

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 Owatonna Commercial Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by North Cedar Ave., West and East Broadway St.,  
West Bridge St, and West Main St.

N/A
N/A

 not for publication  
city or town Owatonna vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Steele code 147 zip code 55060

## 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.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
74	13	buildings
1	3	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
75	16	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

3

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business, financial  
institution, specialty store, department store,  
restaurant

SOCIAL/meeting hall

GOVERNMENT/ city hall, fire station, courthouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor  
recreation

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business, financial  
institution, specialty store, restaurant

GOVERNMENT/ city hall, fire station, courthouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor  
recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate, Romanesque  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
REVIVALS/Classical Revival, Romanesque  
Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, STONE: limestone, CONCRETE

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LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
REVIVALS/Commercial Style, Sullivan-esque

roof: unknown

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**

The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is located at the center of the city of Owatonna, the seat of Steele County in south central Minnesota. The historic district, Owatonna's traditional downtown, is sited east of the Straight River and south of the railroad tracks and the major highways that provide long-distance access to the city.

The historic district consists of twelve city blocks, in part or in whole, including Central Park which is the focal point of the district. The park is fronted by three properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register): the National Farmers' Bank (1907-1908, NHL) on the north, the Steele County Courthouse (1891-1892) on the southeast, and the City and Firemen's Hall (1907) on the south. The district contains a total of 91 properties, including 75 contributing buildings, one contributing park (Central Park, 1871), 13 noncontributing buildings, and two noncontributing sites. The contributing buildings range in date from 1876 to the late 1950s and reflect three significant building periods: the last quarter of the nineteenth century; the first three decades of the twentieth century; and the period from 1930 to the late 1950s.

The buildings contributing to the historic district retain a consistent overall character: one to three stories in height, brick facades with ground-floor storefronts, and uniform alignment to the street fronts creating cohesive and uniform street walls with almost no gaps. The buildings are designed in styles largely typical of urban towns and cities in the Upper Midwest. Several were designed by distinguished national and local architects, but most were the work of local contractors and brick masons. With the exception of the public buildings, they were designed to accommodate commercial enterprises, including a wide variety of retail and wholesale businesses, various kinds of professions and services, and related businesses like restaurants and saloons. These enterprises both supported and were supported by the larger agricultural and industrial economy of the Owatonna area.

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**Narrative Description**

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.70

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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

**Period of Significance**

1871-1958

**Significant Dates**

1871

1877

1908

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Sullivan, Louis H.; Gutterson, Frank A.; Hammel

Brothers and Anderson (builders); Long and Long;

Hanson, Olaf; Allen, Truman Dudley; Keefe,  
William

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is significant for its association with Owatonna as the center of a thriving agricultural and industrial community that was also the county seat. The period of significance begins in 1871 when Central Park, the focal point of the commercial center, was fenced and ornamented. The community grew and thrived as a center for regional commerce and industry, beginning in the last quarter of the

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nineteenth century and continuing in the twentieth century through the 1950s, marking the endpoint for the period of significance.

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

The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of the city of Owatonna in the area of Commerce. Two Minnesota statewide historic contexts informed the evaluation of significance of the historic district, "Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940" and "Railroads in Minnesota, 1862 to 1956." The district's 87 buildings, 74 of them contributing, are largely oriented to Cedar Avenue and Broadway and Bridge streets. The district is focused on Central Park and reflects the ongoing prosperity of this agricultural and industrial community and county seat, beginning in the 1870s and extending through the 1950s.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)  
See Continuation Sheet 8.1.

**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.)  
See Continuation Sheets 9.1 through 9.3

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 21 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1                                   
Zone Easting Northing

3                                   
Zone Easting Northing

2                                   
Zone Easting Northing

4                                   
Zone Easting Northing

(See continuation sheet 10.1 for UTM's)

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

From the northwest corner, the historic district begins and includes the building at 109 West Rose Street, then goes east for approximately 323 feet, then south for approximately 917 feet, then east for approximately 486 feet, then south for approximately 158 feet, then west for approximately 515 feet, then south for approximately 400 feet, then east for approximately 153 feet, then south for approximately 357 feet, then west for approximately 118 feet, then south approximately 107 feet, then west for approximately 157 feet, then north approximately 260 feet, then west approximately 294 feet, then north approximately 225 feet, then west approximately 353 feet, then north approximately 304 feet, then east approximately 388 feet, then north approximately 226 feet, then east approximately 70 feet, then north approximately 918 feet to the place of the beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes twelve city blocks, in part or in whole, with buildings mainly fronting Cedar Avenue, Broadway, Bridge, and Main Streets, and focused on Central Park. These blocks were historically part of the original commercial area for the City of Owatonna.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dr. Marjorie Pearson, Renee L. Hutter, and Andrew J. Schmidt, architectural historians  
organization Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. date April 2011  
street & number 1217 Bandana Boulevard North telephone 651-842-4202  
city or town Saint Paul state MN zip code 55108  
e-mail aschmidt@esummit.com

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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.)

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**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: Owatonna Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Owatonna

County: Steele

State: Minnesota

Photographer: Renée L. Hutter

Date Photographed: November 8 and December 2, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 26. Bridge Street West, South side of street, looking west.
- 2 of 26. Bridge Street West, North side of street, looking west.
- 3 of 26. Broadway Street West, South side of street, looking east.
- 4 of 26. Broadway Street East, North side of street, looking east.
- 5 of 26. Cedar Avenue North, looking north.
- 6 of 26. Cedar Avenue North, West side of street, looking north.
- 7 of 26. Cedar Avenue North, West side of street, looking south.
- 8 of 26. Cedar Avenue North, East side of street, looking south.
- 9 of 26. Main Street West, North side of street, looking west.
- 10 of 26. Main Street West, South side of street, looking west.
- 11 of 26. Central Park, looking north.
- 12 of 26. Park Square West, looking northwest.
- 13 of 26. Central Park bandstand and fountain, looking northwest.
- 14 of 26. National Guard Armory, 128 Broadway Street East, looking north.
- 15 of 26. Example of a contributing building, 143 Bridge Street West, looking south.
- 16 of 26. Example of two-façade contributing building, 127 Broadway Street West (rear façade, 128 Bridge Street West), looking south.
- 17 of 26. Example of a two-façade, contributing building, 128 Bridge Street West (front façade, 127 Broadway Street West), looking north.
- 18 of 26. Example of a two-façade, contributing building, 119 Bridge Street West (rear façade, 120 Main Street West), looking south.
- 19 of 26. Example of a two-façade, contributing building, 120 Main Street West (front façade, 119 Bridge Street West), looking north.
- 20 of 26. Example of a contributing building, Zamboni Building, 301 and 303 Cedar Avenue North, looking northwest.
- 21 of 26. Example of a contributing building, 311 Cedar Avenue North, looking east.
- 22 of 26. Example of a contributing building, 324-326 Cedar Avenue North, looking west.
- 23 of 26. Example of a two-façade, noncontributing building, 137 Broadway Street West, looking south.
- 24 of 26. Example of a two-façade, noncontributing building, 136-140 Bridge Street West, looking north.
- 25 of 26. Example of a noncontributing building, 216 Cedar Avenue North, looking west.
- 26 of 26. Example of a noncontributing building, 318 Cedar Avenue North, looking west.

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**Property Owner:**

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

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name See Supplemental Owner List  
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.

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is largely oriented to Cedar Avenue (originally Cedar Street), which extends three blocks north from Central Park within the district boundary. Three major streets extend to the west from the park; these are from south to north, Main Street, Bridge Street, and Broadway Street. Main Street and Broadway Street also extend to the east of the park. The arrangement of Main, Bridge, and Broadway streets west of the park reflects the unusual plat of this section of downtown Owatonna. The two blocks formed by these streets are only about 90 feet deep (Main to Bridge; Bridge to Broadway). Consequently almost all the buildings extend through the block and were designed with two facades and two entrances. Bridge Street was the major access route to the bridge over the Straight River. The blocks north of Broadway Street and south of Main Street are generally 250 feet deep and bisected by east-west alleys. The blockfronts on Cedar are further defined by north-south alleys behind the buildings. A 1910 account states: "The business part of the city resembles somewhat the form or shape of a hand ax. Broadway and Bridge streets, each of one solid block being the blade, and Cedar Street, of four blocks, being handle, with Central park as the eye of the ax, as it is the eye of beauty of the city."<sup>1</sup>

Central Park was laid out as a public square in the original 1855 plat but was not landscaped as a park until 1871 when by order of the city council it was "fenced and ornamented" with a circular fence.<sup>2</sup> The contributing buildings of the historic district span the period from 1876 to the late 1950s. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the city was rapidly expanding, and its commercial core reflected the increasing prosperity of the larger agricultural and industrial community. The oldest surviving buildings from this period are on Bridge Street.

Between 1900 and 1929, the city and its economy continued to expand and diversify. The buildings constructed in the historic district during this period are often larger, and some were designed by architects rather than builders or contractors. Some were built specifically for the banks that were the source and beneficiaries of local prosperity. Others were built to sell new products and services, like farm machinery and automobiles. Several three-story buildings were designed with meeting hall space on the top floor. Many of the two-story buildings from the earlier period had space on the second floor for offices and small service businesses like tailors, dressmakers, and lawyers. Other two-story buildings were designed with apartments at the second floor. Local liquor laws and the establishment of Prohibition had an impact on the commercial district. The city banned licenses for saloons for two years in 1914. Buildings in use as saloons were converted to restaurants and retail establishments. Some of the buildings were converted back to saloons in 1916. With the advent of Prohibition in 1919, however, some saloons were replaced by new buildings or given new facades for retail purposes. Other earlier buildings were also rebuilt or given new facades to signal new businesses.

The period beginning in 1930 reflects the constraints of the Great Depression and the advent of many national retailers in the commercial district. A few new buildings were constructed in the 1930s.

<sup>1</sup> Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota* (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, 1910): 865.

<sup>2</sup> Edgar Bruce Wesley, *Owatonna: The Social Development of a Minnesota Community* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1938): 10, 61.

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Another minor wave of development occurred in the years following World War II, reflecting an era of national growth and prosperity. These changes occurred through the late 1950s, when some older buildings were replaced with new construction or were given updated facades to attract new businesses.

*Changes to Historic Buildings*

Almost all of the buildings in the historic district have been altered to some degree, reflecting the changing needs of commerce. Typically these include changes to the storefronts and the installation of new storefronts. Many of the storefronts are not compatible with the historic character of the buildings. Windows at the upper stories of buildings have often been replaced by aluminum and glass sash and installed in the original openings that have been partially filled in. In some cases, the window openings have been completely filled in or covered over. Many cornices have been modified; some have been removed and replaced by parapet walls. Signs have been changed regularly to reflect changing tenants and canopies added over the storefronts. Buildings dating to the period of significance contribute to the historic district if they retain their overall historic character including height, building facing and cladding materials, and uniformity of the street wall. Buildings with two facades are contributing if the primary facade or both of the facades retain their overall historic character. Buildings with facade changes that completely obscure their historic character are noncontributing.

*Street Features*

The streets of the historic district have retained their width and orientation since the plat of 1855. Initially graded, they were first paved with creosote blocks in 1912. Concrete pavement replaced the creosote in the 1930s. Today the streets are all paved with asphalt. Sidewalk improvements occurred even earlier. In 1900, the City Council ruled that all sidewalks within the fire limits had to be of cement, stone, or brick, instead of wood.<sup>3</sup> The sidewalks today are poured concrete.

**Street lighting.** The city began to discuss electric street lighting in 1880. In 1890, it gave a fifteen-year franchise to the Owatonna Electric Company.<sup>4</sup> Photographs of the downtown area from the early twentieth century show that the streets were lit by arc lights suspended from cables at the intersections. Photographs from the 1920s and 1930s illustrate fluted vertical light standards surmounted by globes. Another type of light standard was introduced in the late 1950s. It consists of a tall pole with a curvilinear arm, from which the lamp is suspended. This type of light standard can still be seen on the streets extending to the east and west of Cedar Avenue. A final type was introduced in recent years as part of a street beautification project. This type has a square vertical pole with a perpendicular cross-arm and suspended lamp.

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

**1) 113 Bridge Street West, 120-160 Park Square West, 114 Main Street West**  
**Telephone Exchange**  
**ca. 1925**

<sup>3</sup> Wesley, 110-111.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 113-114.

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**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1925. The building, which is faced with textured multicolored brick, has a storefront on three streets. The north and south elevations are one bay wide, while the east elevation is six bays wide. The West Bridge Street elevation has two recessed, single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors flanked by glass and steel-framed display windows, set below the original transom windows. Limestone corner piers frame the first floor. A limestone band course above the transom sets off the second story. The window openings are spanned by continuous limestone sills and lintels. Two of the window openings are covered with shutters and the other has a replacement one-over-one, aluminum frame window with vertical wood infill. Carved limestone plaques and a limestone band course set off the cornice. The east elevation facing Park Square West has a recessed central glass and steel-framed entrance flanked by display windows. The second floor has twelve window bays with replacement, aluminum-framed casement windows. The south elevation on Main Street is like the north elevation. The existing storefront elements and the window replacements were added after the period of significance.

There has been a two-story store building on this site since at least 1884. A 1913 photo in the Steele County Historical Society collection depicts a different building (Figure 1; first building on the left). This is the same building shown in a ca. 1925 photo in the Minnesota Historical Society collection (Figure 2; first building on the left). The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the first floor housed a clothing, boots and shoe store, and the second floor had the telephone exchange. The 1924 Sanborn map the building shows a store on the first floor. The 1945/50 Sanborn map shows as an unidentified store. Another photograph in the Minnesota Historical Society collection dated ca. 1955 shows the current building with Wards as the major tenant (Figure 3; first building on the left).<sup>5</sup>

The 1911-1912 directory lists Bachrach & Kahn, clothing retail, at 113.<sup>6</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories lists Paffrath's Paint Bar at 113 and Phoenix Budget Loans Inc.; Wendorf Leonard, auctioneer; and Kinyon Investment Company at 113 ½.<sup>7</sup>

**2) 117 Bridge Street West (primary facade), 116-118 Main Street West (secondary facade)**  
**Young's Block**  
**ca. 1883**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883. The building is three bays wide. The building historically had two storefronts numbered 115 and 117 West Bridge Street but those have been merged into one storefront, 117 West Bridge Street. The rear (secondary) facade was historically numbered 116-118 West Main Street, but the storefronts have been combined into one unnumbered storefront. The Bridge Street storefront has been modernized with a central,

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, *Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1884): Sheet 1; 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>6</sup> R. L. Polk and Company, *Owatonna and Steele County Directory* (Saint Paul, MN: R. L. Polk and Company, 1912).

<sup>7</sup> R. L. Polk and Company, *Owatonna (Steele County, Minn.) City Directory* (Saint Paul, MN: R. L. Polk and Company, 1955; 1964).

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recessed double-entry, glass and steel-framed door, glass and steel-framed display windows, both of which appear to date from the 1950s, and a fabric awning extending the length of the storefront and covering the area of the original transom windows. The second floor, which is faced with painted brick, has eight window openings which are covered with shutters. Significant decorative details include a metal cornice with Eastlake details, brick dentils, and painted stone window hoods with Eastlake details. The south elevation on Main Street is faced with painted brick. The recessed central entrance has fabric awning. It is flanked by openings with glass block installed in the transoms. Most of the second floor is clad in painted, vertical metal panels, which were added after the period of significance.

The 1884 Sanborn map calls this building the Young's Block. It shows that 115 West Bridge had a jewelry store on the first floor, a photography studio on the second floor, and a dry goods store at 117 West Bridge. The storefront at 118 West Main is only one story. The 1889 Sanborn map indicates the same with books and wallpaper in 117. The 1894 Sanborn map indicates a jeweler in 115 and drugs and wallpaper in 117. The 1900 Sanborn map shows 118 Main as two stories with a millinery shop in 116 West Main. By 1915, a jewelry store, drug store, photo studio, and the telephone exchange occupied the building. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate unidentified stores.<sup>8</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list J. F. Young, jeweler, at 115; Gausewitz & Christgau, druggists and wallpaper retailers, at 117 Bridge and 116 W. Main; and C. H. Stearns and O. C. E. Zieger, dentists, at 115 and 117, respectively. The 1906-1907 directory lists C. H. Sterns, dentist; C. H. Gordon, photographer; and Schoen & Mosher, jeweler, at 115. The 1911-1912 directory lists O. C. E. Zieger, dentist, and J. B. Christgau, druggist, at 117, and L. J. Mosher, jewelers, at 115.<sup>9</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists the B. W. Johnson Studio at 115 and C. R. Landale, millinery, at 115 ½.<sup>10</sup> The 1946 directory lists the Kelly Company at 115-123 Bridge Street West.<sup>11</sup> The 1955 city directory also lists the Kelly Company at 115-123.<sup>12</sup> The 1964 directory lists the Kelly Company at 115-123.<sup>13</sup>

**3) 119 Bridge Street West (primary facade), 120 Main Street West (secondary facade)**  
**ca. 1900**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20th-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1900. The building is two bays wide and is very similar in character to 121-123 and 125 Bridge Street. The first-story storefront has been completely redone after the period of significance. New stucco facing creates two arches with recessed double-entry, glass and steel doors in one arch. The second story is clad in brick which has been painted. It has four window openings covered with shutters. Significant exterior details include rock-faced sandstone sills and lintels, decorative brickwork in a checkerboard pattern above the

<sup>8</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>9</sup> R. L. Polk and Company, *Steele County Directory* (Saint Paul: R. L. Polk and Company, 1903, 1907); Polk, 1912.

<sup>10</sup> Stanley Simonson, *1928-1929 Steele County Directory* (Rochester, MN: Stanley Simonson, 1928).

<sup>11</sup> R. L. Polk and Company, *Owatonna (Steele County, Minn) City Directory* (Saint Paul: R. L. Polk and Company, 1946).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 1955.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 1964.

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windows, and a corbelled brick course at the roofline. The historic character of the south elevation (Main Street) is concealed by the new entrance treatment of a central arch with a single-entry glass and steel door flanked by concrete block infill in the storefront openings. The second floor is clad in vinyl siding. These elements were added after the period of significance.

The 1884 Sanborn map indicates a smaller two-story building on the lot. By 1900, the footprint of a larger two-story hardware store was on the lot. In 1915 the building was a dry goods store, and on the 1924 Sanborn map it is just identified as a store.<sup>14</sup> The current appearance of the building above the first floor on Bridge Street can be seen in a ca. 1925 photo in the Minnesota Historical Society photo collection (see Figure 2, second building on the left side).

The 1903, 1906-1907, 1911-1912 directories list Thompson & Roel Hardware Company at this address.<sup>15</sup> The building is part of the Kelly Company, 115-123 West Bridge Street, in the 1955 and 1964 city directories.<sup>16</sup>

**120 Bridge Street West**

**See description for 119 Broadway Street West**

**4) 121-123 Bridge Street West, 122-124 Main Street West**  
**ca. 1900**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20th-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1900. The building is two bays wide and is very similar in character to 119 and 125 West Bridge. The storefront has been altered with vertical wood paneling framing the central, single-entry, glass and steel-framed door and glass and steel-framed display windows. Vertical wood panels span the storefront in the area of the original transom windows. The brick cladding at the second floor has been painted. Brick piers frame the bays. The second floor has three window openings in each bay. The central opening in each bay has been shuttered while the remaining openings have modern, glass and steel-framed, three-light windows.

Significant exterior details include continuous rock-faced sandstone sills, smooth-faced sandstone lintels, decorative brick in a checkerboard pattern, and a corbelled brick cornice. Both the storefront and the window sash and shutters have been added after the period of significance. The south elevation (Main Street) has been clad in vertical wood panels and has new glass and steel-framed door and windows that obscure the historic character. These elements postdate the period of significance.

The 1900 and 1909 Sanborn maps indicate a general store. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates a dry goods, boots and shoes store in the east half and groceries in the west half. The 1924 Sanborn map shows an unidentified store.<sup>17</sup> The current appearance of the building above the first floor on Bridge

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>15</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

<sup>17</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

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Street can be seen in a ca. 1925 photo in the Minnesota Historical Society photo collection (see Figure 2, fourth building on the left side).

The 1903 directory lists J. H. Robson as proprietor of a general store at this address. In 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 directories, the Kelly Company is listed as a general store at this address. The 1946 city directory lists Cashman Greenhouses as occupying the building.<sup>18</sup> The building is part of the Kelly Company, 115-123 West Bridge, in the 1964 city directory.<sup>19</sup>

**122 Bridge Street West**

See description for 121 Broadway Street West

**124 Bridge Street West**

See description for 123 Broadway Street West

**5) 125 Bridge Street West (primary facade), 126 Main Street West (secondary facade)**  
**ca. 1900**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20th-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1900. The building is three bays wide and is similar in character to 119 and 121-123 West Bridge. The main facade on Bridge Street was historically numbered 113-115 until around 1900 when it changed to the current numbering. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and consists of two recessed single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors, flanked by two glass and wood-framed display windows, and vertical wood siding at the edges and base. Wood panels cover the transom area. The second floor has seven window openings, each covered in plywood and shutters which were added after the period of significance. Significant exterior details include rock-faced sandstone sills, smooth sandstone lintels, brick piers defining the bays, and brick corbelling and soldier courses. The exterior brick facing has been cleaned and repointed. The area of the cornice and central pediment appear to be rebuilt. The rear elevation (Main Street) appears to have been redone in the 1920s. It is faced with multicolored textured brick that rises to a stylized pediment set off by decorative brickwork. The brick facing sets off the storefront elements, which consist of two modern, single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors, one double-entry, glass and wood-framed doors, a glass and steel-framed display window, a casement window, and vertical wood infill. The second floor has four window openings with soldier course lintels and modern one-over-one, aluminum-framed windows.

Historically this was the site of the Morehouse Opera House. The 1884 Sanborn map indicates a clothing store in the east half and dry goods and groceries in the west half. A meeting hall is on the second floor. The 1889 and 1894 Sanborn maps call the building the Moorehouse [sic] Block. There is a furniture store in the east half, sewing machines in the west half, and an opera house on the second floor. The building also has a third floor and a "French roof." On the 1900 Sanborn map the building is only two stories and is no longer called the Moorehouse Block. There is furniture store in the front and

<sup>18</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912, 1946.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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a print house in the rear. In 1909 the Journal-Chronicle Company was printing a newspaper from this location. In 1909 the furniture store is still on the first floor, but the printing operation moved to the second floor. In 1915 the whole building was a furniture store, and in 1924 it was an unidentified store.<sup>20</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Whiting & Luers, printers, and the Owatonna Chronicle, at 125. The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list W. S. Boice, furniture manufacturer and dealer, at 125-127. The 1911-1912 directory lists Boice & Hanna, furniture and undertaker, at this address.<sup>21</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists Hanna's Furniture & Undertaking, H. E. Hanna, proprietor, at this address.<sup>22</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Hanna-Meyer at 125-127 and L. J. Fedder at 125 ½.<sup>23</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Hudrick Furniture Company at 125-127.<sup>24</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Hudrick Furniture at 125-133.<sup>25</sup>

**126 Bridge Street West**

See description for 125 Broadway Street West

**128-130 Bridge Street West**

See description for 127-129 Broadway Street West

**6) 129 Bridge Street West, 128 Main Street West**  
**ca. 1890**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1890. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered with modern glass and steel-framed display windows, a single-entry, glass and steel-framed door, and vertical wood siding, which have been added after the period of significance. The second floor is clad in cream-colored brick. It has a window bay framed in wood, which has replacement sash flanking a display window. Significant exterior details include a continuous soldier course lintel and a corbelled brick cornice. The south elevation at 128 West Main Street is faced with brick. The storefront area at the first floor has a limestone base and limestone band course above the filled-in display window. One single-entry door is on the first floor and one on the second floor at the top of a staircase. Limestone lintels are placed above the second-story window and door.

