

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Belvidere South State Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Street between Logan Avenue and Madison Street and vicinity

city or town Belvidere

state Illinois code 012 county Boone code 007 zip code 61008

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

_determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

_other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
43	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: business

COMMERCE: restaurant

COMMERCE: financial institution

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: business

COMMERCE: specialty store

COMMERCE: restaurant

COMMERCE: financial institution

GOVERNMENT: city hall

SOCIAL: civic

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C: Commercial Style

LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C: Prairie School

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Belvidere, with over 25,500 residents, is situated on the banks of the Kishwaukee River in north-central Illinois. The city encompasses just over nine square miles, with 16 acres within the boundaries of the South State Street Historic District. The district includes 50 properties located on five city blocks between Pearl Street and Whitney Boulevard, bordered on the north by Pleasant Street and on the south by First Street and Logan Avenue. Among the 44 contributing resources are a series of remarkable Italianate buildings dating from the late nineteenth century as well as a school complex previously listed in the National Register, which is now given over to residential and social uses. These high-style buildings distinguish this district from buildings constructed in the same period along State Street north of the railroad tracks, the majority of which lack the applied ornament that is common in this part of town. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district. The historic structures in the vicinity of these two blocks of State Street tell the story of the city's growth after the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1851. The situation of the rail stop about a half-mile south of the Kishwaukee River encouraged development of the South State Street Historic District. The buildings in this district form a cohesive group that conveys the significance of the district as an important commercial center of the City of Belvidere from 1852 through 1962.

Narrative Description

Overall, the buildings of the South State Street Historic District are in good condition and retain adequate integrity to portray their significance as components of a mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century commercial district. Contributing buildings retain their original massing and character-defining elements of design, and the district as a whole retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, setting, feeling, association, and materials. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district.

Setting

Early settlers to the area commented on the natural beauty of the countryside near this crossing of the Kishwaukee River, and originally called the settlement "Elysian Fields." When the city of Belvidere was first platted, the courthouse square was located on a rise a few blocks north and east of the primary river crossing, with the idea that the commercial and civic center of the city would be on the north side of the river. State Street, named for its designation as part of the Illinois State Road connecting Chicago with Galena, later carried Federal Highway 20 through Belvidere, which contributed to the city's growth and the area's development. With the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad located south of the river, development in Belvidere shifted south to accommodate the trains. Although the entire area along State Street from north of the river to Logan Avenue served Belvidere as a single civic and commercial district, the blocks of State Street nearest the railway were an early focal point for commercial development. The buildings along this stretch of State Street south of the railroad tracks have maintained a high degree of integrity and define the South State Street district. The district includes resources on nearby Whitney Boulevard and Pearl Street, adding civic uses including city hall, a community center and housing to the district's commercial focus along State and Buchanan Streets. Today, State Street is a two-lane paved road. Brick paved sidewalks and crosswalks with streetlights that combine tall contemporary fixtures with street-level traditionally-styled lights line State, Buchanan and First Streets, with contemporary lighting only on the other streets of the district. Street furniture along State and Buchanan Streets includes metal benches and planters provided and maintained by the building owners. The majority of buildings are attached commercial structures, with few gaps in the street walls resulting from demolition of structures. Comparison with period photos and Sanborn Maps indicate that, with few exceptions, streetscapes in the South State Street Historic District are largely unchanged since the mid-1950's.

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Building Descriptions

Below are brief descriptions of the district's resources. A full inventory follows these descriptions. Buildings are organized by number beginning at the north end of State Street, followed by the north-south streets (Pearl and Whitney) then the east-west streets (Pleasant and First). Numbers correspond to those provided on the full inventory and on the accompanying maps.

South State Street

1. 401 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the right bay of a three-bay building. The contemporary storefront is sheathed in wood and presents a central entrance flanked by plate glass windows. The storefront is shaded by a fixed wooden awning sheathed in asphalt shingles. At the second floor, an expanse of contemporary brick is broken by two small double-hung windows set at the edges of this portion of the façade. Above, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

2. 402-404 South State Street 1885

1 contributing building

International Order of Odd Fellows

Despite the use of contemporary materials on the storefront, this building retains sufficient integrity of design, materials and workmanship to contribute to the district. Corrugated metal sheathing is the primary material used on the contemporary storefront. In the center of the building, a metal and glass entry with fixed transom provides access to the second floor. On either side are identical storefronts presenting a recessed entry on the right with plate glass windows filling the remainder of the storefront. Fabric awnings shelter each of the storefronts. Above the awnings, a string course of stone stretches across the building. The second floor façade presents three groups of windows. In the center, a single tall double-hung window with transom rests on a narrow stone sill and has a complex stone lintel carved with a foliate pattern. On either side of this central windows stands a pair of similar windows, separated by a narrow band of masonry. Each group of two windows has a single sill and lintel that repeat the size and shape of those on the central window. A prominent bracketed cornice of pressed metal finishes the parapet and includes a central plaque identifying the International Order of Odd Fellows and the construction date of 1885.

3. 403 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the center bay of a three-bay building. At the right side of this portion of the façade is a door providing access to the second floor. The remainder of the storefront, which appears to have retained its original cast iron structure, presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows reaching almost to the ground. At the second floor, an oriel window with a center pane of plate glass flanked by two double-hung windows fills the bay, which is separated from those on either side by a recessed panel of brick. Above the window, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

4. 405 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the left bay of a three-bay building. At the left side is a recessed pair of doors: the one on the left providing access to the second floor and the other opening onto the storefront. The remainder of the first floor façade, which appears to have retained its original cast iron structure, presents two plate glass windows reaching almost to the ground, with multi-paned transoms. At the second floor, an oriel window with a center pane of plate glass flanked by two double-hung windows fills the bay, which is separated from those on either side by a recessed panel of brick. Above the window, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

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5. 406 South State Street, ca 1880

1 contributing building

The storefront of this building is divided into four sections. The center two sections present a recessed entry and plate glass window for a first-floor office. Flanking these two bays are two other entrances, both of which are flush with the street and present contemporary steel and glass doors. These four bays are divided by narrow columns ending in corner blocks similar to those one would expect to find used on interior millwork. The section of the storefront which originally would have held transom windows is sheathed in wooden rounded shingles, with the central section used as signage, as is the area above the storefront up to a string course of stone which serves as a sill for the second floor windows. A plate glass window flanked by two narrow double-hung windows forms a single grouping in the middle of the second floor façade. This grouping is topped by a segmental arch of rusticated stone. The tops of the windows are covered by a fabric awning which fits within the arch. On either side of the windows are recessed panels of rusticated brick. This design element is repeated in two square recessed panels on either side of the stone arch. Above this, a bracketed cornice of pressed metal adorns the parapet.

6. 407 South State Street, ca 1880

1 contributing building

This building presents as three bays of a seven-bay building, as defined by the recessed panels in the building's parapet wall. The storefront is composed entirely of glass, with an entry set slightly left of center. Above the fabric awning, two window groupings fill the façade, each with a single narrow sill. On the right, a single double-hung window and on the left, a group of three double-hung windows. Above these, a simple cornice of brick includes three evenly spaced recessed panels and is topped with coping tiles.

7. 408 South State Street, 1852

1 contributing building

P. Curtis's Block

This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a central recessed entry with transom and large plate glass windows. The beam with rosettes has been maintained, and beneath it a simple fabric awning shelters the storefront. At the second floor, three double-hung windows with stone lintels and sills are evenly spaced across the façade. In the parapet wall above, a plaque reads "P. Curtis's Block A.D. 1852" above which a bracketed metal cornice of pressed metal decorates the parapet.

