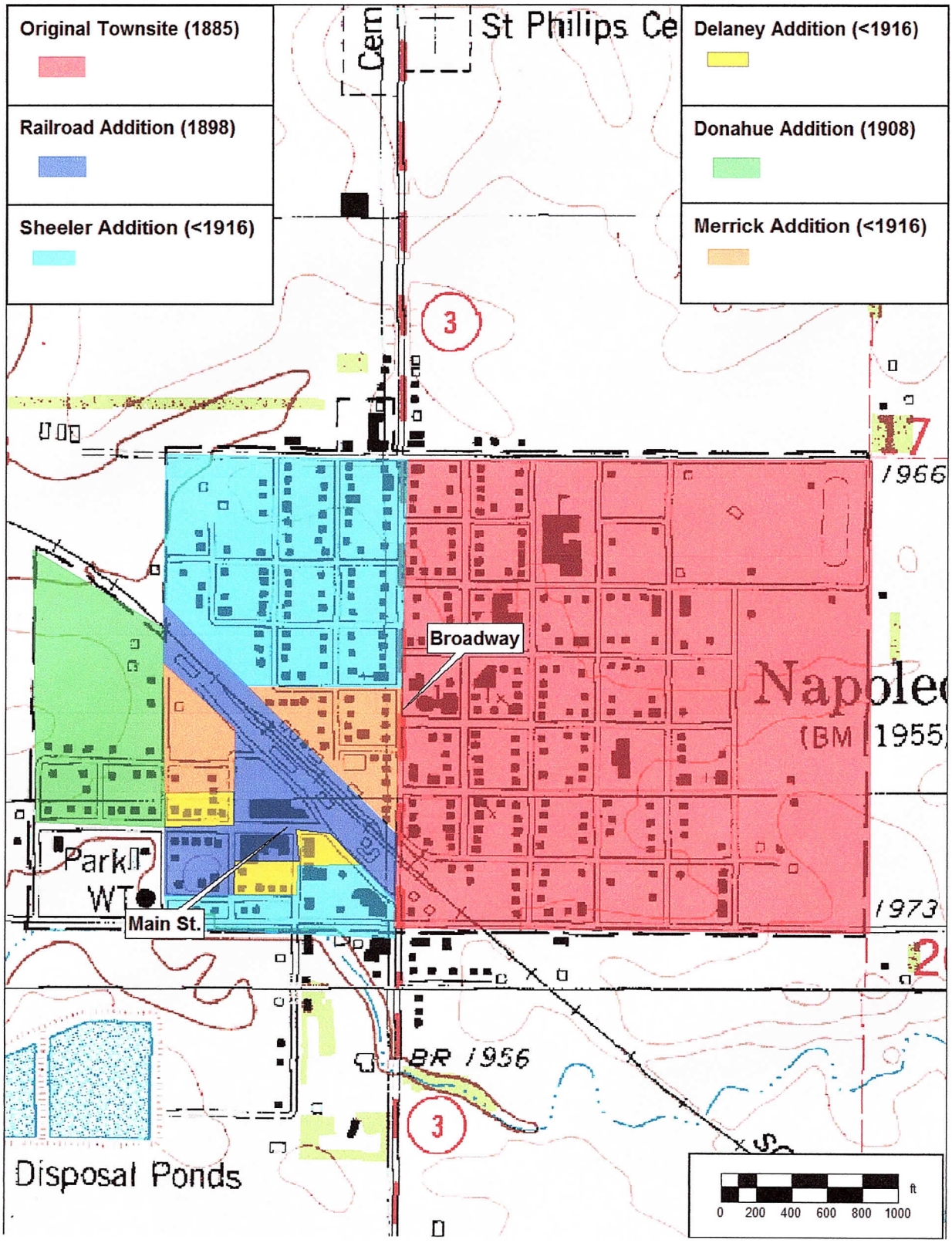


Figure 4: Napoleon Townsite and Additions

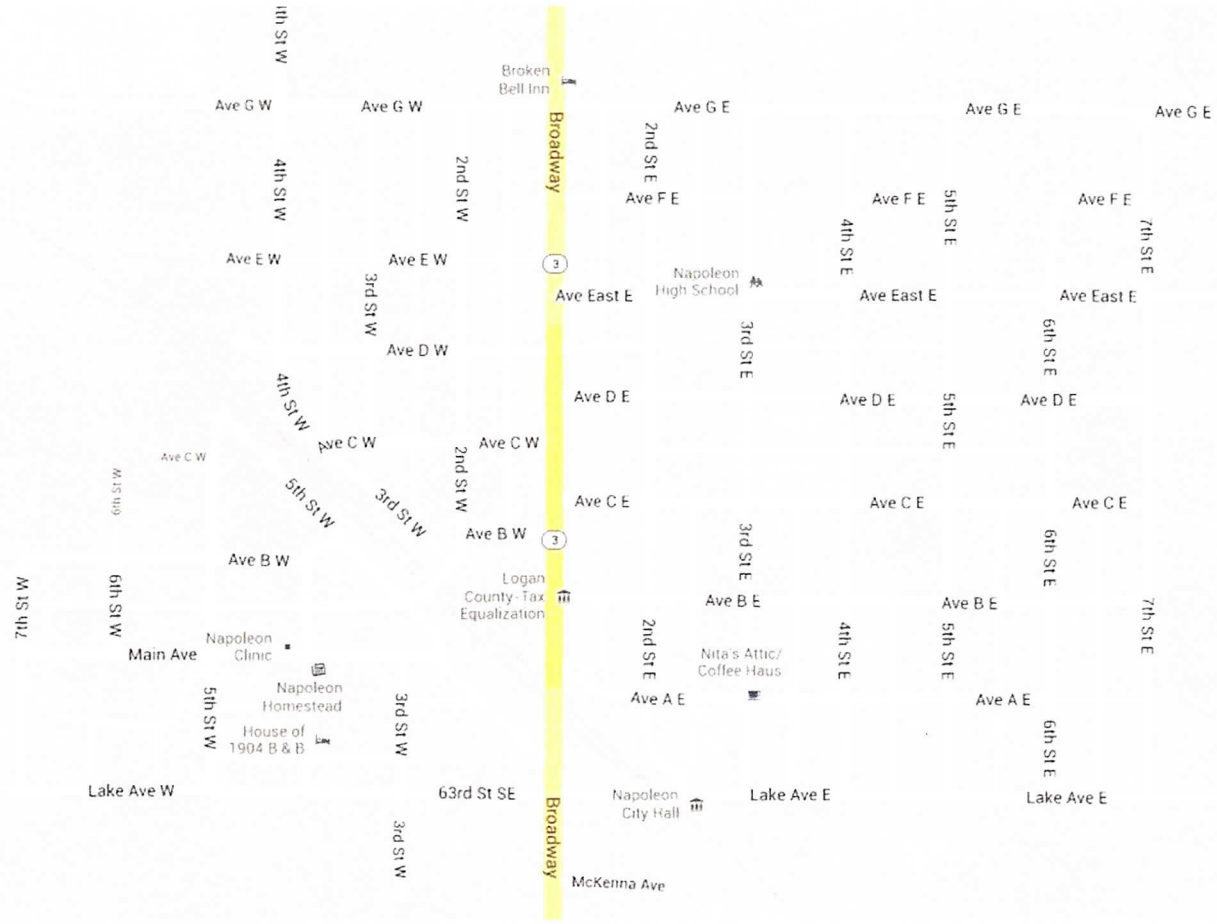


Figure 5: Napoleon Current Street Map (Google Maps)

Napoleon's Downtown

Historic Downtown

The original "downtown" of Napoleon, which was never more than a few structures, was near the current Napoleon High School (Figure 5), and outside of the this project's survey area. That location is currently dominated by residential structures. The southwestern quadrant of Napoleon developed rapidly in the early 1900s, after the arrival of the railroad. Shortly after the Soo line was completed, numerous businesses opened, including the DeLaney & Church machinery and hardware store, and the Stock Grower's Bank. In 1900 the town had two lumber yards, three stores, an elevator, hotel and livery barn, as well as many other businesses. A two-story courthouse was built in 1901. A blacksmith and barber shop opened in 1902, a billiard hall in 1903. In 1905 the *Napoleon Homestead* moved its office from the original part of town to the

area west of the railroad tracks, near the current downtown. 1905 also saw the construction of a second elevator by Scheller and Merrick.

1906 was the boom year in the growth of early Napoleon, and most of the structures were built along Main Street. Merrick expanded his hardware store, a new hardware store and lumber yard opened, and a second bank, Farmers State Bank, was built. A meat market and bakery was built, and the livery expanded (these were at the location of TR39-The Miller Hotel (named the Downtowner since 1999). The Napoleon Creamery was built just south of the city limits, and closed the same year due to a lack of business (it reopened in 1909 and closed again in 1934). The first St. Philip's Neri Catholic church and St. Boniface Church were built that same year, as was a new two story Soo Line Depot. Noddings and Merrick built a third elevator in 1906, and a city telephone system was begun. In 1907 a fourth elevator, the Farmers Elevator Co., was erected. By 1908, over twenty businesses were advertising in the *Napoleon Homestead.* Growth of the downtown continued at a slower pace through the first half of the 1910s. The town incorporated as a village in 1914, after a fire threatened the north side of Main St., emphasizing the need for a fire department (Brunner, 1959).

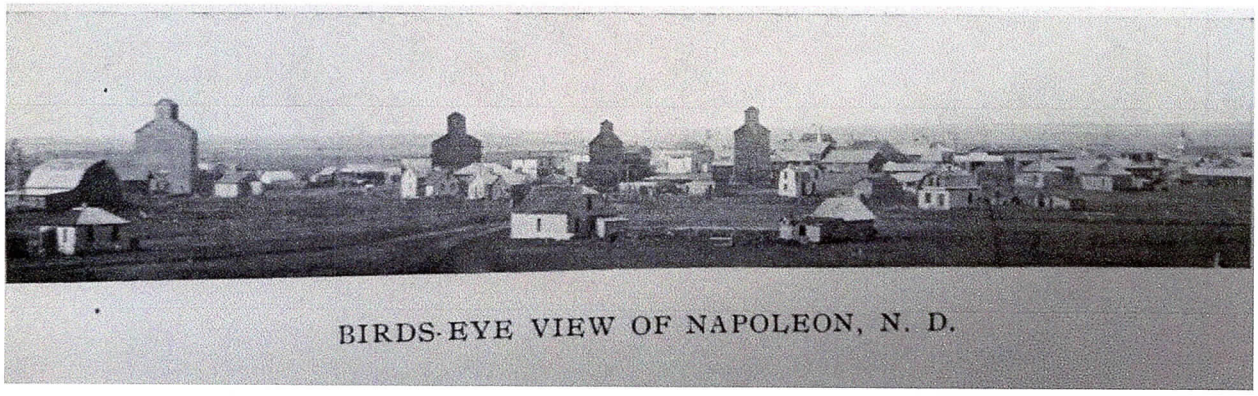


Figure 6: Pre-1916 View of Napoleon (Lehr, 1916)