The 1894 Sanborn map indicates the building is vacant. By 1900 a harness shop is located there. The 1909 Sanborn map shows it as once again vacant. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates a plumbing and

<sup>20</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>21</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>22</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>23</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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heating supplies store, and the 1924 map indicates a store.<sup>26</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list Wencel & Brurock at this address. The 1911-1912 directory shows that Wencel & Brurock had taken new partners and moved to different locations. The directory lists Herold & Harty, furnaces at 129.<sup>27</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists William Ganser, proprietor of a restaurant, at 129.<sup>28</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Salet's Department Store at 129-133, F. L. Moser at 129 ½, Dr. G. B. Baker and A. E. Gregor at 131 ½, and Kingdom Hall, T. A. Kingland, T. J. Warsinski, at 133 ½.<sup>29</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Salet's Department Store at 129, and Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness and apartments on the second floor.<sup>30</sup> In 1964 the building was part of the Hudrick Furniture Store at 125-133.<sup>31</sup>

**7) 131 Bridge Street West**

**Empty lot/parking lot**

**1 Noncontributing site**

This was the site of a two-story brick building dating from ca. 1890. It had been built as a general store. The building was demolished after 1996.

**8) 135 Bridge Street West, 134 Main Street West**

**Tivoli Building**

**1876**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1876 and is the oldest surviving building in the historic district. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and is clad in glazed metal panels and consists of two recessed single-entry doors, one glass and steel-framed and one metal. The brick facing of the second floor has been painted. Brick piers frame the facade. The second floor has three window openings with replacement one-over-one, aluminum-framed windows. The transoms above the windows have been filled with decorative wood panels. Significant exterior details include continuous rock-faced limestone sills, rock-faced lintels, corbelled brick brackets, and the name "Tivoli" and the date "1876" in the central projecting pediment of the ornate metal cornice. A one-story brick-faced addition from the 1960s has been added to the rear of the building at 134 West Main Street.

The Sanborn maps indicate the building was a saloon from 1884 until at least 1909. In 1915 (the year after Owatonna outlawed saloons) it was a club room, and in 1924, following the advent of Prohibition, it was a store.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>27</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>28</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>29</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>32</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50:



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In the 1903 and 1906-1907 directories, Joseph Hoffman is listed as having a saloon at this address; in 1911-1912 directory, it was the Hoffman Brothers.<sup>33</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Hoffman Electric Company.<sup>34</sup> The 1946 city directory lists C. A. Hoffmann at 135.<sup>35</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Hoff's Bar at 135.<sup>36</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Hoff's Tavern at 135.<sup>37</sup>

**136 Bridge Street West**

**See description for 131-133 Broadway Street West**

**136-140 Bridge Street West**

**See description for 137 Broadway Street West**

**9) 137 Bridge Street West**

**1879**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1879. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance. It is clad in vinyl siding and permastone, framing a central single-entry glass and steel-framed door and a wood panel door for access to second floor. The second floor is clad in brick which has been painted. It has four triangular-topped window openings with one-over-one, aluminum-framed windows below wood panels. Significant exterior details include a storefront cornice with Eastlake detailing, keystones of limestone carved with Eastlake detail, and an ornate metal cornice at the top. The date "1879" is carved in the stone over the two central windows.

The building served as a furniture store until at least 1900 according to the Sanborn maps. The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a saloon; in 1915 it is a clubroom and in 1924 an unidentified store.<sup>38</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Orłowski & Maixner, saloon, at 137. The 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 directories list Frank Mainxer as the proprietor of the saloon at this address.<sup>39</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Wodnick & Marek, pool rooms, at 137.<sup>40</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Colton Equipment Company and Dr. E. W. Senn at 137.<sup>41</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Mahlon's Gift Store and Edward

Sheet 2.

<sup>33</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>34</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>35</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>38</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>39</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>39</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>40</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>41</sup> Polk, 1946.

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Senn, Physician, at 137 with apartments on the second floor.<sup>42</sup> The 1964 city directory lists a dentist office at 137 and an apartment at 137 ½.<sup>43</sup>

**10) 139 Bridge Street West, 140 Main Street West**  
**ca. 1883, ca. 1915 (facade) with later modifications**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883 and given a newer facade circa 1915, coinciding with a change in use. The facade has been further altered after the period of significance. The building is one bay wide. The altered storefront is clad in permastone and vertical wood framing a metal single-entry door and a glass and wood-framed entry door. The second floor has brick facing, which appears to have been partially replaced and has been repointed. Two window openings are filled with plywood panels and replacement aluminum-framed windows. Significant exterior details include brick piers, soldier course headers, and brick window surrounds. The Main Street extension consists of a brick-faced first floor with a recessed entrance door and a stucco-clad second floor with a window and exit door. A portion of the first floor appears to date from the 1960s.

The Sanborn map indicates a two-story building on this lot as early as 1884 when it was called a hardware store. In 1889 it was a pump factory. By 1894 it was a restaurant; in 1909 it had become a confectionary. In 1915 it was a restaurant again. In 1924 the building extends to Main Street, and it is a store with a bakery in the rear.<sup>44</sup>

In 1903 and 1906-1907, James Peterson's restaurant is listed in the Steele County Directory, but by 1911-1912 he is listed as a confectioner.<sup>45</sup> In the 1928-1929 Steele County Directory, the Owatonna Bakery is listed at this address.<sup>46</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Owatonna Bakery at 139, and Mrs. Marie Beers and W. M. Rye at 139 ½.<sup>47</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories list the Owatonna Bakery at 139 and an apartment at 139 ½.<sup>48</sup>

**11) 141 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1905; ca. 1920 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick building was constructed circa 1905 and was given a new facade in the 1920s. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and is clad in vertical wood panels framing two single-entry doors of glass and steel-frame; one is recessed adjacent to the display windows, and one leads to the second floor. The second floor is clad in

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>44</sup> Sanborn, 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>45</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>46</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>47</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

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multicolored textured brick. It has three window openings each with a one-over-one aluminum-framed window below a wood panel. These were added after the period of significance. Significant exterior details include decorative brick work at the lintels, sills, and cornice. The rear elevation of the building is visible from Main Street West. A projecting enclosed second-floor porch overhangs the first floor entrance. A staircase leads to a second-floor entrance.

The 1909 and 1915 Sanborn maps indicate a barber shop at this location. In 1924 it is shown as a store.<sup>49</sup>

The 1911-1912 Steele County Directory lists J. L. Wiese as a barber at this address.<sup>50</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Jake's Liquor Store at 141.<sup>51</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Hunce's Liquor Store at 141 and an apartment on the second floor at 141 ½.<sup>52</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Ochs Liquor Store at 141 and an apartment on the second floor at 141 ½.<sup>53</sup>

**12) 142 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1888**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1888. The address was 130 West Bridge until 1900 when the address changed to 142. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance with aluminum trim and stucco finishes. There is a central recessed, glass and steel-framed, single-entry door and a wood and glass panel door to the side which leads to second-floor apartments. The storefront has four rectangular steel-framed glass windows. A green fabric awning hangs over the storefront concealing the transom area. The second story is faced with red brick with brick piers framing the facade. The rectangular window openings have been filled with plywood panels. Significant exterior details include continuous rock-faced limestone sills and lintels and a corbelled brick frieze below the roofline. This is the only building on the north side of Bridge Street which does not have a façade on West Broadway.

The 1889 Sanborn map indicates a two-story building with a hardware and stove store on the first floor. By 1900 it was a saloon. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the building is a club room. On the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps it is shown as an unidentified store.<sup>54</sup>

The 1903 directory lists A. J. Lippert, saloon, at this address. In the 1906-1907 directory, E. H. Lippert is listed as the saloon operator.<sup>55</sup> The 1946 city directory lists R & O's Place at 142; Red Owl Stores, Inc. at 142-144; Cleone's Beauty Shop at 142 ½ and L. H. Brandvold, Alvin Marquardt, and A. A.

<sup>49</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>50</sup> Polk, 1912.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>54</sup> Sanborn, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>55</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

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White at 144 ½.<sup>56</sup> The 1955 city directory lists R & O Place, restaurant, at 142 and an apartment on the second floor at 142 ½.<sup>57</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Curly's Bar and Cocktail Lounge at 142 and apartments at 142 ½.<sup>58</sup>

**13) 143 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1903**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick building was constructed circa 1903. The building is one bay wide. The storefront consists of a recessed central single-entry glass and steel-framed door, glass and steel-framed display windows and a single-entry metal door on the side leading to the second floor. This storefront appears to simulate the form of the original. The second floor is faced in tan brick with brick piers framing the facade and separating the two arched window openings with replacement glass and steel-framed one-over-one windows and fanlight transoms. Significant exterior details include limestone sills, decorative brickwork, piers that extend above parapet, pressed metal storefront cornice and second-floor cornice below the brick parapet. The rear elevation of the building is visible from Main Street. A one-story extension has brick veneer facade, a single entrance door, and a display window. The second story of the front portion of the building is clad with vinyl siding and has one replacement window. These elements were added after the period of significance.

On Sanborn maps prior to 1909, three one-story buildings were on this lot. On the 1909 Sanborn map, a two-story building is on the lot; the first floor is a saloon and the second is a cigar factory. On the 1915 Sanborn map, the building is a club room, and on the 1924 Sanborn map it is a store with a cigar factory on second floor.<sup>59</sup>

The 1903, 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 directories list Shuman & Fenner as cigar makers at this address. An undated clipping from the *Owatonna Journal* notes the "model cigar factory" of Shuman & Fenner in the second story of the "elegant new block on Bridge Street." In addition, the 1906-1907 directory lists J. L. Orlowske, saloon, at 143.<sup>60</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Clara's Liquor Store at 143 and Schroeder Press at 143 ½.<sup>61</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Torgerson Maytag Company at 143 and an apartment above at 143 ½.<sup>62</sup> The 1964 city directory lists R & C Appliance Company at 143 and apartments at 143 ½.<sup>63</sup>

**144 Bridge Street West**

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>59</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>60</sup> Polk, 1903, 1906-1907, 1912; "Now a Model Cigar Factory," *Owatonna Journal* (undated clipping), Steele County Historical Society.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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See description for 147 Broadway Street West

**14) 145 Bridge Street West. 146 Main Street West**

**ca. 1900**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story brick building was constructed circa 1900. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and is clad in stucco framing the door and display windows. A single-entry, glass and wood-framed door is set to one side of three wood-framed display windows, all set below four transom windows. The tan brick facing above the storefront cornice includes decorative brickwork and corbelled brick at the cornice level. The rear elevation (146 West Main Street) has been stuccoed. There is one single-entry steel door and two one-over-one wood-framed window on the second floor. These elements were added after the period of significance.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates the building is a saloon. By 1915 it was a grocery and in 1924 a store.<sup>64</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list J. C. Jahreiss, Jr., saloon, at 145. The 1911-1912 directory lists J. C. Jahreise's saloon located at this address.<sup>65</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists the Palace Grocery at this address.<sup>66</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Motor Supply, Inc. at 145.<sup>67</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories list Motor Supply Company, auto parts, at 145.<sup>68</sup>

**15) 147 Bridge Street West**

**ca. 1880 and later additions**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century building was constructed circa 1880 and has been significantly altered. The building is one bay wide. The storefront is a false front covered in clapboard siding. There are two single-entry doors, one metal and glass panels and one wood, and glass and steel-frame display windows.

The 1884 Sanborn map calls the one-and-half story wood-framed structure on this lot a repository, probably for carriages. The 1889 and 1894 Sanborn maps it a clothes cleaning establishment. On 1900 Sanborn map it is a barber and on the 1909 Sanborn map it is a meat market. By 1915 it was a bakery and in 1924 a store.<sup>69</sup>

The 1903 Steele County Directory lists Daniel & Kelty as having a barber shop and G. W. Carpenter,

<sup>64</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>65</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>66</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>67</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

<sup>69</sup> Sanborn, 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

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cigar manufacturer, at this location. In the 1906-1907 directories J. L. Wiese is listed as a barber at this location.<sup>70</sup> The 1946 city directory lists E. H. Wiese at 147.<sup>71</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Wiese & Rietz Barber Shop at 147.<sup>72</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Wiese Barber Shop at 147.<sup>73</sup>

**148 Bridge Street West**

See description for 149 Broadway Street West

**16) 149 Bridge Street West, 146 Main Street West**

ca. 1920, ca. 1940

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick building was constructed circa 1920. The building is one bay wide and was historically numbered 147 Bridge and 148 Main. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and is clad in vertical board. There is a single-entry glass and steel-framed door and a steel-framed display window. The facade is clad in multicolor textured brick. The brick at the first story differs in appearance from the brick at the second story, which has been repointed. The second story has three one-over-one wood sash windows. Significant exterior details include soldier course continuous lintels and decorative brickwork at the cornice. There is a circa 1940 one-story addition which fronts Main Street. The storefront has been altered with vertical board facing. There is a single-entry glass and steel-framed door and two square wood-framed display windows.

Sanborn maps prior to 1915 show there was no building on this lot. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate an unidentified store.<sup>74</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists Manthey Electric Company at 149.<sup>75</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Mike's Bar & Liquor Store at 149 and an apartment at 149 ½.<sup>76</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories lists Mike's Bar at 149 and an apartment at 149 ½.<sup>77</sup>

**150 Bridge Street West**

See description for 151 Broadway Street West

**17) 151-153 Bridge Street West, 152 Main Street West**

**Anderson Block**

ca. 1916

**1 Contributing Building**

<sup>70</sup> Polk, 1903, 1912.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>74</sup> Sanborn 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>75</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>76</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid., 1955.

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This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1916. The building is two bays wide. The storefront on the north (Bridge Street) elevation has all new brick infill that frames three single-entry doors, one metal and two glass and steel-framed, and three large glass and steel-framed windows. The window opening in the west bay has been partially enclosed with vinyl siding. The second story is faced with red and tan brick laid in geometric patterns that frame the window openings and accent the piers and band courses above and below the four window openings. The one-over-one aluminum sash windows are replacements. The tan brick parapet contains a limestone name block inscribed with "Anderson Block." The west elevation of the building faces Oak Street and is clad with painted brick. It has a storefront window and entrance near the north end and a window opening at the second floor. The south elevation faces Main Street and is clad with painted brick. The first story is angled in beneath the second story to allow for automobile entrance. The south elevation also has two garage door entrances.

Prior to 1924, the Sanborn maps indicate a vacant lot. On the 1924 Sanborn map a large garage for car storage, auto repair and a vulcanizing shop is located on this lot. The 1945/50 Sanborn map indicates a restaurant at 153 West Bridge but the rest of the building is dedicated to automobile servicing.<sup>78</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists Northwestern Tire and Repair Company at 151 Bridge and 150 Main.<sup>79</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the building as the Anderson Block with Christy & Edwards at 151 Bridge, Hamburger Home at 153 Bridge, and apartments at 151 ½.<sup>80</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Christy Barber Shop at 151 and apartments at 151 ½.<sup>81</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Diet & Nolan Barber Shop at 151 and apartments at 151 ½.<sup>82</sup>

**18) 116 Broadway Street East**  
**ca. 1902, 1953**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1902 with alterations in 1953 and possibly later. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered several times. It currently contains multiple-pane steel-framed windows and a single entry glass and steel-framed door. The red brick facing of the second floor was replaced in 1953; a wood-framed three-sided oriel window with a slanting roof and rectangular one-over-one windows replaced the original rectangular oriel. It is not clear why the original fabric was replaced, but an attempt was made to replicate the original appearance, although in a more simplified form. According to city building permits, unidentified additions were made to the building in 1953. Photos in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society show the building in 1910 with a decorative brick facade and a rectangular oriel (Figure 4; building to right of Farmer's Bank). A 1959 photo shows that the brick facing had been redone and the original oriel replaced with the one in place now (Figure 5; building to the right of Farmer's Bank). In

<sup>78</sup> Sanborn, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>79</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>80</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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2010, the windows in the second-story oriel were replaced.<sup>83</sup>

The 1909, 1915, and 1924 Sanborn maps indicate a printing shop at this address.<sup>84</sup> The 1903 directory lists J. B. Gates, dressmaker, at 116.<sup>85</sup> The *Owatonna Journal* describes the building in 1905. The J.P. Thon plumbing shop was in the basement and the second floor was used as a lodge hall.<sup>86</sup> J.P. Thon Plumber appears on the storefront awning in the 1910 MHS photo (see Figure 4). The 1946 city directory lists Thon Plumbing & Heating Company at 116 and apartments above at 116 ½.<sup>87</sup> The 1955 city directory lists 116 as vacant and an apartment at 116 ½.<sup>88</sup> The 1964 city directory only lists 116 ½ as an apartment.<sup>89</sup>

**19) 118-126 Broadway Street East**  
**Empty Lot/parking lot**  
**1 Noncontributing site**

This site is used as a parking lot for the adjacent buildings. According to the Sanborn maps, this was the site of roller skating rink in 1884 and 1889. It then became a coal yard and remained in this use at least until 1950.<sup>90</sup>

**20) 128 Broadway Street East**  
**National Guard Armory**  
**1915 [1901?]<sup>91</sup>**

**1 Contributing Building**

This three-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque Revival style brick building was constructed in 1915. The building is three bays wide. It is faced with red and tan brick laid to simulate quoins with a central bay rising to a stepped brick parapet. The windows on the first floor have narrow multipaned sash set in a series of three above brick sills. The second floor windows have been replaced with single-pane glass sashes. The third floor window openings are shorter than those on the lower floors and have replacement single-pane glass sashes. The central bay has three very narrow windows on the second floor and third floor, however the third-floor ones are shorter. The central entrance is recessed and has a double-entry wood panel door. Brick ribs flank the central bay which is marked by brick arches and corbelling at the top of the parapet. "Armory" is carved in a stone band above the entrance. The west elevation of the building faces the parking lot. It is faced with brick and is supported by buttresses. The sloping roof is visible on this side.

<sup>83</sup> City Permits and Inspection Records

<sup>84</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>85</sup> Polk, 1903.

<sup>86</sup> "A Model Laundry," *Owatonna Journal*, March 2, 1905.

<sup>87</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>90</sup> Sanborn, 1884: Sheet 1; 1889: Sheet 3; 1894: sheet 8; 1900: Sheet 8; 1909: Sheet 8; 1924: Sheet 5; 1945-1950: Sheet 5.

<sup>91</sup> Wesley, 131. The building does not appear on the Sanborn map until 1915 as the Company 1 Armory.



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The parcel first shows up on the 1894 Sanborn map, it has a two-story dwelling. The dwelling continued to be located on this parcel until the 1915 Sanborn map when the "Co. 1 Armory" first appears.<sup>92</sup>

**21) 148 Broadway Street East**  
**Josten's Manufacturing Company**  
**ca. 1930 and later**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1930. The building is three bays wide. The main entrance is located on the south elevation. The double-door entrance is surrounded by red polished granite. The entrance is flanked by large two-paned and transomed windows with brick sills. The second-story windows above the entrance bay have red polished granite sills. The remaining first floor windows are two-pane sliding windows with brick sills, and the remaining second story windows are two-paned and transomed windows. On the southeast corner of the lot stands a flagpole. Recent additions are sited to the north and west. The north addition is a two-story, concrete block building with a brick front. The west addition is a two-story, concrete block building with a brick front.

The Josten Manufacturing Company was founded in 1900 by O. H. Josten. The company specialized in college rings, pins, and trophies, but soon expanded into the high school market. A new manufacturing plant was built on Broadway in 1930, and by 1938 it employed 200 people in Owatonna and 75 traveling salesmen.<sup>93</sup> During World War II the plant made parts for the Norden bomb sight. The new plant is shown occupying the northwest corner of Broadway East and Elm Street North on the 1945/50 updated Sanborn map.<sup>94</sup> The 1928-1929 county directory lists Josten's at 101 Main Street West prior to the construction of the new plant.<sup>95</sup> In 1954, Josten's was the city's largest employer.

**22) 106-108 Broadway Street West**  
**ca. 1883, ca. 1950 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883 but given a new facade circa 1950. The building is two bays wide. It is faced in beige brick. The storefront is divided into two bays flanking a doorway opening to a central staircase leading to the second floor. Each bay has recessed, single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors and glass and steel-framed display windows. The transoms above the storefronts have been covered with vertical wood and signs for the businesses. The central entrance to the second floor is a replacement glass and steel-framed door with a multiple-pane transom above. The storefront elements were added after the period of significance. The second floor has five windows with one-over-one, wood-framed sash. Decorative details include a continuous brick lintel, a brick band course below the lintels, and a concrete cap on the parapet.

<sup>92</sup> Sanborn, 1889: Sheet 3; 1894: sheet 8; 1900: Sheet 8; 1909: Sheet 8; 1924: Sheet 5; 1945-1950: Sheet 5.

<sup>93</sup> Wesley, 92-93.

<sup>94</sup> Sanborn 1945/50: Sheet 5

<sup>95</sup> Simonson, 1928-1929.

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According to a 1918 photograph of West Broadway and North Cedar from the SCHS archives, the building's facade was quite different when built (Figure 6, second building from the corner). The first floor is obscured by awnings but the second floor has arched windows, a decorative cornice, and a central pediment.

The 1884 Sanborn map indicates a drug store in the east half, a hardware store in the west half, and offices on the second floor. The 1889 Sanborn map shows that book sales have been added to the east half and stove sales to the west half. By 1894 the west half was a boots and shoes retailer and in 1900 it was the same. In 1909 the east half was a retail drug store and the west half was retail notions. In 1915 the east half was a stationery and book store. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates two stores and in 1945/50 the west half was a restaurant.<sup>96</sup>

The 1892-1893 directory lists the Lord Brothers, loans and wool, and Nelson Mercantile Co., books, stationery, and drugs, at 108 West Broadway. There are no listings for 106 West Broadway.<sup>97</sup> The 1903 and 1906-1907 Steele County Directories list Larson & Anderson, retail boot and shoes, at 108 and Netz & Vinton, druggists and books and stationery at 106. The 1911-1912 directory lists Netz & Vinton, druggists, at 106.<sup>98</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists S. W. Alt, shoes, at 106.<sup>99</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Vesterby and Watowa at 106, G. N. Rogentine at 108, and Lorrene's Beauty Salon, Raymond's Beauty Salon, and apartments at 108 ½.<sup>100</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Vesterby & Watowa, jewelers, at 106; Landdeck Studio, music teachers, at 106 ½; Broadway Drug at 108; and Grace's Beauty Shop, Credit Bureau of Steele County, and an apartment at 108 ½.<sup>101</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Vesterby & Watowa, jewelers, at 106; Landdeck Studios at 106 ½; Stan's Barber Shop, Town & Country Sales Company at 108; and apartments at 108 ½.<sup>102</sup>

**23) 110-112 Broadway Street West**  
**Twiss Block/Thiemers Ice Cream**  
**ca. 1883, ca. 1950 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was built circa 1883 but given a new facade circa 1950. The building is faced with beige brick above a storefront that is divided into sections with a central entrance leading to a staircase to the second floor. The recessed glass and wood-framed door to the second floor also services the larger storefront at the east half which has large replacement, glass and steel-framed windows. The smaller storefront at the west half has a recessed glass and steel-framed

<sup>96</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>97</sup> A. J. Truesdell, *1892-1893 Directory of Steele County, Minnesota* (Saint Paul, MN: A. J. Truesdell, 1893).

<sup>98</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>99</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>100</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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door and large glass and steel display windows. The polished granite storefront base appears to date from the 1950s. The second floor has three windows with replacement, one-over-one aluminum sash. Significant exterior details include continuous limestone sills, lintels and parapet cap, and decorative brickwork at the cornice level.

According to a 1918 photograph of West Broadway and Cedar from the Steele County Historical Society collection, the facade of the building was quite different then (see Figure 6, third building from the corner). The first floor is obscured by awnings, but the second floor has window bays, and the building is surmounted by a sloping mansard and front gable.