8. 409 South State Street, ca 1880

1 contributing building

This building presents as four bays of a seven-bay building, as defined by the recessed panels in the building's parapet wall. A door to the second floor stair stands to the right of the storefront, directly beneath a single double-hung window and a narrow recessed panel in the parapet wall. The remainder of the façade includes a recessed storefront entry on the left with two large plate glass windows. Above the fabric awning, three window groupings fill the façade, each with a single narrow sill. On the right, two groups of three windows fill the space between two of the recessed panels in the parapet wall, and on the left is the previously-mentioned single double-hung window. Above these, a simple cornice of brick includes the four recessed panels and is topped with coping tiles.

9. 410 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a recessed entry on the right. Large plate glass windows with transoms fill the rest of the storefront. The beam with rosettes has been maintained, and the cast iron supports on either side present a foliate pattern. At the second floor, three double-hung windows with individual stone sills are evenly spaced across the façade. A string course of rusticated stone stretches across the building above the windows, serving as lintels. This pattern of masonry and fenestration is repeated on the third floor, above which six courses of corbelled brick support a bracketed metal cornice of pressed metal.

10. 411 South State Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

Commerce Building

Architect: Lewis H. Sturges

A storefront of glass stretches across the first floor of this building, with a single entrance set slightly to the left of center. A series of opaque panels stretch across the entire façade, above which is the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall above. The second floor façade presents three bays. The central bay holds a single double-hung

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window with a bracketed sill and flat arch. The bays on either side each present an ornate oriel window, with fixed glass panes in the center flanked by narrow double-hung windows. A pressed metal cornice and conical roof tops each window grouping. Above this, the parapet wall ends abruptly with plain dressed coping stones.

11. 417 South State Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

Kuppler Building, Ancient Order of United Workmen

A storefront of glass stretches across the first floor of this building, with three plate glass windows on each side of a single central entrance. Above a fabric awning, the second floor is marked by a projecting stone course that serves as a sill for the windows, which are arranged in three groups. The central bay holds a single double-hung window with a Roman arch. The bays on either side each present a group of three windows: one of plate glass flanked by narrow double-hung windows. Above these are transoms that conform to the shape of the rusticated stone segmental arches above each window group. These are connected visually to the rusticated stone arch above the central window, above which the letters AOUW announce the use of the second floor hall as a meeting place for the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Above this, a pressed metal cornice with the building's name decorates the top of the parapet.

12. 419 South State Street, 1890, ca 1940

1 contributing building

Edelstein Block

The first floor façade presents a door to the upper floor at the far left. The remainder of the façade is given over to a single storefront with a double door of contemporary metal and glass set left of center. This recessed entrance is flanked by plate glass windows that rest on a low brick wall. The area originally provided for transom windows has been covered in architectural glass in green and black, with gray letters announcing "The Journal, est. 1996." Above this, a string course of dressed stone serves as sills for seven double-hung windows with segmental arches. These have been replaced by contemporary windows with Roman arches. A recessed panel above these windows is scarred where brick once formed a recessed panel above each window. The parapet wall above appears to have been rebuilt of contemporary brick to its original height, with dressed stone coping.

13. 424 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1920

1 contributing building

The storefront of this building is divided into three sections. The middle of the façade presents three doorways: the center door providing access to the second floor and the flanking doorways providing access to what had once been two shops on the ground floor, which are now combined into a single store. Plate glass windows fill the remainder of the storefront, which includes a fixed awning of painted wooden shingles that wraps around the south side of the building. On the second floor, a group of three windows are positioned above the three doorways below. On either side of this group, two windows are evenly spaced on each side. A plain expanse of brick forms the parapet wall, which is capped by what appears to be poured-in-place concrete coping.

14. 427 South State Street, ca 1971

1 non-contributing building

This mid-century single-story commercial structure presents a central doorway flanked by two narrow windows. On either side, a plate glass window rests on a waist-high brick wall. A fabric awning stretches across the façade, above which an unadorned brick parapet wall is capped by stone coping. Although not a high-style building, this structure has integrity of design, materials and workmanship. However, it cannot serve as a contributing structure as it does not meet the age requirement.

15. 501 South State Street, ca 1971

1 non-contributing building

This mid-century single-story commercial structure presents a recessed storefront with a doorway that is right of center. Tall plate glass windows reach almost to the floor. The façade is sheathed by vertical wooden siding, though the coping stones visible at the top of the parapet wall suggest a masonry wall beneath. A fixed wooden awning sheathed in asphalt shingles shelters the storefront. The lack of an identifiable architectural style and the use of contemporary materials on the façade prevents this building from contributing to the historic character of the district.

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16. 505 South State Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

C. F. Harding Building, Four Seasons / Grady & Sullivan

A door to the second floor is positioned at the left corner of the primary façade, with the remainder given over to a single storefront of contemporary brick and glass. The recessed entrance is centered in the storefront, and a fabric awning obscures the area above the windows, which originally would have been the location of transoms. At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of a pair of oriel windows each of which consist of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Behind the flat roofs of these windows rise a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. Above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths. The center of the cornice includes the building's name.

17. 506 South State Street 1862-1887

1 contributing building

Brannen Block Building
HAARGIS No. 125116

This storefront retains some of its original cast iron features, including two columns flanking the central recessed entrance. Plate glass windows with transoms flank the entry. A projecting cornice of pressed metal separates the storefront from the second floor façade. Above the storefront, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across the façade. These have narrow stone sills and a complex stone lintel carved with a foliate pattern. Above these windows, a bracketed cornice of pressed metal presents the name of the building and an ornate pediment with the dates 1862 and 1887.

18. 508-510 South State Street, ca 1880, 1906

1 contributing building

Foote Block

Elements of the cast iron storefront are visible in the first floor façade of this two-story brick commercial structure. A central entry to the second floor is flanked by cast iron posts which support the beam supporting the masonry above. On either side of this entry are identical storefronts, each with a recessed central entry and plate glass windows resting on low walls of contemporary brick. With the exception of the cast iron features, the storefronts and entries are of contemporary design in metal and glass. The second floor façade includes a projecting string course of stone which serves as sills for the second-floor windows. A single narrow window is positioned in the center of the façade, flanked by two pilasters of brick. These appear to support a Roman arch above the window. The filled arch is of stone, and is carved with the building's name and date. A second projecting string course of stone serves as lintels for the windows, which have all been replaced. Fabric awnings cover the filled window penetrations above the short contemporary windows. Between the windows and the bracketed cornice of pressed metal at the top of the parapet wall a series of recessed diamond-shaped panels of brick decorate the parapet.

19. 509 South State Street, 1898

1 contributing building

This building presents as the right half of a larger structure. A door to the second floor is positioned at the center of the primary façade, the transom above filled with glass block. On either side is a storefront. To the right number 509 presents a contemporary arrangement of brick, with a central entrance and large plate glass windows. At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of an oriel window above the 509 storefront, consisting of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Between these is a single double-hung window with transom. Behind the flat roofs of the oriel window rises a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. A similar arrangement of stone, though in the shape of a Roman arch, surmounts the single central window. Instead of a lattice, this arch contains the building's construction date, 1898. Above these arches is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths.

20. 511 South State Street, 1898

1 contributing building

This building presents as the left half of a larger structure. A door to the second floor is positioned at the center of the primary façade, the transom above filled with glass block. On either side is a storefront. To the left number 511 presents a low wall of brick supporting a series of windows that fill the storefront entirely, with no apparent entrance.

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At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of an oriel window above the 511 storefront, consisting of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Between these is a single double-hung window with transom. Behind the flat roofs of the oriel window rises a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. A similar arrangement of stone, though in the shape of a Roman arch, surmounts the single central window. Instead of a lattice, this arch contains the building's construction date, 1898. Above these arches is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths.