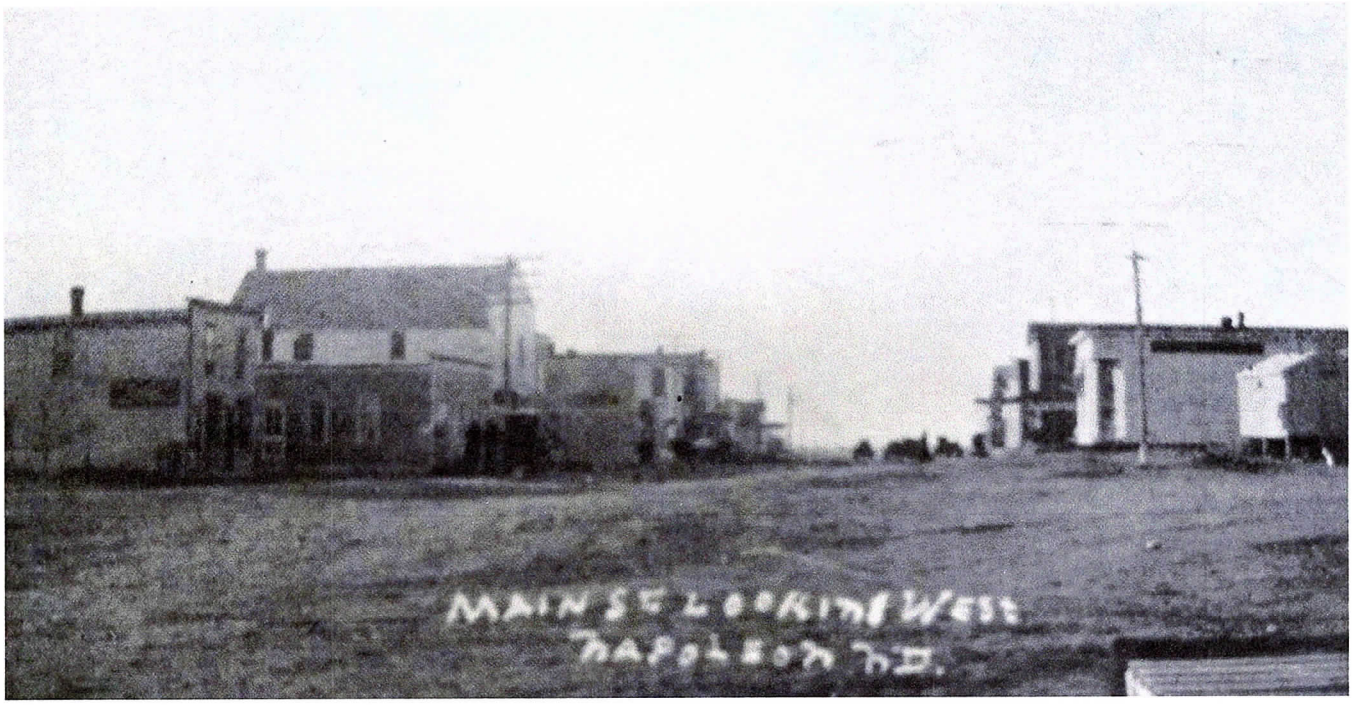


Figure 7: Main Street, Looking West, pre-1916 (Lehr, 1916)

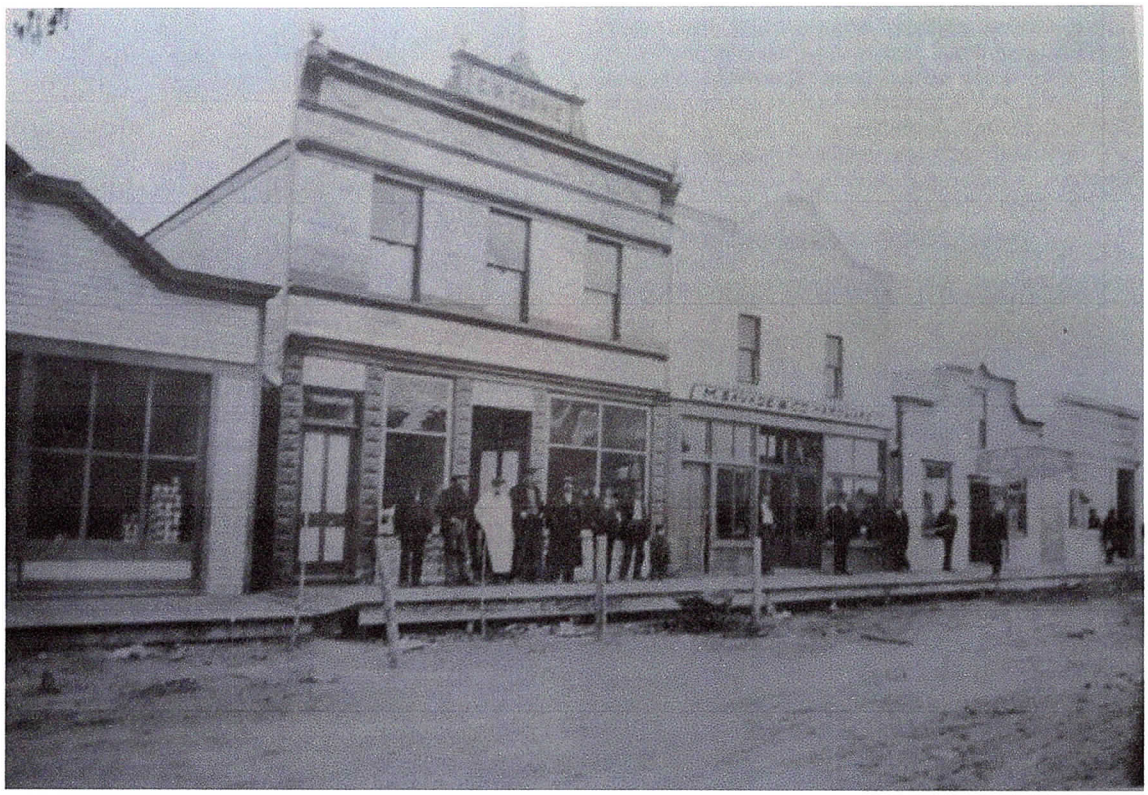


Figure 8: Main Street, 1900s (Centennial Committee, 1984)



Figure 9: Main Street, looking west, *Napoleon Homestead* at far right, 1900s (Brunner, 1959)

The earliest downtown of Napoleon is largely gone, and the only remaining building that is identifiable is the *Napoleon Homestead* office (Figure 9). While a detailed history has not been constructed, the original wood frame buildings did not last. In 1919 the Wentworth Hotel was destroyed by fire, as was the neighboring Kane's restaurant. It stood at the location of the later Miller Hotel (the Downtowner since 1999), construction of which began that year. In 1923, less than fifteen businesses advertised in the *Napoleon Homestead*, an indication that the town was settling down after the 1906 boom. The Miller Hotel began an expansion in 1926, and became a central location for the town. That same year the town decided not to build an auditorium as the hotel would include a large hall, which became a movie theater in 1951. The downtown brick buildings of the 1920s form the core of Napoleon's downtown as it exists today. While most of those buildings have been heavily modified or removed, the Miller Hotel (TR39) and Stock Grower's Bank (TR35) on the north side of Main Street remain recognizable (Brunner, 1959).



Figure 10: Miller Hotel, post-1951, looking northeast (Centennial Committee, 1984)

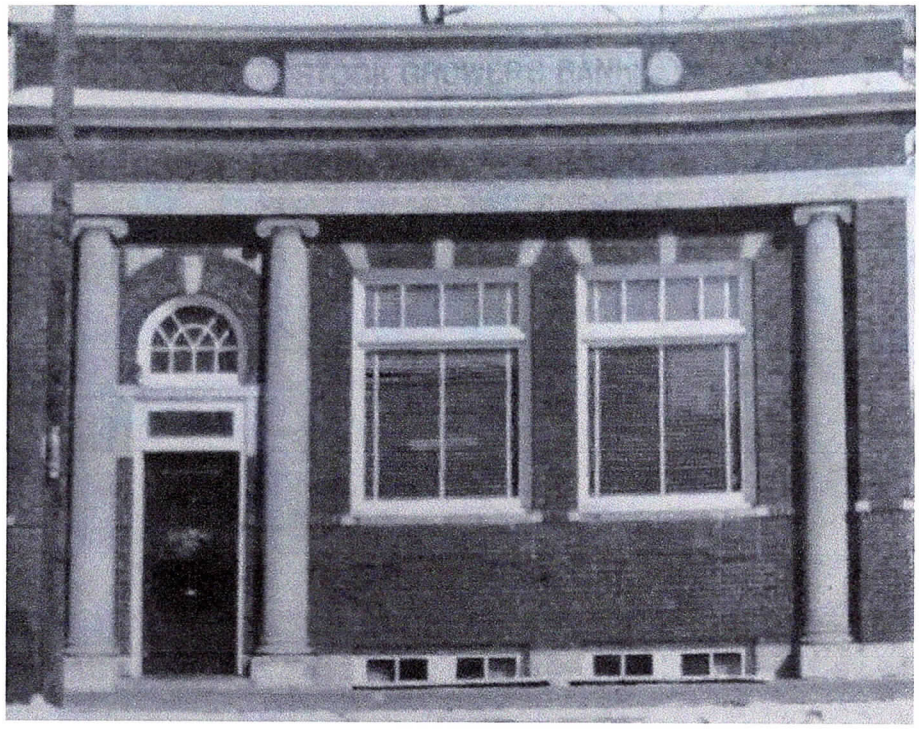


Figure 11: Stock Grower's Bank, c. 1950 (Centennial Committee, 19854)

The town experienced some quick growth in 1939, when eighteen houses were moved to town by farmers who were on the WPA rolls. Many of the commercial buildings of Napoleon had their origins in the 1940s and 50s, although most have since been heavily modified. The Wentz Grocery Store was built in 1941. The Wentz Furniture Store was built on the north side of Main Street (east of the *Napoleon Homestead* office) in 1946, and the Coast to Coast Hardware store was started that same year. In 1947 Wentz Hardware replaced its old frame structure with a new building, and several other new buildings were constructed in 1949. In 1947 Napoleon became a city with John Mitzel elected as the first Mayor. Farmers Union Co built a 75,000 bushel elevator in 1955, and in 1956 Main St. was modified with lights, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and paving. Installation of a sewage system began in 1949 and was completed in 1959 (Brunner, 1959; Wick, 1999).

Downtown Today

Downtown Napoleon today (defined as Main St. from 4th St. W to the railroad tracks) has remnants of its earlier periods, but has largely been rebuilt. Of the seventeen standing structures, eight (48%) are less than fifty years old. Of the other structures, four (23%) date to 1900-1915, four (23%) to 1915-1930, and one (6%) to 1930-1935. The locations and dates of the structures are illustrated in Figure 12.

