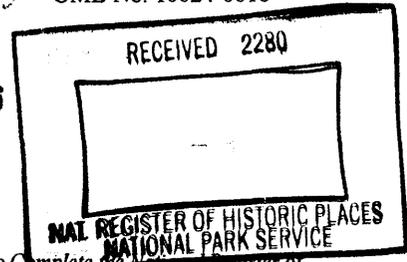


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG -2 2006



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registrations Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: NORTHWOOD CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Other Names/Site Number

2. Location

Street & Number: ROUGHLY, CENTRAL AVE WEST NEAR 5TH ST. TO 9TH ST. ON THE EAST N/A not for publication

City or Town: NORTHWOOD N/A vicinity

State: IOWA Code: IA County: WORTH Code: 195 Zip code: 50459

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 nationally statewide  locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

*Lowell J. Sorke, Deputy SHPO*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

*August 3, 2006*  
Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- Entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet.
- Determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register

Other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

*Linda McClelland*

Date of Action

*9-19-06*

**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	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	___ 40 ___	___ 14 ___ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	site	___ 1 ___	___ 0 ___ sites
public-Federal	structure	___ 1 ___	___ 0 ___ structures
	object	___ 3 ___	___ 0 ___ objects
		___ 45 ___	___ 14 ___ Total

**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**

Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture MPD \_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE  
COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
GOVERNMENT/government office  
VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate  
LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

foundation: BRICK  
walls: BRICK  
STONE/limestone  
roof: METAL/steel  
SYNTHETICS/rubber  
other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 to 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1857-1956 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1857 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1883 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Omeyer and Thori  
Saxton, Glenn L. & Enger, Hans

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 11.3

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15	481817E	4810227N	2 15	482228E	4810227N
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
3 15	482228E	4810090N	4 15	482045E	4810090N
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

**X** See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Alexa McDowell, Architectural Historian

organization AKAY Consulting date July 30, 2006

street & number 1226-6th Street telephone 515-432-5216

city or town Boone state Iowa zip code 50036

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Various (see continuation sheet)

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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018) Washington, DC 20503

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION, continued**

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

**MATERIALS, continued**

Foundation: Concrete  
Terra Cotta  
Walls: Wood  
METAL/iron  
Clay Tile Block  
Roof: ASPHALT/Composition

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

**Overview**

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is located at the western edge of the community of Northwood, Iowa, providing entrance to the town for travelers arriving along County Road 105 from Interstate 35 some six miles to the west. Northwood, a town of 2,050 residents, is situated in north-central Iowa, four miles south of the Iowa-Minnesota state line. In addition to its role as the Worth county seat, Northwood has a long history as an agricultural community, its commercial prosperity resting primarily on the vitality of that industrial sector. Northwood is sited at a curve in the Shell Rock River, a location chosen by the founders for both its access to a water source and its natural beauty. The Central Avenue corridor is situated on a hill above the river and its immediate topography (like that of the area in general) is relatively flat. The district is set in a gridded plan with its north-south roads designated as numbered streets and its east-west roads as named avenues.

Currently, no resources located inside the boundaries of the district are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, two National Register resources, the third Worth County Courthouse (1880) and the fourth Worth County Courthouse (1893), are both located on Central Avenue, within two blocks of the district's eastern boundary. Due to a lack of continuity on the blocks between the Register listed resources and the Central Avenue Historic District, the two courthouses are not included in the district.

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is a four-plus block, commercial corridor bounded by 5th Street on the west and 9th Street on the east. The alley behind the commercial row marks the district boundary on the north, with the curving line of the north riverfront of the Shell Rock River creating the southern boundary. The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District comprises the historic commercial core of the community, today providing a comprehensive picture of the historic growth of Northwood's Main Street commerce.

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Typical of small town commercial districts, Northwood's Central Avenue is comprised of a variety of property types including commercial buildings, heavy-commercial buildings (e.g. lumber yard), and residences. The majority of the buildings that historically housed retail and financial enterprises are grouped in adjoining buildings at the east end of the district. Moving west from 7th Street, property types begin to shift; the lumberyard and residential resources are located at this end of the district. The retention of a high level of historic integrity in the avenue's "anchor" buildings and a reasonable level of historic integrity in a majority of the other resources reinforces the significance of the district as a whole.

The resources within the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District are representative of a wide variety of architectural styles, construction materials, and construction eras. The earliest resource is the limestone residence located at the western edge of the district, which, according to a local news article, dates to 1865, a date in keeping with other known limestone residences of similar form, construction, and general locale (e.g. the Cannon House in Mason City, a National Register listed resource, constructed in 1866.)

Multiple examples of early woodframe construction remain in the district, including the Clark Building, dating to 1888, and a pair of woodframe, false-front buildings, located on either side of Central Avenue in the eight hundred block; both buildings have been sided, but retain their distinctive form. An exceptional woodframe resource is found in the building sited at 611 Central Avenue. The building's barrel roof and intact facade are important, character-defining elements of this resource.

In addition to its woodframe resources, the district holds several significant brick resources dating to the last decades of the nineteenth century, which provide representation of the various influences of the Late Victorian era. Most significant among them are the anchors at the intersection of Central Avenue and 8th Street, including the 1897 Kean Block (Queen Anne), the 1888 Kean Building (Italianate), the 1888 Dwelle Block (Italianate), the 1891 J.B. Thompson Building (Italianate), and the 1899 Holland-Haraldson Building, which exhibits elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque.

In addition to those resources mentioned above, several other commercial buildings were constructed during the latter years of the nineteenth century; most are concentrated in the seven hundred and eight hundred block of Central Avenue. After the turn of the century, most new construction took place in the west end of the district. Four of the five buildings associated with Northwood Lumber were built circa 1910. These buildings are all of woodframe construction, their appearance dictated by their function.

Fire and economics have had their way in the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District, resulting in the loss of some of the earliest resources and the construction of later buildings. Several buildings in the seven hundred block of the avenue were constructed in the mid-twentieth century to replace earlier buildings. The buildings take the form of the common one-story, spare, modernized commercial style. The Drury's Lanes Building is a typical example of this mid-century construction; a modest scaled, brick building, that is square in shape with no applied ornamentation. The resulting

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box-like appearance reflects the primacy of function over the more elaborate designs of the previous decades. The Drury's Lanes Building and the other resources of a similar construction period provide the evidence of Main Street commerce at the latter end of an ongoing continuum.

As indicated, the site for Northwood was determined by its location adjacent to the Shell Rock River, with the Main Street commercial district designed to sit atop a hill over a crescent-shaped bend of the waterway. From the earliest years, the land on the south side of the Shell Rock was a public park with footbridge access across the river to the north riverbank that connected to a pathway up to the city's downtown retail area. That arrangement remains today, with a staircase pathway leading to flanking stone piers that mark the Central Avenue entrance to the stairway; both the staircase pathway and piers are contributing resources to the historic district.

Two streetscape objects, the L.T. Dillon Clock and the Haugen Water Fountain, contribute to the historic character of the district. Both resources date to the early twentieth century and both are associated with prominent local citizens. Though both have been moved from their original locations on Central Avenue, each has been at their present site for more than fifty years.

Most of the architecture of the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District was builder/contractor designed. Newspaper accounts commonly associate local builders H. Quandahl and James McQuarrie with commercial construction projects during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although little evidence of architect designed resources has been found, it is known that two buildings, the Holland-Haraldson Block and the Odd Fellows-Erickson Block, were designed by architects from St. Paul, Minnesota, Omeyer & Thori and J.L. Rood, respectively. The Emery Building was designed by Glenn L. Saxton and Hans Enger, who also appear to have had an office in St. Paul at this time. There is evidence to suggest that the Index Building may have been designed by J.L. Rood. In addition, it is likely that buildings constructed to house financial institutions, as well as some of the more elaborate commercial buildings (e.g. Kean Block), were architect designed.

**Statement of Integrity**

As a whole, the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District retains a good level of historic integrity. Like most communities, Northwood has struggled with the forces of nature, economics, and aesthetic whims. However, while some alteration of the historic fabric has occurred, the historic integrity remains intact. This is due to the continuing existence of a sense of cohesion within the district, created by the retention of historic buildings and objects that together create the fabric of the district.

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District maintains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of the location is illustrated by the retention of the physical relationship between the resources of the district and the historic setting; the Northwood commercial district was planned for this location, on

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the rise above the bend of the Shell Rock River to which it remains physically connected. In addition, primary commercial buildings were constructed at the east end of the avenue with light-industrial and residential creeping in at the eastern fringe. The same is true today.

The good integrity of the location is further illustrated by the retention of a sense of cohesion among the resources themselves; despite a variety of buildings representing an extended period of time, they hang together, reading as a unit. Together, they maintain a sense of cohesion and stand as physical evidence of the community.