The 1884 Sanborn map indicates a dry goods store in the east half and a harness shop in the west half. In 1889 the east half is shown as a vacant saloon with a barber on second floor; the west half is a cigar factory with a meeting hall on the second floor. In 1894 the east half is shown as a grocer on the first floor; the remainder of building stayed the same as 1889. By 1900 the east half was a candy and stationery store and the west half was a cigar factory and store. The entire second floor was now a meeting hall. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates a cigar factory and store in the west half of the building and on the entire second floor. The east half is a confectionary. By 1924 the first floor contained stores, and the second floor housed a cigar factory; in 1945/50 the east half is a bakery.<sup>103</sup>

The 1903 directory lists H. H. Joseph, bottler and confectioner, and J. C. Malone, insurance agent, at 110, and C. W. Zoehrlaut, cigar manufacturing, as occupying 112. In the 1906-1907 directory, Zoehrlaut had moved to 108 North Cedar. It lists H. H. Joseph, bottlers and confectioners, at 110, and H. W. Stout, cigar manufacturer, at 112. The 1911-1912 directory lists L. R. Van Orhum, confectioner, at 110, and H. W. Stout, cigar manufacturer, at 112.<sup>104</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists H. W. Stout, cigar manufacturer, at 112.<sup>105</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Central Bakery at 110; Southern Minnesota Credit Association, Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, doctor's offices and apartments at 110 ½; and Home Liquor Store at 112.<sup>106</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Central Bakery at 110, dentists and an insurance agent at 110 ½, and Mary's Liquor Store at 112.<sup>107</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Hart's Central Bakery at 110, offices at 110 ½, and Mary's Liquor Store at 112.<sup>108</sup>

**24) 114-118 Broadway Street West**  
**ca. 1883, 1940 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883. The facade was redone in 1940. The storefront is divided into unequal bays a staircase leading to the second floor

<sup>103</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>104</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>105</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>106</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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located at the east end of the façade. All entrances are recessed. Two sets of glass and steel-framed, double entry doors are at the first floor, and the doorway to the second floor has one glass and wood-framed, single entry door and one wood door. The rest of the storefront has glass and steel-framed display windows. The second story is faced with beige brick. Projecting brick piers flank the window openings. Horizontal limestone banding projects slightly above the storefront awning. The second story has five windows with one-over-one, wood sash and one with two-over-two, wood sash. Significant exterior details marking the Art Deco facade include vertical brick indentations above the windows, brick soldier course lintels, smooth limestone sills and coping, polished black granite panels at the base, and a “W” set in tile at that entrance of the eastern storefront.

The 1884, 1889, 1894, and 1900 Sanborn maps indicate a saloon and billiards at this address and Germania Hall on the second floor. The 1909 and 1915 Sanborn maps indicate a barber shop in the east half and a seed warehouse in the west half. The 1924 Sanborn map shows two storefronts. The updated 1945/50 Sanborn map indicates the structure at 118 has been incorporated into the façade of 114-116.<sup>109</sup>

According to the 1903 Steele County Directory, H. H. Krier operated a saloon, billiard room, and bowling alley at this address. In the 1906-1907 Steele County Directory, Niklawske & Breher are listed as running the saloon and billiard room; H. H. Krier has a bowling alley at 114, and Niklawske & Breher, have a saloon, at 116. The 1911-1912 directory lists C. P. Trisko, barber, at 114 and the Gem Theater at 118.<sup>110</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Clinton Falls Nursery Company and Cashman Seed Company at 116 and the Woolworth Company at 118.<sup>111</sup> A photograph from circa 1918 shows the original facade of the building (see Figure 6, fourth building from the corner). It was a two-and-a-half-story Italianate facade with a mansard roof. A large canopy obscures most of the storefront.<sup>112</sup> The Woolworth Company expanded into 114 and 116 and remodeled the building in 1940, creating the present appearance.<sup>113</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the F. W. Woolworth Company at 114-118 and apartments at 114 ½.<sup>114</sup> The 1955 city directory lists F. W. Woolworth Company at 114-118, a lawyer and insurance agents at 114 ½, Southern Minnesota Credit Association at 116 ½, and Traficante Accordion School, Steel Farm County Farm and a real estate agent at 118 ½.<sup>115</sup> The 1964 city directory lists F. W. Woolworth Company at 114-118, offices at 114 ½, offices at 116 ½, and a vacancy at 118 ½.<sup>116</sup>

**25) 119 Broadway Street West, 120 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1892**

<sup>109</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>110</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>111</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>112</sup> SCHS photograph archives, 1918

<sup>113</sup> “Work Is Begun on Woolworth Building Here,” *Owatonna Peoples Press*, October 6, 1940. The story calls this the site of the Merchants’ Hotel and says the building will have a “new front of modernistic design.”

<sup>114</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*, 1955.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*, 1964.

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**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1892. The building is one bay wide. The structure has matching facades on Broadway and Bridge. The Broadway storefront has been altered after the period of significance with replacement glass and steel-framed display windows, two double-entry doors, and a single entry doors. The Bridge Street storefront has been altered in much the same way except for two separate single-entry doors. The second floor is faced with red brick on both Broadway and Bridge. Each facade has three arched window openings with replacement glass and steel-framed windows and transom panels. Significant exterior details include rock-faced red sandstone sills, coping, cornice, and impost blocks at upper corners along with decorative brick moldings around the window openings.

A 1913 photograph of Bridge Street in the Steele County Historical Society collection shows this building with a large front gable on the Bridge Street side (see Figure 1, building adjacent to former Deviny Clothing store). There was probably a similar gable on the Broadway side. The gable has been removed and the façade partially obscured by a large vertical drugstore sign in a ca. 1925 photograph from the Minnesota Historical Society (see Figure 2, second building on the right side).

The 1889 Sanborn map indicates two smaller structures on the lot: a two-story building and one-story building. In 1894 a two-story building occupies the whole lot between the two streets. According to Sanborn maps, the building was used as a bank through 1909. In 1915, the building was vacant on the first floor and had offices on the second floor. In 1924 it was shown as a drugstore and in 1945/50 it is an unidentified store.<sup>117</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 Steele County Directories list First National Bank at 119 W. Broadway and 120 Bridge, and E. W. Richter, insurance agent and lawyer, and Wheelock & Sperry, lawyers, at 119.<sup>118</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists J. B. Christgau with a drugstore at this address.<sup>119</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Christgan's [sic] at 119 and Mrs. Effie G. Christgan at 119 ½.<sup>120</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Mrs. Effie Christgau at 119.<sup>121</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Christgau's Pharmacy at 120 Bridge Street West and the rear entrance to pharmacy at 119 Broadway Street West.<sup>122</sup>

**26) 121 Broadway Street West, 122 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1895, ca. 1955 (Bridge Street)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1895. This building has a separate facade from its neighbor at 123 West Broadway but shares a ca. 1955 facade with 124 West Bridge Street. The building is one bay wide on West Broadway. The storefront has been altered after

<sup>117</sup> Sanborn 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>118</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>119</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>120</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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the period of significance with replacement, glass and steel-framed, display windows, two single-entry glass and steel-framed doors (one leading to upstairs), and vertical wood siding framing the doors. A curved, fabric and steel awning projects and extends across the storefront covering the original transom area. The second floor is faced with red brick and decorative brick panels below the corbelled cornice. It has four window openings with replacement, one-over-one aluminum sash windows with filled in transoms. Significant exterior details include continuous rock-faced buff-colored limestone sills and lintels, limestone coping, and projecting limestone finials above the cornice. The south façade is shared with 124 Bridge Street. It is faced with beige brick and has brick band course and vertical brick striations. The shared storefront has three centered single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors, one leading to the second story and the other two to the first floor stores. Each has three glass and steel-framed display windows. The second story contains four window openings with replacement one-over-one aluminum-sash windows.

Photographs from 1913 (Steele County Historical Society) and ca. 1925 (Minnesota Historical Society) show the Bridge Street side of the building (see Figures 1 and 2; second building on the right). It is very similar in character to the existing Broadway facade. A photo dated ca. 1955 (Minnesota Historical Society) but might be a few years earlier, still shows the earlier building facade on Bridge Street (see Figure 3; second building from the corner, right side).

The 1900 Sanborn map indicates a hardware and harness shop. The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a hardware store. In 1915 the only change is the tin shop on the second floor. In 1924 the Sanborn map indicates it is an unidentified store.<sup>123</sup>

The 1903 Steele County Directory lists Christoph Butsch as operating a hardware and harness shop at this address. The 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 directories list Butsch & Son as operating a hardware, stoves and tin shop at this location. The 1911-1912 directory also lists O. E. Williamson, meat market, at 124, and Butsch & Son, aluminum utensils, at 122 and 121.<sup>124</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Kathleen George as the proprietor of a "ladies' ready to wear" store, and Mrs. Olivetta Adsit, hairdresser, at 121.<sup>125</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Cashman's Flower Store at 121.<sup>126</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories lists Cashman Flowers & Gifts at 121 and an apartment at 121 ½.<sup>127</sup>

**27) 123 Broadway Street West, 124 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1895, ca. 1955 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1895 but the facade on both streets was altered circa 1955. The building is one bay wide. The rear facade was altered circa 1955 and is numbered 124 Bridge Street West. It is shared with 122 Bridge Street West (see previous

<sup>123</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2.

<sup>124</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>125</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>126</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

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entry for description). The Broadway storefront consists of a recessed, single-entry glass and steel-framed door, with transom window, flanked by large glass and steel-framed display windows and a single-entry, glass and steel door leading to the second floor. The second floor is faced with beige brick. It has two window openings with replacement windows and wood paneling. Significant exterior details include vertical brick detailing, continuous soldier course lintels and cornice detail, and a concrete cap. The photographs of Bridge Street from 1913, ca. 1925, and ca. 1955 depict the original appearance of the building, which was like that of 121 West Broadway (see Figures 1-3; third building on right side).

The 1900 Sanborn map indicates the building was in use as a meat market. The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a grocer. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates a grocery and meat market. On the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps, it is an unidentified store.<sup>128</sup>

The 1903 directory lists J. M. Schafer, grocer and meat market, and Mrs. Catherine Downie, dressmaker, at 123. The 1906-1907 the directory lists D. G. Denesen, retail grocery, Anna Bjerke, dressmaker, and John Bjerke, tailor, at 123. The 1911-1912 directory lists Mrs. Anna Bjerke, dressmaker, and Jno [John] Bjerke, tailor, at 123.<sup>129</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company at 122 Bridge.<sup>130</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Sturm Hardware at 123 and Owatonna Cleaners at 123 ½.<sup>131</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Master-Craft Camera Shop at 123 and a vacancy at 123 ½.<sup>132</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Master-Craft Camera Shop at 123 and apartments at 123 ½.<sup>133</sup>

**28) 125 Broadway Street West, 126 Bridge Street West**  
**U.S. Post Office**  
**ca. 1884, ca. 1915 facade**  
**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building may have been constructed circa 1884 to house the post office. The two facades were redone, possibly ca. 1915, after the post office relocated. The building is one bay wide. The rear facade is numbered 126 Bridge Street West. The facade of 125 West Broadway includes two recessed entries flanking large glass and steel-framed display windows. The first-floor entrance is a glass and steel-framed door; the one to the second floor is glass and wood-framed. A large panel at the transom area and continuous cornice span the facade. The facade of red brick frames the storefront and the second-floor window bay. The bay has been filled in with brick and two replacement aluminum casement windows. The curving top of the bay is accentuated by applied limestone strips. The rear facade is similar to the front facade. Alterations to the storefront include two recessed entry of wood flanking replacement glass and steel-framed display windows, and a diagonal wood transom panel. The second floor window bay has been filled in to create two openings which

<sup>128</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>129</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>130</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>131</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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have two replacement one-over-one aluminum framed windows.

The photographs of Bridge Street listed in the entries for 119 and 121-123 West Broadway suggest the original appearance of the Bridge Street side of the building (see Figures 1-3; fourth building from corner, right side). They also suggest that the Bridge Street side (126) shared a facade with 128-130 Bridge, although the angle of the photo is such that the details are not very clear.

The 1889 Sanborn map shows a confectionary along with the post office and the Grand Army of the Republic hall on the second floor. By 1894, the confectionary had left. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates the Salvation Army was located on the second floor. The Sanborn maps show that the building was a post office for many years, except in 1924 when it is shown as an unidentified store.<sup>134</sup>

The post office relocated to a new building on Park Square East in 1913.<sup>135</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists the Schad Cloak and Hat Shop, a ladies clothing store, at this address. The proprietor was Mrs. Frona Schad Cook.<sup>136</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Gray's Style Shop at 125 and an apartment above at 125 ½.<sup>137</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Gray's Style Shop at 125 and an apartment above at 125 ½.<sup>138</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Lucy's Style Shop at 126 Bridge Street West and the rear entrance at 125 Broadway Street West and an apartment at 125 ½.<sup>139</sup>

**29) 127-129 Broadway Street West, 128-130 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1899**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1899. The rear facade is numbered 128-130 Bridge Street West. The building is two bays wide and has two storefront sections. The 127 West Broadway storefront has been altered after the period of significance with a recessed, glass and steel-framed, single-entry door, glass and steel-framed display windows, and panel infill. The 129 West Broadway storefront has been altered after the period of significance with new brick framing, two steel-framed entry doors, and a tripartite display window. A continuous metal panel covers the transom area. Both sections of the building are faced with red brick. Brick piers flank the two sections of the building. The second floor of each section has three window openings have been with vertical wood panels and replacement one-over-one wood sash windows. The parapets have been rebuilt. Significant exterior details on the north facade include rock-faced yellow limestone continuous sills and lintels, and decorative brickwork at the cornice level. The two facades on Bridge Street are differentiated. The storefront of 128 West Bridge has been altered after the period of significance with display windows flanking a recessed entrance. The 128 West Bridge facade is red brick. Brick piers

<sup>134</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>135</sup> Wesley, 124.

<sup>136</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>137</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid., 1964.



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simulating quoins frame the facade and the two arched window bays at the second story. The windows are replacement one-over-one aluminum sash below filled in transoms. A corbelled and bracketed brick frieze spans the facade. The modern storefront of 130 West Bridge has two single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors and a large display window. Above the storefront, the facade has been covered by false-half timbering at the transom level. The second floor is faced with red brick and has details similar to the facade on West Broadway. The three window openings have replacement, one-over-one aluminum sash windows and transom panels. The parapet has been rebuilt above a decorative brick frieze.

The 1894 Sanborn map indicates a two-story building on the south half (Bridge Street half) of the lot only. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates a two-story building on the lot being used as a restaurant (Broadway side) and a bank (Bridge side), this use is reflected in the different facade treatments. By 1909, the north half was a grocer and the south half a barber. In 1915, a tailor is located in the north half. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates an auto trimming shop in the north half and a store in the south half. On the updated Sanborn map in 1945/50, the whole building is an unidentified store.<sup>140</sup>

The construction of the building followed a fire which destroyed a group of old wood buildings, which included the Rosebrock structure, a vehicle repository, and Frank Wencil's harness shop.<sup>141</sup> The 1903 directory lists a branch of the Owatonna Steam Dye Works, at 129 and William Koons, variety store, at 130. The 1906-1907 Steele County Directory lists Victor Baker as a barber at 128 Bridge Street. No grocer's name could be found for 127 Broadway, but it lists Peter Smith, restaurant, at 127. The 1906-1907 directory lists Rieks & Hillestad, dressmakers, at 128, and Wencil & Burrock, harness manufacturers and dealers, at 129. The 1911-1912 directory lists J. E. Sullivan, barber, at 128 and Wencil & Danniger, harness manufacturers and dealers, at 129 and 130.<sup>142</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists a variety store operated by the Burg Co. at 130 Bridge Street West.<sup>143</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Broadway Beauty Salon at 127, apartments above at 127 ½, the Firestone Store at 129, and an apartment above at 129 ½.<sup>144</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Heinz Insurance Agency, Deerfield Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, and a real estate agent at 127, an apartment at 127 ½, Dunn Doty Hat Shop at 129, and an apartment at 129 ½.<sup>145</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Sisser's Better Shoes at 127, and apartments at 127 ½.<sup>146</sup>

**30) 131-133 Broadway Street West, 136 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1890**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1890. The building is two bays wide. The rear facade is numbered 136 Bridge Street West, but historically was 132-134. The

<sup>140</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>141</sup> "Old Landmarks Gone," *Owatonna [Journal]*, January 6, 1899.

<sup>142</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>143</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>144</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*, 1955.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, 1964.

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north storefront on Broadway was altered after the period of significance. It is framed with vertical metal and wood panels, enclosing two single-entry glass and steel-framed doors and glass and steel-framed display windows. The second floor is faced with red brick. Brick piers frame the facade. The six window openings are filled with vertical board panels. Significant exterior details include smooth yellow limestone sills and Keyed lintels above the windows and decorative brickwork at the cornice. The south storefront on Bridge has also been altered after the period of significance. The storefront is framed in vertical metal and wood panels, and has one single-entry, glass and steel-framed door, and glass and steel-framed sidelights and transoms. The second floor is faced with red brick. Brick piers frame the facade. The five window openings have been filled with vertical board panels. Significant exterior details include a rock-faced limestone continuous sill, keyed lintels above the window openings, and decorative brickwork including corbels, basketwork patterns, and brackets at the cornice. This facade has more decorative elements than the north facade, possibly an indication that this may have been the primary entrance.

The 1889 Sanborn map shows multiple one-story buildings located on this lot. On the 1894 Sanborn map, there was a large two-story furniture store on this lot. The Sanborn maps indicate it was a furniture store for many years. On the 1924 map, it is just labeled as a store.<sup>147</sup>

In 1903 the Steele County Directory lists C. H. Rosebrock, furniture manufacturer and dealer, at 131-133 Broadway West and T. B. Brick, bowling alley, at 134 Bridge. In the 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 Steele County Directories, F. H. Joesting, is listed as the proprietor of a furnishing goods store called the Emporium at this address. In the 1911-1912 and 1928-1929 directories, the furniture store is once again under C. H. Rosebrock as C. H. Rosebrock & Son.<sup>148</sup> The 1946 city directory lists H. H. Rosebrock at 133.<sup>149</sup> There is no listing for 131-133 Broadway Street West in the 1955 city directory.<sup>150</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Spurgeon's, woman's clothing, at 136 Bridge Street West with the rear entrance at 131 Broadway Street West.<sup>151</sup>

**31) 137 Broadway Street West, 136-140 Bridge Street West**  
**Central Hotel**  
**ca. 1895, ca. 1980 (facade)**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial building was constructed circa 1895 and extensively altered circa 1980. The building is two bays wide. Historically the north facade was numbered as 135-137-139 Broadway Street West and the south facade was 136-138-140 Bridge Street West. The altered north facade is now one address number (137), and it has been heavily altered. The storefront area is clad in stucco, with four single-entry doors of various materials across the storefront; a blue metal awning stretches across the storefront at cornice level. The second floor is covered in vertical wood siding. A

<sup>147</sup> Sanborn 1889: Sheet 2, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>148</sup> Polk, 1903, 1912; Simonson, 1929.

<sup>149</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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flagpole is also located in front in the sidewalk. The south facade has been similarly altered.

The 1894 Sanborn map indicates a vacant lot. In 1900 the Sanborn map indicates the Central Hotel at 135-137-139. The Sanborn map also shows that 135 West Broadway and 136 West Bridge Street is one building and 137-139 West Broadway and 138-140 West Bridge Street is another building with two bays. The second floors of these buildings were combined as the Central Hotel. A billiard hall was located on the first floor of 135 Broadway, a clothing store at 137 Broadway, a dining room at 139 Broadway and offices at 140 Bridge. On the 1909 Sanborn map, the building is not labeled as a hotel, but the first floor is occupied by a harness shop, a restaurant, and a vacant shop. By 1915, 135 Broadway was still a harness shop (probably specializing in harnesses for farm animals) and 137-139 had a grocery, dry goods, and retail boots and shoes. The 1924 Sanborn map shows two stores and on the 1945/50 map, 135 Broadway is a furniture store, 137-139 is a store, and the second floor is being used for club rooms.<sup>152</sup>

The 1903 Steele County Directory lists the Shea Clothing Company at 138 Bridge and 137 W. Broadway. The 1906-1907 directory lists A. M. Belina, automobile dealers, at 140. The 1911-1912 Steele County Directory lists A. M. Belina with an automobile repair and parts shop at this address. The 1911-1912 directory lists A. M. Belina, bicycle dealer, at 140 and 141.<sup>153</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists the J. C. Penney Company at 138 Bridge.<sup>154</sup> The 1955 city directory lists the National Food Store at 137.<sup>155</sup> The 1964 city directory does not list 137 Broadway Street West, but 140 ½ Bridge Street West has the American Legion as upstairs tenants.<sup>156</sup> The current facade was altered for the American Legion.

**32) 139 Broadway Street West**  
**ca. 1955**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1955. The building is one bay wide and is faced with beige brick. The storefront has one single-entry, glass and steel-framed door with a transom window and large glass and steel-framed display windows.

The building is not on the updated 1945/50 Sanborn map.<sup>157</sup> It is an example of infill, and it is the only building on this block that does not have a facade on Bridge Street. The 1955 city directory lists Gambles auto supply at 139.<sup>158</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Heinz Insurance Agency and Owatonna Mutual Fire Insurance Company at 139.<sup>159</sup>

<sup>152</sup> Sanborn 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>153</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>154</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>155</sup> Polk, 1955.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>157</sup> Sanborn 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>158</sup> Polk, 1955.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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**33) 143 Broadway Street West, 144 Bridge Street West**  
**ca. 1902**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1902. The building is three bays wide. The facade on Broadway was historically numbered 143-145. The south (rear) facade is numbered 144 West Bridge Street. The north facade storefront has been altered after the period of significance. It has three, single-entry, glass and wood panel doors, one leading to the apartments upstairs and two to the first-floor stores. There are four large, glass and steel-framed display windows. The second floor is faced with red brick with a brick corbel band visible above the storefront sign band. It has six window openings with replacement windows, set below plywood panels. Significant exterior details include rock-faced yellow limestone sills and lintels, and a corbelled brick cornice with a raised center section with arches set in the raised parapet wall. The south facade is identical to the north.

The 1900 Sanborn map indicates a vacant lot; by 1909 there is a two-story building with a wholesale grocer on the first floor and flats on the second. On the 1915 Sanborn map, the building is a roller-skating rink, and on the 1924 map it is a parking garage. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map the north half is a garage and the south an unidentified store.<sup>160</sup>

The 1906-1907 directory lists Matilda Burger, dressmaker, at 144.<sup>161</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Gorman-Ahmann Inc, automobile garage and services, at 144.<sup>162</sup> The 1946 city directory lists 145-147 as vacant.<sup>163</sup> There is no listing for 147 Broadway Street West in the 1955 city directory. The directory lists apartments at 144 ½ Bridge Street West.<sup>164</sup> There is no listing for 147 Broadway Street West or 144 Bridge Street West in the 1964 city directory.<sup>165</sup>

**34) 149 Broadway Street West, 148 Bridge Street West**<sup>166</sup>  
**ca. 1910**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1910. The building is one bay wide. The north (front) facade was historically numbered 147 West Broadway and the south (rear) facade was numbered 146 West Bridge Street. The first floor has been altered after the period of significance with a single-entry, glass and wood-paneled, recessed door and large, glass and steel-framed display windows. Above the entrance is a fabric awning. The second story, which is faced with salmon-colored brick, has three window openings with replacement, one-over-one aluminum sash windows. Significant exterior details include stone sills and lintels, corbelled brickwork and an ornate

<sup>160</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>161</sup> Polk, 1907.

<sup>162</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>163</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>166</sup> This building shares a parcel with 151 Broadway Street West.

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pressed metal cornice with egg and dart molding. The south facade is similar on the second story. One difference can be found in the central window opening which is double the width of the other window openings. The openings have replacement windows, wood panels, and decorative shake siding added after the period of significance. The decorative brickwork above the window openings is slightly different from that on the north facade. The first story has one recessed, glass and wood-framed, single-entry door and one steel panel door that lead to the second floor. There are also large, glass and steel-framed display windows.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a small one-story building on the lot. By 1915, a two-story implement warehouse is on the lot. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate a store.<sup>167</sup>

The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists the Independent Market at 146 Bridge.<sup>168</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Firestone Direct Stores at 148 Bridge Street West and apartments at 148 ½.<sup>169</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Owa Kue Klub, billiards, at 148 Bridge Street West and apartments at 148 ½.<sup>170</sup>

**35) 151 Broadway Street West, 150 Bridge Street West<sup>171</sup>**  
**ca. 1915**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1915. The building is one bay wide. The Broadway facade is one-story while the Bridge Street facade is two stories. The Broadway facade was historically numbered 149 and the Bridge Street facade was numbered 146. The 151 West Broadway Street storefront has been altered after the period of significance with diagonal wood paneling and a shingled eave. There is one recessed entry and a large display window. Red brick facing, which is partially covered with paint, is visible above the storefront. The 150 West Bridge Street storefront has also been altered after the period of significance. The storefront consists of a recessed, glass and steel-framed door and glass and steel-framed display windows. The brick pier and area above storefront has been painted blue to match the neighboring building. At the second story, the facade has red brick facing and brown brick window surrounds and a brick frieze. The windows are replacements added after the period of significance.