Of the remaining historic buildings, only two have appearances that strongly evoke the early periods of Napoleon's history: TR39-The Miller Hotel (Figure 13) and TR35-Stock Grower's Bank (Figure 14), both on the north side of Main Street. Neither of these structures has integrity sufficient for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.

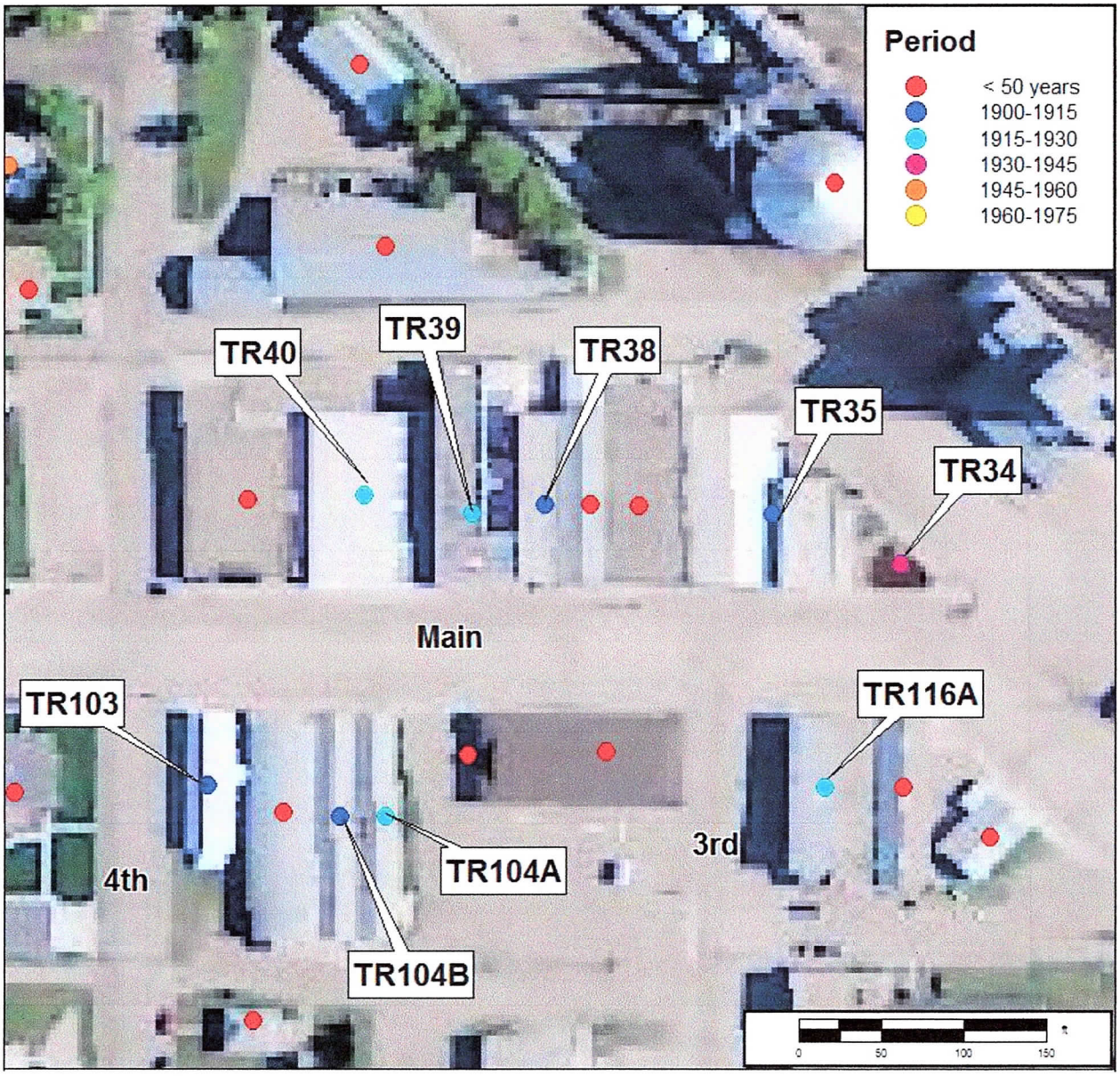


Figure 12: Building Dates, Napoleon Downtown

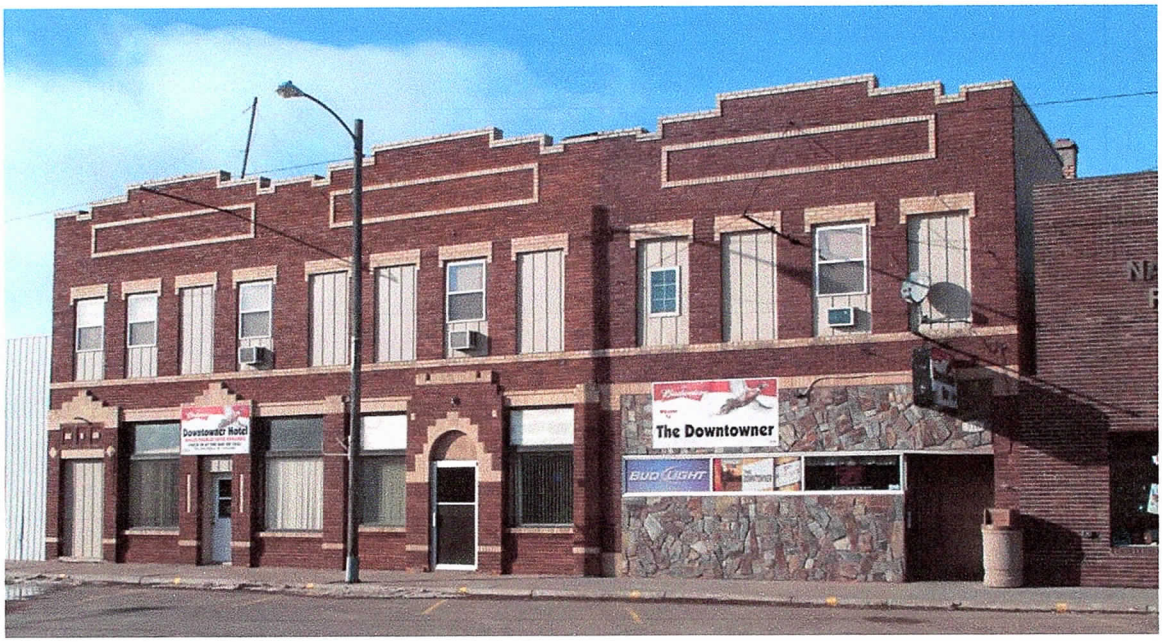


Figure 13: TR39-Miller Hotel



Figure 14: TR35-Stock Grower's Bank

The remaining historic structures of downtown Napoleon have all been heavily modified, with some having been almost completely rebuilt and others, like the *Napoleon Homestead* office, having been sheathed in sheet metal (Figure 15, Figure 16, and Figure 17).



Figure 15: *Napoleon Homestead* Office



Figure 16: M North Side of Main Street, looking northwest (from left TR39, TR38, TR37, TR36, TR35)



Figure 17: South Side of Main Street, looking southwest (from left TR104A, TR104B, TR104C, TR103)

Only half of the structures in downtown Napoleon are more than fifty years old. Of those, only two, the Downtowner and Stock Grower's Bank, maintain partially historic appearances. The other historic structures have original elements, but all have been heavily modified with replacement windows, or in some cases sheet metal sheathing. While some of the structures maintain a Boomtown-style false front, the modifications are so significant they are reminiscent of the historic past, rather than evocative. The feeling of downtown Napoleon is distinctively that of an area where there are remnant historic structures, rather than a preserved historic character. As such, downtown Napoleon has no potential as a National Register Historic District.

The Grain Elevators

As indicated above, Napoleon at one time had four grain elevators. In 1971, Napoleon's elevators (which had been consolidated into the Peavey Elevator and the Farmers Elevator Co) were completely destroyed by fire. The current elevators are new constructions following that fire. In 1985 the Soo Line added an additional track to allow the Peavey elevator to expand. The Peavey Elevator became the South Central Grain Cooperative in 1992. Track was added for the Farmers Union Co. in 1986 (125th Anniversary Committee, 2009; Centennial Committee, 1984; Marquart, 2006)

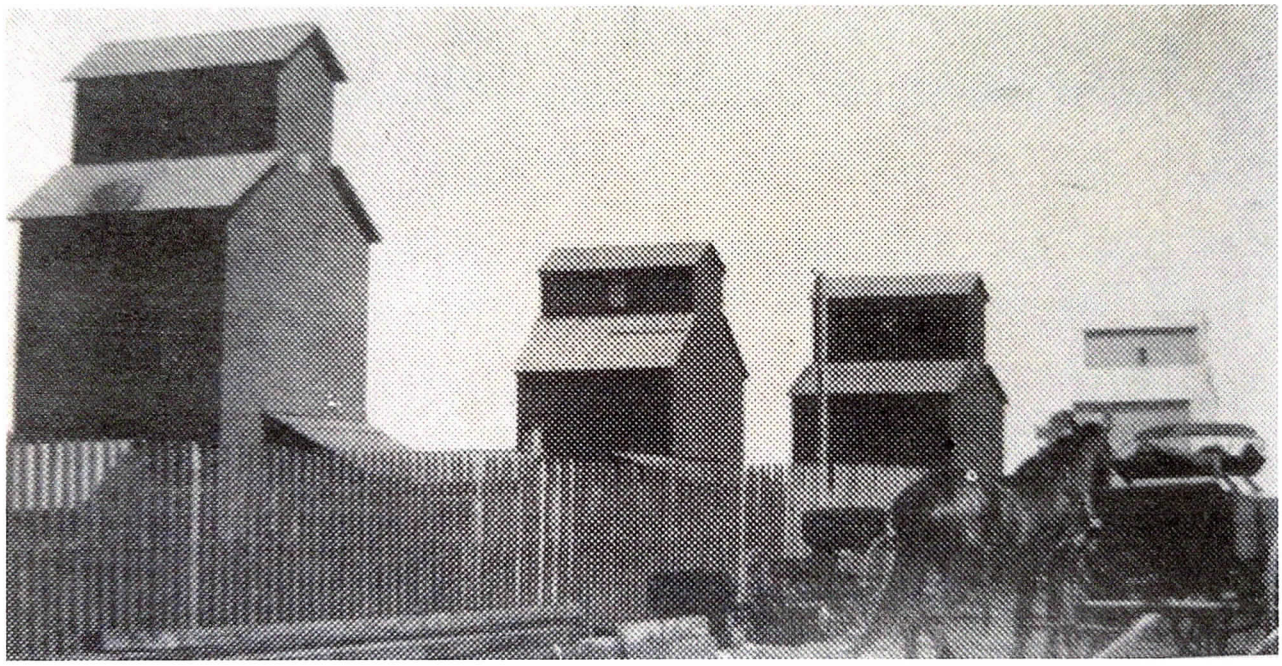


Figure 18: Napoleon Elevators 1900s (Brunner, 1959)

Memoirist Debra Marquardt shared her eyewitness account of the burning of the elevator in her work *The Horizontal Life*:

> The day the grain elevator burned down in my hometown, the people gathered to watch it smolder and explode in blue billows and flames. "What catastrophe," they murmured. All those connections were reduced to ashes. The town felt cut off from the rest of the world.
>
> As the blaze gained strength, the volunteer fireman trained their hoses on the hottest parts of the spire, and circled the elevator. They would not be made to do anything heroic, even though it was their own carefully cultivated grain surrendering itself to the flames.
>
> Perhaps it was a spark, some friction in the dust, or a carelessly discarded cigarette that started the elevator burning, but now it was the very substance of the grain that sustained the original spark, still to be found somewhere in the larger context of the blaze, growing from

yellow to orange to red, roaring up and crackling in a way that the tiny spark couldn't have imagined (Marquart, 2006).