Individually the resources exhibit the historic characteristics of their construction eras, demonstrating the influences prevalent during specific times in history. Their materials, stylistic influences, workmanship, and methods of construction all contribute to our understanding of a specific period of history and how the trends of that era impacted this small community.

As indicated in Jan Nash's 2002 Multiple Property Document *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture*, "evolution and change over time are fundamental characteristics of nearly all Iowa commercial districts."<sup>1</sup> As the integrity considerations of that document recommend, the resources of the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District have been evaluated taking "... into consideration the expected alterations and typical motivations of Main Street tenants and owners..." and recognizing that "... a greater degree of alteration can be accommodated in a commercial district before the integrity of the district is seriously compromised."<sup>2</sup>

As Nash states, changes to commercial buildings are particularly prevalent at the storefront level where retailers adapted their stores in reaction to changing function or marketing trends. However, the retention of original form, upper story fenestration and decorative elements, and the building's "... contribution to the street's overall profile..." often compensate for the loss of an original storefront, resulting in the retention of an overall historic integrity and a contribution to the significance of the district.

Worthy of specific note is the existence of numerous resources within the district that have seen little or no change; they retain their original form, facade configuration, fenestration, and stylistic elements. These resources are considered individually eligible for National Register listing.

**Resource Classification & Count**

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District includes one contributing site, the north side of the Shell Rock riverfront, which includes one contributing object and one contributing structure. The district also includes two objects outside the boundaries of the aforementioned site and forty

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<sup>1</sup> Nash, Jan Olive. "Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture" (Multiple Property Document, State Historical Society of Iowa/State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, 2002), E-38.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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contributing buildings for a total of forty-five contributing resources. Six of the contributing building resources are considered individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The district contains fourteen non-contributing resources, all buildings.

*Sites and Objects*

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District includes one site, the north side of the Shell Rock River bank, which is considered a contributing resource.

Northwood's founders sited their community along the Shell Rock River for both pragmatic and aesthetic reasons. The land in the river valley was set aside for public use from the time of the original town plat in 1858. The land on the south side of the Shell Rock became known as Crescent Park, and later Swensrud Park. From about 1916, access to the commercial district, sited atop a hill on the north side of the river, was provided by a footbridge across the river that connected to a set of stairs on the north side of the river. Because of its historic connection to the commercial area of the town the riverfront on the north side of the Shell Rock riverfront is considered part of the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District. The area is classified in this document as a "site" with one contributing object, flanking limestone piers (circa 1900) marking the staircase pathway on Central Avenue and one contributing structure, the path of the staircase (circa 1916) that connects the river's footbridge with Central Avenue (now a series of concrete steps and landings.)

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District includes two objects, both considered contributing resources. The first is the L.T. Dillon clock currently located on the sidewalk in front of 809 Central Avenue. The standing, cast-iron clock was built in 1904 by Lloyd T. Dillon and brought to Northwood from Litchfield, Minnesota in 1909 to be placed in front of his family business, Dillon Drug Store, which was located in the Dwelle Block at 812-818 Central Avenue. Although the clock was moved from its original location circa 1960, its present setting is much the same as the original and the clock remains an icon on the Northwood Main Street.

The second contributing object is the Haugen Fountain, a cast-iron watering fountain, with three water sources to serve cats and dogs (ground level), horses (at mid-level), and humans (a spigot at waist level.) The fountain is currently located on the sidewalk at the top of the stairs leading to the riverfront park. Like the clock, this object has been moved from its original location in front of the Holland-Haraldson Block at 737-747 Central Avenue, where it was placed in 1903. As the object's name implies, the fountain was a gift from local benefactor and long-time U.S. Congressman Gilbert N. Haugen. Sometime prior to 1950 the Haugen Fountain was moved to its present location where its setting is much as it was originally and, like the L.T. Dillon Clock, it remains a contributing element in the history of Northwood's Main Street.

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*Buildings*

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District contains a total of fifty-four buildings. Of that number, forty-nine buildings were constructed fifty or more years ago, forty of which are considered resources contributing to the district and fourteen are considered non-contributing resources. Six of the forty contributing resources are considered individually eligible for National Register listing. An inventory of the building resources, organized to indicate contributing status and construction date, and historic function follows.

**NOTE: C = Contributing; N = Non-contributing; I = Contributing as Individually Eligible**

**RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION & COUNT**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Class.</b>	<b>Constructed</b>	<b>Historic Function</b>
<u>500 Block</u>				
511 Central Ave.	Abbey House	I	ca 1865	Residence
512 Central Ave.	Northwood Lumber - Shed	C	ca 1910	Storage
512 Central Ave.	Northwood Lumber - Shed	C	1896	Storage
512 Central Ave.	Northwood Lumber - Shed	C	ca 1910	Storage
512 Central Ave.	Northwood Lumber - Shed	C	ca 1910	Storage
512 Central Ave.	Northwood Lumber - Office	N	ca 1910	Office
513 Central Ave.	Kittleson Building	N	1943	Implements
517 Central Ave.	Palmer Residence	N	1982	Residence
518 Central Ave.	Madson Warehouse	C	1893	Warehouse
540 Central Ave.	Madson's Wagon Works	N	1880	Wagon Manufacture
<u>600 Block</u>				
600 Central Ave.	Tohen Building	C	1946	Auto Accessories
601 Central Ave.	Hanson Building	N	1955	Radio & TV Sales
604 Central Ave.	Worth County Co-op Warehouse	C	1947	Warehouse
610 Central Ave.	Garage	N	1970	Garage
611 Central Ave.	Building	I	ca 1900	Unknown
612 Central Ave.	Stahl Building	C	1947	Grocery/Residential
616 Central Ave.	Taylor Auto Building	C	ca 1946	Auto Repair
618 Central Ave.	State Liquor Store Building	C	ca 1916	Liquor Sales
620 Central Ave.	Worth County Co-op Building	C	1945	Co-op
627 Central Ave.	City Hall	N	1974	Municipal
	Riverfront - site	C	1857	
	Riverfront - pathway	C	ca 1889	
	Riverfront - limestone piers	C	ca 1900	
	Haugen Water Fountain	C	1903	

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**NOTE: C = Contributing; N = Non-contributing; I = Contributing as Individually Eligible**

**RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION & COUNT**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Class.</b>	<b>Constructed</b>	<b>Historic Function</b>
<u>700 Block</u>				
700 Central Ave.	Drury's Lanes Building	C	1954	Bowling Alley
704 Central Ave.	Tenold Building	N	1967	Insurance Agency
710 Central Ave.	Tosdahl Building	C	1888/1935	Drug Store
714-720 Central Ave.	Brebner-Low Building	C	1891	Grocery
715 Central Ave.	Colbertson Building	N	1956	Plumber
721 Central Ave.	Reiter Building	N	1960	Electrician
724 Central Ave.	Clark Building	C	1888	Grocery
725 Central Ave.	Shorty's Shoe Shop	C	ca 1955	Shoe Shop
728-732 Central Ave.	Ofsthus-Lund Building	N	1903	Hardware
733 Central Ave.	Gerk Building	N	ca 1946	Appliance Sales
735 Central Ave.	Remore Building	C	1888	Barbershop
737-747 Central Ave.	Holland-Haraldson Block	C	1899	Shoes/Clothing Sales
736 Central Ave.	City Meat Market	N	1891	Meat Market
738 Central Ave.	Thorson & Brown Building	C	1891	Drugstore
740 Central Ave.	J.B. Thompson & Sons	C	1891	General Store
<u>North 8th Street</u>				
87 N. 8th Street	Wright Building	C	1938	Barbershop
<u>800 Block</u>				
801 Central Ave.	Kean Block	I	1897	Clothing Sales/Offices
808 Central Ave.	Hall Hardware Building	C	ca 1880	Hardware
809-811 Central Ave.	Kean Building	I	1888	Grocery/Apartments
	L.T. Dillon Clock	C	1909	Town Clock
812-818 Central Ave.	Dwelle Block	I	1888	Drugstore/Opera Hse
817 Central Ave.	R.P. Johnson Building	C	1892	Real Estate/Insurance
822 Central Ave.	Worth County Bank Building	C	1906	Bank
827 Central Ave.	Northwood Theatre Building	N	1921	Movie Theater
826 Central Ave.	Peoples Gas & Electric Building	C	1886	Bank
830 Central Ave.	Emery Building	C	1912	Barbershop
832 Central Ave.	Northwest Pizza	N	1935	Blacksmith
834 Central Ave.	Baken Building	C	1949	Abstract Office
835-839 Central Ave.	Odd Fellows-Erickson Building	C	1896	Meeting Hall/Retail
846 Central Ave.	Amundson-Grosland Building	C	ca 1883	Tailor/Millinery
847 Central Ave.	Anchor Building	C	ca 1915	Pool Hall

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**NOTE: C = Contributing; N = Non-contributing; I = Contributing as Individually Eligible**

**RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION & COUNT**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Class.</b>	<b>Constructed</b>	<b>Historic Function</b>
800 Block, cont'd.				
849 Central Ave.	Hunter Building	C	1887	Furniture Sales
852 Central Ave.	Worth County Index Building	C	1900	Newspaper Office
853 Central Ave.	Paramount Café Building	C	1886	Cafe
861 Central Ave.	First National Bank Building	I	1883	Bank

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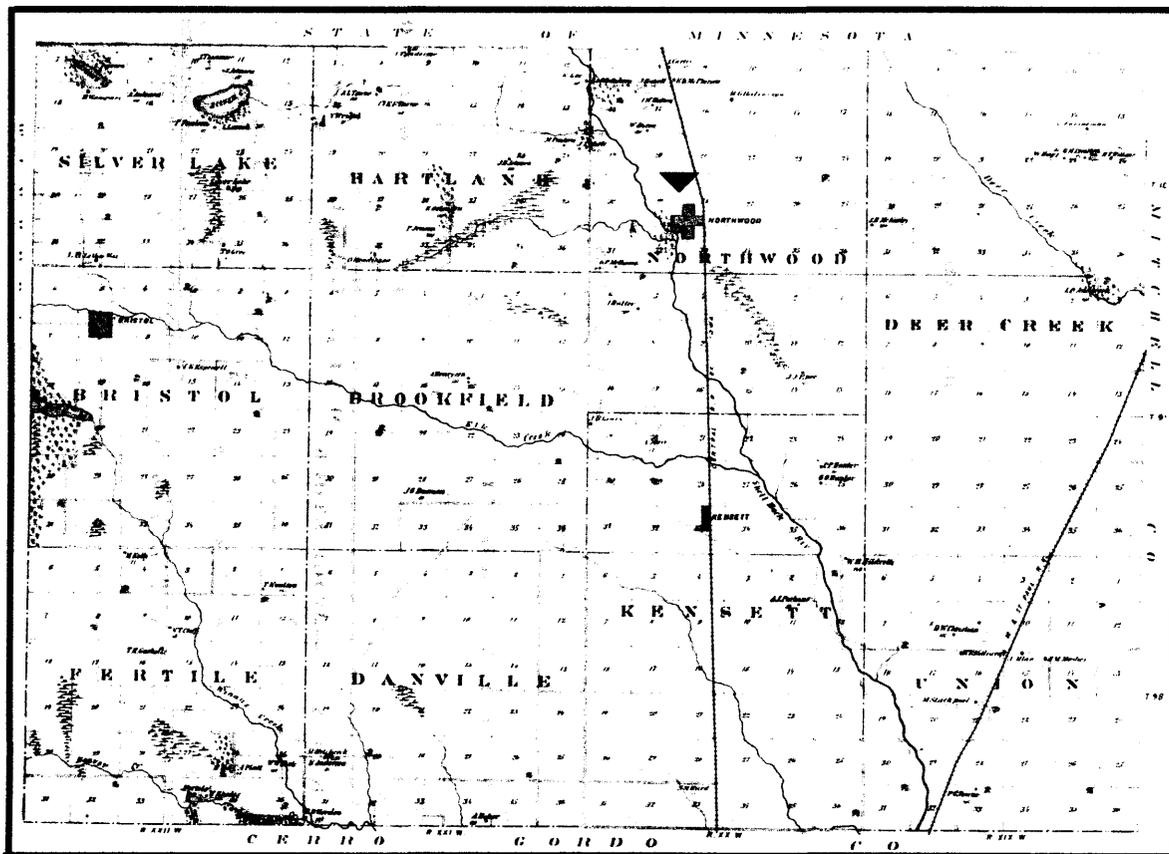
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Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
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WORTH COUNTY PLAT MAP - 1875



Worth County is located in the upper tier of Iowa counties, near the middle of the state. The town of Northwood (indicated here with an arrowhead) is situated approximately four miles south of the Iowa-Minnesota state line.

(SOURCE: *A.T. Andreas' Illustrated Historic Atlas, 1875.*)

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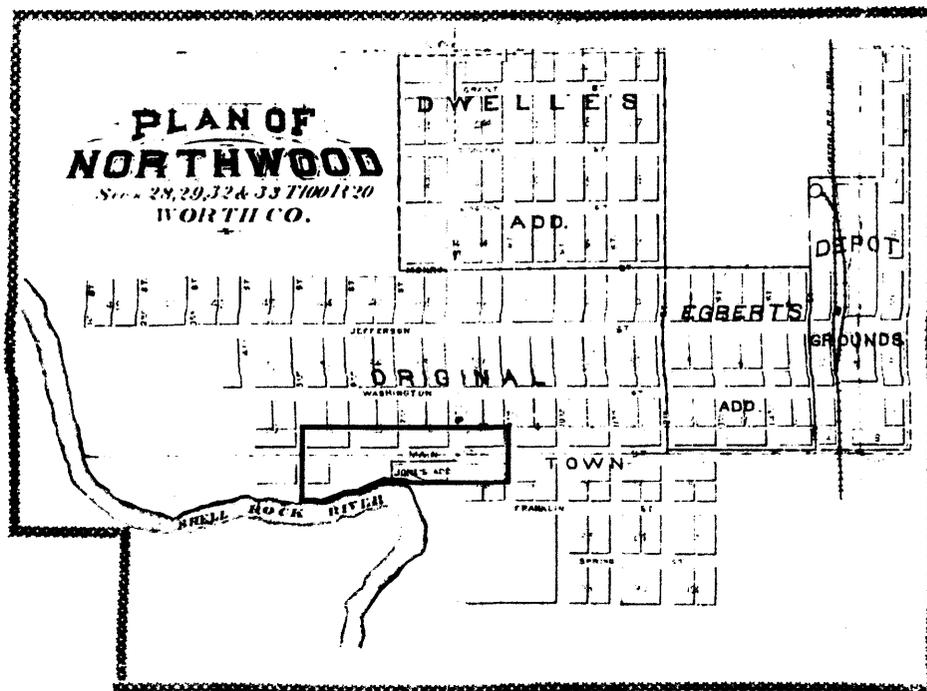
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NORTHWOOD TOWN PLAT - 1875



This Northwood Town Plat, taken from the *A.T. Andreas' Illustrated Historic Atlas of the State of Iowa*, which was published in 1875, shows the small community anchored on the crescent of Shell Rock River. Many of the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District's existing resources date to the following ten to fifteen years. As the map indicates, at this time Central Avenue was known as Main Street.

NOTE: The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is outlined here in black.

(SOURCE: *A.T. Andreas' Illustrated Historic Atlas, 1875.*)

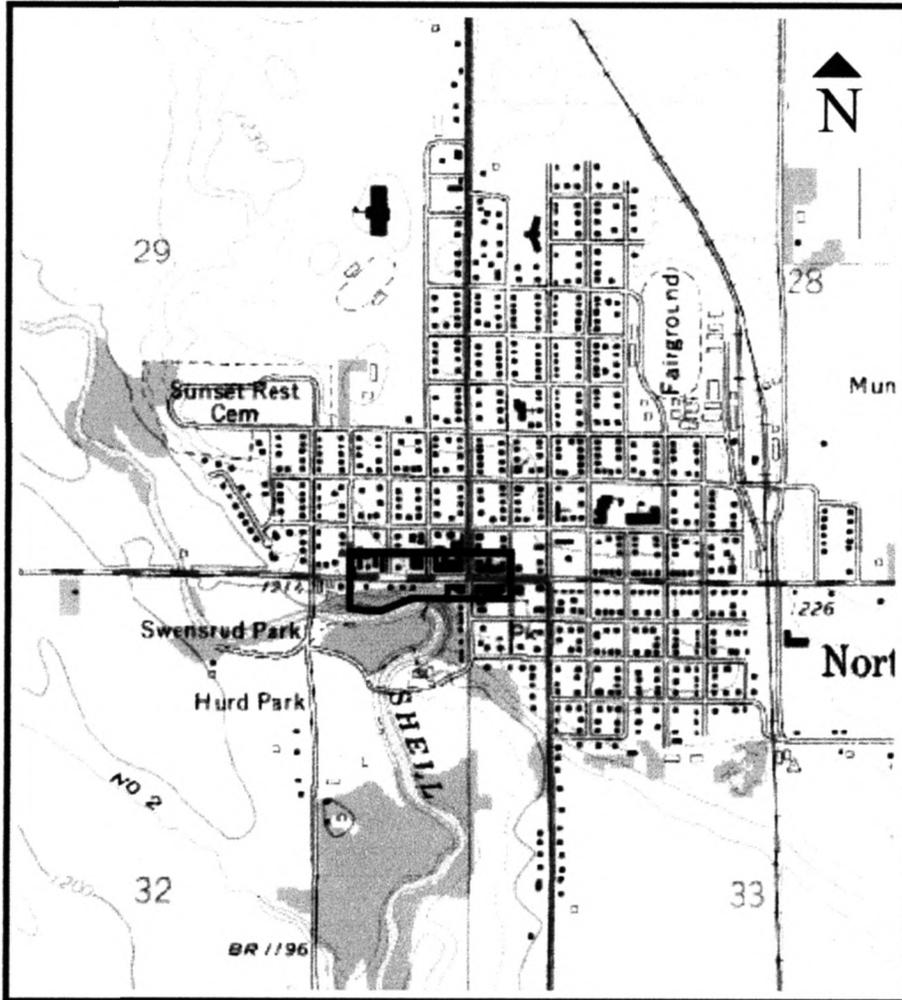
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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
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USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - NORTHWOOD QUAD (1972)



NOTE: Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is indicated in dark outline.