The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the Broadway Street half is vacant and the Bridge Street half is a meat market. On the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps the building is shown as an unidentified store.<sup>172</sup>

The 1946 city directory lists Hanson Auto Company and E. S. Bickford at 151 and apartments at 151 ½.<sup>173</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Sander's Café at 150 Bridge Street West and an apartment at 150

<sup>167</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>168</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>169</sup> Polk, 1955.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>171</sup> This building shares a parcel with 149 Broadway Street West.

<sup>172</sup> Sanborn, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>173</sup> Polk, 1946.

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½.<sup>174</sup> There is no listing for either address in the 1964 city directory.

**36) 101-103-105 Cedar Avenue North,  
National Farmers' Bank of Owatonna  
1908**

**Architect: Louis H. Sullivan**

**Builder: Hammel Brothers and Anderson**

**National Historic Landmark<sup>175</sup>**

The National Farmers' Bank of Owatonna was designed by Louis H. Sullivan and completed in 1908. The building sits on a corner lot. The main, west elevation, measures 68 feet along North Cedar Avenue and the south elevation (Broadway) extends 154 feet. The main box of the building has similar exterior treatments. The exterior has a base of reddish brown sandstone ashlar, laid in courses of different heights, and penetrated by simple rectangular door and window openings. The rest of the facade is faced with variegated brick in red and brown tones. The Cedar Avenue and Broadway Avenue elevations have two large arched windows, thirty-six feet in span, with wide flat archivolt made of ten concentric header courses of brick. The stained glass is set in vertical steel mullions. Enameled terra cotta relief frames a rectangular panel in bronze-green accented with brown. The facades are capped with a heavy cornice consisting of corbelled brick bounded by bands of brown terra cotta.

A two-story wing was constructed along Broadway, which contained stores and several offices. The base is continuous with the main bank building. The second floor has eight arched windows, with a projecting header. The windows course is enframed with projecting brick headers and terra cotta relief squares at the corners. Additional decoration includes a continuous window sill of brown terra cotta with a stylized "B" decoration at the ends.

The Farmers' National Bank founded in 1873; it became the National Farmers' Bank in 1893. The previous bank building was at this location until it was replaced by current building. The building has undergone alterations and remodeling to adjust to changes in the banking industry. These were done in the 1930s, 1950s, 1970s, and 1980s. The work in the 1970s restored many of the original building architectural features and details.

**37) 102-104-106 Cedar Avenue North and 102-104 Broadway Street West  
Kelly Block  
1902**

**Architect: Long and Long**

**1 Contributing Building**

This three-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1902. The building extends six bays along North Cedar and five bays along West Broadway. The first story is clad in smoothly dressed brownstone which forms a radiating voussoir pattern above the window openings. The corner

<sup>174</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>175</sup> Carolyn Pitts, *Northwestern Bank of Owatonna National Register Registration Form*, 1975, on file at State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society. The bank is now a branch of Wells Fargo.

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piers are formed of vermiculated quoins. Pinkish tan pressed brick clads the upper stories. Each bay is separated by a pilaster formed of brick quoins with ornate capitals and egg and dart molding on the base. The pilaster flank two-story round arches with carved stone surround. Other decorative details include a metal cornice with rosette designs, molded brickwork, and egg and dart moldings in the spandrels between the windows. All the windows have been replaced after the period of significance with steel-framed display windows, and aluminum-framed single-pane or one-over-one aluminum-framed windows set in plywood panels.

W. H. Kelly started planning the construction of the Kelly Block in 1901 with its completion by 1902. The plans were prepared by F. B. Long and L. L. Long of Minneapolis. The building was designed to have 66 feet of frontage on Cedar and 54 ½ feet on Broadway. The building replaced the Eureka House, a hotel built in 1857 by B. L. Arnold.<sup>176</sup> The first major tenant was the Security State Bank, founded in 1896.<sup>177</sup>

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a bank at 102-104 North Cedar and 102 West Broadway. The rest of the building was occupied by a clothing, boots and shoes retailer, with a meeting hall on the third floor. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the same occupancy as in 1909. By 1924 the retail store was gone and the whole first floor was the Security State Bank. The updated 1945/50 Sanborn map indicates a hospital clinic on the second floor and a meeting hall on the third; no use is indicated for the first floor.<sup>178</sup> A 1918 photograph from the Steele County Historical Society depicts the building shortly after completion (Figure 6, building on the right).

Leuthold & St. Clair are listed in the 1903 Steele County Directory as occupying 104 West Broadway and by 1906-1907 occupying 104 West Broadway and 106 North Cedar. L. A. Disbow, insurance agent, and C. J. O'Brien, lawyer, are listed in the Kelly building in the 1903 directory. The Security State Bank is listed as at 102 West Broadway and 102-104 North Cedar.<sup>179</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Leuthold & St. Clair Company, Men's furnishings, at 106, and Anna Mork, gift shop, at 106-1/2.<sup>180</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Park Drugs, Park Floral Shop, and D. B. Sweeney as occupying this building.<sup>181</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Rohrer Drugs at this address.<sup>182</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Thrifty Drug at 102.<sup>183</sup>

**38) 107-109-111 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Nelson-Hartvig Block**  
**ca. 1890, ca. 1920 (facade)**

<sup>176</sup> *Owatonna People's Press*, 9 December 1901.

<sup>177</sup> Wesley, 57.

<sup>178</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>179</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>180</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>181</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>182</sup> *Ibid.*, 1946.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*, 1964.

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**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1890 and given a new facade circa 1920. The building extends three bays along North Cedar and three bays along the alley on the north side. The storefront has three entrances to the first-floor stores and one entrance leading to the second floor. The north bay storefront has been modified after the period of significance with glass and steel-framed single-entry door and display windows; and wood paneled infill. The middle and south bay storefront have also been modified after the period of significance with glass and steel-framed single-entry doors and display windows; and vertical wood infill. The middle and south bays have a steel canopy over the sidewalk which was installed in 1965; presumably it went further north to 111 Cedar Avenue North.<sup>184</sup> The second floor is faced with multicolored brick that appears chosen to harmonize with the adjacent bank building. Decorative brickwork frames the façade and the window openings. The second story has six round-arched window openings. The sash in the north two appear to be original. The remaining four have filled in arches and three-light wood framed windows. The north elevation of the building is visible along the alley. It is faced with brick; the second story has arched window openings with lintels and keystones reflecting the original design of the building.

The 1894 Sanborn map indicates the building is a dry goods store. The 1900 and 1909 Sanborn maps indicate a general store was in 107-109 and a hardware store in 111. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the building was split into three stores: dry goods, grocers, and hardware. By 1924 the building had three stores, and by 1945/50, 111 had a neon sign shop, 109 had a restaurant and 107 had a dry cleaner.<sup>185</sup>

According to 1892-1893 Steele County directory, Nelson, Hartvig & Co. was located at 107 and selling general merchandise.<sup>186</sup> In the 1903 directory Nelson, Hartvig & Co. is still at 107 selling general merchandise and Larson & Fedder are at 111 selling hardware.<sup>187</sup> The 1906-1907 directory lists Nelson-Hartvig Company, general stores, at 107-109. The 1911-1912 directory lists Herman Schmidt, collection agency, at 111. The 1928-1929 directory lists Clarke & Hodgon, hardware, at 111, Leary & Toher, men's furnishings, at 107, and E. A. Considine, millinery, at 107 ½.<sup>188</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Star Cleaners at 107, Dr. F. T. Thompson at 107 ½, Valencia Café at 109, KROC/Southern Minnesota Broadcasting Company at 109 ½, J. R. Shea at 111, and D. M. Brickford/Danddeck Studio at 111 ½.<sup>189</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Star Cleaners at 107, White's Café at 109, Owatonna Recreation at 111, and an apartment at 111 ½.<sup>190</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Elwood Star Cleaners at 107, Lipelt Music Shop at 109, a dentist at 109 ½, White's Café & Bar and Silver Saddle Lounge & Supper Club at 111, and offices/apartments at 111 ½.<sup>191</sup>

<sup>184</sup> Building permit, 11 November 1965.

<sup>185</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 8, 1900: Sheet 8, 1915: Sheet 8, 1924: Sheet 8, 1945/50: Sheet 8.

<sup>186</sup> Truesdell, 1892.

<sup>187</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>188</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>189</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid., 1964.



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Changes to the facade of the building are evident in photographs in the Minnesota Historical Society collection. A 1910 photo shows the 1890s facade (Figure 7, building to the left of Farmer's Bank). A 1929 photo shows the 1920s facade and a projecting sign for the clothing store (Figure 8, building to the left of Farmer's Bank).

**39) 108-110 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1883 with later alterations**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883 with later alterations.

The first-floor storefront has been altered since the 1996 survey of this building. The storefront has been faced with cream brick and stucco. A double-entry, glass and steel-framed door are flanked by multiple, single-paned, display windows on the first floor. The second floor is faced in brick which has been painted. Projecting brick piers divided the facade into three bays that contain large, eight-light, replacement steel-framed windows in the larger bays and a two-light, replacement steel-framed window in the smaller middle bay. The facade is surmounted by a brick cornice with stylized brackets.

The 1884 Sanborn map indicates a two-story, two-bay store was at 108-110. The north half was a dry goods and notions store, the south half contained dry goods, boots and shoes store, and the second floor housed a printer. The 1889 Sanborn map indicates both halves are a clothing store; the second floor is still a printer. The second floor now had two projecting bay windows. In 1894 the north half is shown as a dry goods store and the south half as clothing, boots and shoes. By 1900 the south half was a saloon, and in 1909 a jewelry store. In 1915 the jewelry store had moved to the north half of the building and notions were in the south half. The bay windows on the second floor are not shown on the 1924 Sanborn map. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate the building is a store.<sup>192</sup> An undated photo from the SCHS collections shows the building having the bay windows on the second floor, and decorative pediments over the two bays.

The 1903 directory lists Michael Leary, general stores, at 110. The 1903 directory lists G. A. and Jacob Newsalt, insurance agents, and H. E. Johnson, lawyer, at 108; and C. M. Rasmussen, saloon, at 108. The 1906-1907 directory lists C. W. Zoehrlaut, cigar manufacturer, and C. M. Rasmussen, saloon, at 108; and Michael Leary, general stores, at 110. The 1911-1912 directory lists R. H. Bach, jewelers, and Rowland & Doolittle, farm loans, at 108, and Fynskov & Weber, general store, and F. J. Pfeifer, tailor, at 110.<sup>193</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Lawler's Men's Furnishings, at 110 and Mrs. Gladys Edmond, gift shop, at 110½.<sup>194</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Leuthold-St. Clair Co. at 110, H. E. Leach, Pfeifer Tailor Shop, and W. W. St. Clair at 110 ½.<sup>195</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Leuthold-St. Clair

<sup>192</sup> Sanborn, 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>193</sup> Polk 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>194</sup> Simonson 1928-1929.

<sup>195</sup> Polk, 1946.

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Company at 110, and Leach & Leach, lawyers, Foster & Sommers, insurance at 110 ½.<sup>196</sup> The 1964 city directory lists St. Clair's, men's clothing, at 110 and offices at 110 ½.<sup>197</sup>

**40) 112 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1900**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1900. The building is one bay wide. Most of the façade is covered with cream-colored glazed brick, with a small amount of green glazed brick at base of building. The original storefront has been altered after the period of significance with vertical wood panels, two replacement glass and steel-framed display windows, and two glass and wood-paneled, single entry doors. The second-floor window openings have replacement four-over-one, aluminum sash windows set below wood panels. The window sills are limestone and above each window is a decorative brick hood. A metal cornice with modillions and dentils spans the façade below a parapet. The north wall of the building faces an alley and is faced with brick and concrete block. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates this building is a grocery; on the 1909 and 1915 Sanborn maps it is a confectionary. In 1924 it was a store and by 1945/50 it was a restaurant.<sup>198</sup>

The 1903 directory lists F. J. Pfeifer, tailor, at 112. The 1906-1907 directory lists the Owatonna Fruit Company, confectioner, and F. J. Pfeifer, tailor, at 112.<sup>199</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Gericke Pharmacy at 116.<sup>200</sup> The 1946 city directory lists George's Candy Kitchen at 112, and apartments at 112 ½.<sup>201</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories lists George's Candy and Kitchen at 112 and apartments at 112 ½.<sup>202</sup>

**41) 113 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1883**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered and recessed after the period of significance. It is covered with vertical wood panels framing three single entry doors; two glass and wood panel and one solid wood; and large glass display windows. A fabric awning spans the storefront transom area. Metal cornices with end brackets span the storefront and the parapet of the building. The second story is faced with brick which has been painted. The window openings have metal window hoods with brackets and egg and dart molding. The windows and wood panels are replacements added after the period of significance. The south wall of the building is visible along an alley. The painted brick wall has arched window openings with metal hoods at the second floor.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>197</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>198</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>199</sup> Polk 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>200</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>201</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

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The Sanborn maps from 1884 through 1915 indicate a boots and shoe store was at this location. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate it is an unidentified store.<sup>203</sup>

According to the 1892-1893, 1903, and 1906-1907 Steele County directories, William Mork operated a boot and shoe retail store from this location.<sup>204</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists L. R. Pipird & Company, shoes, at 113.<sup>205</sup> The 1946, 1955, and 1964 city directories list Block's Shoe Store at 113, and an apartment at 113 ½.<sup>206</sup>

**42) 114-116 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1883 and later**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1883. The building is two bays wide. The brick facade appears to date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly about 1915 when the use of the building changed from a saloon to a jeweler. Both storefronts have been altered after the period of significance. The storefront of 116 has two single entry, glass and steel-framed doors, and single-pane, glass and steel-framed display windows. The storefront is covered with a curved plastic awning. The storefront of 114 has a single-entry glass and steel-paneled door and large, glass and steel-framed display windows. The buildings are faced with multicolored brick which frames the façade and articulates the bays. Brick lintels span the window bays. There are four sets of sliding windows in the second floor of 114 and the top half of the opening is filled with wood panels. The second floor windows of 116 are glass and steel-framed replacement windows. Brick brackets set off the cornice. The south wall of the building is visible along the alley. It is faced with painted brick and has arched window openings and a rectangular oriel window that reflect the original date of the building. The 1884 Sanborn map indicates the north half is a hardware store and the south half is a saloon. By 1889 the hardware store was replaced by a harness shop. The Sanborn maps from 1894 to 1909 show the north half was a drug store while the south half remained a saloon. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates that south half was a jewelry store. The north half (116) remained a drug store on the 1915, 1924, and 1945/50 Sanborn maps. The south half was a store.<sup>207</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Emil Theimer, saloon, at 114, and Frederick Leggo, dentist, at 116. The 1906-1907 directory lists F. J. Yerke, dentist, and Wm. C. Zamboni, druggist, at 116 and Theimer's saloon at 114. The 1911-1912 directory lists M. E. Rogers, saloon, at 114, and G. A. Nesse, dentist, at 116.<sup>208</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Gericke Pharmacy, at 116, and Zanais, proprietor of a restaurant at 114.<sup>209</sup>

<sup>203</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 8, 1900: Sheet 8, 1915: Sheet 8, 1924: Sheet 8, 1945/50: Sheet 8.

<sup>204</sup> Truesdell, 1893; Polk, 1904 and 1907.

<sup>205</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>206</sup> Polk, 1946, 1955, and 1964.

<sup>207</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>208</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>209</sup> Simonson 1929.

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The 1946 city directory lists Cedar Street Variety at 114, Drs. Betlach & Schradle and Gillespie Beauty Salon at 114 ½, the Gericke Pharmacy at 116, the Luedtke Co. Inc., National Guardian Life Ins. Co. and Dr. G. A. Nesse at 116 ½.<sup>210</sup> The 1955 city directory lists the Ben Franklin Store at 114, a dentist, a beauty shop and real estate agent at 114 ½, Wolesky Rexall Drugs at 116, and an apartment at 116 ½.<sup>211</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the Ben Franklin Store at 114, a beauty shop at 114 ½, Wolesky Rexall Drugs at 116, and a vacancy at 116 ½.<sup>212</sup>

**43) 115 Cedar Avenue North**

**Alexander Block**

**ca. 1900 and later**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1900. The building is one bay wide. The entire facade is faced with white glazed brick which appears to have been added at a later date, probably the 1920s. The storefront has been altered with two single-entry, glass and steel-framed doors and three large, glass and steel-framed display windows. Other alterations to the storefront include green and white vitrolite panels at the base and above the windows which were probably made in the 1920s for the jewelry store. The sign panel in the storefront transom area has a neon sign reading "Kottke Jewelers." The second-story windows are partially covered by plywood but appear to be one-over-one, wood sash windows with colored glass transoms. The brownstone sills and wide lintels appear to date from the original facade. Above the windows is a metal cornice with modillions and dentils.

The 1900 Sanborn map indicates the building was a millinery. On the 1909 map the building is vacant and on the 1915 map a notions store occupies the building. On the 1924 and 1945/50 maps the building is a store.<sup>213</sup>

The 1903-1904 and 1906-1907 directories list Dwyer & Company, millinery, and C. H. Gordon, photographer, at 115. The 1911-1912 directory lists L. R. Doolittle, decorator, at 115.<sup>214</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Jurgensen & Kottke, jewelers, at 115.<sup>215</sup> The 1946 city directory lists C. F. Kottke at 115, and Dr. N. E. Jensen and R. A. Nichols at 115 ½.<sup>216</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Carl F. Kottke, jeweler, at 115, and Cashman & Smith, lawyers, and Production Credit at 115 ½.<sup>217</sup> The 1964 city

<sup>210</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>213</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>214</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>215</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>216</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>217</sup> Ibid., 1955.

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directory lists Kottke Jewelers at 115 and offices at 115 ½.<sup>218</sup>

**44) 117-119 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1895**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1895. The building is two bays wide. The original cast-iron central entrance enframing and door to the second floor remains intact. The altered storefronts on each side have replacement, steel-framed display windows and a single-entry, glass and steel-framed door in the north storefront. A fabric awning spans the facade at the storefront transom level. The building is faced with red brick and framed by brick piers. Continuous rock-faced limestone sills and lintels set off the second-story window bay with seven replacement one-over-one, aluminum sash windows with a fixed transom window above. The upper part of the building is articulated with brick panels, dentils, brackets, finials, and a decorative central pediment.

The 1884 Sanborn map shows a two-story building at this address. By 1900 the building has a larger footprint and a central staircase to the second floor. The south half of the building is a restaurant/bakery on the 1900, 1909, and 1915 Sanborn maps, while the north half is a meat market. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates both halves are stores but on the 1945/50 map the south half is once again a restaurant.<sup>219</sup>

The 1903 Steele County Directory lists Sander & Porter, bakers, Edwards, Wood & Co., grain and stock, and R. E. Kubicek & Company, meat market, at this address. The directory lists M. G. Madsen, merchant tailors, at 117. The 1906-1907 directory lists Sander & Bubholtz, bakers, at 117, and Theopold-Reid Company, grocers, at 119. The 1911-1912 directory lists H. R. Sander, baker and retail tobacco, at 117, and Rockwood Brothers, meat market, at 119.<sup>220</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Sander's Bakery and Restaurant and Kenyon's Market at this address.<sup>221</sup> The 1946 directory lists Byron Café at 117, Margaret Doepping, Eleanor Shuler, and J. L. O'Leary at 117 ½, S. & H. Appliance Co. at 119, and apartments at 119 ½.<sup>222</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Stan's Eat Shop at 117, apartments at 117 ½, S & H Appliance Company at 119, and apartments at 119 ½.<sup>223</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Hap's Café at 117, apartments at 117 ½, S & H Appliance Company at 119, and apartments at 119 ½.<sup>224</sup>

**45) 118 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1880, ca. 1970 facade**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

<sup>218</sup> Polk, 1964.

<sup>219</sup> Sanborn, 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>220</sup> Polk 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>221</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>222</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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This two-story 19<sup>th</sup> century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1880. This building is one bay wide. The front facade has been covered with a circa 1970 brick façade. The monolithic brick facade is broken by a recessed window and entrance door at the first floor and decorative brick indentation near the upper level. The 1884 Sanborn map indicates the building held a confectionary. The maps from 1889 to 1915 show it was a millinery. On the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps the building is an unidentified store.<sup>225</sup> A historic photograph from the Steele County Historical Society shows the structure at 118 was a two-story building with a stepped or arched pediment. The second-story windows appear to have decorative hoods or transoms.

The 1903 directory lists V. M. Hood & Company, millinery, at 118. The 1906-1907 directory lists M. X. Regan, millinery, at 118. The 1911-1912 lists Mrs. M. X. Regan, millinery, at 118.<sup>226</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists F. W. Woolworth Company, variety store, at 118.<sup>227</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Community Sports Shop and the Sportsman at 118.<sup>228</sup> The 1955 directory lists Gildners-Odle Company, men's clothing, at 118, and an office at 118 ½.<sup>229</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Gildner's, men's clothing, at 118, and lawyers office at 118 ½.<sup>230</sup>

**46) 120-122-124 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Rasmussen Block**  
**1901**

**Architect: Olaf Hanson**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century Classical Revival brick commercial building was constructed in 1901 for the State Bank, Hammel Brothers and Anderson, builders, and C. M. Rasmussen. It was designed by Olaf Hanson, an architect from Faribault.<sup>231</sup> The building extends three bays along Cedar and three bays along Vine Street. The Cedar façade is framed in pinkish tan brick. The first floor storefront has been altered with replacement glass and steel display windows on the two north bays. There are also two glass and steel glass single-entry doors. The south bay has stucco facing framing three glass and steel display windows and a single entry steel door. A metal cornice spans the storefront. The second floor retains significant details including a pressed metal cornice with modillions and dentils, molded brick entablatures around windows which are separated by engaged columns with four-volute Ionic capitals, and buff colored smooth limestone trim. The second floor windows are replacement glass and steel, one over one, flanking a single-pane display window and transom. They are similar to the original windows. The north elevation along Vine Street is faced with red brick. There are arched window openings with

<sup>225</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 4, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 4, 1945/50: Sheet 4.

<sup>226</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>227</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>228</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>229</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>230</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>231</sup> "A New Brick Block," *Owatonna [Journal]*, June 24, 1901. A photo from about 1910 in the Steele County Historical Society collection calls this the Rasmussen Block.

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limestone sills at the second floor. A decorative brick cornice steps down to the west, marking the three bays.

A two-story building has been on this site since before 1884, but the building as it exists now was rebuilt in 1901. On the 1884 and 1900 Sanborn maps the building has a smaller footprint and a one-story rear addition. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates the two north bays were a general store while the south bay was a bank. On the 1909 Sanborn map, the building has a larger footprint and is consistently two stories with the exception of a one-story addition on the south bay of the building. By 1909 the bank had left and been replaced with a plumbing and electrical light fixtures store. By 1915 a boots and shoe store was located in the south bay. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps show the building as three stores.<sup>232</sup>

The 1903 directory lists G. N. Grove, dentist, and J. A. Soper, electrical supplies, at 120. It also lists J. W. Conner, dry goods, at 122-124, L. B. Warren, insurance agents, at 122, Cedardahl Brothers, interior decorators and painters, at 124, and H. E. Leach, lawyer, at 124. The 1906-1907 directory lists G. N. Grove, dentist, and W. H. Rand, saloon, at 120; Albert Olkon, department store, at 122-124, and D. H. Denesen, meat market, at 124. The 1911-1912 directory lists G. N. Grove, dentist, and the Clefthon Company, electricians, at 120, Western Union Telegraph at 122, and Alb[ert] Olkon, general store, at 124.<sup>233</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists A. B. Carlson, fruit grocer, and F. C. Ewald, meat market, at 120, and Spurgeon's Mercantile Company at 124.<sup>234</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Sanitary Market at 120, the Spurgeon Mercantile Company at 122, apartments at 122 ½, Carl's Bakery and S. J. Gronkowski at 124, and an office and apartment at 124 ½.<sup>235</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Spurgeon Mercantile Company at 122, offices and apartments at 122 ½, Engler's Hardware at 124, and offices and apartments at 124 ½.<sup>236</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the Toy Store at 120, a vacancy at 120 ½, Sherwin-Williams Paint Company at 122, a vacancy at 122 ½, Gillespie Real Estate at 124, and offices at 124 ½.<sup>237</sup>

The Cedar Avenue front of the building was rehabilitated in 2006 under the Owatonna Main Street program.