Marquart also described the construction of the new elevator:

> The summer after the grain elevator burned down, it began to rise slowly out of the ashes with the help of young workmen who appeared in the small town as if by magic. . . . Everyday the people of the small town crossed the railroad tracks on their way from the courthouse to the bar or from the church to the store. As they passed the construction site, they stopped to watch the workers move on the girders of the newly emerging structure (Marquart, 2006).

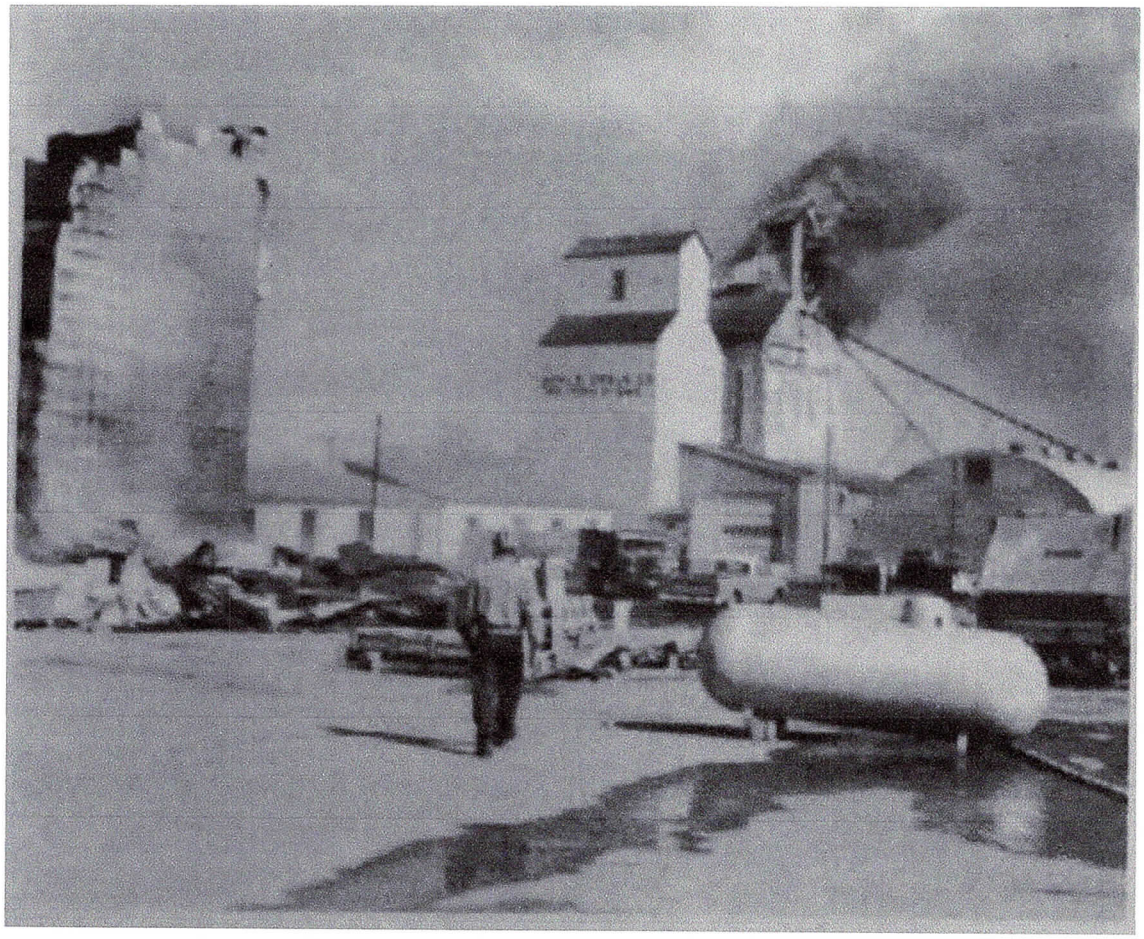


Figure 19: 1971 Elevator Fire (Centennial Committee 1984)

Standing Structures Survey

Description of the Survey Area

The survey area is bounded by 7th St. W on the west, 63rd St. SE on the south, Broadway on the east, and Avenue D W on the north. The survey includes the Railroad Addition, Donahue Addition, Merrick Addition, Delaney Addition and part of the Sheeler Addition (Figure 4). The survey area is located in T135, R72, SE ¼ of the SE ¼, S ½ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼, SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Sec 18. The project survey area is delineated with a USGS 7.5' background in Figure 20, and with an aerial photo background in Figure 21.

Objectives

- Identify historically and architecturally significant properties.
- Evaluate the historic properties for individual eligibility as well as eligibility as contributing sites of a possible historic district.
- Evaluate properties using established criteria.
- Evaluate properties within architectural themes and historic contexts.
- Create an inventory of historic properties that facilitates assignment of registration and treatment priorities.
- Make evaluation results available to the public in a form that enhances and increases community knowledge and appreciation of historical, architectural and cultural resources.

Methods

The methodological approach to complete the inventory, evaluations and analysis of potential for historic district is not complicated. The basic approach was: a)field examination and documentation, b) completion of NDCRS architectural site forms, c)research and write an historic contexts of sufficient breadth to include