(MAP SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Northwood Quad, 1972)

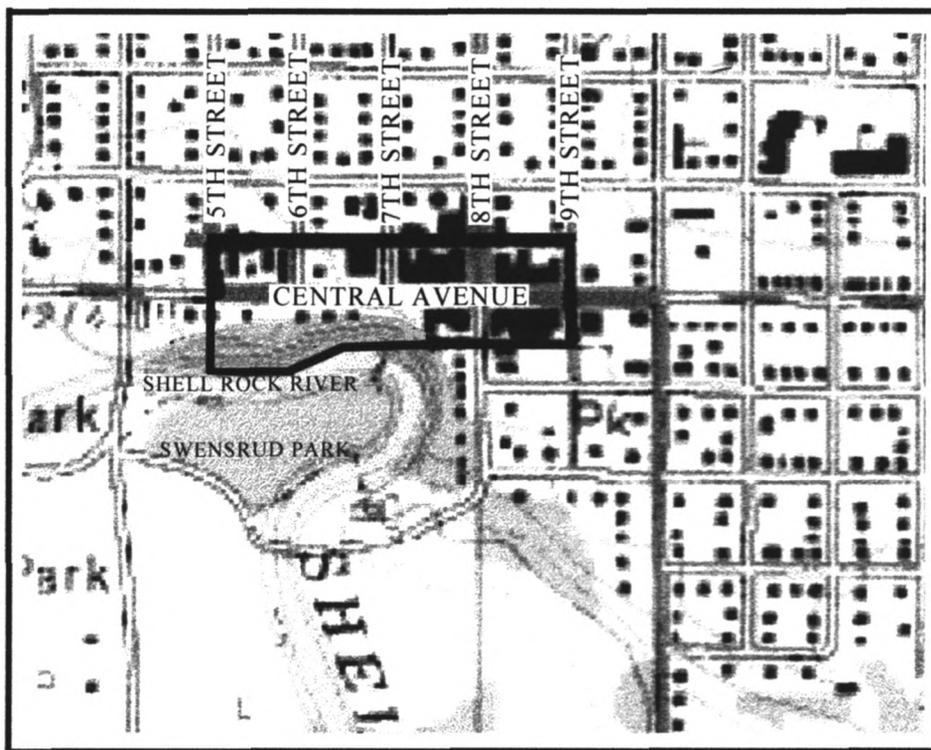
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BOUNDARIES: NORTHWOOD CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT



District boundaries are outlined in black. Note that the district is essentially linear in form, with the southern boundary curving to follow the line of the Shell Rock River.

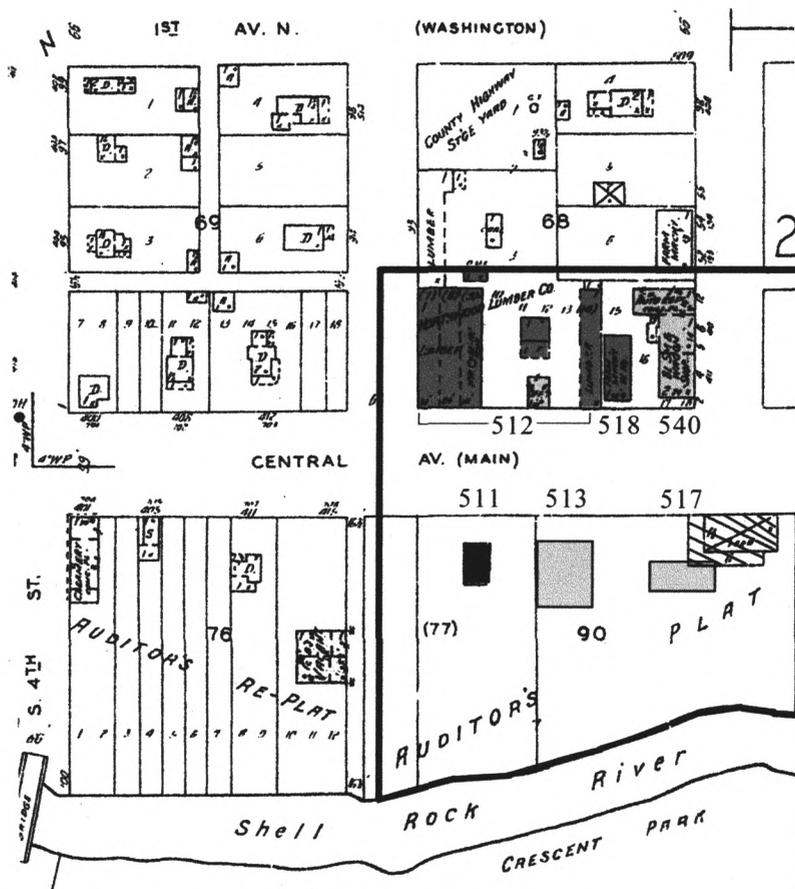
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NORTHWOOD CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT RESOURCE MAP



**500 BLOCK**

- KEY:** Black Infill = Individually Eligible  
Dark Gray Infill = Contributing Resource  
Light Gray Infill = Non-Contributing Resource

**NOTE:** The black outline indicates the district boundary relevant to the 500 block of Central Avenue. Also, the resource coding overlays the 1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; cross-hatching indicates buildings that are non-extant. In some cases, (e.g. 517 above), post-1935 constructions replace or overlap the non-extant buildings.

(MAP SOURCE: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1935)

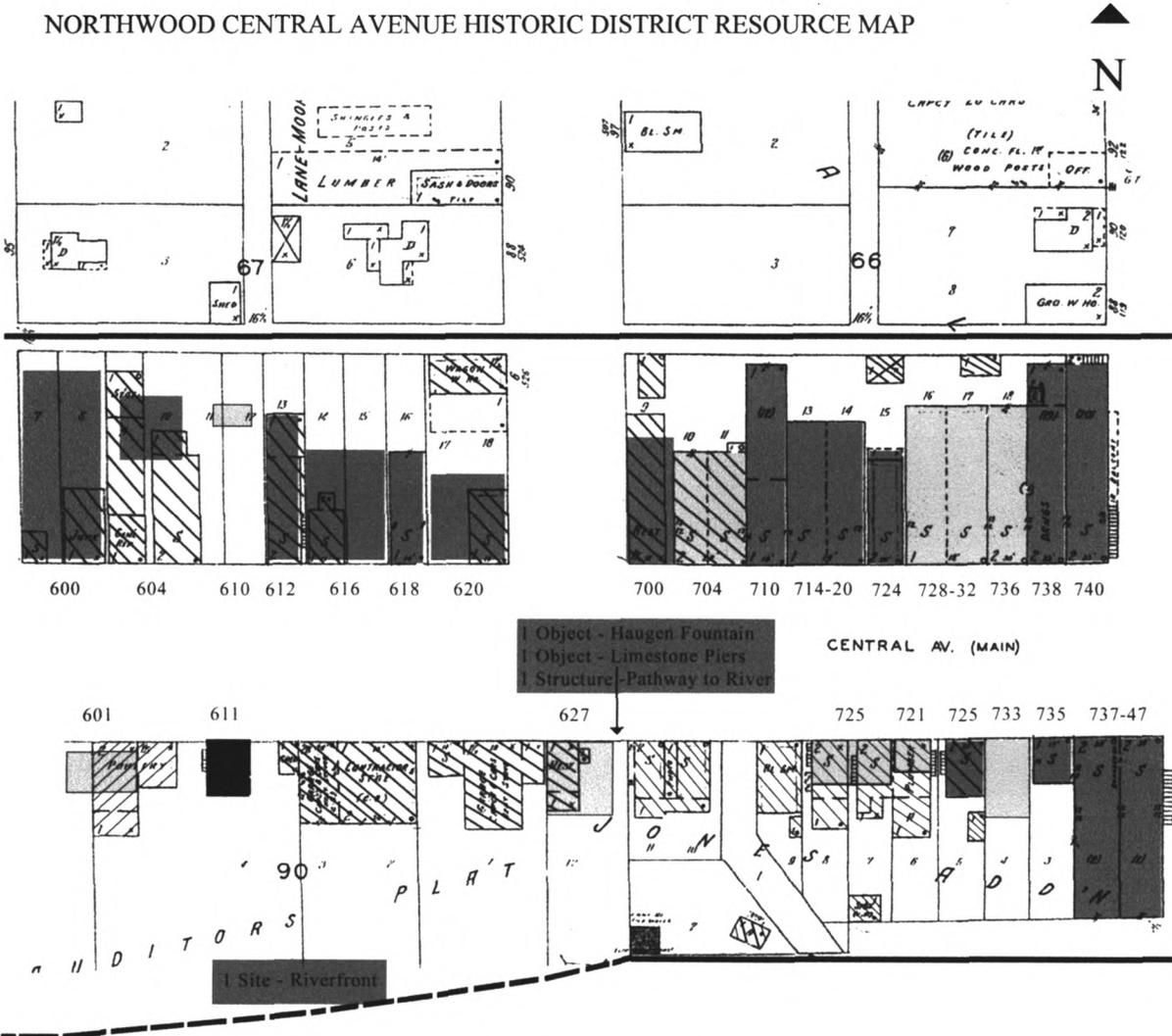
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NORTHWOOD CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT RESOURCE MAP