512 South State Street, ca 1857

1 contributing building

G. W. Murch Building
HAARGIS No. 125117

The three posts and beam of the building's original cast iron storefront have been retained. To the left is a pair of recessed entries; a wooden door on the left appears to lead to the second floor, while a contemporary door of metal and glass leads into the shop. A fabric awning obscures the portion of the storefront usually given over to transom windows. An ornate oriel window is centered in the second floor façade. Three double-hung windows are surrounded by what appears to be contemporary decorative elements: corner blocks, which are generally features used for interior millwork rather than external embellishments, are used at the corners of the window frames, but also as free-standing rosettes above and below each window. The windows are contemporary replacements, and though they and the decorative elements around them have been recently added, the window surround itself and the decorative projecting bracket are present in historic photos dating to the early 1900s.

22. 514 South State Street, ca 1920

1 contributing building

William H. Piel Building

The contemporary brick and glass storefront of this Commercial Style building presents a double entry recessed in the center of the façade. To the left, plate glass windows rest on a low stucco wall and extend to a narrow panel of brick at the corner of the building. To the right, a similar arrangement of windows extends about half-way to the end of the building, with the remaining space filled in brick. A metal and glass door provides access to the second floor at the right corner of the façade. A fabric awning stretches across the façade. The second floor presents four window bays, each framed by recessed brick panels that mimic pilasters. The effect is that of windows recessed in a colonnade. A single stone sill stretches beneath all four windows, which are contemporary replacements. Above the fenestration a projecting cornice of brick dentils supports a simple pressed metal cornice, above which rises the parapet wall. This is divided into three sections, each presenting a recessed rectangular panel in brick, with a green tile square accenting each corner. The central panel, which is about half the width of the building as a whole, includes a plaque bearing the owner's name. The parapet wall is higher above this panel, with coping stones following the curve of the wall on either side of the central raised section.

23. 515 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1890, 1950

1 non-contributing building

J. Rider

Although treated as a single building on the county's tax rolls, this structure presents three separate facades, and the choice of materials and features detracts from the building's integrity sufficiently to prevent it from serving as a contributing resource. The first is a plain brick one-story storefront that incorporates two entries. One is a steel residential-style door and the other is a glass and metal door flanked by two plate glass windows. Above the storefront, a band of painted brick provides contrast for a lighted sign, above which a plain parapet wall rises a few feet, ending with plain coping stones.

The second separate façade presented by this structure is a two-story segment of red brick. The first floor presents a plain expanse of red brick, above which is a band of painted brick. The second floor façade presents a pair of contemporary double-hung windows with transoms. A single narrow stone sill runs beneath both windows, and their flat arches of brick include inverted stone keys supporting the end of each arch. Above the windows is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

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The final façade on this structure presents an expanse of buff-colored brick covering the storefront. At the right side of this section of the building stands a metal and glass entry set in the angled wall of a small recess. The only other elements on this storefront are at the left end of the façade: a plate glass window and the edge of an awning that extends from the neighboring building. Above the storefront is a band of metal sheathing that covers the area traditionally reserved for transom windows on historic storefronts. Above this is a course of dressed stone that serves as sills for the second floor windows. At this level, three pair of short double-hung windows are evenly spaced across the façade. Every seventh course of the buff-colored brick projects slightly from the plane of the wall, resulting in ten horizontal lines crossing the second story of the building. These are the only decoration, except for two plaques mounted in the center of the parapet wall. The larger of these reads "J. Rider, 1890 – 1908" and the smaller simply reads "1950."

24. 518 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

Y.M.C.A. (Second Floor)

With the exception of the contemporary doors, the original cast iron storefront, including the transom windows, has been retained. On the right a steel and glass residential-style door provides access to the second floor. The remainder of the storefront presents a central recessed entry with a contemporary metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning is positioned between the plate glass windows and the transoms, which are partially obscured by a sign. Above the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall are four narrow double-hung windows with segmental arches. Each has a narrow stone sill. Above each window is a recessed panel in the brick wall, and above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

25. 520 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

Y.M.C.A. (Second Floor)

A contemporary storefront of wood siding and glass presents a central recessed entry with a contemporary metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning obscures the area that would have originally held transom windows. Above the awning are four narrow double-hung windows with segmental arches. Each has a narrow stone sill and is set in a recessed panel bordered at the top by a series of brick dentils. Above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

26. 521 South State Street, ca 1940

1 non-contributing building

Woolworth Company

This storefront is of buff-colored brick and repeats some design features of the neighboring number 515, and like that building, the changes have resulted in a loss of integrity that prevents the building from serving as a contributing resource. The right end of the façade presents a wide recessed entry, accommodating four contemporary metal and glass doors with narrow windows of plate glass on either side. This arrangement is flanked by plate glass windows along the angled walls and one facing the street on either side (the window on the right being part of the façade of neighboring 515). A fabric awning shades the entry. To the left, an expanse of buff-colored brick covers the storefront, with a recessed metal and glass entry at the left-hand corner of the building. Above the storefront is a band of some opaque material that covers the area traditionally reserved for transom windows on historic storefronts. This band reaches to the sills of the second-story windows. These are arranged in five bays: The central bay incorporating a group of three windows in separate penetrations; this is flanked by bays presenting a single window; and the two bays at the edges of the façade each present a pair of windows in a single penetration. There is minimal decoration based on simple geometric forms. The central bay is defined in part, by the slight projection of the masonry wall, resulting in vertical divisions from the rest of the building. Each of the three windows in the bay has a heavy stone lintel, above which the brick is set in courses of headers recessed slightly from the surrounding walls. This bay rises higher than the others, and the parapet is capped by heavy coping stones and four plain stone brackets. About the same size as the stone brackets, a rectangular stone slab is set in the wall above each of the single windows, providing the only other decoration on the façade.

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27. 522 South State Street, 1889, ca 1909

1 contributing building

HAARGIS No. 125118

The storefront is of black architectural glass. A recessed entry in the center for the storefront provides access to two shops. The entryway is flanked by plate glass windows. Another recessed entry at the left corner of the storefront provides access to the second floor. Each of the four penetrations in the storefront (second floor entry, shop entries and two plate glass windows) is slightly wider at the bottom than at the top, and the top edge of each opening consists of a very shallow angle, resulting in a pointed top. These trapezoidal shapes, along with an art-nouveau-inspired foliate design in the building's pediment, suggest that this is an early application of black structural glass. A fixed transom window the width of each opening is situated above each, and each penetration is trimmed with light-colored metal. The building's second floor façade presents Chicago windows, a hallmark of the Commercial Style, flanking a central narrow double-hung window with a Roman arch. The Chicago windows present a central double-hung window with a double-hung window on either side. The side windows are slightly angled, causing the unit to project slightly from the façade. Each window has a fixed transom and is topped by a flat rectangular roof with projecting metal cornice. Above the windows, a projecting string course marks the start of the parapet wall, which presents a projecting stone cornice supported by modillions. Above the cornice, the parapet wall rises in the center of the building, presenting a pediment formed by a complex curve. The dates 1889 and 1909 are centered in the pediment on either side of a foliate design.