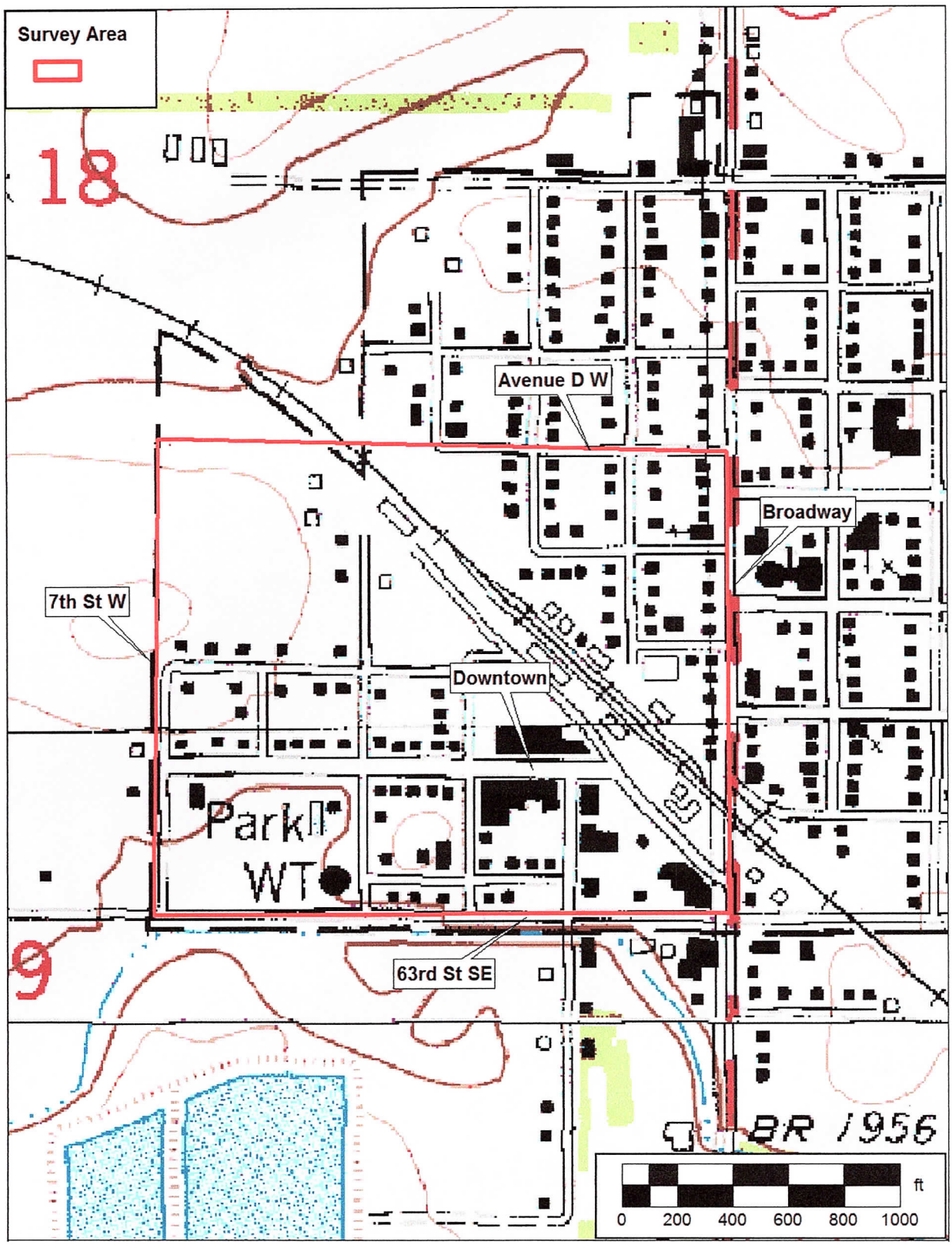


Figure 20: Survey Area, USGS 7.5' Topo

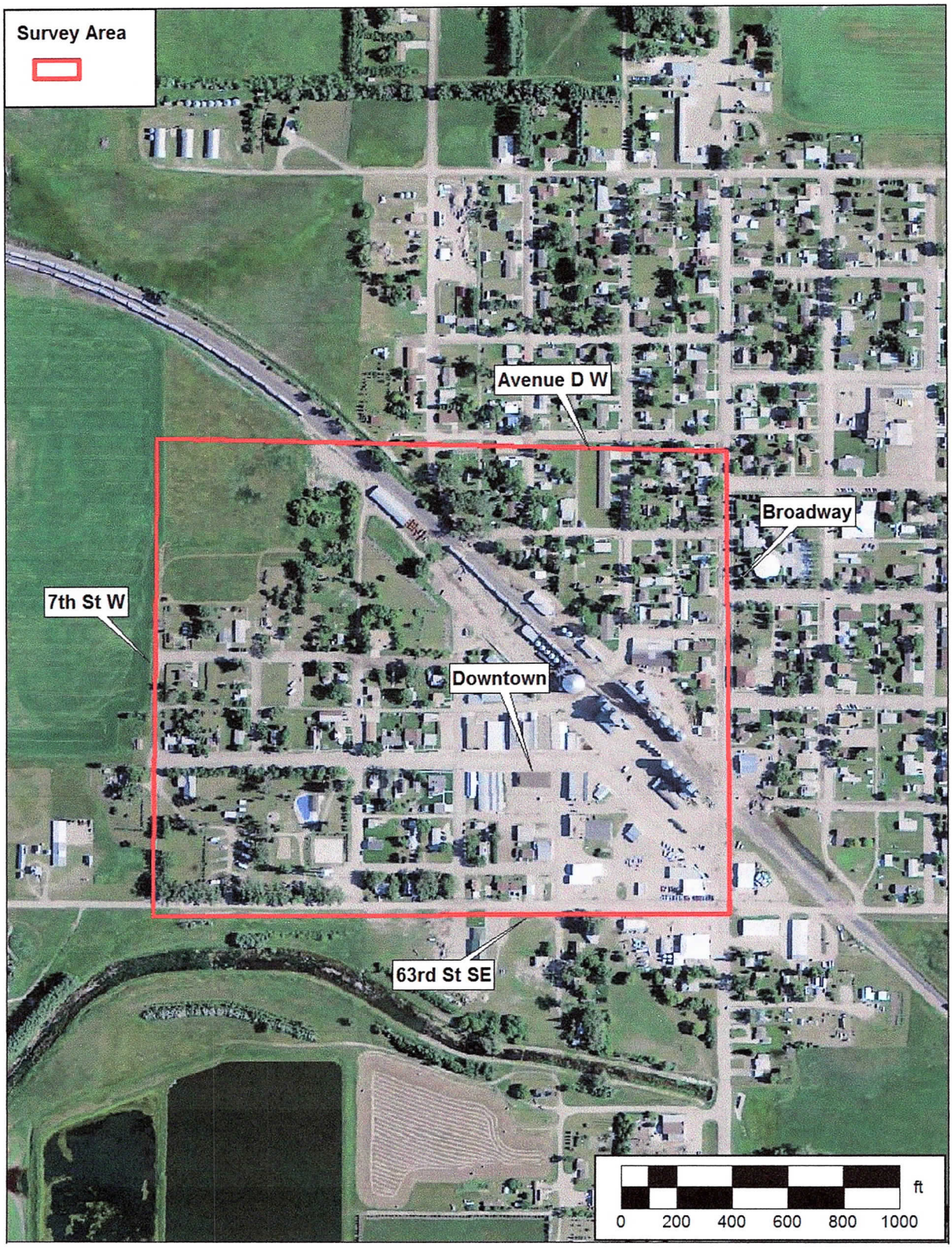


Figure 21: Survey Area, 2010 Aerial Photo

the inventoried structures, d)analyze inventory and contexts for consideration of potential historic district, and e)write a comprehensive survey report with appropriate recommendations.

Fieldwork was conducted by Dr. Richard Rothaus and Dr. Thomas Isern with the assistance of North Dakota State University students Mike Black and Chris DeMartlelaere. Aaron Barth assisted with cataloging.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria

Structures were evaluated using the standard National Register of Historic Places criteria for historic structures (Andrus, 1999). Structures can be found eligible under one or more of four criteria:

- Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B: Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D: Potential to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Structures that meet one or more of the criteria must also demonstrate sufficient integrity. Integrity for buildings generally needs to be demonstrated in several areas, including:

- Location: The structure is in the place where it was constructed.
- Design: The form, plan, space, structure and style of the structure are largely as when it was constructed.
- Setting: The topography, roads and surrounding structures are largely as they were at the time of construction.
- Materials: The original physical elements and building materials are intact.

- Workmanship: The original construction and ornamentation styles are intact.
- Feeling: The surrounding environment, urban character and neighboring buildings are similar enough to convey the feeling of the time when the structure was built and first used.

References

The following works were used as references in describing and analyzing structures (Carley, 1997; Carter & Cromley, 2005; McAlester & McAlester, 2006; Snortland, Perry, McCroskey, Swenson, & Bleier, 2008; Walker, 1998):

Carter, T., and E. C. Cromley. *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: A Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes.* Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2005.

Carley, R. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture.* Henry Holt and Company, 1997.

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

Snortland, J. S., L. M. Perry, et al. *NDCRS Site Form Training Manual: Architectural Sites.* Bismarck, N.D.: SHSND, 2008.

Walker, L. *American Shelter: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Home.* New York: Overlook Press, 1998.

Survey Results

A total of 124 structures were noted in the project area. Of these, sixty-nine structures were less than fifty years old and were excluded from the architectural inventory. Of the structures more than fifty years old, the majority date to the periods 1915-1930 and 1930-1945, with a significant number of 1900-1915 period buildings and a few building from the period 1945-1960 (Figure 22 and Figure 24).

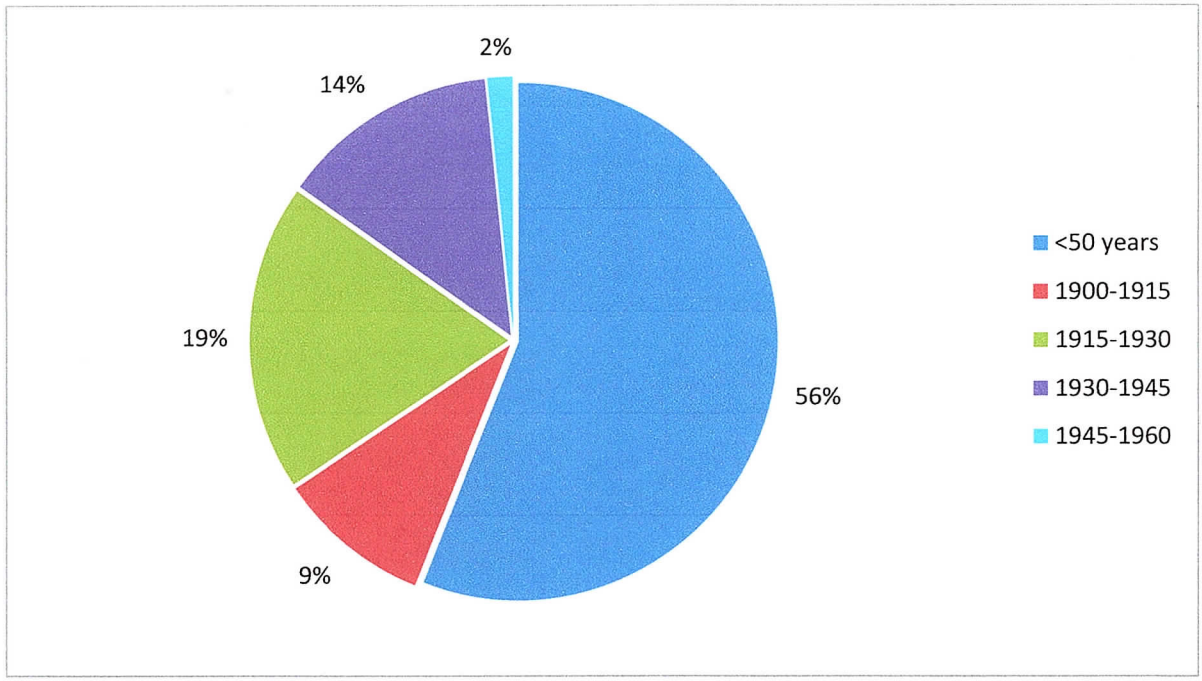


Figure 22: Building Periods

A variety of building styles are represented among the buildings over fifty years old, but Gabled Front (N=9) and Hipped Roof Box (N=9) houses dominate the domestic architectural inventory, with Tudor Revival also notably (N=4). This is fairly typical for rural North Dakota communities. Boomtown/False Front (N=4), Transitional Brick Commercial (N=3) and Utilitarian (N=4) buildings represent the downtown and some other surviving commercial structures. The frequency of building styles is indicated in Figure 23.

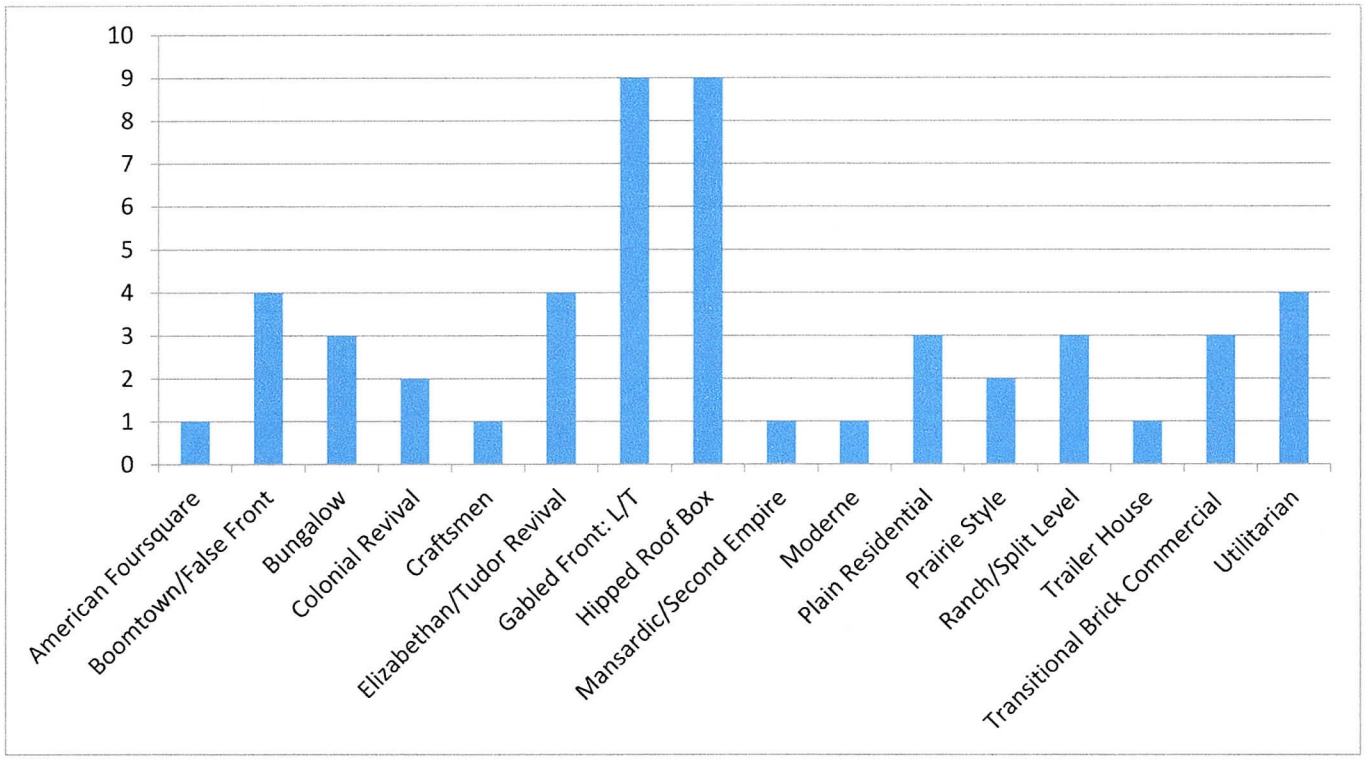


Figure 23: Building Styles

Seven structures were determined to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Figure 25). An additional six structures were identified as having local importance, but insufficient integrity or distinction for National Register eligibility (Figure 38). The majority of the downtown is buildings that have lost their historic integrity or are new constructions. No potential National Register Historic Districts were noted.