600-700 BLOCKS

- KEY:** Black Infill = Individually Eligible  
 Dark Gray Infill = Contributing Resource  
 Light Gray Infill = Non-Contributing Resource

**NOTE:** The black outline indicates the district boundary relevant to the 600 & 700 blocks of Central; the broken line indicating the south boundary (Shell Rock River), which does not appear on the 1935 Sanborn Map. Also, the resource coding overlays the 1935 Fire Insurance Map; cross-hatching indicates buildings that are non-extant. In some cases, (e.g. 627 above), post-1935 constructions replace or overlap the non-extant buildings.

(MAP SOURCE: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1935)

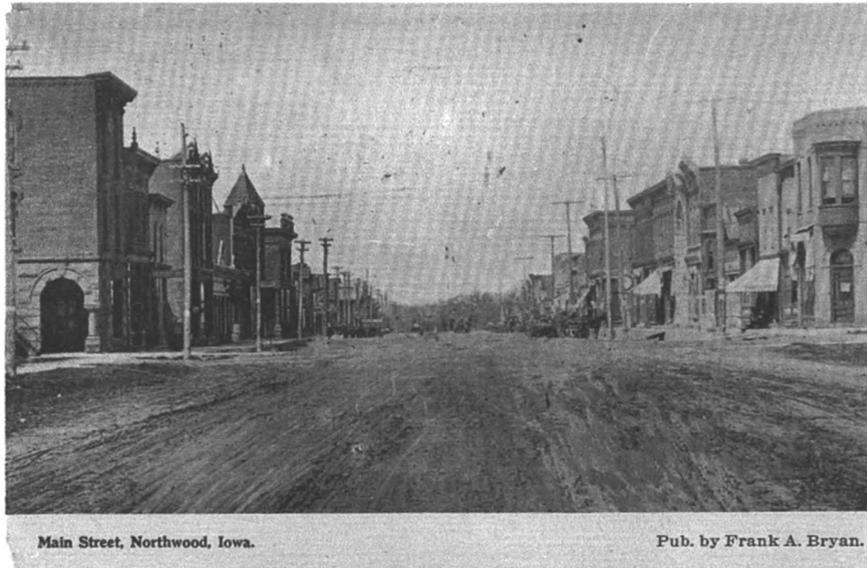


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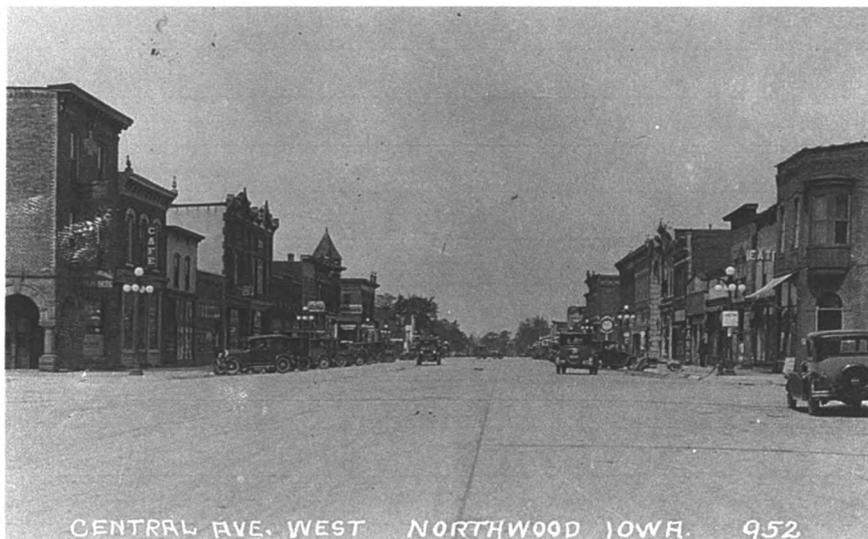
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This circa 1910 image documents Central Avenue looking west from near 9th Street, years prior to its 1928 paving. The image confirms the historic width of the town's primary commercial corridor.



A view of Central Avenue from the same position above, taken sometime after the street was paved in 1928.

(SOURCE: Worth County Historical Society Postcard Collection)

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Like the previous historic image, this 1950's postcard documents Central Avenue looking west. Here the view includes a portion of the 900 block where concrete block buildings flanked the street. Auto related, these buildings were undoubtedly a response to the routing of the Jefferson Highway, which entered Northwood from the south on 9th Street, turning west to run along Central Avenue to 8th Street, then north again out of town. The loss of these buildings is particularly unfortunate because they were two of a handful of Northwood resources whose construction can be directly connected to the rise of the automobile and the construction of the Jefferson Highway.

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View of the northside of the 700 block of Central Avenue in the early years of the twentieth century.



A similar view some ten years later.

(SOURCE: Worth County Historical Society Postcard Collection)

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Like the previous images, this historic image, which dates to 1953, documents the 700 block of Central Avenue.

(SOURCE: Ausenhus Postcard Collection)

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This historic image documents a parade on May 30, 1914, as well as provides an excellent view of the historic buildings lining the south side of Central Avenue in the 800 block. Note the Kean Block and the Kean Building at the far right. Also visible is the elaborate cornice of the Johnson Building (third from the corner), which was removed from the building in about 1920.



A similar view to that above, though looking due east and showing the streetscapes on either side of Central. This image dates to the 1940's.

(SOURCE: Worth County Historical Society Postcard Collection)

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The same view today.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting, December 2005)

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**ARCHITECT/BUILDER, continued**

McQuarrie, James  
Stratton, B.L  
Quandahl, H.  
Rood, J.L

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The case for significance for the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is predicated on the 2002 Multiple Property Document completed by Jan Olive Nash of Tallgrass Historians, entitled *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture*. In the document, Nash develops the historic context of "Historical Patterns on Main Street: Commercial District Development, 1832-1952" under which the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District derives its significance.

As such, the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in its association with the role of commerce in the settlement and growth of the town over an extended period of time, having served a central role in the survival of the community. As dictated by the registration requirements of the *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* MPD, the resources of the district are representative of the continuum of commercial development beginning in the early 1880's and continuing through the mid-twentieth century. These resources represent a variety of building materials, construction practices, architectural styles, and property types.

In addition, the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in its association with the role of industry - specifically agriculture - in the development of commerce and the resulting development of the town over an extended period of time.

The Period of Significance for the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is 1857 through 1956. The first plat of the city was completed in 1857, establishing the plan upon which the commercial district would rise. Because that plan included the area that is included within the boundaries of the district, the earliest date of significance has been determined as such. The ending date of the period of significance has been determined as the fifty-year minimum age requirement set by National Register standards. Additional buildings, constructed after 1956 should be reevaluated when they meet the Register requirement because they have the potential to contribute to the historic district. This is particularly important in the effort to consider the Main Street as a continuum, with much of its history yet to be made.

Significant Dates for the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District include the year in which the city was platted, 1857, and that of 1883, which marks the transition from the earliest woodframe construction to that dominated by new brick construction.