28. 527 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 527 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. The storefront has been trimmed in aluminum or a similar metal, and a sign made of what appears to be painted architectural glass stretches across the façade. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow double-hung windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

29. 529 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 529 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. The storefront has been trimmed in aluminum or a similar metal, and a shallow painted fabric awning serves as a sign above the storefront. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow casement windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

30. 530 South State Street, ca 1895, ca 1920, 1928

1 contributing building

Farmers' State Bank, Bond Hubbard Company, Belvidere National Bank and Trust
HAARGIS No. 125097

This building wraps around the oblique northeast corner of State Street and Logan Avenue, and presents five Roman arches along the State Street façade and seven arches along Logan Avenue. All but two of the arched penetrations end just above the granite foundation. One of these serves as the main entrance to the bank at the corner. The other is a secondary entrance to the building near the right end of the Logan Avenue façade. The seven arches along Logan Avenue each have a shallow hood of stone supported by a square bracket with a carved rosette. Multi-paned contemporary windows fill each window penetration. The four windows along State Street are treated identically. The main bank entrance, however, is framed by alternating panels of plain and carved stone with a turned decorative edge. The carved panels present a classically-inspired motif which incorporates an urn and foliate designs. Above the arches, a narrow projecting cornice serves as sills for contemporary rectangular double-hung windows on the second floor. Above these, a plain entablature runs the length of the building. Above the bank entrance, the entablature is carved, presenting a cartouche and garlands. Above the entablature, a plain stone

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parapet is capped with dark metal flashing.

31. 601 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 601 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. At the right is a door providing access to the second story. This storefront appears to have retained its original materials, being framed in wood and having transom windows across the storefront and above the entrance to the second floor. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow casement windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

32. 603 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1930

1 contributing building

The recessed entry at the left end of this building, along with the rest of the storefront, is of recent construction. A stucco-like material covers the storefront, which presents three pair of contemporary windows centered on the storefront wall. A tile roof is suggested by a narrow overhang of red textured shingles that stretches across the façade. Brick frames the storefront; that on the right has been painted and appears to be older than the brick used elsewhere on the façade.

At the second floor, three steel-frame windows with narrow stone sills are evenly arranged across the façade. The parapet wall rises slightly at either end, and is finished with plain stone coping.

33. 607 South State Street, 1927

1 contributing building

A storefront of bead board is framed by brick and presents a recessed entrance to the second floor on the right, with a residential-style steel door. The remainder of the storefront presents a central entrance flanked by a pair of plate glass windows on either side. A narrow fixed awning sheathed with textured shingles stretches across the façade. Above this awning are four window penetrations: one for a single window above the second floor stair and three that would accommodate pairs of windows. These are currently filled with wood, with the larger penetrations each having a small pair of contemporary double-hung windows installed as well. Above the windows is a recessed brick panel having at its center a small plaque inscribed "1927." The parapet has stone coping which has been sheathed in metal, and rises slightly in the center and at the ends.

34. 611 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

The two buildings at 611 and 613 South State Street have different storefront treatments, but on the second floor are treated as a single building. The storefront for 611 is of contemporary brick, with a wood and glass entry door on the right. A plate glass window is roughly centered on this storefront, with a sign advertising the tenant's business on the left. A fixed awning sheathed in wood shingles divides the storefront from the second floor. At that level, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across this portion of the façade, making a total of seven across the combined façade of 611 and 613, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

35. 613 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

The two buildings at 611 and 613 South State Street have different storefront treatments, but on the second floor are treated as a single building. The storefront for 613 is faced with stone veneer, and includes an entry to the second floor centered between the two storefronts. The remainder of the storefront for number 613 presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows. The stone veneer extends upward to the second floor façade. At that level, four double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across this portion of the façade, making a total of seven across the combined façade of 611 and 613, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

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36. 615 South State Street, ca 1885

1 contributing building

This storefront retains some of its original cast iron features, including two columns with fanciful composite capitals flanking the central recessed entrance. Plate glass windows with transoms flank the entry. Above the storefront, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across the façade, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

37. 621 South State Street, ca 1932

1 contributing building

The primary façade of this 1930s auto showroom presents seven bays of equal size, each separated by a pilaster of brick which projects slightly from the building and rises above the parapet. These are capped with the same stone used for coping on the parapet. Two of these pilasters, the third and fifth, are slightly shorter than the others. The central bay includes the main entrance, a metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning covers the transom windows above the entrance. To the right, the remaining bays are filled with plate glass windows, providing a view into the showroom and waiting areas. To the left of the main entrance, two bays are filled with plate glass windows and the bay between them presents an overhead vehicular door. The secondary façade along First Street and portions of the south façade nearest the street are treated with the same materials and features as the primary façade.

Pearl Street

38. 520 Pearl Street, ca 1893, ca 1939

1 contributing building

Belvidere High School

Architects: Grant C. Miller, Raymond A. Orput

HAARGIS No. 201087

This complex has been documented in the 1997 National Register Nomination that resulted in its listing in the National Register. That description reads in part:

"The complex consists of four historic buildings that have been connected by three post-1950 additions, thus creating a complex of attached buildings. The four historic buildings include: the 1893 Garfield School; a circa 1900 powerhouse with its original smokestack; the centerpiece of the complex, the 1916 Belvidere High School; and the 1939 Belvidere High School Auditorium and Gymnasium. Although all the historic structures have additions that fall outside the Period of Significance for the complex (1893 - 1939), the additions do not detract or impair the historic or architectural integrity of the buildings. . . ."

Full description of the buildings and a statement of significance are included in the nomination.

Whitney Boulevard

39. 401 Whitney Boulevard, 1962

1 contributing building

Belvidere Daily Republican, Belvidere City Hall

This building, originally constructed as a newspaper office and production facility, presents a good example of the International Style. The tall rectangular mass of brick on the left contrasts with the strong horizontal orientation of the remainder of the building. A projecting rectangular pavilion of glass and metal provides the main entrance to the building, with most of the rest of the main façade consisting of paired panels of glass with slate-gray opaque panels filling the upper quarter of each window opening. The secondary façade along Pleasant Street intersperses pairs of windows with brick panels. The windows and panels are replacements similar in design and materials to the originals.

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Pleasant Street

40. 112-116 West Pleasant Street, 1882

1 non-contributing building

Originally constructed as two buildings with three storefronts, this structure has undergone significant change. The angled glass and concrete features of the right two storefronts, which served as the offices for the Daily Republican through the 1940s, appear to have been altered in the mid-20th century. To the right, the third storefront presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows. Wooden sheathing around this storefront on the first floor has been painted, with a fixed awning sheathed with wooden shingles stretching across the storefront. The second floor of the entire building is sheathed with corrugated metal. The sheathing has obscured all the building's original design features, preventing it from serving as a contributing resource.

Buchanan Street

41. 103 1/2 Buchanan Street, 1887

1 contributing building

Brannon Block Building

This seven-bay building appears to have retained its original cast iron storefronts. The center bay is framed in brick, presenting a wooden door providing access to the second floor. On either side is a cast iron storefront, each with a central recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows. Columns with capitals of stylized acanthus leaves frame each entrance. A projecting metal cornice obscures the beam supporting the masonry wall above. Above the cornice a narrow string course of stone serves as sills for seven double-hung windows with flat arches of brick on the second floor. These windows are evenly spaced across the building, resulting in each being centered over a door or window on the first floor. Above these windows is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

42. 109 A Buchanan Street, 1891

1 contributing building

Some elements of the building's cast iron storefront have been retained, including the beam supporting the masonry wall above and a column decorated with foliate designs. To the right of this column is the entry; to the left a narrow plate glass window with wooden spandrel panels above and below it. The remainder of the storefront is divided between two other plate glass windows, treated identically. The windows are framed in wood with corner blocks typical of interior millwork of the period. Above the storefront, a plain brick pediment with a recessed panel provides a place for signage, above which a bracketed cornice of pressed metal finishes the parapet.