Figure 24: Buildings Periods, Aerial Photo Overlay

National Register of Historic Places Eligible Properties

Seven structures were identified as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places: TR5, TR8, TR15, TR63, TR84, TR89 and TR91. One was built between 1900-1915 (TR63), four between 1915-1930 (TR5, TR8, TR15, and TR 91), one between 1930-1945 (TR84), and one between 1945-1960 (TR89). The structures are distributed throughout the project area.



Figure 25: National Register of Historic Places Eligible Buildings

TR5: Grace Methodist Church, 402 Broadway

This church building is currently in use as a residential structure. The building initially housed the Grace Methodist Church until 1959, when it was adopted by the St. Matthews Lutheran Church (Brunner, 1959). The structure likely was built between 1915 and 1930. The building is masonry brick with a steep front gabled roof covered with cedar shingles. There is decorative paneling in the gable. Surrounding the gable roof is a flat roof that dominates the lines of the structure and exhibits the strong Prairie School influence. The face and upper walls are done in a light color facing brick, the lower walls, the rear, and the sides are a darker brick. There is a brick chimney at the rear of the structure, as well as a cellar entrance. The windows are multipane, and stained glass windows are in place on the north and south walls. The entryway is covered by a flat roof supported by two brick columns (again part of the Prairie School). The vertical windows are typical of Prairie School churches, such as First Congregational Church (1908) in Chicago and the Maywood Episcopal Church (1912) in Maywood, IL. The steeple is a post 1959 addition, but it is done in a material and style that matches the original church architecture.

The structure is a very distinctive example of Prairie School architecture applied to a church building. The structure also has high artistic value in its strong application of Prairie School influence to a small-town church structure. Prairie School churches are rare nationally, and thus this Prairie-influenced structure has particular importance (Lathrop, 2003)



Figure 26: TR5, looking northwest



Figure 27: TR5, looking west

TR8: English-Style Period House, 403 2nd St. W

The structure is a wood frame house on a foundation of poured concrete. The structure was likely built between 1915 and 1930. The house has a rectangular massed plan with a ½ width rectangular extension on the north rear and a narrow full façade porch extension on the north front. The exterior wall treatment is original wooden siding. The structure has a side gable normal-pitch roof, aligned N-S, covered with wooden shingles, with very narrow eaves. There is a sweeping asymmetrical flared cross gable (steeply pitched) on the porch addition as is typical for Tudor style houses of the era. There are two cosmetic cross gables in front, three in back, centered over the second story windows.

The original 6/1 double sash windows, including the wooded storm windows, are preserved. There is an asymmetrical flared gable over the front entrance; the front door is centered and framed by an arched entryway with a wooden cap reminiscent of cast stone trim. The entrance includes a poured concrete porch on the south ½ of the front façade. There is a rectangular entranceway to the porch, which has a metal railing. There is an external patterned brick chimney on the south gable wall. The chimney is broad with a flare before it narrows along the second story. The chimney is capped with two chimney pots. A decorative panel with the letter "S" is placed on the center of the chimney. Brick walls run alongside front steps, capped with concrete. A second story door in the back leads to a railed rooftop above a one-story bump out attached to back of house. The bump-out may not be original, but if it is an addition it is early.

The essential physical features for the English style Period House are the façade with asymmetrical gable, arched entryway, external masonry chimney, and clusters of windows. All of these are in the original configuration. The building possesses excellent integrity, more than sufficient for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.



Figure 28: TR8,looking northwest

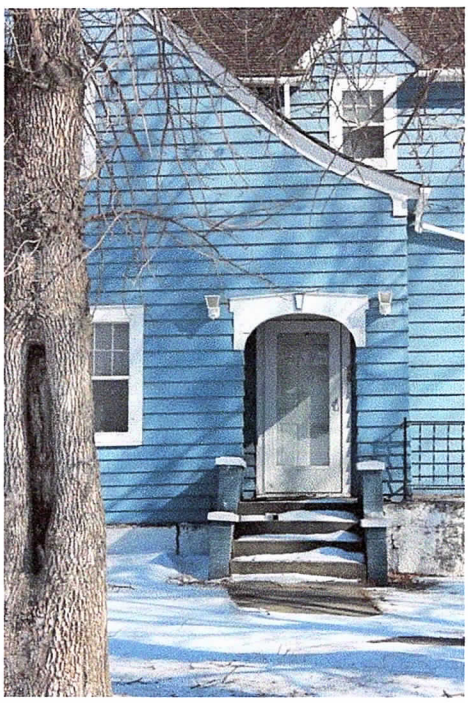


Figure 29: TR8, Door Detail

TR15: Plain Residential Side Gabled House, 416 3rd St. W

This Plain Residential 1.5-story gable residence has a poured concrete foundation, wood frame walls and a stucco exterior. The structure likely was built between 1915 and 1930. The original windows remain intact, and a gable dormer projects out from the center of the east elevation to cover the main entryway. The windows and door have minimal aesthetic ornamentation. The roof has little or no soffit overhang, and it is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a two-car attached garage toward the west end of the house. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The structure has good integrity and possesses the characteristics of a type, period and method of construction.



Figure 30: TR15, looking southwest

TR63: Hipped Roof Bungalow, 314 2nd St. W.

The structure is wood frame on a poured concrete foundation. The structure likely was built between 1900 and 1915. The bungalow has an enclosed front porch and intact original wood siding. The windows have been replaced, but the original wood frames have been left intact. The windows on the front porch are clustered on the south side to catch the winter sun and warm the structure. The front steps are brick, and there is a faux stone veneer over the exposed foundation. There is a small bump out window with a hipped awning and a replacement awning on the west side of the house. There is a bump out porch on the rear that has a hipped roof and two entrance doors at different levels. The west door is an addition to allow access to a wooden porch. The rear porch matches the style of the house and may be original. There is a hipped roof dormer on the front with two narrow horizontal windows. The structure is an excellent example of the hipped roof bungalow. While these structures are not uncommon, the vast majority have been heavily modified and expanded. Almost all have replacement siding and windows. The classic form and good integrity of this structure elevate it to National Register of Historic Places eligibility.



Figure 31: TR63, looking northwest



Figure 32: TR63, looking northeast

TR84: Moderne House, 401 Ave. A W

The structure is a Moderne style house, with a poured concrete construction. The structure likely was built between 1930 and 1945. The structure has a complex zig-zag floor plan. The exterior is painted concreted with three parallel decorative bands on the west façade, and one decorative band just under the roofline on the east façade. There are two entrances on the front, both with semicircular concrete steps. The southern such entrance retains a semicircular concrete awning; the northernmost has a replacement triangular wooden awning. The roof is flat, probably concrete.

The windows are almost all original, and include six horizontal pane windows, fixed panes in the northwest corner of the building and some 1/1 windows. The window trim and horizontal bands have been painted with matching colors. The rear of the building includes a lower level built in garage. The yard has carefully landscaped with multiple terraces formed with field rock. The interior may have been divided into two units.

The essential physical features for the moderne house are the flat roof, curvilinear features, decorative banding, and flush and grouped windows. All of these are in the original configuration. The building possesses excellent integrity, and is an excellent example of the style. Moderne style houses, while not unheard of, are rare in rural North Dakota.



Figure 33: TR84, looking southwest



Figure 34: TR84, looking southeast



Figure 35: TR84, door detail

TR89: Napoleon Water Tower, 5th St. W

The Water Tower features a cylindrical, riveted-steel tank with a suspended, hemispherical bottom. The structure was built in 1951 (Brunner, 1959). A conical roof with a typical orb-on-post finial caps the tank. The tank is encircled by a girder balcony stiffener. The tank is elevated on a four-post, lattice-girder trestle tower with diagonal tie rods. The bases of each of the tower's four posts are riveted to a poured concrete pad. An 8-inch standpipe connects the tank with the underground water system. An access ladder rises on the southwest leg. The heater house is sheathed in sheet metal, and has a red brick chimney with decorative brick work. The tower is currently painted light blue with the town name painted in dark blue. This paint scheme likely post dates the tower construction. Typical paint schemes were silver with the town name in black.

The Tower has great local significance for the history of community planning and development, as well as fire-fighting, especially in this area with extreme climates and periodic droughts. The Tower is an excellent and well-preserved representative of the Hemispherical Bottom water tower, which dominated water tower types from the 1890s until the late 1940s. The Napoleon tower is likely one of the last hemispherical towers elevated in ND, as the Steel Tank towers dominate beginning in the 1950s. The Napoleon Tower contains all the distinctive characteristics of the type, including all-steel construction, conical roof, riveted tank, suspended hemispherical bottom, and a four-post lattice leg system.