**47) 121-123 Cedar Avenue North**  
**1881**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century Italianate brick commercial building was constructed in 1881. The building extends two bays along North Cedar and three bays along East Vine. The storefront was restored in 2006. It has a central entrance that leads upstairs. The south bay has the main store entrance made up of a glass and steel single-entry door, flanked by large, glass and steel display windows. The north bay has three large glass and steel display windows. The store windows and the central door are topped with

<sup>232</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 2, 1900: Sheet 4, 1909 Sheet 4, 1915 Sheet 4, 1924 Sheet 4, 1945/50 Sheet 4.

<sup>233</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>234</sup> Simonson 1929

<sup>235</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>236</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>237</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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transom windows. The building is faced in red brick which frames the facade. Significant exterior details on the second floor include decorative metal window hoods, an Italianate-style metal cornice with modillions and brackets, and limestone window sills. The north elevation is clad in stucco and has decorative hoods on the second-story windows.

The 1884 Sanborn map indicates that the first floor had a grocer at 123 and a boot and shoe store at 121 with a photographer on the second floor of 123. By 1889, the grocer has been replaced by produce at 123, but the rest of the building remains the same. In 1894, the Sanborn map indicates a jeweler occupying 123; 121 is unreadable. In 1900, a crockery store is located on the first floor of 121 and jewelry and a photo studio occupy the and second floor of 123, respectively. By 1909, the first floor may have been consolidated because it only shows dry goods occupying the first floor while notions and a photo studio are on the second floor. By 1915 the first floor is split between electrical supplies at 121 and dry goods at 123. No businesses are shown for the second floor. In 1924, the building is shown as stores.<sup>238</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Marquart & Wiese, barbers, and Owatonna Pump Company, creamery supplies, at 123. At 121, Mrs. Fannie Olkon is listed as having a crockery and glassware business, and O. F. Whitcomb, ladies furnishings, is at 123. The 1906-1907 directory lists Nelson Mercantile Company and Bertha Mierke, dressmaker, at 121, and O. K. Marquart, barber, G. A. Kamrath, photographer, and Wm. Koons, variety stores, at 123. The 1911-1912 directory lists Nelson Mercantile Company, at 121, and O. K. Marquart, barber, and F. W. Ouradnik, photographer, at 123.<sup>239</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Nelson Mercantile Company at 121.<sup>240</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Owatonna Shoe Company at 121, an apartment at 121 ½, Mitchell Nursery Co. at 123, and American Red Cross at 123 ½.<sup>241</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Owatonna Shoe Company at 121, an apartment at 121 ½, and Mitchell Nursery Company at 123.<sup>242</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Owatonna Shoe Company at 121, an apartment at 121 ½, Peterson's Floor Covering at 123, and the American Red Cross at 123 ½.<sup>243</sup>

**48) 201-203-205 Cedar Avenue North**

**Adsit Block**

**1895**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1895.<sup>244</sup> The building extends three bays along North Cedar and three bays along East Vine with an angled corner. The storefront and second-story windows have been altered after the period of significance and covered with

<sup>238</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 1, 1889: Sheet 3, 1894: Sheet 8, 1900: Sheet 8, 1909: Sheet 8, 1915: Sheet 8, 1924: Sheet 8, 1945/50: Sheet 8.

<sup>239</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>240</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>241</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>244</sup> *Owatonna [People's Press]*, March 29, 1895



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vertical wood siding. The storefront siding wraps around the corner and contains a secondary enclosed entrance. The main entrance is covered with a shingled canopy. The facades are clad in red brick. Significant exterior details include rock-faced limestone sills and lintels, decorative brick dentil course, pediments set with stone circular panels above the corner and original main entrance on Cedar façade.

The 1900 Sanborn map calls this the Adsit Block and indicates dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes were sold in the building. On the 1909 map, 201 is a shoe repair shop while 203-205 is still dry goods, boots and shoes. By 1915, 201 is a barber while 203-205 remains the same, and the second floor is a meeting hall. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates the building is a store on the first floor and a meeting hall on the second floor.<sup>245</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Hance Brothers, clothing, James Lonergan, boot and shoemakers, and Larson Sisters, dressmakers, at 201. The Adsit Brothers, boot and shoe retailers, are at 203, and J. F. Fitzgerald, dry goods, at 205. The 1906-1907 directory lists James Lonergan, boot and shoemakers, and C. H. Stearns, dentist, at 201, and J. F. Fitzgerald, dry goods, at 205. The 1911-1912 directory lists C. H. Stearns, dentist, in the Adsit Block, the Peoples Store, and Jas [James] Lonergan, shoemaker, at 201.<sup>246</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists the National Tea Company at 201, and J. F. Fitzgerald, ladies' ready to wear, at 203.<sup>247</sup> The 1946 city directory lists this building as the Adsit Building with several tenants, including Hub Clothing (201), Dr. W. W. Roepke (201 ½), VFW Club (201 ½), Ella's Beauty Shop (201 ½), Piggly-Wiggly Company (203-205), and Dr. H. B. Adsit (203 ½).<sup>248</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Pred's, woman's clothing, at 201, Charm Cavern Beauty Salon in the basement, and offices and unions on the second floor.<sup>249</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Hammer's, woman's clothing, at 201, offices at 201 ½, Jerry's Restaurant & Lounge at 203, and a vacancy at 203 ½.<sup>250</sup>

**49) 202-204 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Parrott and Smith Building**  
**ca. 1899**

**Architect: Frank A. Gutterson**

**1 Contributing Building**

This three-story late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Classical Revival commercial building was constructed circa 1899 for the prominent hardware merchants Parrott and Smith. It was designed by Frank A. Gutterson of Des Moines, Iowa. The building extends four bays along North Cedar and five bays along East Vine. The first story has been covered with modern stone panels after the period of significance. The second floor has red brick facing laid to simulate quoins with keyed brick lintels and limestone sills under the windows with replacement one-over-one sash below transoms. The third story, also faced with red brick has segmental-arched windows with limestone keystones and sills, brick piers between bays, brick

<sup>245</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 7, 1909: Sheet 7, 1915: Sheet 7, 1924: Sheet 3

<sup>246</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>247</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>248</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>249</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>250</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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dentils beneath the metal cornice, and a central pediment with "Parrott and Smith" in the name block. The window arches have been filled with wood panels above one-over-one sash.

The 1894 Sanborn map shows smaller buildings occupying the site. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates the Parrot and Smith Block, hardware, at 202. In 1909 and 1915, the first floor is being used for hardware, the second floor for offices, and the third floor as a meeting hall. On 1924 and 1945/50, the Sanborn maps show the building is in use as a store on the first floor, possibly a tin shop on the second floor, and a meeting hall on the third floor.<sup>251</sup>

The 1903 directory lists C. H. Stearns, dentist, at 202, and Edward Moehlenbrock, barber, and A. J. Sauer, dentist, at 204. The 1906-1907 directory lists C. A. Sweeney, dentist, at 202. The 1911-1912 directory lists C. A. Sweeny, dentist, at 202.<sup>252</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Parrott Hardware Company at 202-204. In addition the upstairs is occupied by the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce; F. A. Alexander, Registrar of Motor Vehicles; and Dr. J. D. Rowley, the First Church of Christ Scientist and the Christian Science Reading room.<sup>253</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Parrot Hardware at 202-204 and offices at 202 ½.<sup>254</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Nelson, Casey, Tripp & Dow, lawyers, at 202-204, and offices at 202 ½.<sup>255</sup>

**50) 206-208 Cedar Avenue North**  
**1880**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1880. The building is two bays wide. The original storefront has been altered after the period of significance. The south storefront is filled with concrete blocks. The replacement storefront in the north bay has double-entry glass and steel-framed doors and display windows. A continuous awning spans the transom area above the storefront. The second story is faced with red brick and retains significant exterior details including three segmental-arched windows in each bay, projecting continuous limestone sills, decorative brick panels above each window, and a dentil cornice. This facade has been rehabilitated since it was surveyed in 1996.

The 1894, 1900, and 1909 Sanborn maps indicate a hardware store occupied the space at 208 and a saloon occupied the space at 206. By 1915, a furniture store replaced the saloon while the hardware store remained. In 1924, a secondhand furniture store was at 208 and a store was at 206. In 1945/50, a store was at 208 and a restaurant at 206.<sup>256</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list F. P. Breher, saloon, at 206, and John Thon, hardware, stoves,

<sup>251</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 3, 1900: Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>252</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>253</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>254</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>255</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>256</sup> Sanborn, 1894: Sheet 3, 1900: Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

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and tinware, at 208. The 1911-1912 directory lists Jas [James] Boosalis, confectioners, at 206 and John Thon, gasoline stoves, at 208.<sup>257</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Steve Kubiawicz, cigar retailer, at 206.<sup>258</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Steve's Cigar Store at 206, Wentworth Distributing, M. L. Wentworth, Commercial Printing Co., and an apartment at 206 ½, and Coast-to-Coast Store at 208.<sup>259</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Steve's Cigar Store at 206, Commercial Printing Company at 206 ½, and Coast-to-Coast Store at 208.<sup>260</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Steve's Cigar Store at 206, and Coast-to-Coast Store at 208-210.<sup>261</sup>

**51) 207-209-211 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Dolittle Building/Brick Furniture**  
**ca. 1914**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1914. The building is three bays wide. The first floor storefront has been altered after the period of significance with vertical wood panels framing two double-entry, glass and steel framed doors at 207 and 211 Cedar Avenue North and seven large glass and steel-framed display windows. Above the store front is a shingled pent eave. The second story is faced with multicolored brick. The window openings have been covered with vertical metal siding. The limestone sills are intact. The broad cornice level has decorative brickwork and appears to be partially rebuilt. The north elevation of the building along the alley is faced with cream-colored brick. There is a doorway near the east end. The second floor has rectangular window openings.

Sanborn maps prior to 1900 show three buildings on the site. The 1900 Sanborn map indicates that 207 Cedar had been destroyed by fire. On the 1915 Sanborn map a furniture store is located at 207 and 209 Cedar Avenue North. On the 1924 Sanborn the section of the building at 211 is built and is used for auto sales.<sup>262</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists the Brick Furniture Store at 207, G. E. Thompson, lightning rod manufacturers, at 207 1/2, and Smith Electric Company at 211.<sup>263</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Brick & Hudrlik, Brick Furniture Co., and G. A. Wandrey at 207, Northwestern National Life Insurance Co., and apartments at 207 ½, Steele County Building and Loan Association and an apartment at 209 ½, Brick Furniture Store at 211, and Bonded Credit Service at 211 ½.<sup>264</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Brick

<sup>257</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>258</sup> Simonson 1929

<sup>259</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>260</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>261</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>262</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 7, 1909: Sheet 7, 1915: Sheet 7, 1924: Sheet 3

<sup>263</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>264</sup> Polk 1946.

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Furniture Store at 207, and Steele County Building & Loan and an office at 209 ½.<sup>265</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Brick Furniture Store at 207.<sup>266</sup>

**52) 210 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1906**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1906. The building is one bay wide. The original storefront has been altered after the period of significance and filled with concrete block. The awning over the storefront is continued from 206-208 Cedar. The building is clad with beige brick framing the facade and covering the second story. The second story retains significant exterior details including limestone lintels and sills, brick panels, corbelled brick brackets, and a dentil cornice.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a furniture store occupies the space at 210; on the 1915 Sanborn map it was also listed as furniture/undertaking. By 1924, it was a store, and in 1945/50, a bakery.<sup>267</sup>

The 1903, 1906-1907 and 1911-1912 directories list A. G. Scholl & Company, furniture manufacturers and dealers, at 210.<sup>268</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Petranek's Jewelry & Music Store at 210.<sup>269</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Carl's Bakery at 210.<sup>270</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories list Coast-to-Coast Store at 210.<sup>271</sup>

**53) 212 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1920; later altered facade, possibly 1979**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1920 and has a later altered facade, possibly from 1979. The building is one bay wide. The storefront consists of two single-entry doors; one glass and steel-framed and one wood-framed. The storefront is framed by smooth limestone.

Two small arched openings are filled in with vertical wood siding. The storefront also has a limestone cornice with a drip line. The second story is faced in multicolored brick facing. It has four one-over-one, aluminum sash windows. Decorative details include limestone sills and cap, and decorative brick patterns. A flat metal canopy extends from adjacent buildings on the south, which was built in 1965. City building permits indicate unknown remodeling to the facade in 1979.<sup>272</sup> The north wall retains the original brick facing visible from the alley. There is a line of windows at the second floor.

<sup>265</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>266</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>267</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3.

<sup>268</sup> Polk, 1903, 1912, 1917.

<sup>269</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>270</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>272</sup> Building permits, 11 April 1979.

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The Sanborn maps indicate there was a store at this address in 1924 and 1945/50. City permits indicated the building was partly destroyed in 1945 and rebuilt after that. The storefront was remodeled in 1979.<sup>273</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company and Mrs. C. N. Brick, hairdresser, at 212.<sup>274</sup> The 1946, 1955, and 1964 city directories lists A & P Bar at 212 and an apartment at 212 ½.<sup>275</sup>

**54) 213-219 ½ Cedar Avenue North**

**Empty Lot**

**1 Noncontributing Site**

This is the former site of the State Theater, a one-and-a-half-story, brick theater building that was constructed in 1935 by the Franklin Amusement Company of Minneapolis. The theater was razed in September 2012.<sup>276</sup>

**55) 214 Cedar Avenue North**

**Racey and Racey**

**ca. 1885, ca. 1950 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1885. The building is one bay wide and has a simple newer ca. 1950 facade. There are two single-entry doors and two single-pane display windows. The rest of the original store front has been filled with vertical wood siding. The second floor has cream-colored brick facing and has three window openings with one-over-one aluminum sash windows. The south facade on the alley is stuccoed and has five one-over-one replacement aluminum sash windows with smooth limestone sills.

The Sanborn maps indicate that this structure was consistently used as a grocer/dry goods store since 1889. A. Kasper owned the lot at 214 Cedar Avenue North starting in 1884. Kasper was a mercantile dealer and grocer who later moved to CSPA Hall. The grocers, Racey and Racey, who emigrated from Canada to Owatonna, are historically associated with this building.

According to the 1892-93 city directory Racey and Racey Groceries occupied this address.<sup>277</sup> The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list Albert Kasper, general stores, at 214.<sup>278</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Deviny Liquor Store at 214, and Mrs. Ella A. Blume and M. M. Standke at 214 ½.<sup>279</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Deviny Liquor Store at 214 and an apartment at 214 ½.<sup>280</sup> The 1964 city directory lists

<sup>273</sup> Minnesota Architecture-History Inventory Form, ST-OWA-285

<sup>274</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>275</sup> Polk, 1946, 1955, and 1964.

<sup>276</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>277</sup> Truesdell, 1893.

<sup>278</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>279</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>280</sup> Ibid., 1955.

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Andy's Package Store, liquors, at 214 and an apartment at 214 ½.<sup>281</sup>

**56) 216 Cedar Avenue North**

**ca. 1896, later alterations**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1896. The front facade is one bay wide and has been greatly altered. Some remaining original details include the red brick piers flanking the facade and rock-faced yellow limestone blocks inset in piers at storefront cornice level and street level. Major alterations have covered the main upper facade with plywood panels that have been stuccoed, replaced windows, and added a shingle covered eave. There are two single-entry doors and a large display window on the main floor. The upper floor has one, six-over-six, aluminum sash window, and a 12-light side-by-side aluminum sash window.

The 1900 and 1909 Sanborn maps indicate a harness shop at this address. By 1915 a pool hall replaced the shop and by 1924 a store had replaced the pool hall.<sup>282</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Hargefeld Brothers, harness manufacturers and dealers, and Frank Pechek, tailor, at 216. The 1906-1907 directory lists Hargefeld Brothers, Smersh-Kubat Medicine Company and Frank Pachek and Joseph Schiller, tailors, at 216. The 1911-1912 directory lists Smersh-Kubat Medicine Company, medicine manufacturers, at 216.<sup>283</sup> The 1946 city directory lists H. M. Tollefson and Eul's Place at 216, and Mrs. Ina Selthum, Mrs. Elsie Kruger, and Mrs. Frieda Schmanske at 216 ½.<sup>284</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Tollefson's Barber Shop and Larry's Lunch at 216, and apartments at 216 ½.<sup>285</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Tollefson's Barber Shop at 216 and a vacancy at 216 ½.<sup>286</sup>

**57) 218-222 Cedar Avenue North**

**ca. 1903**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1903. The building facade has been divided into three bays. Brick piers with limestone blocks flank the storefront. The storefronts have been altered after the period of significance; the southern two thirds is covered with vertical wood panels and has four, six-sided porthole openings. The northern one third is covered with vertical wood panels, with two large display windows and two recessed single-entry doors. The transom window area above the storefront has been filled with wood panels or is covered with a sign band. A modillioned metal cornice spans the storefront. The red brick facing at the second floor has decorative brickwork that creates panels and window surrounds. The six window openings have yellow limestone sills. Four of the openings have replacement sash below wood transom panels. A corbelled brick cornice spans the

<sup>281</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>282</sup> Sanborn, 1900: Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3.

<sup>283</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>284</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>285</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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facade.

Historically the building was divided into three separate spaces with a drugstore (218), restaurant (220), and meat seller (222) occupying the building in 1909. By 1915 a pool hall/bowling alley replaced the meat seller. On the 1924 map, the restaurant has been replaced with a store but returned to restaurant use on the 1945/50 Sanborn map.<sup>287</sup>

The 1903 directory lists E. S. Hansen, clothing, at 218, P. G. Diederick, meat market, at 220, and Owatonna Steam Dye Works at 222. The 1906-1907 directory lists Austin & Gumbusky, confectioners, and Frederick Leggo, dentist, at 220, and Benike & Dusek, meat market, at 222. The 1911-1912 directory lists the Owatonna Drug Company at 218 and F. E. Austin, restaurant, at 220.<sup>288</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Smersh Drug Company at 218, F. E. Sparber, auto livery, at 220, and Palace Cigar Store at 222.<sup>289</sup> The 1946 city directory lists George's Liquor Store at 218, apartments at 218 ½, Sharkey's Café and Frank Sparber at 220, an apartment at 220 ½, Palace Cigar Store and City Taxi Company at 222, Elemer Blume and Owatonna Nursery Company at 222 ½.<sup>290</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Ryps Bar at 218, Sharkey's Café and Sparber Taxicab at 220, Palace Cigar Store & Recreation at 222, and an apartment at 222 ½.<sup>291</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Weber's Bar at 218, an apartment at 218 ½, Jack's Bar at 220, an apartment at 220 ½, Wagner Cigar Store & Recreation at 222, and apartments at 222 ½.<sup>292</sup>

**58) 223 Cedar Avenue North**

**Virtue and Pound**

**ca. 1899, later alterations**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1899. The facade is one bay wide. The first floor has been altered significantly with an arched window and entranceway. The first floor, north elevation along East Pearl, and side pillars have been stuccoed. There are three, second-story, one-over-one, replacement windows with continuous limestone lintels and sills. The second floor retains the elaborate brickwork at the cornice level with dentils and corbelling.

The prominent farm machinery dealers, Virtue and Pound, operated at this location until at least 1955. The 1903 and 1911-1912 directories list Virtue & Pound as agricultural implements, automobile manufacturers, gasoline engines.<sup>293</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Virtue & Pound Company, Inc. at 223.<sup>294</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Virtue & Pound Company, Inc.<sup>295</sup> The 1964 city directory lists

<sup>287</sup> Sanborn, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>288</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>289</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>290</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>291</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>292</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>293</sup> Ibid., 1903, 1906-1907.

<sup>294</sup> Ibid., 1946.

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223 as vacant.

**59) 224 Cedar Avenue North, 109-111 West Pearl Street**

**Owatonna People's Press**

**1894, 1924 (addition), 1999 (Cedar facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1894. The Cedar Avenue facade is one bay wide and has been altered significantly by changing the windows and entrance and adding glass block at the corner storefront in 1999.<sup>296</sup> The upper portion of the facade has been covered with vertical sheet metal. The north elevation facing West Pearl Street retains its original character. It has segmental-arched window openings on the upper stories and a corbelled brick cornice. A two-story brick addition was built circa 1924 and the cornice corbelling matches that found on the main building. A photograph from 1910 shows the original appearance of the facade (Figure 10). The north elevation retains ghosts of signs advertising the *People's Press* as "Owatonna's Foremost Advertising."

The *Owatonna People's Press* newspaper was founded in September 1875, and the building at 224 Cedar Avenue North was built in 1894. The paper was originally published on the second floor with the E. Meyer harness shop on the first floor. In 1964 the *People's Press* was relocated to 135 West Pearl Street.<sup>297</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Bernard Gurband, boot and shoemakers, and the People's Press at this address. The 1906-1907 directory lists Bernhard Gurband, boot and shoemakers, at 224. The 1911-1912 directory lists Jacob Weiler, saloon, at 224.<sup>298</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Ryp's Bar at 224, and Daily People's Press, and B. E. Darby & Sons, Inc. at 224 ½.<sup>299</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Darby & Sons, Inc. at 224 and Daily Peoples Press at 224 ½.<sup>300</sup> The 1964 lists this building as vacant.<sup>301</sup>

**60) 301 and 303 Cedar Avenue North**

**Zamboni Building**

**ca. 1889, 1926 (new facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in two sections, circa 1889 and 1926. The building is formed of a two-story, one-bay section at 301 Cedar Avenue North and a tall one-story, two-bay section at 303 Cedar Avenue North. The two-story 301 section has three arched openings at the first floor with a recessed single-entry, glass and wood panel door flanked two large, single-pane, display windows. Glazed terra-cotta panels set off the second story, which is faced with terra cotta set

<sup>295</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>296</sup> City permit, 1999.

<sup>297</sup> Minnesota Architecture-History Inventory Form, ST-OWA-291

<sup>298</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>301</sup> Ibid., 1964.



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in a diamond pattern. The second floor has one large, one-over-one replacement sash window and two six-over-six replacement sash windows. The window openings are fronted by a rounded balcony at the center window and balustrades at the flanking windows. The terra-cotta parapet rises to a shallow pediment. The one-story section at 303 Cedar Avenue North has a central entrance below a broken pediment with a single-entry glass and steel panel door with a transom window above. The entrance is flanked by storefronts large, single-pane, display windows set below a band of transom windows. A raised wall section clad in glazed terra cotta continues the balustrade pattern and cornice line of the section at 301. The structure at 301 Cedar Avenue North was built by 1889. The structure at 303 Cedar was constructed in 1926, and the limestone and terra-cotta facade was added to both structures to unify the old and new sections of the building. The elevation of the building along Pearl Street dates from 1889. It is faced with orange brick and has segmental-arched window openings at the second floor. A red-brick soldier course spans the facade at the roofline. Carl Zamboni, a Swiss immigrant, purchased the lot on the corner of Cedar and Pearl sometime after 1868 when he founded his business. Zamboni started as a gunsmith but he soon diversified the business to include the sale and servicing of bicycles. By 1909 a one-story garage (now 114 Pearl Street) was added to the rear of the lot. In 1926 Zamboni built a new garage (now 303 Cedar) on a vacant lot just north of original building, and the terra-cotta facade was added to unite the structures. By 1937, Klemmer and Sons moved into the three portions of the building to sell auto parts and tractors. They created a garage in the basement with ramped access to the street level garage on Pearl.

The 1903 directory lists C. Zamboni & Sons, bicycle manufacturers and automobile, dealers and repairers, at this address.<sup>302</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Owatonna Supply Co. at 301, W. D. Klemmer at 301 ½, and George A. Klemmer & Sons Company at 303.<sup>303</sup> The 1955 city directory lists the Electronics Association at 301, an apartment at 301 ½, and Klemmer & Son Company at 303-305.<sup>304</sup> The 1964 city directory lists KRFO Radio Station and Owatonna Broadcasting Company at 301, an apartment at 301 ½, and Klemmer & Son Company at 303-305.<sup>305</sup>

**61) 302 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1895**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1895. The facade is one bay wide. The first floor has been altered after the period of significance and clad with diagonal wood siding. There are two single-entry doors; one is glass and steel panel and the other wood. There are two large, single-pane display windows that flank the central recessed doorway. Above the storefront is a shingled covered eave. The second floor is faced with tan brick that frames the three tall window openings; one is covered with wood siding and two have smaller one-over-one, replacement windows, and wood siding. Decorative elements on the upper story include continuous limestone lintels and sills, side piers and brick corbels and a brick frieze. The south side facing West Pearl Street has segmental-

<sup>302</sup> Ibid., 1903.