43. 109 B Buchanan Street, ca 1950

1 contributing building

This mid-century commercial structure has a recessed storefront on the right. The angled wall is largely plate glass, while the wall of the storefront facing the street has been mostly filled with vertical wood siding, a plate glass window centered in the space. The area above the storefront has been covered by a mural depicting a number of subjects related to the southwestern United States. The plain coping stones of the parapet are visible above the mural.

44. 111 1/2 Buchanan Street, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The storefront of this two story commercial structure has recently been sheathed with vertical wooden siding. Both the doors to the stair hall and the first floor storefront are located in a recess on the left side of the storefront. Immediately to the right of the recess are two narrow windows, which have panels above them that look like they may have been transom windows. The remainder of the storefront is an expanse of wood siding, which extends upward to the sills of the four second floor windows. These double-hung windows are arranged in two groups of two, each with a single narrow sill of wood and metal lintels supporting a row of brick soldiers. Above the windows is a recessed panel in the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

45. 116 Buchanan Street, ca 1895, ca 1950

1 contributing building

John List Agricultural Implements

This three-story brick building presents irregular features on the first floor. An entryway appearing to originally accommodate a double door has been fitted with a steel and glass residential-type door, the remainder of the

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opening filled with an opaque material. In addition to this entry's being flanked by plate glass windows, a semi-circular fabric awning makes this the most prominent feature on the ground floor. To the right, the building presents a double hung window, two doorways and a penetration that once held a double-hung window but has been filled with painted wood. Each penetration has a soldier course of light-colored brick serving as a lintel, the windows having sills formed of slightly projecting rowlocks. The second floor presents eight double-hung windows evenly spaced across the façade, and the third floor, four windows positioned directly above the second, fourth, sixth and eighth second floor windows. All the windows are treated identically to those on the first floor, with lintels and sills of brick. At the top of the parapet wall, bricks in two contrasting colors are used to suggest a cornice: the lighter colored brick laid in rowlock courses above and below a course of darker brick soldiers. In lieu of coping, metal flashing covers the top of the parapet wall.

46. 118 Buchanan Street, ca 1880, ca 1950

1 contributing building

A simple brick façade presents a central entry flanked by two windows. Soldier courses serve as lintels for the three openings, and slightly projecting rowlock courses serve as sills for the windows. Original windows and doorway appear to have been replaced, the doorway having been partially filled with wood to accommodate a smaller door and sidelights. Flat coping tiles finish the parapet. The building's original service as one half of a frame structure is evident from the wooden beams connecting this building to its neighbor, across a driveway.

47. 120 Buchanan Street, ca 1880, ca 1950

1 contributing building

A simple brick façade presents a central recessed entry flanked by two windows, and this group itself is flanked by two windows on the main façade. Soldier courses of lighter brick serve as lintels for the three openings, and sills for the two windows on the main façade are of dressed stone. Coping tiles finish the parapet. The building's original frame construction is evident from the wooden beams connecting this building to its neighbor, across a driveway. That wooden party wall is sheathed in sheets of asphalt and corrugated metal, with a narrow portion of the wall on the main façade sheathed in vertical wood siding.

48. 122 Buchanan Street, ca 1908

1 non-contributing building

This brick building has been sheathed in vertical wood siding. Although the overhead vehicular door is a recent addition, it is likely that this building would have had a large opening on the first floor, as it was used for welding, carpentry and large storage over the years. The placement of the second-floor doorway with transom seems original, though the door and window are contemporary replacements. The second floor double-hung and oriel windows also seem contemporary, though the pressed metal cornice probably dates to the early 1900s. The combination of contemporary materials and features obscure the building's original design, preventing it from serving as a contributing resource.

49. 124 Buchanan Street, ca 1908

1 contributing building

This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a corner storefront entry. A contemporary metal and glass door has been installed, and except for two medium-size plate glass windows, all other openings in the storefront have been filled with painted wood. Above the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall is a projecting course of dressed stone which served as sills for a single window and group of three windows. The single window opening has been completely filled with painted brick. The size of the remaining opening has likewise been reduced to accommodate three small casement windows. Window penetrations on the secondary façade have also been filled, though the sills and heavy stone lintels have been retained. A pressed metal cornice finished the parapet wall on the primary façade and wraps around to the secondary façade. However, most of the secondary façade sports a brick cornice presenting a pattern of projecting sawtooth courses and corbelled chevrons.

First Street

50. 107 West First Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

The ground floor of this building presents two storefronts, each having a narrow entry near the corners of the building. Between the entries are two plate glass windows set in a wall coated in stucco. The same treatment has been applied to the transoms and extends to the second floor level, where three small contemporary double-hung

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windows are evenly spaced across the façade. This portion of the building is faced with aluminum siding, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal. The loss of siding on the west wall of the building reveals the wall's construction of coursed rusticated stone.

Inventory

No.	Address	Date Built / Modified	Architectural Classification Category: Sub-category	Contributing?
1.	401 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
2.	402-404 South State Street	1885	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
3.	403 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
4.	405 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
5.	406 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
6.	407 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
7.	408 South State Street	ca 1852	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
8.	409 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
9.	410 South State Street	ca 1900	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
10.	411 South State Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
11.	417 South State Street	ca 1895	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
12.	419 South State Street,	1890, ca 1940	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
13.	424 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1920	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
14.	427 South State Street	ca 1971	Other	No
15.	501 South State Street	ca 1971	Other	No
16.	505 South State Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
17.	506 South State Street	1862, 1887	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
18.	508-510 South State Street	ca 1880, 1906	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
19.	509 South State Street	1898	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
20.	511 South State Street	1898	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
21.	512 South State Street	ca 1857	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
22.	514 South State Street	ca 1920	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
23.	515 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1890, 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	No
24.	518 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
25.	520 South State Street	ca 1890	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
26.	521 South State Street	ca 1940	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	No
27.	522 South State Street	1889, ca 1909	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
28.	527 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes

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No.	Address	Date Built / Modified	Architectural Classification Category: Sub-category	Contributing?
29.	529 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
30.	530 South State Street	ca 1895, ca 1920, 1928	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
31.	601 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
32.	603 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1930	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
33.	607 South State Street	1927	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
34.	611 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
35.	613 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
36.	615 South State Street	ca 1885	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
37.	621 South State Street	ca 1932	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
38.	520 Pearl Street	ca 1893, ca 1939	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Prairie School	Yes
39.	401 Whitney Boulevard	1962	Modern Movement: International Style	Yes
40.	114 West Pleasant Street	1882	Other	No
41.	103 1/2 Buchanan Street	1887	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
42.	109 A Buchanan Street	1891	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
43.	109 B Buchanan Street	ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
44.	111 1/2 Buchanan Street	ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
45.	116 Buchanan Street	ca 1895, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
46.	118 Buchanan Street	ca 1880, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
47.	120 Buchanan Street	ca 1880, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
48.	122 Buchanan Street	ca 1908	Late Victorian: Italianate	No
49.	124 Buchanan Street	ca 1908	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
50.	107 West First Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes

Summary

The commercial district along South State Street presents a cohesive group of buildings that are representative of local architectural trends from 1852 through 1960. Most of the buildings within the district have retained their original appearance and use and continue to portray the history of the area as a business district for the City of Belvidere and the surrounding region between the mid-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1852 - 1962

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sturges , Lewis H.; Miller, Grant C.;

Orput, Raymond A.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1852, the construction date for the oldest building in the district, and continues through 1962, the current end date for eligibility for listing in the National Register.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The South State Street Historic District located in the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Commerce and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The majority of buildings in this district retain most of their original design features and comprise a visually cohesive grouping of commercial buildings constructed between 1850 and 1960. Since the city's founding, the predominate building type has been two-story masonry buildings with first floor commercial storefronts and various uses on the upper floors—residences, shops and office space. The majority of the district's commercial structures are of this type, with about half in the late-Victorian Italianate style and half in the Commercial Style. This commercial district was developed after 1851, when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad constructed a depot at Main and Pleasant Streets to accommodate the new railway. Warehouses, lumber yards, liverys and similar uses developed immediately south of the station, with commercial properties being constructed two blocks west on State Street, which was already established as part of the Illinois State Road and led to the previously-established commercial center about a half-mile north at Mechanics Street (now Lincoln Avenue) and State Street. The buildings in this area formed a bustling commercial district in Belvidere, which presents a concentration of buildings with high style embellishments that are uncommon along State Street north of the railroad tracks and in the commercial district north of the Kishwaukee River. Finally, the majority of buildings in the South State Street Historic District have maintained the integrity of design, materials and workmanship necessary for them to represent the history and development of commerce in that city.