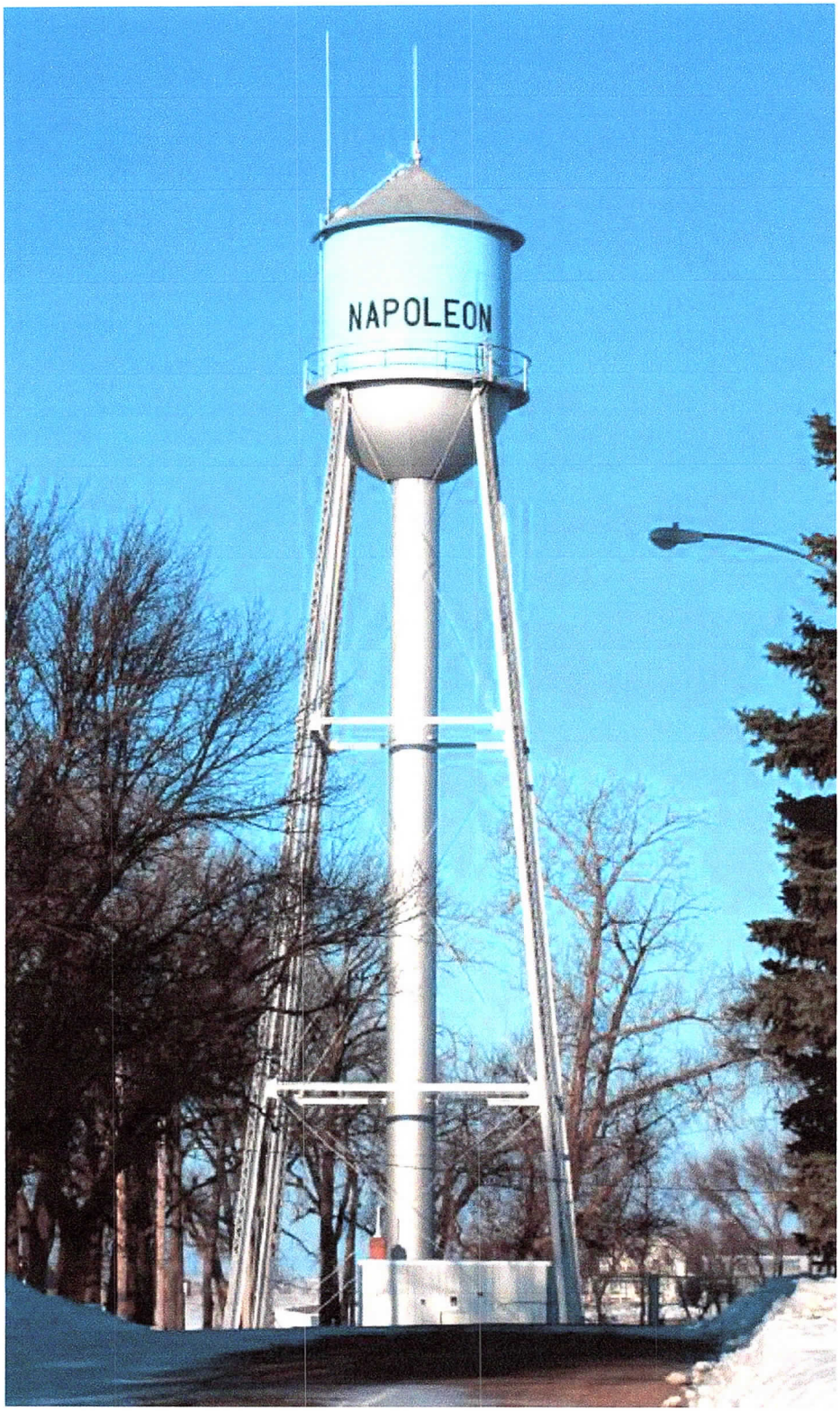


Figure 36: TR89, looking west

TR91: Prairie Style House, 414 Ave. A W

The structure is an elaborate Prairie style wood frame structure on a poured concrete foundation. The structure likely was built between 1915 and 1930. The roof is a bellcast hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The house has original horizontal wooden siding. There are four inset dormers, narrow on the front and rear, wide on the sides. The inset dormer style is a distinctive element of Prairie style. The windows are all multipane original (except for the rear addition); the banded windows on the façade are typical of the Prairie style. There is a bay window on the west side of the house. The shutters may not be original, but this is uncertain. The front door is centrally placed with a sidelight and a lattice work railing. There is an attached garage addition with a gabled roof on the rear of the structure. The finish and style of the addition closely matches the original house. The yard is gently landscaped including a raised bed on the east side, and mature conifers, a rock garden and pergola at the sidewalk from the street. This subtle landscaping and inclusion of angular pergolas is also typical of the Prairie style.

The essential physical features for the Prairie Style are broad horizontal massing, low hipped roof, clustered windows, and gentle landscaping. All of these are in the original configuration, and the structure has excellent integrity. The house is an excellent example of Prairie Style, including popular Foursquare elements. Additionally, the structure shows artistic values with the bellcast hipped roof and attention to landscaping.



Figure 37: TR91, looking northwest

Properties of Local Importance

Six structures were determined to be Properties of Local Importance. These properties lack integrity or distinction sufficient for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. They have, however, integrity or distinction that sets them apart from the houses of similar date and style in the community. Such structures may be eligible for designation as "Local Landmarks" in towns and cities with Historic Preservation Commissions. While Napoleon currently does not have such a commission, it was deemed appropriate to identify these structures as part of the architectural survey.

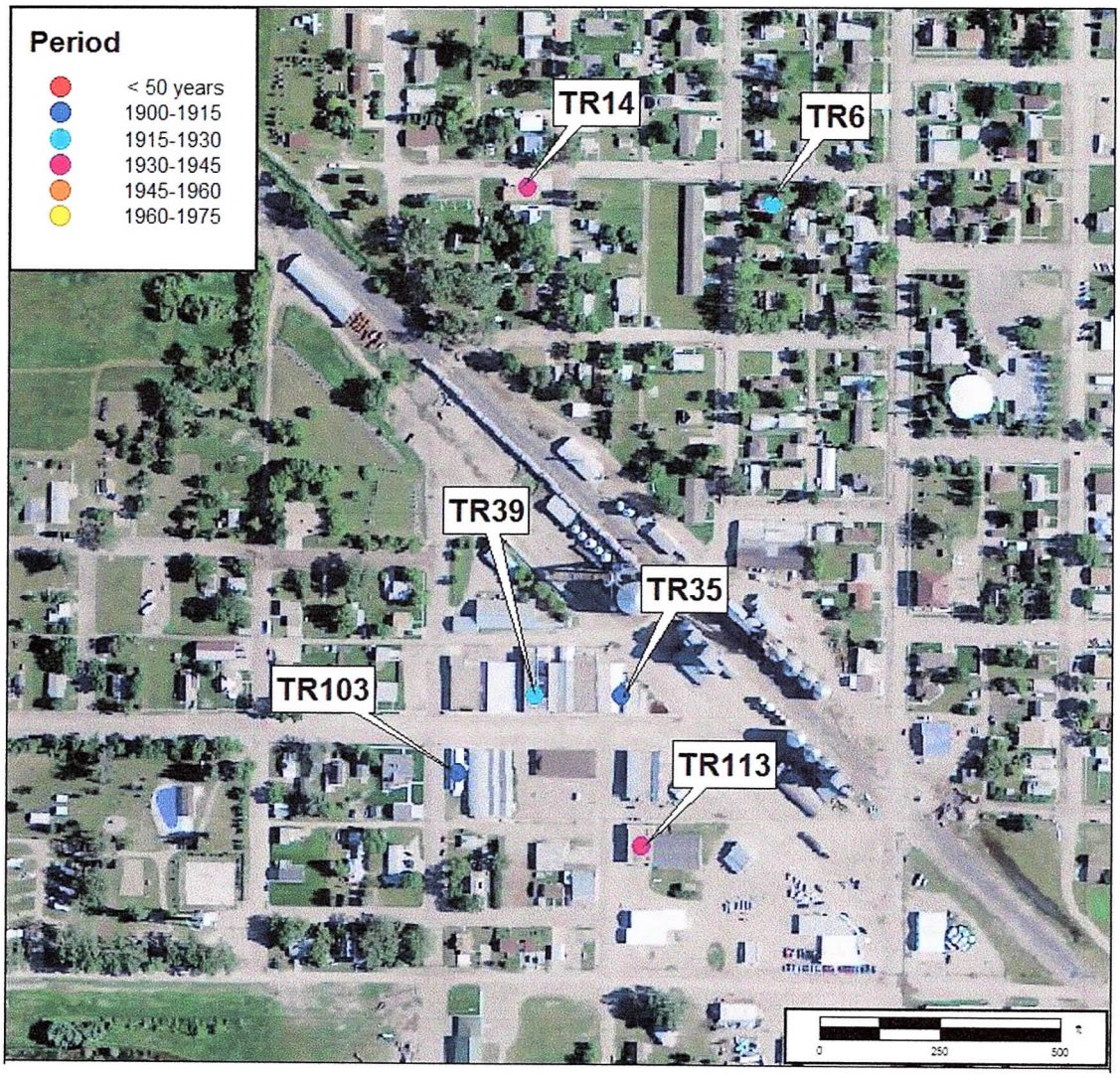


Figure 38: Locally Important Buildings

TR6, English-Style Period House, 423 2nd St. W

This English Style Period House is a wood frame house on a foundation of poured concrete. The structure was probably built between 1915 and 1930. The structure has a cross gabled plan with a ½ width rectangular extension on the rear and a narrow partial façade porch extension on the front. The exterior wall treatment is replacement steel siding. The structure has a side gable normal-pitch roof, covered with asphalt shingles, with very narrow eaves. There is a sweeping asymmetrical gable on the porch addition as is typical for Tudor style houses of the era. The windows include some fixed panes, with some original 4/1 double sash. and 8/1 double sash. There is an external west (front) wall chimney with a decorative element. The chimney is broad with a flare before it narrows along the second story. The chimney was originally masonry, but it has been mostly covered with concrete. The doorway is an inset arch with a symmetrical side window. The essential physical features for the English style Period House are the façade with asymmetrical gable, arched entryway, external masonry chimney, and clusters of windows. All of these are in the original configuration. The structure lacks, however, integrity sufficient for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.



Figure 39: TR6, looking northeast

TR14, Gable Front House, 422 3rd St. W

This Ranch/Split Level gable residence has a poured concrete foundation, wood frame walls and a brick exterior with half a brick wall surrounding the brick steps at the front entrance. The structure was built approximately 1960. The original wood windows remain intact, as do several of the metal awnings above the front door and windows. There is a two-car attached garage toward the west end of the house. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The front of the structure is turned ninety degrees from the street.

The structure possesses distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction, but it is not a distinctive example. Nevertheless, it is the only yellow brick house noted during the architectural inventory, and it is particularly notable for its commitment to an entirely brick exterior.



Figure 40: TR14, looking northwest

TR35, Stock Grower's Bank, 212 Main Ave.

The Stock Growers Bank was opened in 1900, and first operated out of the back of the Napoleon Drug store. This structure is recorded on the 1919 Plat map. The bank operated under several different owners and names. In 1985 Stock Grower's bank built a new building (to the west on Main St). The structure is wood frame on a cut stone foundation with a brick façade. The building has some neoclassical styling with the inclusion of columns in the façade and pseudo-arches over the windows. A name plate appeared along the roofline; this is now covered by a metal plate (125th Anniversary Committee, 2009; Brunner, 1959; Centennial Committee, 1984).

The structure has been modified several times. The easternmost segment of the building is an addition (on a poured concrete foundation), and the entire building façade was replaced when the addition was built. The columns, architrave, sills, and keystones are seemingly from the original structure. At the east end of the building adjacent to the addition the architrave has been cut into several smaller segments. Likely this section of the architrave is from the side or rear of the building, or perhaps the original building extended this far east and was totally replaced. The white decorative bricks in the horizontal brick band at the level of the window sills do not match the other architectural stone and are indicators of the addition and refacing. The easternmost column capital was trimmed when the addition wall was placed (Figure 43). The original windows were partially infilled with brick when the addition was made, as indicated by the otherwise out-of-place decorative brickwork below the windows and sills.

The date of the addition and refacing are not clear, but it occurred between 1919 (as the addition is not on the Plat map) and 1959, when it appears in a photo. The style of the brickwork, and rugg textured bricks are similar to that of the Logan County Courthouse, which was built in 1938, so the addition and refacing were probably at that time. The use of white decorative bricks is also typical of that time period. At a later date a

door was added at the east end of the façade, the west door was replaced, and the windows were partially closed by metal sheeting to allow the placement of smaller square windows. Metal sheeting was also place over the west door, covering the two westernmost column capitals. The name plate was covered sometime after 1985.