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## HISTORIC BACKGROUND

### Settlement (1853-1870)

The European era of the history of Northwood, Iowa begins in 1853 with the arrival of Worth County's first white settlers. A small group, including Gulbrand Mellem, Ole Faergerbaken, Aslak Larson and his son Lars Aslaksen came to the area from St. Ansgar in Mitchell County some eighteen miles to the east. The pioneers found the area to be a generally "level prairie with a slight tendency to roll."<sup>3</sup> Faergerbaken quickly decided to return to St. Ansgar, while the father and son took claim to a grove of timber (later known as Phelps' Grove). Mellem chose his claim further south in Section 32 (the northeast corner of Section 32 is now bound by Central Avenue and South 8th Street), next to the crescent-shaped bend of the Shell Rock River, which cut through the area in a southeasterly direction.<sup>4</sup> Mellem's site was chosen for both its beauty and its access to a water source. A portion of that land was later platted as the town of Northwood. Aslak Larson and his son Lars assisted Mellem to construct a cabin for him and his wife on the newly claimed land, then proceeded to cut timber for their own shelter. The situation must have proved too much for them, however, because Aslak and Lars soon returned to St. Ansgar.<sup>5</sup>

Gulbrand Mellem and his wife Karina spent the winter of 1853-1854 in their new home and soon delivered their first child, Ole, the first white child born in Worth County. The following year they were joined by several other newcomers, including Christian Ammondson, Ole Solimetien, Andrew Peter Nelson (who died shortly after his arrival), and, most significant among the group, Simon Rustad. Each of these new arrivals were Norwegian by heritage and all came to the area to claim land for agricultural purposes. Like the Mellems these new arrivals traveled to central Iowa from other parts of the state (especially Decorah and St. Ansgar) or elsewhere in the Midwest (primarily from Wisconsin.)

Agriculture was always the driving force behind any measure of prosperity in Northwood. The first settlers were attracted to the area by the promise of land; their success as farmers resulted from the richness of the area's soil, a "dark, alluvial loam" with a drift sub-soil.<sup>6</sup> The Norwegians appear to have brought both their conservative nature and their farming skills with them, because they found great success on the plains of Worth County; grains, specifically wheat, corn, barley, and oats, were the first crops planted in the fertile soil surrounding Northwood.

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<sup>3</sup> *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa* (Springfield, IL: Union Publishing Co., 1884; reprint Salem, MA: Higginson Book Co.), 799 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

<sup>4</sup> Myrl E. Stahl & Ellsworth Kisner, ed. *Worth County Heritage 1853-1976*. (Northwood, IA: Worth County Bi-Centennial Commission, 1976), 74.

<sup>5</sup> *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa*, 540.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 678.

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In an 1915 article, P.D. Swick, editor of the *Boone Independent*, reflected about those first years: "... the trackless prairie offered miles and miles of prairie land without bush or tree to break the monotony. Settlers regarded this land as worthless and tens of thousands of it was held at from \$1.50 to \$2.50 an acre, and no one wanted it at that."<sup>7</sup>

In the first years, settlers were required to use the postal service at Osage in Mitchell County; on a good day, an inconvenient situation. In 1857 papers were filed with the federal government requesting the establishment of a post office "at Phelps's Grove, to be called Northwood." The name, clearly descriptive of the early land claim, became permanently attached to the fledgling community.<sup>8</sup>

The migration of settlers continued in the following years, bringing Charles Wardall, Joel Dayton, and Lemuel Dwelle. Upon their arrival, these three men quickly determined that Gulbrand Mellem's land north of the Shell Rock River was the ideal site for a town and proceeded to negotiate its purchase. A standard gridded block plan was laid out during the summer of 1857. Due to a financial situation involving Wardall and Dayton, the official plat was filed by Dwelle, Wardall, and D.D. Franklin on September 21, 1858; the town became a part of the newly organized Northwood Township and Worth County (1857). The Original Town plat extended from 12th Street on the east to 1st Street on the west; from Main Street (now Central Avenue) on the south to Monroe on the north, for a total of twenty-seven and one-half blocks and included the north side of the riverfront.<sup>9</sup> The three men were clearly an industrious trio, for that same summer they also dammed the river for the area's first saw mill, which stood on the south side of Main Street (now Central Avenue), at the west end. For three years the primary work of the mill was to supply lumber for incoming settlers.<sup>10</sup>

In response to the ongoing influx of migrants to the area, B.H. Beckett opened Worth County's first business in the town's first woodframe building in 1857. The business supplied much needed products to the growing community. The building in which the business was housed was constructed by S.H. Franklin and believed to have been located north of Main Street (now Central Avenue) on a site at the rear of the present Dwelle Block. The woodframe building may have burnt in a fire that consumed much of that city block in 1887; it is known to have been extant through 1884.<sup>11</sup>

In contrast to the areas's first settlers, many of those that arrived in Northwood after 1857 were not Norwegians, though that ethnic group continued to be well represented. Most of the non-Norwegians were either English immigrants or Americans migrating from areas such as Pennsylvania and New

<sup>7</sup> Stahl & Kisner, 304.

<sup>8</sup> *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa*, 807 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

<sup>9</sup> *A.T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875*. (Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875; reprint, Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Society, 1970), 103 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

<sup>10</sup> *Semi-Centennial Souvenir of Northwood*. (Northwood, IA: Worth County Bi-Centennial Commission, 1907), 254.

<sup>11</sup> *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa*, 806.

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York State. Other ethnic groups, such as the Swedish, Danish, and Scottish, were represented as well. Although the Norwegians continued to dominate the agricultural world, other ethnic groups, especially the English, farmed as well.

The financial panic of 1857 affected the entire country, including the struggling pioneers of Worth County. The continued influx of settlers and the development of the town of Northwood helped them push through the challenges of that crisis and growth began in earnest. A sure sign of increased traffic to a fledgling community is a hotel; Northwood's first was constructed in 1858 by Simon H. and Asa Franklin, with John Becker as proprietor. The business was originally known as the City Hotel, and later as the Pepper House. In 1858 the Gardner House and the Northwood House were also doing business in Northwood. The Union House, which also opened in 1858, occupied quarters that previously accommodated first a tannery and then a saloon.

As the settlement years advanced, farming continued to be an important component of the community's success, which can be measured, in part, by Lemuel and A.J. Dwelle's purchase of Joel Wardall's planing mill, to which they added a grist mill for the purpose of converting locally grown wheat into flour for Northwood consumers and for shipment to other markets. For many years the mill employed five men plus two coopers in their barrel manufacturing facility.<sup>12</sup> The expansion of the planing mill to flour processing indicates the growing connection between agricultural production and Northwood's developing commercial interests.

Like the farm area surrounding it, Northwood grew. By 1869 the town was comprised of the mill, two or three small log houses at the west end of town, a tannery, and a hotel. Despite the construction of these buildings the community was still defined by the frontier from which it was springing. An article from a Worth County history helped illustrate the transformation when it wrote that from the former site of a livery barn on Main Street "... to the hotel on the south side of Main Street, an old fashioned rail fence surrounded a corn field ..." <sup>13</sup>

Within that simple collection of buildings stood a limestone house, built for Villeroy and Alonzo Abbey by their father John while the boys were off fighting in the Civil War. The one and one-half story, gable-end home remains on its original site and, with a construction date of circa 1865, it is the oldest building in the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District. Although the house has two additions, both remain subordinate to the original building resulting in the retention of a high level of historic integrity.

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<sup>12</sup> Stahl & Kisner. 254-255.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 301.

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Railroad Years (1871-1900)

The period of 1871-1900 is distinguished by the arrival of the railroad, an occurrence that significantly broadened the farmers' prospects for success. As a result of the expanding agricultural market, the value of farm land rose, the town population grew, and commercial enterprise responded to the demands of the the developing community. During this time period Northwood experienced the largest physical growth in its history; twenty-two of the Central Avenue Historic District's fifty-three buildings were constructed during this era.

During the earlier, settlement period, the farmer's prosperity was limited by the scope of his market. However, the arrival of the railroad in October of 1871 significantly widened the prospects for distribution of agricultural products. In the year anticipating the arrival of the line, several grain warehouses and elevators were constructed, at least one of which was located adjacent to the Iowa Central Railway track; the farmers and their community were ready for a new chapter in their history.

The Central Railway Company of Iowa was a north-south line with trackage into Northwood from Mason City on the south. Arranging for service into Northwood took extraordinary tenacity on the part of local businessmen and the population in general, but efforts paid off and Northwood became connected to the rest of the region. The railroad moved considerable grain and miscellaneous products in and out of the community from 1871 until 1880. Its end came as the result of a legal battle involving the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern Railway Co., which had been petitioned by the community to bring in a competing line. The Central Railway Company, unwilling to compete with the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern, pulled out of Northwood and the community was left with a single line.

The continuing advancement in agriculture during this era is also reflected in the establishment of related organizations designed to support the farmer and his interests, the first of which, the Farmers Cooperative Butter and Cheese Association, began in 1876. In March of 1879 the Worth County Agricultural Society was organized. In 1882, the Farmers Gjensidge Assurance Forening of Worth County (later known as the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association and then the Worth Mutual Insurance Association) was begun. The organization's membership was first restricted to Scandinavians, the ethnic group that historically dominated area farming, but in 1886 "... all farmers or town property owners in the county" were offered membership, making protective insurance widely available.<sup>14</sup> Although the organization's original building no longer stands, their 1965 building is located in the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District.