<sup>303</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>304</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>305</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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arched window openings and is covered with textured cream stucco.

The Sanborn maps show the building is a restaurant and bakery between 1900 and 1915. On the 1924 Sanborn map it is a store but it is a restaurant on the 1945/50 Sanborn map.<sup>306</sup>

The 1903 directory lists F. E. Austin & Company, baker and restaurant, at 302. The 1906-1907 directory lists F. W. Tuerk, baker, at 302. The 1911-1912 directory lists F. W. Tuerk, baker, and Grill Restaurant & Bakery at 302.<sup>307</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists M. H. Jasinski, proprietor of a restaurant, at 302.<sup>308</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Rolling Star Café at 302 and A. C. Trustem at 302 ½.<sup>309</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directory lists Rolling Star Café at 302 and an apartment at 302 ½.<sup>310</sup>

**62) 306 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca.1907, ca. 1980 (facade)**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

The original two-story building was constructed circa 1907. The south third was a separate building and the north two thirds a double storefront. The buildings have been united with a modern, three-bay, brick facade sometime in the early 1980s. Historically the buildings had three addresses, 304, 306, and 308 Cedar Avenue North.

The south half was a steam laundry and the north half was a saloon in 1900. In December 1906, the *Owatonna Journal* announced that a new two-story building would replaced the old Deininger Cigar Factory.<sup>311</sup> On the 1909 Sanborn map the south half was a cigar store and by 1915 it was a hardware store. The north half was a pool hall by 1915. It shows a store on the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps.<sup>312</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Standard Steam Laundry at 306. The 1906-1907 directory lists R. M. Deininger, cigar manufacturer, at 306. The 1911-1912 directory lists Srsen Supply Company, farm implements, at 306.<sup>313</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists C. E. Srsen, hardware, at 306.<sup>314</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Quiggle & Son at 304, Srsen Supply Co. at 306-308, B. L. Trusty at 306, J. F. Broulik at 306 ½, and G. H. Fitchen at 308 ½.<sup>315</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Ace Hardware at 306-308.<sup>316</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Owatonna Turbomatic and Bill's Equipment Rental at 304, Dawes Hardware at

<sup>306</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>307</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>308</sup> Simonson 1929.

<sup>309</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>310</sup> Ibid., 1955 and 1964.

<sup>311</sup> "Razing Old Landmark," *Owatonna Journal*, Dec. 10, 1906.

<sup>312</sup> Sanborn 1900:Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>313</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907, 1912.

<sup>314</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>315</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>316</sup> Ibid., 1955.

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306-308, and an apartment at 308 ½.<sup>317</sup>

**63) 307-309 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Meixner Carriage Repository**  
**ca. 1888**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style building was constructed circa 1888. The first floor storefront has been altered after the period of significance and is clad in wood siding. There are two single entry doors and two large, single-pane, display windows. The second floor has brick facing which has been painted. There are seven one-over-one replacement sash windows. The windows have stone sills and decorative brick hoods. The parapet has decorative brick panels and is corbelled at the top.

According to the Sanborn maps, the building was constructed sometime between 1884 and 1889. The Sanborn map indicated the building was a carriage repository until at least 1909. By 1924 the building was being used for auto sales and on the 1945/50 Sanborn map, the north half is a photo store and the south half a store.<sup>318</sup> A photo from 1902 in the *Pictorial Souvenir Book of Owatonna* shows the structure at 307-309 Cedar Avenue as the Owatonna Wagon Works, proprietor B. J. Meixner. The one-story structure at 311 Cedar is also shown as part of the whole wagon works.

The 1903 directory lists Essex Liddington, barber, at 307 ½, and F. J. Wencil, harness manufacturer and dealer, at 307. The 1906-1907 directory still lists F. J. Wencil at 307. The 1911-1912 directory lists F. J. Wencil, harness manufacturers and dealers, at 307.<sup>319</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists M. D. Moore, automobile dealers and repairers, and National Biscuit Company at 307.<sup>320</sup> The 1946 directory lists the U.S. Employment Service at 307, apartments at 307 ½, and Steele County Photo News Co. at 307-309.<sup>321</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the Photo News Company at 307-309 and apartments at 307 ½.<sup>322</sup>

**64) 310-312 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Bohemian-Slovak Benevolent Society Hall**  
**1896**

**Builder: Hammel Brothers and Anderson**

**1 Contributing Building**

This three-story 19<sup>th</sup>-century mixed-use building was constructed in 1896 in the Romanesque Revival style.<sup>323</sup> The building is three bays wide and faced with rough cut sandstone and limestone. Projecting piers frame the bays. The first-floor storefront has been filled in and covered with vertical wood siding surrounding two large, glass and steel frame display windows. The recessed central entrance area has

<sup>317</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>318</sup> Sanborn 1889: Sheet 2, 1894:Sheet 7, 1900: Sheet 7, 1909: Sheet 7, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3

<sup>319</sup> Polk, 1903, 1912.

<sup>320</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>321</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>322</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>323</sup> Wesley, 130.

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three glass and steel-panel, single-entry doors. The second and third floors each have six window openings with stone lintels and sills and filled with wood panels. The upper center section has a decorative stone arch and the other two sections have corbelled stone parapets. The original pediment which crowned the center section has been removed.

The Bohemian-Slovak Benevolent Society Hall was built in 1896 by a local construction firm named Hammel Brothers and Anderson for the cost of \$24,000. The first floor was occupied by F. J. Kaspar, mercantile dealer and grocer. The second floor had a lodge hall for the Bohemian Slavonik Benevolent Society Minnesota Lodge No. 67 and a dining hall and auditorium on the third floor.<sup>324</sup> The 1900 Sanborn map shows a general store on the north end and a drug store on the south end, an auditorium on the second and third floors, and a lodge hall on the third floor. By 1909 the Sanborn map indicates the entire first floor is a general store while the upper floors retain their uses which are also shown on the 1924 Sanborn map. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map the north end is an unidentified store, the south end a dry cleaner, and the second and third floors are auditorium space.<sup>325</sup> A ca. 1910 photograph in the Minnesota Historical Society collection identifies the building as the Auditorium Opera House (Figure 11).<sup>326</sup>

The 1903 directory lists Smersh & Kubat, druggists, at 310, and L. J. Wesely, general store, at 312. The 1906-1907 directory lists Minero-Chemical Company, bottles, at 310, and L. J. Leary, general store, at 312.<sup>327</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists F. J. Kasper & Company, department store, at 312-314.<sup>328</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Gorman Cleaners at 310, Fait & Scram Co. at 310-312 and Knights of Columbus Auditorium Hall at 312 ½.<sup>329</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Gorman Cleaners at 310, Fait & Scram Company at 312, and several unions and fraternal organizations at 312 ½.<sup>330</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Gorman Cleaners at 310, Robinson Paint & Glass at 312, and several unions and fraternal organizations at 312.<sup>331</sup>

**65) 311 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Owatonna Wagon Works**  
**ca. 1908, 1957 (facade)**  
**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story brick commercial style brick building was constructed circa 1908. The one-bay facade was redone in 1957 and faced with beige brick.<sup>332</sup> The first floor storefront is recessed and consists of a single-entry glass and steel panel door and three single-pane display windows with transom windows

<sup>324</sup> Ibid.

<sup>325</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3

<sup>326</sup> Franklyn Curtise-Wedge. *History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota*. (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, 1910), 865, also mentions the Auditorium Building as deserving of special mention.

<sup>327</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>328</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>329</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>330</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>331</sup> Polk, 1964.

<sup>332</sup> City permits

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over each. There is an aluminum canopy over the windows and door. The second story has three steel-framed windows with a concrete border. The parapet has a concrete cap.

The building was built sometime between 1900 and 1909 and replaced a one-story blacksmith shop. The 1909 Sanborn map does not indicate a use but on the 1915 Sanborn map it is a wagon repair shop.<sup>333</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Steele County Agricultural Conservation Association at 311.<sup>334</sup> The 1955 city directory lists S & H Green Stamps, premium goods, at 311.<sup>335</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Owatonna Savings & Loan and Carpenter Insurance Agency at 311.<sup>336</sup>

**66) 313 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1923**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style brick building was constructed circa 1923. The building is two bays wide and faced with brick that was once painted. The first floor storefront has been filled in and veneered with wood shake siding. There are two single-entry doors and two single-pane display windows. The second floor has four replacement one-over-one windows which are smaller than original openings. The parapet is stepped and there is a decorative brick patterned band course. The north wall faces the alley and is clad in painted brick. Rectangular windows with replacement sash are placed at the first and second floor.

This building was built sometime between 1915 and 1924 and replaced a one-story structure. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates the structure is a store; by 1945/50 the building has been split into two halves.<sup>337</sup> The 1954 Owatonna Centennial lists Och's Café, founded in 1930, at 313 N. Cedar.

The 1928-1929 directory lists Mrs. Tena Clarke, proprietor of a restaurant, at 313.<sup>338</sup> The 1946 directory lists Owatonna Milk Company and Ochs Café at 313 and C. E. Ochs at 313 ½.<sup>339</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Selvik's restaurant at 313, and furnished rooms at 313 ½.<sup>340</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Selvik's Café, Auto License Bureau, and a bookkeeping service at 313, and furnished rooms at 313 ½.<sup>341</sup>

**67) 314-316 Cedar Avenue North**  
**Ringhofer's Meat**  
**1908<sup>342</sup>**

<sup>333</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 7, 1909: Sheet 7, 1915: Sheet 7.

<sup>334</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>335</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>336</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>337</sup> Sanborn 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>338</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>339</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>340</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>341</sup> Polk, 1964.

<sup>342</sup> The history of the Ringhofer's Meat business and the date of the building is given in an article in *Owatonna Photo News*,

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**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style brick building was constructed in 1908. The facade is two bays wide and faced with tan brick. The first floor storefronts have been altered after the period of significance. Two single-entry steel and glass doors are flanked by four large single-pane display windows. The second floor has seven windows openings with brick lintels, stone sills, and one-over-one steel sash windows which are shorter than original openings. The cornice has a decorative brick corbel.

The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the north half is a millinery shop and the south half is a meat market. The 1924 Sanborn map shows an unidentified store in both halves.<sup>343</sup>

The 1911-1912 directory lists Exchange Meat Market at 314 and M. A. Dwyer & Company, millinery, at 316.<sup>344</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists C. F. Ringhofer, meat market, at 314.<sup>345</sup> The 1946 city directory lists C. F. Ringhofer & Sons at 314, L. J. White is at 314 ½, Frank's Liquor Store at 316, C. A. Kuphal and C. E. Cowing at 316 ½.<sup>346</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Ringhofer's Meat Service and Grocer at 314, an apartment at 314 ½, Frank's Liquor Store at 316, and an apartment at 316 ½.<sup>347</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Ringhofer Meats at 314, an apartment at 314 ½, Johnson Barber Shop at 316 and an apartment at 316 ½.<sup>348</sup>

**68) 315 and 315 ½ Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1923**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style building was constructed circa 1923. The facade is one bay wide and faced with brick that once was painted. The brick frames the storefront which has been altered with two single-entry doors and one single pane display window. The remainder of the storefront area has been filled with blue glazed brick.

This building was built on previously vacant land sometime between 1915 and 1924 at the same time as 313 Cedar Avenue.<sup>349</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Stephenson Music Company at 315.<sup>350</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Lipelt Music Shop and Vic's Radio and TV Service at 315.<sup>351</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Vic's Radio & TV Service.<sup>352</sup>

July 13, 1961.

<sup>343</sup> Sanborn 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3.

<sup>344</sup> Polk, 1912.

<sup>345</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>346</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>347</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>348</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>349</sup> Sanborn 1915: Sheet 7, 1924: Sheet 3.

<sup>350</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>351</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>352</sup> Polk, 1964.

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**69) 317 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1914, ca. 1980 (facade)**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story brick commercial building was constructed circa 1914. The one-bay structure has a ca. 1980 brick facade with a single-entry glass and steel door and two single pane display windows.

The building was built sometime between 1909 and 1915 as a blacksmith shop. It remained a blacksmith shop until after 1924. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map it is shown as a store.<sup>353</sup> The 1946 and 1955 city directories list Owatonna Milker & Service Company at 317.<sup>354</sup> The 1964 city directory lists a dentist and optometrist at 317.<sup>355</sup>

**70) 318 Cedar Avenue North**  
**White Front Harness**  
**ca. 1910, ca. 1970 (facade)**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1910. It has a facade that was altered after the period of significance. The stucco and wood facade is one bay wide and has a single-entry glass and steel door and two large single-pane display windows.

Prior to 1909 the lot at 318 was vacant. On the 1915 Sanborn map, a one-story warehouse is located at 318; on the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps the building is classified as a store.<sup>356</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists F. J. Wencl & Son, harness and repairers, at 318.<sup>357</sup> The 1946 and 1955 city directories list White Front Music & Harness Store and White Front Key & Gun Store at 318.<sup>358</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Paul's Package Store and Style-Mor Beauty Salon at 318.<sup>359</sup>

**71) 319-321 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1923**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style building was constructed circa 1923. The facade is three bays wide and faced with multicolored brick forming piers, panels, and a stepped parapet. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance. It is filled with brick and vertical wood panels framing two single-entry doors and four large single-pane display windows.

On the 1924 Sanborn map a large auto and implement warehouse has taken the place of two buildings

<sup>353</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 7, 1915: Sheet 7, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>354</sup> Polk, 1946 and 1955.

<sup>355</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>356</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>357</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>358</sup> Polk, 1946 and 1955.

<sup>359</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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shown on previous Sanborn maps. Presumably this building was constructed by the Sander family, who also had an automobile garage at 329 Cedar Avenue North.<sup>360</sup> On the 1945/50 map, the building is still an auto and implement warehouse.<sup>361</sup>

The 1946 city directory lists Housenga Furniture & Appliance Company at 319 and Steele-Waseca Co-op Electric Association at 321.<sup>362</sup> The 1955 city directory lists the Minnesota Division of Employment and Security, Lions Club, and American Red Cross County Chapter at 319, and Steele-Waseca Co-operative Electrical Association and the U. S. Department of Agriculture at 321.<sup>363</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the State Department of Employment & Security at 319 and Gasner & Mac Plumbing and Heating at 321.<sup>364</sup>

**72) 320 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1910, ca. 1970 (facade)**

**1 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1910 and has an altered facade. The brick front facade is one bay wide and has an arched single-entry door made of glass and steel; and one arched steel display window.

A building first appears on this lot on the 1909 Sanborn map. The 1915 Sanborn map indicates the building is a barber shop. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps show the building is a store.<sup>365</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists Conelly Tire Service at 320.<sup>366</sup> The 1946 city directory lists A. C. Miller and Curley Top Beauty Shop at 320.<sup>367</sup> The 1955 and 1964 city directories list Miller's Barber and Beauty Shop.<sup>368</sup>

**73) 322 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1925**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style building was constructed circa 1925. The front facade is one bay wide and faced with multicolored brick that frames the storefront that was altered after the period of significance. It has a single-entry, glass and steel-panel door and a glass block window opening. There are decorative brick panels and a frieze at the cornice. The 1924 Sanborn map indicates

<sup>360</sup> Carmen Tschofen, *Final Report on Historic Sites Survey of Standing Structures on North Cedar Avenue, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota*, submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, 2003, 10.

<sup>361</sup> Sanborn 1924: Sheet 3 and 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>362</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>363</sup> *Ibid.*, 1955.

<sup>364</sup> *Ibid.*, 1964.

<sup>365</sup> Sanborn 1894: Sheet 3, 1900: Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>366</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>367</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>368</sup> *Ibid.*, 1955.



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this is a vacant lot. The 1945/50 Sanborn map shows the building as office space.<sup>369</sup> The 1946 and 1955 city directories do not list this address.<sup>370</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the Owatonna Adjustments Company at 322.<sup>371</sup>

**74) 325 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1908, ca. 1950 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1908. The facade was redone circa 1950 with red brick facing. The front facade is one bay wide and has a stepped parapet with a concrete cap. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance. It has been filled in and covered with stucco. There are three tall single-pane aluminum windows and one single-entry glass and steel door. A fabric awning covers the filled in storefront.

A building has been on this site since the 1884 Sanborn map, but the building as seen today appeared between 1900 and 1909. From 1884 to 1915 on the Sanborn maps, 325 Cedar Avenue North is the site of a blacksmith shop. The 1924 Sanborn map shows the building as a vulcanizing plant. On the 1945/50 map, the Sanborn map indicates the front half is used as a store and the back half utilized by the auto garage next door.<sup>372</sup>

The 1903 directory lists L. C. Brown, horseshoer, at 325. The 1928-1929 directory lists Sander Chevrolet Company at 325-329.<sup>373</sup> The 1946 city directory lists this address as vacant.<sup>374</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Kasper's Bear Aline Service, wheel service, at 325.<sup>375</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Auto Body Rebuilders at 325.<sup>376</sup>

**75) 324-326 Cedar Avenue North**  
**ca. 1905**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial-style building was constructed circa 1905. The facade is three bays wide and faced with red brick with brick piers framing the facade. The first floor has a cast-iron storefront enclosing large single pane, aluminum, display windows, and two single entry, glass and wood doors. The second floor has seven one-over-one steel framed windows with a stone course above and below the window openings. The stepped parapet has corbelled brackets and arched decorative motifs.

<sup>369</sup> Sanborn 1945/50: Sheet 3

<sup>370</sup> Polk 1946.

<sup>371</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>372</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 7, 1909: Sheet 7, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>373</sup> Polk, 1907, 1929.

<sup>374</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>375</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>376</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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The 1909 Sanborn map shows the south half of building is a bottling works, while the north half is a seed store. On the 1915 Sanborn map, the whole building is being utilized for the sale of seeds, poultry, and feed. On the 1924 Sanborn map, the building is a store in both halves. The 1945/50 Sanborn map shows the building as offices.<sup>377</sup>

The 1906-1907 directory lists the Owatonna Canning Company at 324.<sup>378</sup> This address is not listed in the 1946 or 1955 city directories.<sup>379</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Truth Tool Company at 326, and 324 is not listed.<sup>380</sup>

**76) 329 Cedar Avenue North**

**Sander Garage**

**1912, ca. 1930 (facade)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1912.<sup>381</sup> The front facade dating from about 1930 is three bays wide and is faced with red brick. The storefront has a ribbon of single-pane display windows set below applied wood panels. The facade rises to a stepped brick parapet with a concrete cap. A metal canopy supported by metal poles extends across the facade. The building extends along East Rose Street. The north (Rose Street) elevation is faced with rock-faced concrete block and has three single entry door openings; one has been boarded over and a window placed in it. There are three window openings, two with one-over-one aluminum sash windows, and one that has been filled in. There is also a garage door opening on the north elevation.

The 1924 Sanborn map indicates the building was used as a garage and repair shop. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map, the building is identified as an auto sales and service shop.<sup>382</sup> The 2003 survey report illustrates the changes to the building between 1912 and the early 1950s.<sup>383</sup>

The 1928-1929 directory lists Sander Chevrolet Company at 325-329.<sup>384</sup> The 1946 city directory lists W. C. Bratrud at 327 and Johnson Motor Company at 329.<sup>385</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Community Selling Service, used furniture, at 329.<sup>386</sup> The 1964 city directory lists Ev's Kitchen at 329.<sup>387</sup> The building was rehabilitated in 2006 as part of the Owatonna Main Street program.

**77) 328-330 Cedar Avenue North**

<sup>377</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>378</sup> Polk, 1903, 1928-1929.

<sup>379</sup> Ibid., 1946 and 1955

<sup>380</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>381</sup> *Owatonna Journal-Chronicle*, Feb. 16, 1917.

<sup>382</sup> Sanborn 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50.

<sup>383</sup> Tschofen, 2003: 10.

<sup>384</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>385</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>386</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>387</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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**Ressler Brothers**

**ca. 1880, ca. 1903 (addition)**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1880. The front appears to have been simplified sometime in the 1920s, probably for the Ressler Brothers store. The front facade is two bays wide and faced with red brick. The storefront has been altered and has two large storefront windows flanking a recessed double-door entry. The second story has five rectangular window openings with sandstone lintels and headers. The windows are one-over-one replacement sash. Contrasting stone blocks span the facade above the windows. The parapet is capped with concrete. The north elevation extends along Rose Street. The first-story windows have been filled-in and two single entry doors have been added, one is glass and steel, the other metal. The second story has four arched windows with replacement sashes. A two-story addition was built to the west after 1900, probably about 1903, to accommodate a saloon.<sup>388</sup> There are two single-entry doors and a single-pane window on the first floor and two one-over-one windows on the second floor. The original structure and addition have a corbelled parapet that links the two sections.

This property has had a two-story building located on the site since about 1880. The 1884 and 1889 Sanborn maps indicate that a grocery/dry goods store occupied the north half and a saloon the south half. By 1894, a cigar manufacturing company occupied the north half. In 1900, the north half was occupied by an egg, poultry, and seed store and by 1909 a seed store; the south half was vacant. By 1915, the north half was occupied by a plumbing and heating supplies store and the south half by a confectionary. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps indicate the building was in use as a store in both halves.<sup>389</sup>

The 1903 and 1906-1907 directories list Clausen & Horak, saloon, at 328.<sup>390</sup> The 1911-1912 directory lists Essex Liddington, barber, and Bert Little, saloon, at 328.<sup>391</sup> The 1928-1929 directory lists Ressler Brothers, general store, at 330.<sup>392</sup> The 1946 city directory lists the Ressler Brothers and G. T. Reed at 328-330, and apartments at 328 ½.<sup>393</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Ressler Brothers at 328-330 and furnished rooms at 328 ½.<sup>394</sup> The 1964 city directory lists the Tonna Hotel at 328, and an apartment at 328 ½.<sup>395</sup>

**78) 303 Cedar Avenue South**  
**Michaelson Funeral Home**

<sup>388</sup> Sanborn 1900: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3

<sup>389</sup> Sanborn 1884: Sheet 2, 1889: Sheet 4, 1894: :Sheet 3, 1900:Sheet 3, 1909: Sheet 3, 1915: Sheet 3, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3

<sup>390</sup> Polk, 1903, 1907.

<sup>391</sup> Ibid., 1912.

<sup>392</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>393</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>394</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>395</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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**ca. 1920; ca. 1950 addition**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1920. The building extends three bays along South Cedar and four bays along Mill Street and has a hipped roof. The building is faced with variegated wire-cut beige brick. Brick piers with limestone trim articulates the bays. The west (Cedar Avenue) elevation has two arched entrances, one single-entry wood panel door, and one double-entry wood panel door. The transom arches have been filled with panels. There are three arched window openings with wood filled transoms and replacement one-over-one sash windows. A hipped awning is supported by decorative iron posts. The north (Mill Street) elevation has four arched windows which have had the transoms filled with wood panels and replacement sashes. A later addition (post 1950) to the east repeats the form of the original building.

This lot was the site of the First Congregational Church. The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps show that an undertaker occupied this building.<sup>396</sup> No undertaker is listed in the 1928-1929 directory.<sup>397</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Conley Funeral Chapel and L. E. Conley at 303.<sup>398</sup> The building is now in use as county offices.

**79) 105 Oak Avenue South**

**ca. 1945**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century concrete block commercial building was constructed circa 1945. The building is set near the south side of the corner lot between Broadway and Bridge and has an angled northwest corner entry facing Broadway. The main entrance is shielded by a single-entry, glass and steel-framed door. The entry is edged at either side by steel-framed plate glass display windows. The west (Oak Street) elevation is two bays wide with tall rectangular windows with concrete sills in each bay. The south elevation facing Bridge Street is unadorned, except for a metal door covering a rectangular entry.