The structure is notable as one of the most recognizable historic structure in downtown Napoleon. Because of the extensive modifications the structure lacks integrity of design and materials. The structure otherwise might be eligible for the National Register as an example of commercial brick/Neoclassical bank architecture. It is worth noting that the structure could be restored to its 1930s state, which would sufficiently answer the integrity issues to allow a reconsideration of National Register of Historic Places eligibility.



Figure 41: TR35, 1959 (Brunner, 1959)



Figure 42: TR35, looking northeast

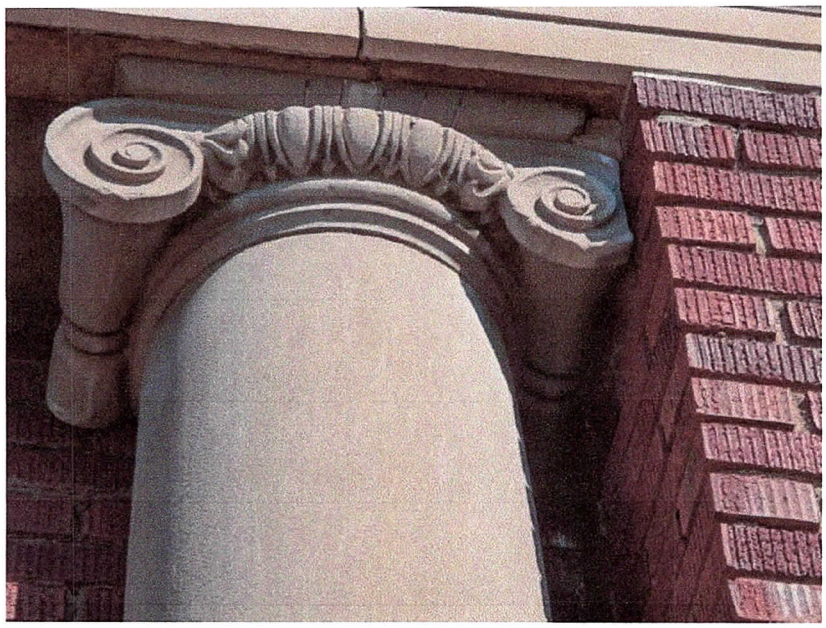


Figure 43: TR35, Trimmed Column Detail

TR39, Miller Hotel, 310 Main Ave.

The location has been used for a hotel since the early years of Napoleon's Main St. The Wentworth Hotel and Kane Restaurant stood at this location until they were destroyed by fire in 1919. The Miller Hotel began construction at the location the same year as the fire, and was expanded in 1926. The 1926 expansion included a large meeting hall, and the town decided not to build an amphitheater, counting on the Miller to host town functions. In 1951 the hall in the Miller was converted to a movie theater, which has since closed (125th Anniversary Committee, 2009; Brunner, 1959; Centennial Committee, 1984).

The structure is a Transitional Brick Commercial style structure, faced with textured red brick similar to that used in the Stock Grower's Bank (TR35) and the Logan County Courthouse. Architectural details are done in a lighter color brick. The eastern front corner used to contain full-length windows which have since been replaced with a faux-stone siding. The upper windows have either been replaced or infilled with sheet metal. The lower windows are fixed pane replacements in window frames partially closed with wooden boards. The doors are all infilled or replacements.

The structure is notable as one of the most recognizable historic structure in downtown Napoleon. Because of the extensive modifications the structure lacks integrity of design and materials. The structure otherwise might be eligible for the National Register as an example of Transitional Brick Architecture, as well as for its importance as an important part of the history of Napoleon. It is worth noting that the structure could be restored to its 1920-1930s state, which would sufficiently answer the integrity issues to allow a reconsideration of National Register of Historic Places eligibility.



Figure 44: TR39, looking northwest

TR103, Napoleon Homestead Newspaper, 323 Main Ave.

The structure is the office of the *Napoleon Homestead*, which was established in 1886. The date of the structure is later, but it pre-dates 1913 when it was moved to this location. The structure is a false front building with a sheet-metal gable roof. The façade is sheet metal. There is a replacement block chimney at the southwest corner of the structure. There is a small hipped roof addition on the rear. The building lacks integrity sufficient for the National Register of Historic Places. The *Napoleon Homestead* has been a functional newspaper since the beginning of the town of Napoleon, and was one of the first businesses to open (Brunner, 1959). It has great local and regional historic significance and is a building of note for that reason.



Figure 45: TR103, looking southeast

TR113, P.J. Wentz Building, 3rd St. W

The Wentz Clothing store operated in the building from 1930s to 1962. A furniture store occupied the building in 1963. The structure contained the Post Office from 1960 into the 1980s (125th Anniversary Committee, 2009; Brunner, 1959; Centennial Committee, 1984). A large barrel vaulted addition that houses apartments was added to the rear of the building less than fifty years ago. The structure is a wooden framed simple commercial building on a poured concrete foundation. The façade is decorative light colored brick tile, with decorative bands of a darker brick tile. The roof is flat, and the north and south side of the building are sided with bricks. The upper row of windows is ½ double sash originals with aluminum external storm windows added. The bottom windows are all replacements, and window openings have been partially infilled with sheet metal. There are four doors in the front façade. The original door positions have not been determined. The southernmost door was added sometime after 1959. The cellar entrance on the north side of the structure is an addition.

The structure does not possess the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, and lacks integrity sufficient for the National Register of Historic Places. Nevertheless, the Wentz building is the most visible and intact reminder of its period in the history of Napoleon.



Figure 46: TR113, Wentz Building, looking southwest

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Inventory of Surveyed Properties

Field No.	Period	Style	NRHP Eligible	Local Importance
TR1	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR2	<50yrs old		No	No
TR3	1930-1945	Ranch/Split Level	No	No
TR4	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR5	1915-1930	Prairie Style	Yes	Yes
TR6	1915-1930	Elizabethan/Tudor Revival	No	Yes
TR7	1915-1930	Craftsmen	No	No
TR8	1915-1930	Elizabethan/Tudor Revival	Yes	Yes
TR9	<50yrs old		No	No
TR10	1960-1975	Plain Residential	No	No
TR11	1915-1930	Bungalow	No	No
TR12	1930-1945	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR13	1915-1930	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR14	1945-1960	Ranch/Split Level	No	Yes
TR15	1915-1930	Plain Residential	Yes	Yes
TR16	1930-1945	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR17	<50yrs old		No	No
TR18	<50yrs old		No	No
TR19	1930-1945	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR20	<50yrs old		No	No
TR21	1915-1930	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR22	1915-1930	Bungalow	No	No
TR23	<50yrs old		No	No
TR24	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR25	<50yrs old		No	No
TR26	1915-1930	Bungalow	No	No
TR27	1930-1945	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR28	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR29	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR30	<50yrs old		No	No
TR31	1900-1915	Colonial Revival	No	No
TR32	<50yrs old		No	No
TR33	<50yrs old		No	No
TR34	1930-1945	Utilitarian	No	No
TR35	1900-1915	Transitional Brick Commercial	No	Yes
TR36	<50yrs old		No	No

Field No.	Period	Style	NRHP Eligible	Local Importance
TR37	<50yrs old		No	No
TR38	1900-1915	Boomtown/False Front	No	No
TR39	1915-1930	Transitional Brick Commercial	No	Yes
TR40	1915-1930	Eclectic	No	No
TR41	<50yrs old		No	No
TR42	<50yrs old		No	No
TR43	<50yrs old		No	No
TR44	<50yrs old		No	No
TR45	<50yrs old		No	No
TR46	<50yrs old		No	No
TR47	<50yrs old		No	No
TR48	<50yrs old		No	No
TR49	<50yrs old		No	No
TR50	<50yrs old		No	No
TR51	1945-1960	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR52	<50yrs old		No	No
TR53	<50yrs old		No	No
TR54	<50yrs old		No	No
TR55	<50yrs old		No	No
TR56	1945-1960	Ranch/Split Level	No	No
TR59	1945-1960	Utilitarian	No	No
TR60	<50yrs old		No	No
TR61	1915-1930	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR62	<50yrs old		No	No
TR63	1900-1915	Bungalow	Yes	Yes
TR64	1900-1915	Colonial Revival	No	No
TR65	1915-1930	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR66	<50yrs old		No	No
TR67	<50yrs old		No	No
TR68	<50yrs old		No	No
TR69	1915-1930	Elizabethan/Tudor Revival	No	No
TR70	<50yrs old		No	No
TR71	<50yrs old		No	No
TR72	1945-1960	Trailer House	No	No
TR73	<50yrs old		No	No
TR74	<50yrs old		No	No
TR75	<50yrs old		No	No
TR76	1945-1960	Hipped Roof Box	No	No
TR77	<50yrs old		No	No

Field No.	Period	Style	NRHP Eligible	Local Importance
TR78	<50yrs old		No	No
TR79	<50yrs old		No	No
TR80	<50yrs old		No	No
TR81	1900-1915	Mansardic/Second Empire	No	No
TR82	<50yrs old		No	No
TR83	1945-1960	Eclectic	No	No
TR84	1930-1945	Moderne	Yes	Yes
TR85	<50yrs old		No	No
TR86	<50yrs old		No	No
TR87	<50yrs old		No	No
TR88	<50yrs old		No	No
TR89	1945-1960	Utilitarian	Yes	Yes
TR90	<50yrs old		No	No
TR91	1915-1930	Prairie Style	Yes	Yes
TR92	<50yrs old		No	No
TR93	<50yrs old		No	No
TR94	<50yrs old		No	No
TR95	<50yrs old		No	No
TR96	<50yrs old		No	No
TR97	<50yrs old		No	No
TR98	1915-1930	Elizabethan/Tudor Revival	No	No
TR99	<50yrs old		No	No
TR100	<50yrs old		No	No
TR101	1900-1915	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR102	<50yrs old		No	No
TR103	1900-1915	Boomtown/False Front	No	Yes
TR104A	1915-1930	Boomtown/False Front	No	No
TR104B	1900-1915	Boomtown/False Front	No	No
TR104C	<50yrs old	Eclectic	No	No
TR105	<50yrs old		No	No
TR106	<50yrs old		No	No
TR107	<50yrs old		No	No
TR108	<50yrs old		No	No
TR109	1900-1915	Eclectic	No	No
TR110	<50yrs old		No	No
TR111	<50yrs old		No	No
TR112	<50yrs old		No	No
TR113	1930-1945	Utilitarian	No	Yes
TR114	<50yrs old		No	No

Field No.	Period	Style	NRHP Eligible	Local Importance
TR115	<50yrs old		No	No
TR116A	<50yrs old		No	No
TR116	1915-1930	Transitional Brick Commercial	No	No
TR117	<50yrs old		No	No
TR118	<50yrs old		No	No
TR119	<50yrs old		No	No
TR120	1900-1915	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR121	1900-1915	Gabled Front: L/T	No	No
TR123	1960-1975	Plain Residential	No	No
TR124	<50yrs old		No	No