By the late 1870s and early 1880s commerce along the Northwood Main Street was stable; growth was sure and steady. By the end of that decade the town experienced growth that could be characterized as a "boom". Mercantile and small-scale manufacturing interests in the late 1870s –

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<sup>14</sup> Stahl & Kisner, 275.

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1880s were widely represented and included general merchandise stores, dry goods, groceries, a drug store, two hardware stores (including Frank C. Hall in the building still located at 808 Central Avenue), a blacksmith shop, a harness maker, shoemaker, two wagon makers, a photographer, lumber yards, a broom factory, a cooper shop, multiple hotels/boarding houses, and agricultural implement dealers.<sup>15</sup> In 1886 the Bank of Northwood was founded by R. P. Johnson and O.V. Eckert, then reorganized in 1890 as the Northwood Banking Company by G.N. Haugen and Dow Simmonds. While many of these commercial enterprises served the community as a whole, several existed specifically to accommodate the needs of the agricultural community, including the wagon makers and the implement dealers.

In 1877 Lemuel and A.J. Dwelle constructed a three-story, woodframe hotel first known as the American House, but quickly renamed the Dwelle House at the insistence of the local citizens who wished to honor the brothers for their entrepreneurial spirit. The hotel was quite an accommodation for the young community. Set on a timbered lot, the three-story building built in the Italianate style sported a veranda on three sides and second-story box bay windows on the facade, with thirty-three sleeping rooms, a large dining room, laundry facilities, and a special bridal chamber.<sup>16</sup>

Hans Madson came to Northwood from Denmark in 1880 and established Madson Wagon Works (first known as Madson & Enger). In that year, a new two-story, woodframe building was constructed near the west end of Main Street (now Central Avenue), complete with a basement used for storage, blacksmithing and repair, and a paint shop in the upper story over the main workroom. Over the next several years, Madson added a brick blacksmith shop and a warehouse to accommodate the growing business. During this era, the company was widely known as a manufacturer of the broad-tire farm wagon. By the turn of the twentieth century Madson was producing from forty to fifty wagons and about thirty bobsleighs each year, most of which were sold locally. Clearly Madson was adept at modifying his product manufacture to changing technology because he was in business in Northwood for some forty years, transitioning from wagon construction to automotive supply and repair. The buildings that housed Madson's business remain on Central Avenue, though they are well disguised by modern materials. The Wagon Works (1880) is sheathed in metal siding, its historic character fully hidden. As a result, the building is considered a non-contributing resource to the district. However, the warehouse (1893) retains a higher level of historic integrity and is considered a contributing resource to the Central Avenue Historic District.

A shift from woodframe to brick construction began during this decade, as new buildings grew up along Main Street (Central Avenue). The First National Bank Building, constructed in 1883, is one of the two oldest remaining brick buildings in the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District. The building is a three-story, red brick and red sandstone construction with the stylistic influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque evident in the weighty, Roman-arched entrance, and the sandstone window headers and sills. A local newspaper account described the new building as "... one standing

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 275.

<sup>16</sup> *Worth County Heritage*, 809-810.

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on a prominent position [that] will be a distinguished object to persons entering the town.”<sup>17</sup> Through the retention of its original form, stylistic details, and window configuration, the historic integrity of the First National Bank Building remains high.

A large fire in December of 1887 hastened building reconstruction in materials more able to withstand natural disaster. It was this fire that took the Dwelle House and resulted in the construction of the brick Dwelle Block, which still stands on the northside in Central Avenue's 800 block. The Dwelle Block is a double-wide, two-story brick building in the Late Victorian Italianate. The retention of the building's elaborate cornice, tall, narrow upper story windows, and large storefront display windows results in a high level of historic integrity. For many years the storefront of the Dwelle Block housed G.W. Dillon & Son, a jewelry store and pharmacy, and the upper story accommodated the Dwelle Opera House.

Several other of the district's most significant and best preserved resources were built during this time. The Kean Building (1888) was constructed by pioneer doctor N.L. Kean who came to Northwood in June of 1871 and practiced in the community until retiring in about 1892. The building is an excellent example of high style Italianate; the retention of its prominent and elaborate cornice is of particular importance as a hallmark of the expression of the Italianate in a commercial building. Dr. Kean is also responsible for the construction of the adjacent building, the Kean Block (1897), which is a prominent "anchor" building designed in the Late Victorian Queen Anne style. The scale of the Kean Block, combined with the beauty of its stylistic elements, make a significant visual impact on the Central Avenue streetscape. The retention of the upper story fenestration and applied ornamentation, and the recent reconstruction of its corner turret and storefront, result in a high level of historic integrity.

The 1871 arrival of the railroad provided the mechanism needed to expand the agricultural market beyond the immediate vicinity and thus became the impetus for general growth. The nearly three decades following the coming of the railroad were ones of prosperity, evidenced in the numerous buildings constructed along Central Avenue. The era marks the transition from predominantly woodframe buildings to more fire-resistant brick and stone construction, many of which are today the district's most important historic resources.

The 1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map found on the following page illustrates the historic density of the Central Avenue Historic District. It is important to note that at this juncture numerous lots remain undeveloped, the south side of the street near the center is sparsely filled, and residential properties are confined to the west end of the district. The 1901 map which follows it can be used as a comparison for growth, shift in density, and property type composition, the most obvious change being the infill in the two blocks at the west end of the district.

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<sup>17</sup> *Worth County Index*, 1891.

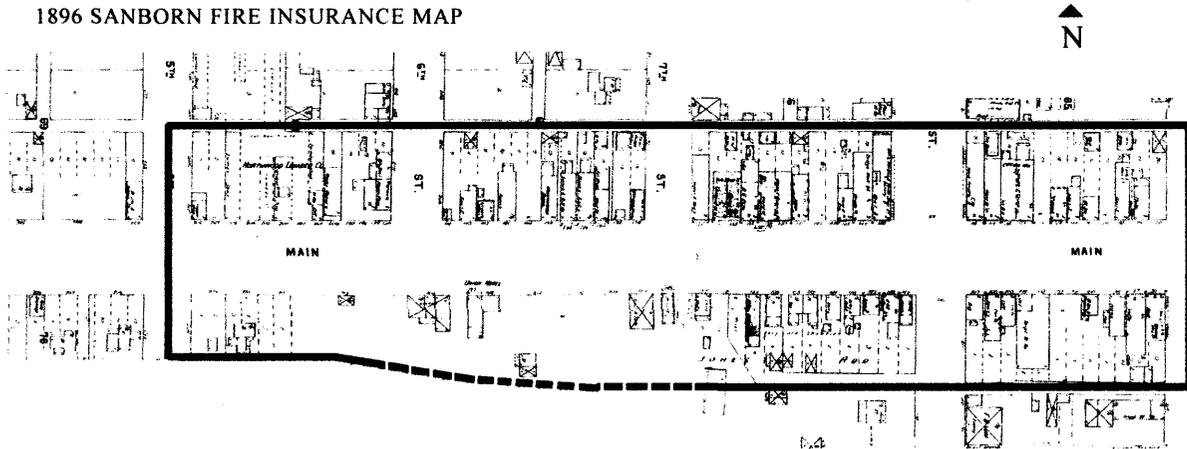
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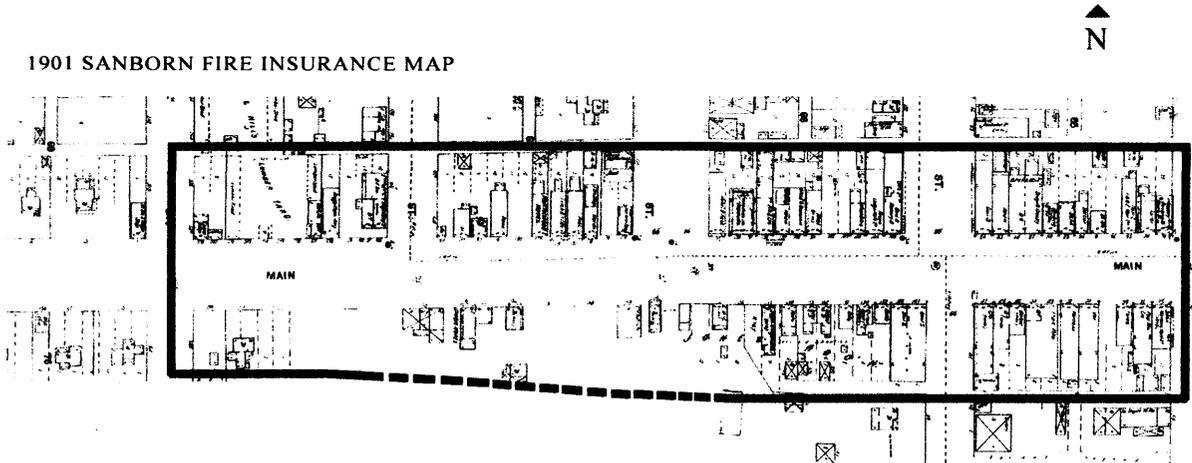
1896 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



NOTE: The block outline indicates the boundaries of the Central Avenue Historic District.