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

Criterion A: Commerce

The Belvidere South State Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The mid-1830s saw a number of events result in the establishment and early growth of Belvidere: initial claims along a particularly scenic section of the Kishwaukee River, the charter of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad (later renamed Chicago & Northwestern), the selection of Belvidere as the crossing point of the new "State Road" over the Kishwaukee along with the construction of the first bridge at that point, and the establishment of a post office in Belvidere all occurred between 1835 and 1836. These events, followed by the partition of Boone County from Winnebago County and the naming of Belvidere as its county seat in 1843, make it easy to understand why settlers heading west from Chicago made Belvidere a stop on their journey and frequently chose to make Belvidere their home.

The intersection of State Street and Lincoln Avenue (originally Mechanics Street) was the location of the first commercial development in Belvidere. With the county courthouse constructed on a rise a few blocks north and east of this intersection, State Street at the river seemed poised to become the city's commercial core. But when the Chicago and Northwestern Railway chose to site the railroad south of the river in 1851, the depot's location drew commercial development to the immediate area. The result was a the development of a extended commercial strip along State Street, bounded by Logan Avenue on the south and Hurlbut Street on the north. With concentrations of commercial uses north of the Kishwaukee and around the railroad tracks, the area between became a location for additional commercial and civic uses, with manufacturing uses along the river. The resulting concentration of commercial buildings south of the tracks date from the 1850s to the 1950s, and most of the buildings in this area have retained significant integrity of design, materials and workmanship. Buildings in the Italianate style predominate, like those on the east side of the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street (Photos 01 and 04). Interspersed with these Italianate buildings are later structures built in the Commercial Style (Photos 07 and 08), all of which provide both storefront space on the first floor and office or residential space on the upper floors. These buildings' integrity of design, materials and workmanship allow them to illustrate the history of commerce in Belvidere.

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Criterion C: Architecture

The Belvidere South State Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. About two-thirds of the buildings in the district were constructed prior to 1900, with most of those being constructed in the Italianate Style. The majority of the remaining buildings can be classified as examples of the Commercial Style popular in the early 20th century. In a few cases, older Italianate buildings have had their façade replaced with Commercial Style or contemporary façades. A number of buildings in the district provide single examples of other styles popular in the 20th century, including the Classical Revival Style, the Prairie School, Art Deco and International Styles.

Italianate Brick Construction, 1856 to 1891

The Italianate style was first developed in Britain in the early 1800s. John Nash is credited with developing the style by applying a number of classical and Italian architectural features in his design of large country estates in England. The style became popular throughout England, and by 1840, Alexander Jackson Davis was using the style in buildings on the eastern seaboard of the United States. At the same time, examples of the style became common in architectural pattern books, encouraging its popularity throughout the Midwest. In the United States, the Italianate Style is frequently expressed in residential architecture, though common elements continued to be used in commercial architecture well into the twentieth century. These include low-pitched hipped roofs, projecting eaves, prominent cornices, window or door openings incorporating Roman or segmental arches, tall windows, plate glass and paneled double doors.ⁱ As expressed in commercial structures in the Midwest from the 1850s onward, the Italianate Style made practical use of local materials. Bricks were often locally produced and used not only for walls, but also for decoration. The earliest brick Italianate commercial structures usually present window hoods and cornices of brick, sometimes in contrasting colors but frequently made of the same brick as the rest of the building. As the availability of commercially-produced materials increased, storefronts and window hoods of cast iron (George Mesker's Evansville, Indiana shop became a favorite source in the Midwest) and cornices and window hoods of pressed metal or wood became more common. Design features of Italianate commercial structures also solved practical problems: the tall ceilings allowed for large expanses of glass to make the most of daylight, and the tall double-hung windows, when opened at top and bottom, promoted ventilation during the hot Midwestern summers. All-brick construction, and later masonry structures incorporating iron and steel supports, addressed fire hazards at a time when people relied on oil, gas and other petroleum products to fuel their lamps.

The earliest structures in this style date from the 1850s, and the best examples of the style are located along State Street. A group of four buildings dating from 1885 to 1900 stand at State Street near Pleasant (Photo 01). All four buildings present the basic elements of the style, including tall narrow windows on the second floor and complex bracketed cornices of pressed metal. Across the street, other examples of the style are apparent. Variations in the shape of the second story windows, such as the arched and oriel windows in this block (Photo 03), show the flexibility of the Italianate style. Further down the block on the east side of the street, a number of buildings just south of Buchanan Street also provide excellent examples of the style (Photos 04 and 06).

The Commercial Style, 1895 to 1950s

After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, interest in fireproof construction, the development of iron and steel framing, and technological advances that allowed for buildings over six stories resulted in the development of tall, utilitarian commercial buildings. The strength of the metal framing (first cast iron, then steel) allowed masonry to be used as cladding, rather than as structural support which would require broad masonry walls to support a tall building. In addition, steel frame construction allowed for larger window penetrations and open floor plans. In Chicago, the first to employ steel frame construction was William Le Baron Jenney in his design for the Home Insurance building completed in 1885. The firms of Adler and Sullivan, Burnham and Root, and Holabird and Roche also pioneered the Commercial Style in Chicago.

The Commercial Style is distinguished by frame construction of iron or steel with cladding of masonry, and sometimes metal or glass. Window area on the upper floors is typically greater than in masonry buildings. Windows are sometimes set in a projecting bay that extends across multiple floors. Ground floor storefronts are typically metal and plate glass.

ⁱ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994), 143-145.

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Ornamentation is generally limited to a projecting cornice and applied ornamentation which could reflect any of the popular styles of the era. Although the term was coined to describe early skyscrapers, it is also used to describe commercial structures of one to four stories which have plate glass windows in the first floor storefronts and flat roofs, with decoration generally limited to applied ornamentation and a decorative cornice or parapet.

The William H. Piel Building at 514 South State Street and its near neighbor at 522 South State Street are both fine examples of the Commercial Style as applied to two-story buildings. These two structures (pictured with two Italianate buildings between them in Photo 07) present the clean lines and typical massing executed in brick and limestone respectively. Both of these also present decorative embellishments that recall popular high style architectural motifs, such as the suggestion of second floor windows being recessed in a colonnade on the Piel Building, or the Art Nouveau foliate motif on the parapet of 521 South State Street. The ca 1932 Manley Motor Sales building (Photo 09) provides an example of a freestanding one-story structure that presents the clean lines and minimal decoration of the Commercial Style, while the row of buildings from 527 to 607 South State Street (Photo 08) shows a series of five buildings presenting very simple applications of the style.