A small filling station is shown on this lot on the 1924 Sanborn map. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map the structure has been enlarged with a more substantial presence on the corner.<sup>399</sup> At least by the early 2010s, the building was employed as a dry cleaners and laundry service. Today, it is a Pizza Hut.

**80) 100 Main Street East**

**Central Park**

**1871/73, 1899, 1909, 1950, 1970, 2004**

**1 Contributing site**

Central Park is approximately 1.5 acres of designated park for the city of Owatonna. It is bordered on the north by Broadway Street, on the south by Main Street, on the west by Park Square West, and on the

<sup>396</sup> Sanborn, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>397</sup> Simonson, 1929.

<sup>398</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>399</sup> Sanborn, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

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east by Park Square East. The park is divided into quadrants by concrete sidewalks. At the center of the intersecting sidewalks is a fountain. The fountain is a three-tiered, classically inspired design with acanthus leaves, surmounted by a heron, dating from 1893. Two urn-like drinking fountains with creatures spitting water, dating from 1909, are placed north and south of the fountain. In 1977 the park and the fountain were restored. The fountain was placed in a new basin with a surrounding wall composed of ashlar limestone blocks. At each corner of the park, a semi-circular flower box was installed. The four boxes are faced with ashlar limestone and have poured concrete caps. The bandstand located just north of the fountain is a 2004 replica of the original 1899 bandstand built by Frank A. Gutterson (architect of the Parrott and Smith Building). South of the bandstand is a flagpole erected "to the memory of the boys of Steele County who died in their county's service during World War I," by the Owatonna Chapter of the D.A.R. 1928. The park is planted with grass and deciduous trees. Park benches, tables and garbage receptacles are placed around the park area.

The area of the park was laid out as a public square when Owatonna was first platted in 1855 because the land was not useful to build on. In 1871, the city council ordered the public square to be "fenced and ornamented" with an oval fence.<sup>400</sup> A bandstand was designed and built in 1899. The fountain had been installed in 1893 by the Clefthon Brothers.<sup>401</sup> The wrought-iron fountain was assembled in three tiers, crowned by the figure of white heron. In 1909, the catch basin was added along with the urn-like drinking fountains with creatures. The level of the park was raised and concrete sidewalks were installed.<sup>402</sup> The city even added goldfish to the fountain in 1910, but that was short-lived.<sup>403</sup> The elliptical form of the park was squared off in the 1950s to improve traffic manageability around the park.<sup>404</sup>

**81) 111 Main Street East**  
**Steele County Courthouse**  
**1892**

**Architect: Truman Dudley Allen**

**1 Contributing Building**

**National Register property**

The Steele County Courthouse is located southeast of Central Park. It occupies its own square which is planted with grass and trees. The building was designed by Minneapolis architect, Truman Dudley Allen, and constructed in 1892. The three-story building incorporates characteristics common to the Romanesque Revival style. The building is constructed of Austin red brick laid in red mortar and trimmed with Lake Superior brown stone. The north elevation is flanked by a three-story turret and a four-story bell tower. The central entrance is in the form of coupled Romanesque arches, flanked and supported by polished granite columns. The arches are also surrounded by brown stone quoins and voussoirs. The central pediment has a niche with three figures representing Mercy, Law and Justice.

<sup>400</sup> Wesley, 61. Curtiss-Wedge, 895, states the park was redone in 1873 by John Abbott.

<sup>401</sup> *Owatonna People's Press*, August 11, 1893.

<sup>402</sup> Curtiss-Wedge, 895-896.

<sup>403</sup> Otto Nelson, et al, editors, *Owatonna Memories and Milestones* (Owatonna, MN: J-C Press, 2004): 9.

<sup>404</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.

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The main tower, northwest corner, rises two stories and is embellished with circular minarets and gables. The northeast corner has a circular tower that rises just above the main roof line. A final tower located at the southwest corner rises one story above the main roof line. The south elevation has a two-story brick addition which is sympathetic to the original design.<sup>405</sup>

**82) 107 Main Street West**

**City and Firemen's Hall**

**1906-1907**

**Architect: William F. Keefe**

**1 Contributing Building**

**National Register property**

The City and Firemen's Hall was designed by architect William F. Keefe and was constructed in 1906-1907. It is a three-story Romanesque Revival style brick building. The main facade is approximately 42-foot-wide. It is faced with stretcher-bonded tan pressed brick with smooth limestone trim. The building has a central bay flanked by two tower bays. The two square brick corner towers project above the third story roofline on the main facade. The northwestern tower is larger and has a belfry with round-arched openings. Below the belfry are three rounded-arch window openings. The northeastern tower has semi-circular window openings at the upper level. The third-floor windows have round-arched openings. The second floor has rectangular window openings. The first floor has two large rectangular openings, originally used for vehicle entrances, which have been filled in with glass block and steel-framed multi-paned fixed sash windows. The main entrance is a rounded arch built of radiating limestone and is located in the northeastern tower. It has been decreased in size with brick, and a new steel and glass single entry door has been placed in the opening. Additional significant exterior details include limestone cornices, limestone continuous sills and lintels, lettering reading "19-Firemens Hall-06," rounded and pointed finials, and limestone panel with raised lettering reading "City Hall" above the main entrance.

The fire hall has a four-bay, engine house addition to the east of the original structure which was built in 1996. It replaced a garage that was built in 1938.<sup>406</sup> The new addition is faced with peach-colored brick with smooth yellow limestone trim and simple decorative brickwork at the cornice level. The north elevation has four garage doors. A new metal flagpole stands at the northeast corner of the property.<sup>407</sup>

**83) 109 1/2 Main Street West**

**ca. 1940**

**1 Contributing building**

This small one-story building was constructed as an electric booster station circa 1940. It is faced with

<sup>405</sup> Lynne VanBrocklin, *Steele County Courthouse National Register Registration Form*, 1976: Section 7.

<sup>406</sup> This addition was constructed on the site of the Metropolitan Opera House. That structure is still shown, although converted to a movie house, on the 1945/50 Sanborn map.

<sup>407</sup> Susan Granger and Kay Grossman, "Owatonna City and Fireman's Hall," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, on file at the SHPO, Minnesota Historical Society, 1996, Section 7.

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tan brick and contains one single-entry metal door. It shares a parcel with the City and Firemen's Hall.

This building first appears on the 1945/50 Sanborn map.<sup>408</sup>

**84) 111 Main Street West**  
**ca. 1945 with later alterations**  
**1 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building was constructed circa 1945. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance with vertical wood facing and a shingled eave. There is a single-entry glass and steel-framed door and two multi-paned aluminum windows.

The 1945/50 Sanborn map indicates the building is being used for offices.<sup>409</sup> The 1946 city directory lists Dr. D. E. Morehead and Dr. A. J. Olson at 111.<sup>410</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Owatonna Clinic at 111.<sup>411</sup> The 1964 city directory lists a physician at 111.<sup>412</sup>

**85) 113 Main Street West**  
**Grandell and Nelson Implement**  
**ca. 1899**  
**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, late 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1899. The building is one bay wide. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance with vertical wood facing. There is a recessed single-entry wood paneled door and a three-light aluminum-framed window. The facade is clad in brick which has been painted; a brick pier marks the west edge. The second floor has three segmental-arched window openings with replacement one-over-one aluminum sash windows above painted stone sills. A corbelled brick cornice and brick dentil course span the facade. The west party wall has been exposed and is faced with concrete block.

The 1903 directory lists Leopold Dusek, carriage and wagon maker; in the 1911-1912 directory C. P. Anderson, carriage and wagon makers, is at the address.<sup>413</sup> The 1946 and 1955 city directories list Railway Express Agency, Inc. at 113.<sup>414</sup> The 1964 city directory lists this address as vacant.<sup>415</sup>

**114 Main Street West**  
**See description for 113 Bridge Street West**

<sup>408</sup> Sanborn, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>409</sup> Ibid.

<sup>410</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>411</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>412</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>413</sup> Ibid., 1903, 1912.

<sup>414</sup> Ibid., 1946.

<sup>415</sup> Ibid., 1964.

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**116-118 Main Street West**  
See description for 117 Bridge Street West

**120 Main Street West**  
See description for 119 Bridge Street West

**122-124 Main Street West**  
See description for 121-123 Bridge Street West

**126 Main Street West**  
See description for 125 Bridge Street West

**128 Main Street West**  
See description for 129 Bridge Street West

**134 Main Street West**  
See description for 135 Bridge Street West

**140 Main Street West**  
See description for 139 Bridge Street West

**146 Main Street West**  
See description for 145 Bridge Street West

**146 Main Street West**  
See description for 149 Bridge Street West

**152 Main Street West**  
See description for 151-153 Bridge Street West

**86) 148 Main Street West**  
**ca. 1925**

**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1925. The building is one bay wide and has a simple facade clad in multicolored brick. The storefront has been altered after the period of significance and contains a garage entrance, a replacement single-entry, glass and steel-framed shop door, and wood-framed display window.

The 1924 Sanborn map indicates the lot is vacant. On the 1945/50 Sanborn map it is an auto repair



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shop.<sup>416</sup> The 1946 directory lists Bedney Auto Service at 148.<sup>417</sup> The 1955 city directory lists Mahlman Garage at 148.<sup>418</sup> The 1964 city directory lists P & H Auto Service at 148.<sup>419</sup>

**87) 104 Park Square West**  
**ca. 1925**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed circa 1925, either replacing or altering a circa 1909 building. The building is one bay wide on Park Square West and extends along Broadway. The storefront has been altered with limestone facing forming arches for a recessed central glass and steel-framed door and flanking display windows. The second floor is faced with multicolored textured brick with three window openings with replacement one-over-one, aluminum sash windows. The limestone window surrounds appear to have been added at the same time as the ground-floor storefront. Decorative brickwork spans the facade above the windows. The Broadway elevation is also faced with multicolored textured brick. Brick moldings outline the second-floor windows with replacement sash. The Broadway storefront area is filled with a small wood-framed enclosure projecting onto the sidewalk that provides access to the basement.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates a jeweler, cigar sales and an express office in the building. On the 1915 Sanborn map, there is a jeweler, boots and shoes, and shoe shining. A circa 1920 photograph of the adjacent First National Bank in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society shows a portion of the ca. 1909 building (Figure 12). On the 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps, it is a store.<sup>420</sup>

The 1911-1912 directory lists Schoen & Jurgensen, jewelers, at 104 West Park.<sup>421</sup> The 1959 and 1966 city directories list Coderre's Barber shop at this address.<sup>422</sup>

**88) 106-108 Park Square West**

**First National Bank**

**1914**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in 1914 as the new home of the First National Bank. The facade, which incorporates elements of the Colonial Revival style, is faced in light red brick with a central projection and slightly recessed piers at the edges. The entranceway is marked by an over scaled stone hood with elongated brackets. The entranceway now contains a glass and a steel-framed single-entry door; the transom area has been covered by a panel. The four display

<sup>416</sup> Sanborn 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>417</sup> Polk, 1946.

<sup>418</sup> Ibid., 1955.

<sup>419</sup> Ibid., 1964.

<sup>420</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>421</sup> Polk, 1912.

<sup>422</sup> Dalby Database, available online.

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windows flanking the entranceway have replacement glass. A brick band course spans the first floor, setting off a central recessed veranda with a balcony supported by modillions and corbels and protected by a wrought-iron railing at the second floor. Two limestone columns at the front of the veranda support a limestone entablature that spans the facade. Three hanging lamps are set above the area of the veranda. The rear wall of the veranda has been altered with vinyl siding infill, a glass and steel-framed single-entry door, and two replacement windows. The two windows flanking the veranda also have replacement glass. A brick parapet rises above the entablature. The new home of the First National Bank was constructed in 1915.<sup>423</sup> It also contained space for the local Commercial Club.

The 1915 Sanborn map identifies this as a bank building. The Minnesota Historical Society photo collection has a photograph of the building shortly after it was completed (see Figure 12). The 1924 and 1945/50 Sanborn maps show a bank with club rooms on second floor.<sup>424</sup> The 1911-1912 directory lists the First National Bank at 119 Broadway Street West, which is to the west of this site. In the 1928-1929 directory, the First National Bank is listed at this address.<sup>425</sup> The 1953 and 1964 city directories list the First National Bank at this address.<sup>426</sup>

**89) 110 Park Square West**  
**ca. 1920**

**1 Contributing Building**

This two-story, 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building was constructed in the 1920s. The building extends one bay on Park Square West and four bays on Bridge Street. The building is faced with multicolored textured brick on both sides. Brick sills and moldings articulate the openings, and a corbelled brick cornice highlights the roofline. The storefront appears to date from the 1950s.<sup>427</sup> It has a recessed single-entry glass and steel-framed door flanked by glass and steel-framed display windows. Vertical wood paneling creates a sign band above the door and windows. The second floor façade on Park Square West has three window openings with multi-paned casement windows. The second floor Bridge Street elevation has four window openings with multi-paned casement windows. Significant exterior details include corbelled brick cornice, brick sills and decorative brick window hoods.

The 1915 Sanborn map shows 110 as a clothing, boots and shoe retailer. On the 1924 Sanborn map, it is a store.<sup>428</sup> The 1911-1912 directory lists Deviny, clothing retail, and Fred Leggo, dentist, at 110.<sup>429</sup> The 1928-1929 Steele County Directory lists Lawler's (Mens' and Boys') clothing at this address.<sup>430</sup>

<sup>423</sup> "Another Beautiful New Bank Building," *Owatonna [Journal]*, January 16, 1914.

<sup>424</sup> Sanborn, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>425</sup> Polk, 1912; Simonson, 1929.

<sup>426</sup> Dalby Database, available online.

<sup>427</sup> The Minnesota Historical Society photo collection has a ca. 1955 view of Bridge Street that illustrates a portion of this building and appears to show this storefront.

<sup>428</sup> Sanborn 1909: Sheet 4, 1915: Sheet 4, 1924: Sheet 2, 1945/50: Sheet 2.

<sup>429</sup> Polk, 1912.

<sup>430</sup> Simonson, 1929.

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**120-160 Park Square West**  
**See description for 113 Bridge Street West**

**90) 114 Pearl Street East**  
**ca. 1909 with later alterations**  
**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story garage building was constructed circa 1909. The facade is five bays wide and faced with red brick. All of the brick below the upper cornice panel appears to be of fairly recent date, and was probably done for the current occupant. There are two single-entry doors in the west and east bays, two garage door openings in the middle bays, and a large three-pane display window in the remaining bay. The single-entry doors are metal-framed with metal-framed windows above. The cornice panel has a recessed area, brick dentils, and decorative brick projections. The east elevation of the building is visible facing the alley. It is faced with cream-colored brick and has arched window openings.

The structure first appears on the 1909 Sanborn map as a garage/storage building for the Zamboni Building at 301 Cedar Avenue North (see number 60).

**91) 107-109 Rose Street West**  
**ca. 1920, 1945 (rebuilt)**  
**1 Contributing Building**

This one-story commercial building was constructed circa 1920. The facade is two bays wide with two single-entry doors in each bay, one large single-pane display window, and two smaller single-pane windows. All are replacement aluminum sash and frame. The exterior is stucco. City building permits indicate the building was rebuilt after a fire in 1945.<sup>431</sup>

The building first appears on the 1924 Sanborn map as a work room; on the 1945/50 Sanborn map it is a warehouse.<sup>432</sup> By the 1960s the building was occupied by a secondhand store, a typewriter shop, and a sewing center.<sup>433</sup>

<sup>431</sup> City permits, 1945.

<sup>432</sup> Sanborn, 1924: Sheet 3, 1945/50: Sheet 3.

<sup>433</sup> Dalby Database.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Owatonna Commercial Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of history in the area of commerce. Owatonna played an important role as the center of a thriving agricultural and industrial community that was also the county seat. The commercial buildings of the historic district were designed for a wide variety of business enterprises, including retail stores, banks, restaurants, professional offices, and newspaper offices. The district includes related buildings associated with the development of downtown commerce such as theaters, meeting halls, and public buildings.

The district has 87 buildings, 74 of them contributing. It is largely oriented to Cedar Avenue and Broadway and Bridge Streets and is focused on Central Park. The district reflects the ongoing prosperity of this agricultural and industrial community and county seat, beginning in the 1870s and extending through the 1950s.

The district’s architecture reflects a broad range of styles largely typical of urban towns and cities in the Upper Midwest. Several buildings were designed by distinguished national and local architects, but most were the work of local contractors and brick masons. The historic district consists of twelve city blocks, in part or in whole. It contains a total of 91 properties, including 74 contributing buildings, one contributing park, 13 noncontributing buildings, and three noncontributing sites.

### Historic Context: Development of the Owatonna Commercial District

#### *1854-1865: Settlement and Early Development of Owatonna*

In May 1854, two settlers from Wisconsin arrived on the banks of the Straight River near its intersection with Maple Creek. A. B. Cornell and W. F. Pettit staked claims with the intention of establishing a town. It was named “Owatonna” after a Dakota word “ouitunya” which means “straight.” Several roads were improved, the river was bridged, a post office and hotel were established, and the first wood-framed house was built. In September 1855, Cornell and John Abbott commissioned Edward Doud, a Vermont engineer, to survey a 120-acre town site. The plat resulting from the survey consisted of 21 blocks and a public square, later named Central Park, which according to Doud was “wet, swampy marsh, unfit for building purposes.” The plat was filed in December of that year. Over next two years the town grew quickly; stage coach service was established in 1855 and 1856, schools and churches were founded in 1855, two hotels were built (the Arnold House and the Sanford House, both non-extant), and stores were established. Owatonna was becoming a center for trade and travel. By 1857, the population was 300.<sup>1</sup> Buildings were situated near the foot of the bridge on Bridge Street, which constituted the nucleus of the business district.<sup>2</sup> The town was incorporated in 1858.<sup>3</sup>

The early settlers wanted to establish a center of business and commerce in south-central Minnesota. While the early town settlers farmed, it was on a subsistence basis only; wheat, corn, and barley were

<sup>1</sup> Wesley, 6-15.

<sup>2</sup> Andrew F. Jensen, “History of the Early Development of Owatonna, 1854-1901,” (Master of Arts Thesis, University of Minnesota, 1938): 17.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 26.

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among their crops. They also raised poultry, hogs, and cattle for their own use or to sell at market. Most of the early settlers were from New England and the Atlantic states and were moving west in search of new opportunities. These settlers were soon to dominate banking, politics, commerce, and the professions in Owatonna. They were soon joined by foreign-born settlers. In 1857, Owatonna had 106 residents of Canadian, Bohemian (Czech), German, English, Irish, Swiss, and Scandinavian birth.<sup>4</sup> In 1863, the first brick building was erected; three more would follow within the year. These brick buildings were a testament to the intent of the settlers to establish a permanent and prosperous town. When Owatonna became a city in 1865, the population was 949.<sup>5</sup>

*1866-1899: Railroad Oriented Development*

By 1866 two railroads were competing to enter into the city. The Minnesota Central Railroad (later the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul) arrived from Mendota via Faribault, on August 17, and the Winona and St. Peter (later the Chicago and North Western) arrived three days later from Winona via Kasson. The rail lines were laid diagonally through the northeastern part of the city, about six blocks north of the center of downtown.<sup>6</sup>

Historian Edgar Bruce Wesley characterized Owatonna during this period: “The town leaders... looked to railroads and industry to build a city that would far exceed the somewhat lowly status of a mere agricultural center. The coming of the railroads therefore marks the beginning of numerous and not always judicious efforts to building an industrial and commercial city.”<sup>7</sup> Transportation, manufacturing, and commerce were going to be the foundation on which the city would grow.

In 1866, Owatonna had four brick “business blocks” in the commercial district. None of the four are extant, but the use of brick indicated a desire for permanence on the part of the city’s business men. In 1869 the city council voted that no more wood-framed buildings could be built on Cedar Street (now Avenue) between Vine and Broadway.<sup>8</sup> Cedar was the newly emerging business street, joining Broadway and Bridge streets which extended west from the public square. Due to the unusual nature of the original plat, buildings on these streets extended through the blocks with facades and entrances on both streets.<sup>9</sup> An 1880 birds-eye view of Owatonna shows a heavy concentration of buildings along Cedar, Broadway, and Bridge streets.<sup>10</sup> By 1870, the population had grown to 2,077.<sup>11</sup>

Despite the desires of Owatonna’s founders, the local agricultural economy initially supported the city. Wheat, oats, corn, and potatoes were grown on nearby farms and then marketed in and shipped from Owatonna. Wheat became less profitable as a cash crop after 1870, and the farmers of Steele County

<sup>4</sup> Wesley, 16

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 32.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 49

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 48-49.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 61.

<sup>9</sup> One early resident, C.W. Hawley, recounted the early street pattern: “There was a good deal of ‘back door’ business done in those days [1860s], so much, that Broadway and Main streets changed front to rear and the alley [Bridge Street] became, and has since been a business street.” Curtiss-Wedge, 753.

<sup>10</sup> Reproduced in Wesley.

<sup>11</sup> Jensen, 85.

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began shifting to dairying as the primary agricultural endeavor, following the lead of farmers in other nearby counties.<sup>12</sup> In 1869 the first cheese factory, Horton and Case, was started, which was followed by other cooperative dairying operations.<sup>13</sup> By 1892 there were ten cooperative creameries in Steele County. Owatonna became a center in Steele County for dairy supplies, marketing, and manufacturing.<sup>14</sup>

Owatonna's economy broadened as manufacturing businesses, many oriented towards farming, joined the established marketing, retailing and service-related businesses in the commercial district. Many early manufacturers processed food or produced farming tools or supplies. These included breweries, creameries, cheese factories, flour mills, canneries, and meat packers, as well as cigar factories. Other industries included a brick factory, a planing mill, a hoop skirt factory, four wagon shops, a cooper, an earthenware factory, two pump manufactures, and a foundry and machine shops.<sup>15</sup> Some of these manufacturers were located in buildings that still survive in the historic district. Others had offices, warehouses, or sales rooms in the buildings of the business district.

By the 1890s, the business district of Owatonna was well on its way to providing a variety of services to the residents of the city and the surrounding county. In 1882, Virtue and Pound was established at 223 North Cedar. The store specialized in machinery, creamery supplies, and agricultural implements. The store operated at the same location until the 1950s. In 1886, a variety of businesses were located in the downtown area. There were sixteen grocers, three meat markets, eight restaurants, three bakeries, three barbers, seven blacksmiths, three drugstores, eight feed stores, five implement dealers, five lumber yards, three jewelry stores, five milliners, eight physicians, eight lawyers, six real estate brokers, four tailor shops, three photographers, a furniture factory, earthenware factory, several wagon makers, a shoe shop and a cheese factory.<sup>16</sup> Several saloons and hotels which catered to business travelers were also present. The Lowth and Howe machine shop, which had been in business since 1865, became the Owatonna Manufacturing Company in 1888.<sup>17</sup> Many of the buildings which housed these businesses still survive in the historic district.

Civic, fraternal, and cultural organizations played a big role in the history of Owatonna. During the 1870s and 1880s many lodges and fraternal societies were formed. In the 1860s the Masons and Odd Fellows were conducting meetings in the second-floor meeting halls of several downtown buildings. These groups were followed by the Woodmen in the 1870s and the Bohemian Slavonik Benevolent Society (sometimes abbreviated as the C. S. P. S.) in 1873. The C. S. P. S. erected a three-story building at 310-312 Cedar Avenue North in 1896. The first floor was retail space operated by Bohemian merchant F. J. Kasper, the second floor was lodge rooms, and the third floor contained a dining room and auditorium.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Wesley, 81

<sup>13</sup> *Owatonna Memories and Milestones*, 7; Wesley, 82

<sup>14</sup> Wesley, 91

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 50-52.

<sup>16</sup> Jensen, 86.

<sup>17</sup> Wesley, 54.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 74 and 130.

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The opera and other forms of entertainment were popular in Owatonna. The Morehouse Opera House was opened on Bridge Street in 1875. It was replaced in 1897 by the Metropolitan Opera House at the corner of Main Street and Cedar Avenue South, on the site of the City and Firemen's Hall addition. The building was used by many traveling companies, conventions, and speakers.<sup>19</sup>

Banks and other financial institutions were an important presence in the history of Owatonna as they both supported and were supported by local businesses and industry. In 1866, the First National Bank was founded. Originally the bank was located at 119 Broadway Street West. The Farmers' National Bank was founded in Owatonna in 1873 by Dr. L. L. Bennett and A. C. Hickman, and it became the National Farmers' Bank in 1893. The Security State Bank was founded in 1896 and occupied the corner of the Kelly Block at 102 Cedar Avenue North, directly across from the National Farmer's Bank building.