The Prairie School, 1916

A late 19th and early 20th century architectural style that was popular in the Midwest, the designs of Prairie School architects tended to emphasize horizontal lines and disciplined use of applied ornament, often with decorative motifs drawn from nature. The horizontal orientation of the buildings was intended to mimic the vastness of the prairies, and was accentuated by the use of broad hipped roofs and overhanging eaves. The emphasis on nature and the relationship of the building to its environment are elements that the Prairie School shares with the Arts and Crafts or Craftsman Style, and the elements of the Prairie School are sometimes considered to be best expressed in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Architects designing in this style borrowed decorative motifs from other popular styles.

The simplicity of the Prairie School is expressed in the 1916 Belvidere High School, which is one part of the Belvidere High School Complex previously listed in the National Register (Photo 13). The simplicity of the building's design, the horizontal emphasis drawn primarily by the repeated string courses of brick between the floors of the building and the very shallow profile of the roof combine with the minimal applied decoration to evoke the Prairie School. Some Classical Revival details are apparent, however: the projecting entrance pavilion, the suggestion of projecting pavilions topped pediments at either end of the building, and the use of oversized modillions beneath the projecting cornice all are Classical design elements.ⁱⁱ

20th Century Revival Styles

In the mid-nineteenth century, American architects turned to the past for inspiration in architectural design, which resulted in a revival of classical design elements. Classical forms borrowed from the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome were considered appropriate for large public buildings and were also applied in domestic architecture, but as the century closed, architects sought inspiration for residential design from other eras of the past. Led by the eastern firm McKim, Mead and White, the "Academic Reaction" recommended a return to historical styles. Popular revival styles for single-family homes from the late 19th century onward included the Spanish Colonial, American Colonial and Tudor Revival Styles. Elements of those revival styles were used for commercial buildings as well, along with design motifs from the Renaissance or from classical Greek and Roman architecture.

Classical Revival Style, 1920

Although this style shares some characteristics with the Italian Renaissance Revival Style, the emphasis is on classical Greek and Roman architectural elements: columns, round arches and heavy entablatures, often with elaborate detail. Building plans and exteriors are usually symmetrical, often with wings or pavilions projecting from the main structure.

A commercial building with elements of the Classical Revival Style is the Belvidere National Bank and Trust at 530 South State Street. The Roman arches, projecting cornices and entablature are all characteristics of the style, even though the

ⁱⁱ For a full description of the Belvidere High School Complex, see the National Register Nomination included in the appendix.

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building is lacking some of the other common features of the style, like a columned temple-front entry pavilion or the use of triangular pediments to define the roofline.

Early 20th Century: Art Deco and Art Moderne, 1939

The name Art Deco comes from the *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs Industriels et Modernes*, held in Paris in 1925. Art Deco as a style of decoration applied to buildings consists most frequently of repeated and overlapping angular geometrical designs and may include stylized natural features, such as flora or fauna. The chevron is probably the most widely recognized Art Deco motif. These designs were typically applied ornamentation on buildings with simple massing, often involving setbacks on the upper floors. Because the designs were angular and usually in low-relief, they were well-suited for reproduction in terra cotta, a building material that became popular at the same time Art Deco design came into vogue. A later expression of the simplicity and repetition of Art Deco motifs is referred to as Art Moderne or Streamline Moderne. The simple angles of Art Deco were replaced by the curve, representing the concepts of motion and speed. Applied ornament was reduced to straight lines and curves, not only in the design of buildings, but in almost all commercial products.

The 1939 section of the Belvidere High School Complex, built as a gymnasium and auditorium presents a number of features of the Art Deco Style. The building's strong vertical massing is accentuated by the seemingly tapered walls of the projecting corner towers and the projections that are reminiscent of buttresses on their secondary facades of those towers. The building's surface ornamentation relies on simple geometrical designs, including rectangles, triangles and chevrons executed in low-relief, all common elements of the style.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Modern Movement and International Style: 1930 to 1958

The Modern Movement in architecture typically refers to buildings designed using modern materials and construction techniques that rely on the building's structure and form rather than applied ornament to provide visual interest. Early buildings of this style were typically of steel, glass and concrete with exposed structural framing. Later designs, particularly on smaller buildings, emphasized the horizontal and often simply suggested the building's structure rather than exposing it.

The design of tall buildings relying on this design aesthetic produced the modern sky scraper: buildings with articulated steel framing and glass curtain walls that used concrete for floors and internal supports. Buildings of this type are typically referred to as being in the "International Style," which has its roots in the Bauhaus Movement in Germany. Especially on smaller buildings, the International Style placed design emphasis on balance and simplicity, rather than on applied ornament and symmetry, and often included a heavy horizontal emphasis underscored by the use of ribbon-like window penetrations. In the United States, this design aesthetic became more popular after World War II, and continues to influence architectural design into the 21st century.

Belvidere City Hall at 401 Whitney Boulevard presents a good example of the International Style (Photo 14). The strong horizontal emphasis results from a row of window panels stretching across most of the primary façade. Each window is divided in three horizontal sections, with the top panel filled with an opaque material. The horizontal emphasis is accentuated by the projecting rectangular entrance pavilion of glass and metal, the roof of which extends beyond the entrance to provide shelter at the doorways on either side. These features combine in a design which clearly relies on the primary elements of the International Style.

Belvidere City Hall, the most recently-constructed building in the South State Street Historic District, was designed to serve as a newspaper office and production facility. Its single-story horizontal profile contrasts sharply with the majority of buildings in the district, many of which are more than a century older. What the buildings in the district definitely do have in common, is their integrity of design, materials and workmanship, which allow them to represent the history and development of Belvidere from its founding through the middle of the 20th century.

ⁱⁱⁱ For a full description of the Belvidere High School Complex, see the National Register Nomination included in the appendix.

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Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bateman, Newton, LL.D. and Paul Selby, A.M., eds. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Boone County, Volume 2*. Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1909.

Belvidere Illustrated: Historical, Descriptive and Biographical. Belvidere, Ill.: The Daily Republican, 1896.

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Moorhead, Virginia B., ed. *Boone County Then and Now 1835 1976: A History in Words and Pictures by Her Sons and Daughters to Celebrate the Bicentennial of the Signing of The Declaration of Independence*. Boone County, Illinois: Boone County Bicentennial Commission, 1976

The Past and Present of Boone County, Illinois. Chicago: H.F. Kett & Company, 1877.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☒ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Boone County Historical Museum Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 348014 4679760

4 16 348296 4679574

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	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>348273</u>	<u>4679953</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>16</u>	<u>348421</u>	<u>4679736</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>16</u>	<u>348213</u>	<u>4679576</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary of the Belvidere South State Street Commercial Historic District is shown on the accompanying site plan. Beginning at the center of the intersection of Whitney Boulevard and Pleasant Street, the boundary extends southwest 250 yards to the center of the intersection of Pleasant and Pearl Streets, continuing south on Pearl Street, 167 yards to the center of First Street. The boundary continues east along First Street 117 yards, then turns 90 degrees to the right, continuing south 83 yards, then turns 90 degrees to the right, continuing east, 125 yards to the center of State Street. At the center of State Street, the boundary turns north, continuing 84 yards to the center of Logan Avenue, then turns east, continuing 117 yards to the center of Whitney Boulevard, then turns to the left onto Whitney Boulevard, continuing to its point of origin 292 yards northwest to the center of the intersection of Pleasant and Pearl Streets.