The Board of Trade was established in 1873, and reorganized in 1879. Although it did not own or occupy a building on a permanent basis, the Board promoted the interests of farmers in getting fair railroad rates and the business community. It worked to bring Owatonna's third railroad, the Duluth, Red Wing, and Southern Railroad, to the city. It also helped to bring the Minnesota Academy (renamed the Pillsbury Academy in 1886) and the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children to Owatonna.<sup>20</sup>

During this period of financial growth, the city made many improvements. The public square in the original 1855 plat was converted from "swampy land" to Central Park in 1871, when the city council ordered that the square be fenced and ornamented with an oval fence.<sup>21</sup> In 1893, the original center fountain was installed and a small bandstand was built. A more permanent bandstand was designed by Frank A. Gutterson in 1899. A catch basin and drinking fountains were added to the original center fountain in 1909.<sup>22</sup> The park remained in this configuration until 1951 when the corners were squared off to provide for more parking and better traffic management.<sup>23</sup>

Other city improvements include the establishment of a regular fire department in 1875. The city required sidewalks to be built on Vine Street between Oak Street and Cedar Avenue North in 1876. By 1877, a new bridge was required across the Straight River at Bridge Street.<sup>24</sup> The new bridge helped to facilitate more construction in the business district along Bridge Street and Broadway Street. The city hired the Philadelphia Numbering Company to resurvey and allocate proper numbers to parcels in 1882. The numbering went east and west from Cedar Avenue and north and south from Broadway Street.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 152.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 56, 70-71.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 61. Curtiss-Wedge, 895-896, states that the park was redone in 1873.

<sup>22</sup> *Owatonna Memories and Milestones*, 9-10.

<sup>23</sup> Minnesota Architecture-History Inventory Form, ST-OWA-2.

<sup>24</sup> Wesley, 60.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 62.



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The city council also approved an ordinance in 1900, which stipulated that sidewalks within the fire limits were to be concrete, stone, or brick.<sup>26</sup>

Owatonna was named the county seat of newly-formed Steele County in 1855, three years before statehood.<sup>27</sup> Steele County was created from parts of Rice and Waseca Counties. The first county courthouse was built in 1874, but by 1890 offices had outgrown this space, and taxes were levied to build a new courthouse.<sup>28</sup> The courthouse (listed in the National Register) is prominently located at the heart of the business district, directly facing Central Park. The courthouse was designed by Minneapolis architect, T. D. Allen, in the then-popular Romanesque Revival style for public buildings. The three-story building was constructed in 1891-1892 of Austin red brick laid in red mortar and trimmed with Lake Superior brown stone. The north elevation is flanked by a three-story turret and a four-story bell tower. The central entrance is in the form of coupled Romanesque arches, flanked and supported by polished granite columns. The arches are also surrounded by brown stone quoins and voussoirs. The central pediment has a niche with three figures representing Mercy, Law and Justice. The main tower, at the northwest corner, rises two stories and is embellished with circular minarets and gables. The northeast corner has a circular tower that rises just above the main roof line. A final tower located at the southwest corner rises one story above the main roof line. The south elevation has a two-story brick addition which is sympathetic to the original design.<sup>29</sup>

*1900 to 1920: An Agricultural Economy*

By the end of the nineteenth century, Owatonna had embraced the agricultural base of its economy. To quote Wesley: "When at last, near the end of the nineteenth century, it began to realize that its existence, growth, and prospects were grounded in the soil, it became not only an excellent farming center, but also something of an industrial and financial center."<sup>30</sup>

Since wheat crops had become less profitable in Steele County after 1870, the farmers turned to cooperative dairying. In 1892, the county had ten co-op creameries; by 1900 the number had more than doubled to 21. The creameries had an annual output of 2,500,000 pounds of butter worth more than \$400,000 in retail sales. The farmers experienced a setback in 1904 with the loss of many cows, but they continued to improve feeding, breeding, testing, sanitation, and their equipment to overcome the loss. As the county seat, Owatonna with its central location naturally became the center for supplies, marketing and manufacturing related to dairy. By 1913, Steele County was number four in the state for butter production, and Owatonna was the self-proclaimed "butter capital of the world."<sup>31</sup> Production of butter in Steele County remained constant for several years. By 1914, 24 creameries were producing 3,400,000 pounds, worth almost a million dollars. Four years later production remained the same, but the butter was worth over two million dollars. Following World War I, butter prices decreased while the

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>28</sup> Lynne VanBrocklin, *Steele County Courthouse National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 1976: Section 7. The original courthouse was demolished in 1987.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Wesley, 49.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 83-84.

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amount of butter produced increased; during the Great Depression both production and receipts declined.

Other agricultural enterprises in the county improved during these years. Corn acreage grew tremendously and alfalfa slowly became an important crop for feed production. In addition, peas and sweet corn were raised for canning, and small quantities of flax and sugar beets were produced. The improvement of feed crops led to the increased quality of the livestock produced in the county.<sup>32</sup>

Owatonna's banks continued to prosper, and several located in new buildings. Carl Bennett, son of one of the founders of the Farmers' National Bank, was instrumental in obtaining Louis Sullivan's services to design a new bank building which was completed in 1908.<sup>33</sup> Bennett did not want the typical classical style that so many bank buildings employed during this time period, and he insisted that the bank building be "modern."<sup>34</sup> Sullivan agreed and set out to create a new image for a basic institution of American life, the small-town bank. Sullivan travelled to Owatonna in the fall of 1906 to look at the site and to begin a preliminary plan.<sup>35</sup> Sullivan, with the help of George Grant Elmslie, completed plans in January 1907 for a simple sixty-eight feet square and forty-nine foot high building. The adjoining shops and offices extended along Broadway another ninety feet. The design called for a nine-foot-high sandstone base with small, square windows placed at eye level. The main entrance of the bank was on Cedar Avenue, and it was recessed into the sandstone base. Above the base, Sullivan and Elmslie wanted something more monumental. Two huge semi-circular stained-glass windows, on the south and west elevations, each spanning thirty-six feet, would create a dramatic effect for the bank.<sup>36</sup> The windows would be framed by a wide band of colorful terra cotta ornament and glass mosaic. The terra-cotta ornament continued to the cornice of the building. The interior of the building had a large lobby on which the offices, tellers' cages, vaults, and meeting rooms were centered. Two arches, identical in size to the windows, were set in the north and west walls to create symmetry. In these arches two large murals of agricultural scenes were painted, emphasizing the bank's dependence on its farming customers. The design themes were carried to the adjacent two-story shop and offices on Broadway Street East.<sup>37</sup> Construction began in the spring of 1907 with the local construction firm of Hammel Brothers and Anderson being chosen for the work.<sup>38</sup> On July 14, 1908, National Farmers' Bank opened for business in its new home. In 1926, the bank failed, but the building was taken over by Security State Bank which had been located across Cedar Avenue in the Kelly Building. The building has been a National Historic Landmark since 1976, and has been the architectural pride of Owatonna since it opened its doors.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 84.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 57.

<sup>34</sup> Larry Millet, *The Curve of the Arch: The Story of Louis Sullivan's Owatonna Bank* (Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985): 53.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 21.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 63.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 64.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 67.

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Other notable buildings include the new Romanesque Revival style armory, which Company No. 1 of the National Guard built north of Central Park on East Broadway in 1901.<sup>39</sup> The Romanesque Revival City and Firemen's Hall was built in 1906-1907 on Main Street south of the park. The building provided expanded accommodations for the fire department and the functions of city government. When the First National Bank built a prominent Colonial Revival two-story building at 106-108 Park Square West in 1914, it took its place among the well established buildings in the city's most prominent location.

Owatonna's commerce developed to support the agricultural operations of the county's farmers. In 1900, George Parrott and John Smith, opened a hardware store in their new three-story building at 202-204 Cedar Avenue North at the corner of Vine Street West. In 1904, the Owatonna Canning Company organized, then reorganized in 1911. It was located at 324 Cedar Avenue North. Its staple canning products included corn and peas, but it also canned pumpkin, squash, tomatoes, and asparagus, employing up to 150 people in the area at the time. In 1905, the Clefton Supply Company was established with an office at 120 Cedar Avenue North to install heating and ventilating equipment for businesses and farmers. In 1909, the King Ventilating Company was producing steel cupolas for barns, and installing industrial and domestic ventilating, cooling, and refrigeration. In 1912, the Joseph J. Kovar Company was established and manufactured agricultural implements, including a patented spring-tooth harrow which destroyed quack grass. Owatonna also gained a reputation as a nursery center, and several nursery and seed companies were located in offices in the commercial district.<sup>40</sup>

One of Owatonna's largest commercial enterprises was established in Minneapolis in 1907. The Minnesota Implement Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized by C. I. Buxton and other implement dealers from around the state. The company failed to show signs of growth or progress in Minneapolis, and when Buxton was elected secretary, he packed the records, moved to his hometown of Owatonna, and located the office in the National Farmers' Bank building. The company began to grow immediately, and by 1919 a subsidiary company, National Implement Mutual Fire Insurance Company, was organized to provide addition services. In 1922, the organization outgrew their space in the bank, and built an impressive ornate building on Broadway Street East, near the park.<sup>41</sup> The original building survives but has been largely subsumed within a large modern building.

Another company which grew to support many employees in Owatonna was the Josten Manufacturing Company. It was founded in 1900 by O. H. Josten. The company specialized in college rings, pins, and trophies, but soon expanded into the high school market. The company was located at 101 Main Street West on the first floor. The new plant on Broadway was built in 1930, and by 1938, it employed 200 people in Owatonna and 75 traveling salesmen.<sup>42</sup> During World War II, the plant made parts for the Norden bomb sight.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Wesley, 131, states the building was constructed in 1901, but it first appears on the 1915 Sanborn map.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 92-93.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 94.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 92-93.

<sup>43</sup> Robert Holloway, "A City is More Than Its People: A Study of Fifteen Minnesota Communities," *University of Minnesota Studies in Economic and Business Number 17* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1954): 21.

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Downtown Owatonna remained a center for entertainment and related enterprises such as restaurants and saloons. In 1910, the Gem Theater was opened in the second floor of the building at 118 Broadway Street West.<sup>44</sup> Wesley recounts the saga of saloons in Owatonna with the rise of the temperance movement. Saloons were licensed by the city, which enjoyed the revenue, and the price of operating licenses was the subject of debate for years. The matter of licensing was put to a city vote several times. In 1914, the majority voted not to license saloons, which were subsequently closed on March 12. The vote was overturned two years later.<sup>45</sup> In the interim, many of the saloons were converted to restaurants or other retail establishments. With the advent of Prohibition in 1919, the saloons were out of business until 1933. Nonetheless, some of them returned to their original locations. The oldest surviving building in the historic district, 135 Bridge Street West (1876), remains in business as a saloon.

*1920-1959: Continued retail growth*

The next stage in the growth of the commercial district of Owatonna focused more on retail, automotive, and entertainment industries. Retail merchandising followed the trends of other small cities around the country. National chains dominated the new businesses in the commercial district, but other long established retailers remained and some smaller local retailers were established. In 1920, J. C. Penney Company opened a store on Broadway Street West. In 1924, the F. W. Woolworth Company opened a five-and-dime store at a location at 118 Broadway Street West. By 1940, the company had taken over the stores next door, extending their foot print to 66-feet-by-100-feet and designing a new “modernistic” facade.<sup>46</sup> The building at 114-118 Broadway Street West retains the Woolworth “W” insignia at one of the entrances. The national grocery store chain, Piggly-Wiggly, came in 1932 and settled in the north two-thirds of the Adsit Building at 203-205 Cedar Avenue North. Montgomery Ward, Gambles Auto Supply, and Ben Franklin all brought branches of their chains to Owatonna in 1935.<sup>47</sup> Gambles located at 139 Bridge Street West. Ben Franklin located in a building at 114 Cedar Avenue North. The National Tea Company established a retail store in the Adsit Building at 201 Cedar Avenue North in 1936.

During this period, businesses in the district were geared to retail and automobile-oriented businesses. The 1950 Sanborn map indicates the buildings were occupied by stores, auto repair, sales and service, offices, financial institutions, and governmental offices. Businesses specializing in agricultural implements or older forms of transportation such as wagons and carriages moved into automobile servicing or sales. The Zamboni Building at 301 and 303 Cedar Avenue North exemplifies the trend. In the 1880s, the Zambonis operated a gun shop; by the 1900s they added bicycle sales, servicing and other recreational supplies. By the 1920s, they began construction of a Dodge automobile and Graham truck dealership.<sup>48</sup> This trend followed throughout the district. Many businesses updated their facades to keep up with the ever-changing retail demands.

<sup>44</sup> Wesley, 152

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 102-104.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 95.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 95.

<sup>48</sup> Simonson, 1929

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With the decline of traveling theater companies and the increasing popularity of motion pictures, the Metropolitan Opera House was converted to the Roxy Theater in 1933. In 1935, the State Theater was built at 213 Cedar Avenue North. The theater was built, owned and operated by the Franklin Amusement Company of Minneapolis. It was touted as the finest and most modern motion picture theater in any of the smaller cities in the Northwest.<sup>49</sup> Built for the cost of \$60,000, it was equipped with washed air ventilation, elaborate decorations, and vivid color schemes.<sup>50</sup>

By 1950, Owatonna's population was well over 10,000. In the 1950s the city maintained a variety of employment opportunities; 23 percent of labor was in manufacturing, 21 percent in retailing, 22 percent in services, and the rest in agriculture outside the city.<sup>51</sup> In the 1950s, downtown businesses continued to construct new buildings and remodel older buildings to give them a new, modern appearance. This was part of a pattern of national growth in the decade after World War II. The population of the city increased gradually over the next three decades to about 15,000 by 1980.<sup>52</sup>

The fortunes of the downtown commercial district of Owatonna began to change after 1960. This was reflected in the types of downtown businesses and shifts in retail patterns. The trend was intensified with the advent of the interstate highway system and the decline in passenger railroad service, which ceased with the formation of Amtrak in 1971. The first section of Interstate 35, located west of downtown, opened between Owatonna and Medford in 1958, making it easy for travelers to bypass the heart of the city. Residents of the county could shop at new locations on the outskirts of the city, beginning in the 1960s, instead of coming downtown, and could more easily drive to larger commercial centers such as Rochester or Minneapolis-St. Paul within one to two hours. Long established retailers closed or moved out. Despite the loss of retail activity, downtown Owatonna has remained a strong business center, in part because of its status as the county seat, and in part because its businesses, some with a national presence, serve and continue to be served by the larger agricultural and industrial economy of the region.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>49</sup> *Owatonna People's Press*, August 16, 1935, 1.

<sup>50</sup> Wesley, 153.

<sup>51</sup> Holloway, 21.

<sup>52</sup> Thomas Harvey, "Small-Town Minnesota," *Minnesota in a Century of Change* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989), 125.

<sup>53</sup> Harvey, 124, offers perspective on the role of business districts in viable towns.

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Figure 5. Corner of Cedar Avenue and Broadway East, 1959 (Minnesota Historical Society)

Figure 6. West Broadway and North Cedar, 1918 (Steele County Historical Society)

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Figure 10. 224 North Cedar Avenue, "The Peoples Press" (Steele County Historical Society).

Figure 11. Auditorium Opera House, ca. 1910 (Minnesota Historical Society).

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Figure 13. Plat map of Owatonna, 1874.

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Figure 1. Bridge Street 1913 (Steele County Historical Society archives)

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Figure 2. Bridge Street ca. 1925 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 3. Bridge Street ca. 1955 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 4. National Farmer's Bank, corner of Cedar Avenue and Broadway East, 1910 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 5. Corner of Cedar Avenue and Broadway East, 1959 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 6. West Broadway and North Cedar, 1918 (Steele County Historical Society)



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Figure 7. North Cedar Avenue, ca. 1910 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 8. North Cedar Avenue, ca. 1929 (Minnesota Historical Society)

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Figure 9. North Cedar Avenue, undated. (Steele County Historical Society)

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Steele County, Minnesota  
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 10. 224 North Cedar Avenue, "The Peoples Press" (Steele County Historical Society).

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Figure 11. Auditorium Opera House, ca. 1910 (Minnesota Historical Society).

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Owatonna Commercial Historic District

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County and State

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Figure 12. First National Bank, ca 1920 (Minnesota Historical Society).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

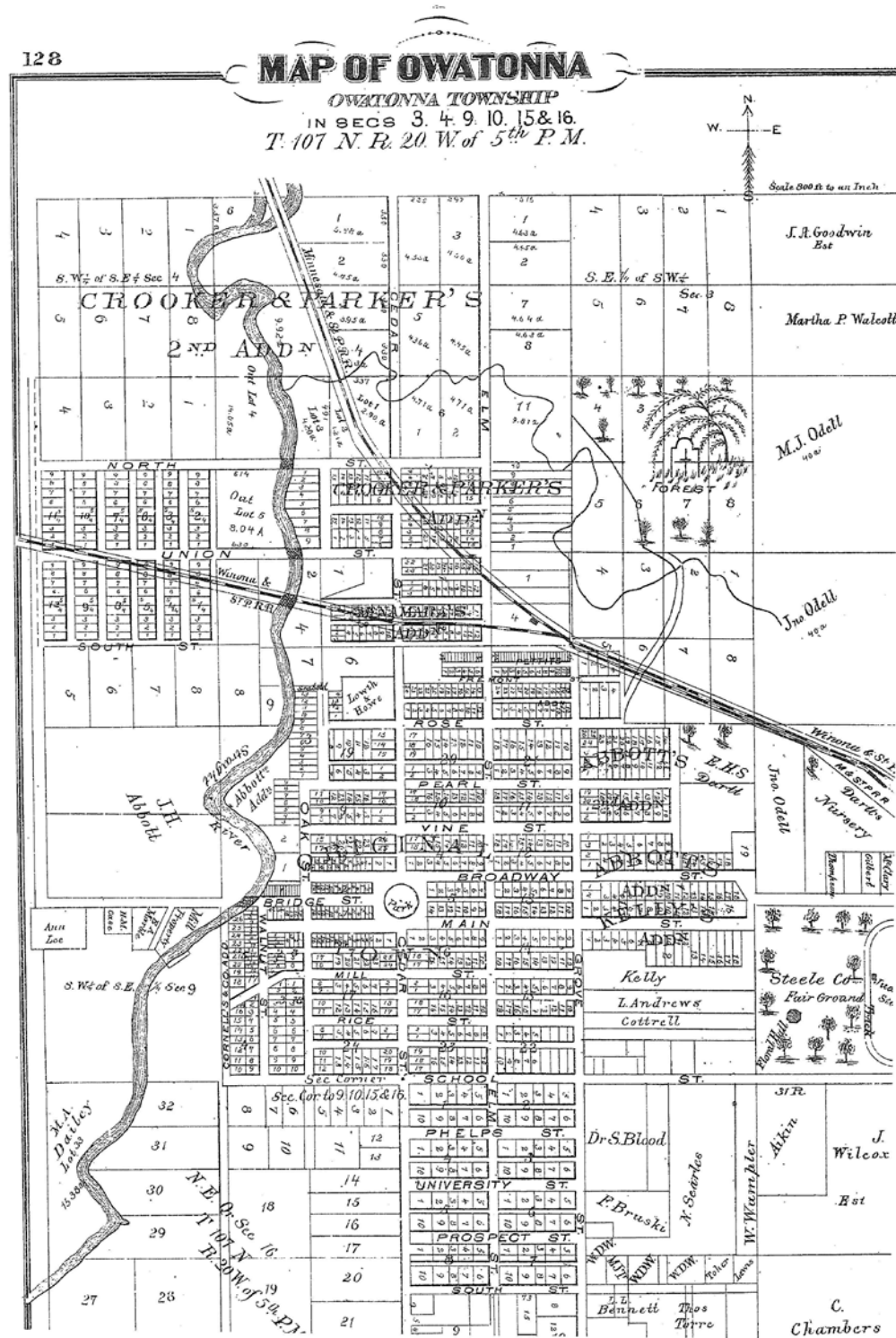
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

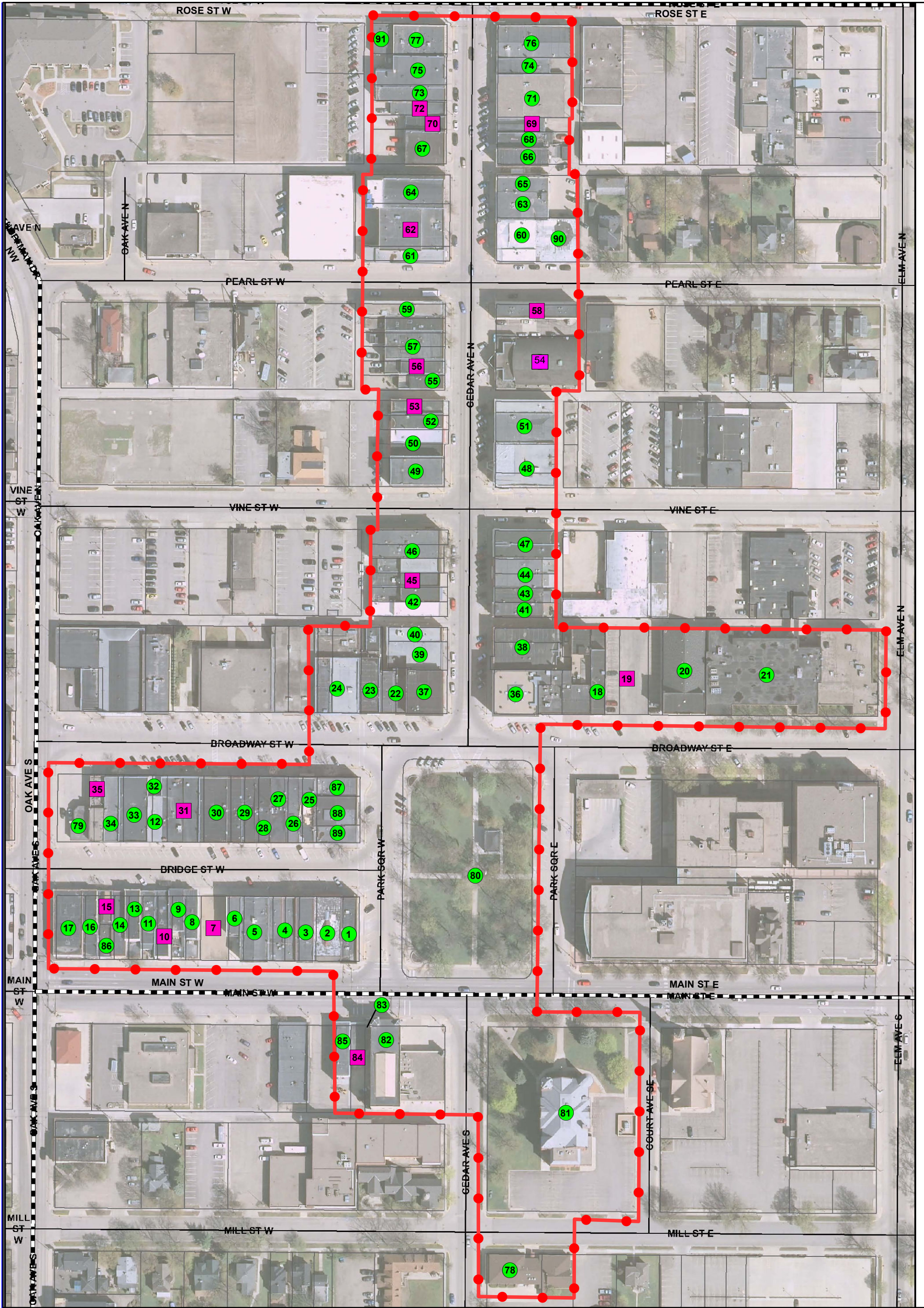
Owatonna Commercial Historic District
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Figure 13.





**Legend**

- 1 Contributing
- 1 Noncontributing
- District Boundary
- County State Aid Highway



Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

**Contributing and Noncontributing Properties**  
 Owatonna Commercial Historic District  
 Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota

Plot Date: 06/03/2011