All measurements are approximate.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Belvidere South State Street Commercial Historic District includes those properties that are associated with the commercial district during its period of significance (1852-1962) and retain adequate integrity to portray their relationship to the historic business district. The boundary encloses all of the significant resources of the district, as well as a number of non-contributing resources, buildings which have alterations that obscure their connection to the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

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date 01/17/2012

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

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

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Belvidere South State Street Historic District

City or Vicinity: Belvidere

County: Boone State: Illinois

Photographer: Adam Hooczko, Naperville, Illinois

Date Photographed: 17 December 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

No.	Subject	File Name
01.	Commercial block, east side of State at Pleasant, facing southeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_001.NEF
02.	Commercial block, west side of State at Pleasant, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_002.NEF
03.	West side of State Street at Buchanan Street, facing northwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_003.NEF
04.	East side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_004.NEF
05.	East side of State at Buchanan, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_005.NEF
06.	West side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_006.NEF
07.	West side of State north of Logan, facing northwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_007.NEF
08.	East side of State at Logan, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_008.NEF
09.	West side of State south of Buchanan, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_009.NEF
10.	West side of State south of First Street.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_010.NEF
11.	Buchanan Street at Whitney Boulevard, facing northwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_011.NEF
12.	First Street near Pearl, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_012.NEF
13.	First Street at Pearl Street, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_013.NEF
14.	Pearl Street north of First Street, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_014.NEF
15.	Whitney Boulevard at Pleasant Street, facing southwest	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_015.NEF

Property Owner:

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

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

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Sketch Maps:

Belvidere Commercial Historic District Boundaries and UTM References

Numbers correspond to those provided on the building inventory. UTM references in bold.



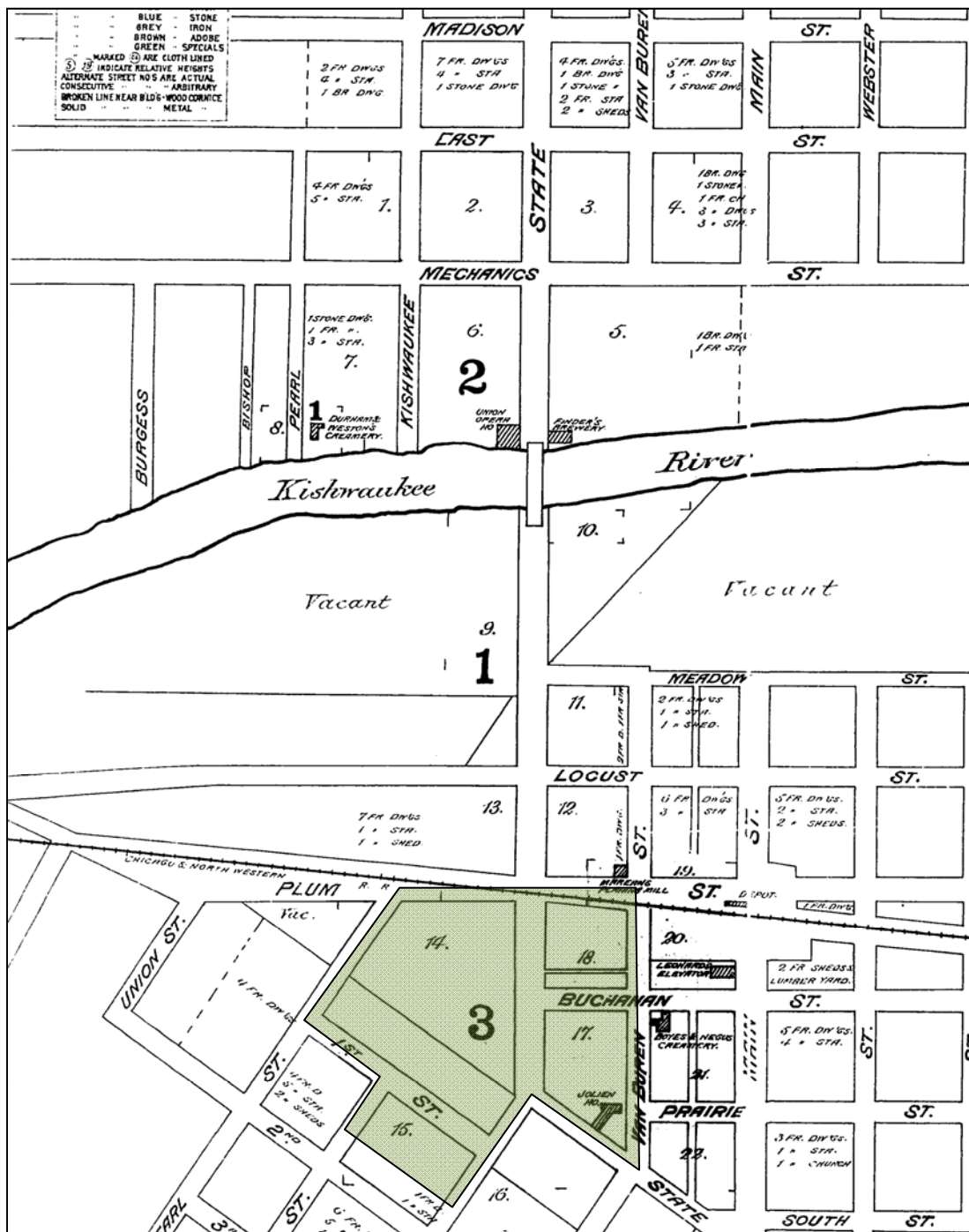
APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois

Section One: Historic Map

Sources are noted in the image log, below



A1.—Map of Downtown Belvidere, 1855

Location of the Belvidere South State Street Historic District highlighted in green.

Section Two: Historic Photos



A2.—Commerce Block



A3.—Edelstein Block

APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



A4.—South State Street, facing north



A5.—South State Street south of Pleasant, facing south

APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



A6.— South State Street at Logan Avenue, facing northwest



A7.— South State Street, near Buchanan, facing northeast

APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



A8.—South State Street at Logan, facing north

Section Three: Image Sources

No.	Subject	File Name	Source
A1	Map of Belvidere, 1855	N/A	Sanborn Map Company, p. 1
A2	Commerce Block	Belvidere_02	Belvidere Illustrated
A3	Edelstein Block	Belvidere_04	Belvidere Illustrated
A4	South State Street, facing north	Belvidere_05	Boone County Historical Museum
A5	South State Street south of Pleasant, facing south	Belvidere_06	Boone County Historical Museum
A6	South State Street at Logan Avenue, facing northwest	Belvidere_07	Boone County Historical Museum
A7	South State Street, near Buchanan, facing northeast	Belvidere_08	Boone County Historical Museum
A8	South State Street at Logan, facing north	Belvidere_11	Boone County Historical Museum

Photos

The following are prints of the photos to be provided with the final nomination form. The electronic images will meet all NPS standards for electronic images.

The file names are included in the Photo Log on the continuation sheets.



Photo 01: Commercial block, east side of State at Pleasant, facing southeast.



Photo 02: Commercial block, west side of State at Pleasant, facing southwest.



Photo 03: West side of State Street at Buchanan Street, facing northwest.



Photo 04: East side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southeast.



Photo 05: East side of State at Buchanan, facing northeast.



Photo 06: West side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southwest.



Photo 07: West side of State north of Logan, facing northwest.

DRAFT PHOTO PAGES: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Belvidere South State Street Commercial Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



Photo 08: East side of State at Logan, facing northeast.



Photo 09: West side of State south of Buchanan, facing southwest.



Photo 10: West side of State south of First Street.



Photo 11: Buchanan Street at Whitney Boulevard, facing northwest.

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Photo 12: First Street near Pearl, facing northeast.



Photo 13: First Street at Pearl Street, facing northeast.



Photo 14: Pearl Street north of First Street, facing northeast.



Photo 15: Whitney Boulevard at Pleasant Street, facing southwest.