The Sanborn map illustrates that at this time in Northwood history numerous lots remain undeveloped, the south side of the street near the center is sparsely filled, and residential properties are confined to the west end of the district. The 1901 Sanborn below offers a comparison for growth, shift in density, and property type composition. Note the clear growth in the two blocks at the west end of the district.

1901 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



NOTE: The block outline indicates the boundaries of the Central Avenue Historic District.

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Twentieth Century (1900-1956)

By the end of the 1900s Northwood was no longer a settlement; the railroad had brought with it the opportunity to market agricultural and manufactured goods and it had connected the small town with the rest of the Midwest. As the community entered the twentieth century it was on solid ground with a healthy commercial and agricultural-based economy. However, the coming years were full of challenges and the Central Avenue Historic District stands as evidence of the resulting changes.

Agricultural practices of this period were clearly progressing in the wake of new technology. Cultivation of the area's farmland was fully advanced, with "... farms worth from \$125 to \$200 per acre. [T]he land where one felt isolated as he would have been at sea .... is dotted with groves, orchards, splendid house, big barns, silos and corn fields yielding from 75 to 80 bushels of corn to the acre."<sup>18</sup> This rise in production and land values rested on the success of field tiling, critical in this area due to the generally flat topography and the resulting problems with standing water.

By this time, farmers had long since moved away from wheat production, focusing their efforts on raising corn and livestock. Local businessmen worked to provide a ready market for farm produce; one of the most successful during this era was P.G. Guidinger, who purchased from the farmers and then stored the grain until the market favored its sale. As the 1907 *Semi-Centennial* states, "During certain seasons of the year the elevator is the busiest place in town and the money there received is invariably brought up town to be distributed among the various merchants thus adding to the trade."

Agriculture and commerce also crossed over in the area of real estate as multiple land dealers actively promoted land acquisition. One prominent firm, Emery & Slosson, who advertised themselves as "earth merchants," constructed the Emery Building in 1913. The building, one of the handful of known architect-designed buildings on Central Avenue, bears the decidedly modern stylistic influence of the Chicago School.

Period advertisements indicate that, like the Emery Building, Northwood was being influenced by the world around it. The 1906 organization of the Worth County Retail Merchant's Association for the "mutual protection against the abuses of the credit system and the encroachments of catalogue houses" reflects some of the growing pressures felt by the small town merchants as the result of nationwide trends. One of the results of the group's organization was the production of a rating book that provided financial information about local citizens.<sup>19</sup>

Widespread changes in retail organization also took place in Northwood during this era. The local firm of Evens, Johnson & Co., adopted "the 12 store system," meaning they had twelve retail operations in Iowa and Minnesota, including one in Northwood. The retailers were the "... largest

<sup>18</sup> *Semi-Centennial Souvenir of Northwood.*

<sup>19</sup> *Semi-Centennial Souvenir of Northwood.*

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Continuation Sheet

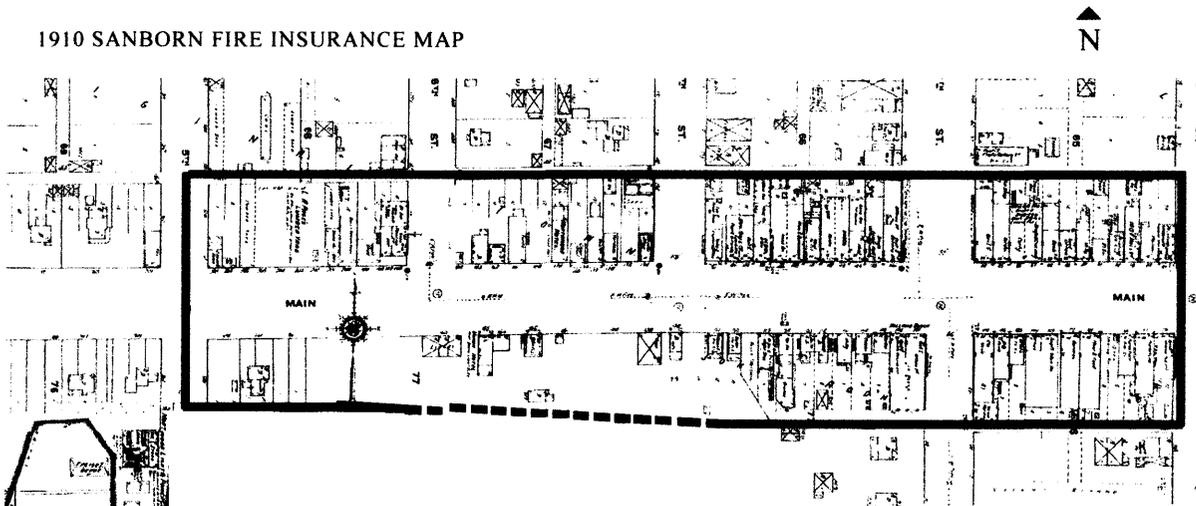
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buyer of clothing of any firm in either Iowa or Minnesota. Being such heavy buyers and expert in the matter of clothing values this firm is able to purchase on such a close margin as to give it a distinct advantage when bidding for the retail trade.”<sup>20</sup>

By 1913 numerous automobile related businesses had emerged along Central Avenue. S.O. Thompson Ford and the O.C. Berg & Co. were selling new and used autos. The business also had a paint shop, repair shop, storage, and livery (an indication that the transition from horse to auto was still underway.) It would be several years yet before the town’s streets would be paved to accommodate the automobile; not until 1928 was Central Avenue paved as part of the development of the Jefferson Highway that ran through Northwood from Mason City on the south, then north into Minnesota.

The first two decades of the twentieth century saw little construction on Central Avenue. The Worth County Index built a new building at the east end of the district in 1900; with a high level of historic integrity, the building remains a contributing resource today. The Index is the last of the purely Victorian commercial buildings constructed in the district. After about 1915 the buildings tended toward the Classical Revival and Chicago School styles that gained popularity during that era. As noted, the Emery Building followed the Chicago School. The Anchor Building, on the other hand, adopted the pared down version of the Classical common to commercial buildings of the construction period.



NOTE: The block outline indicates the boundaries of the Central Avenue Historic District.

<sup>20</sup> *Semi-Centennial Souvenir of Northwood.*

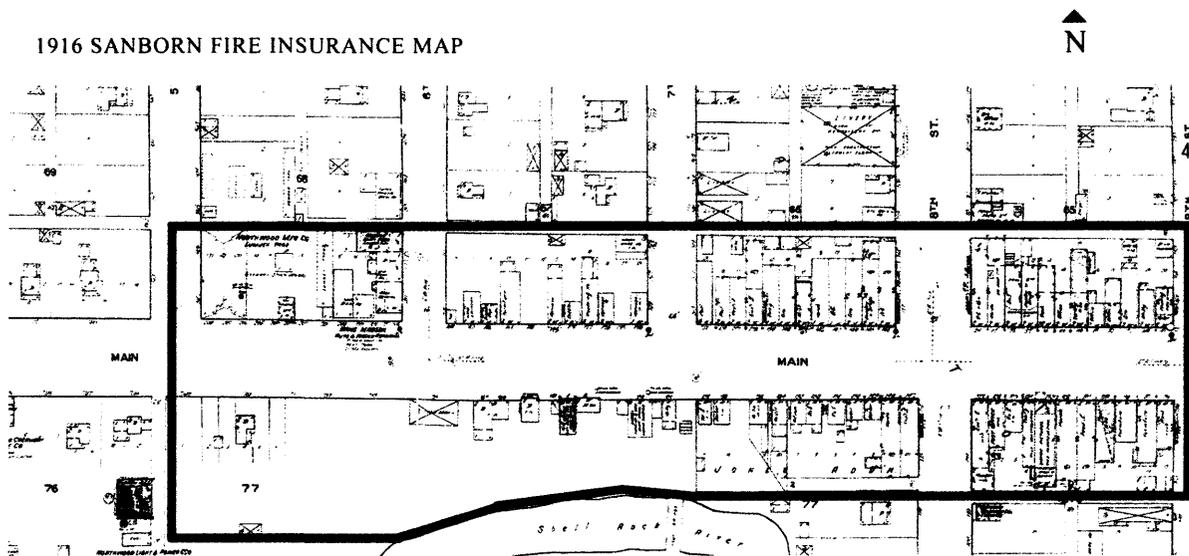
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The preceding 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map reveals the density of the district by this time. It also confirms that the middle portion of the avenue's south side remained lightly developed. The following 1916 map confirms a general stability in the composition of the downtown.



NOTE: The block outline indicates the boundaries of the Central Avenue Historic District.

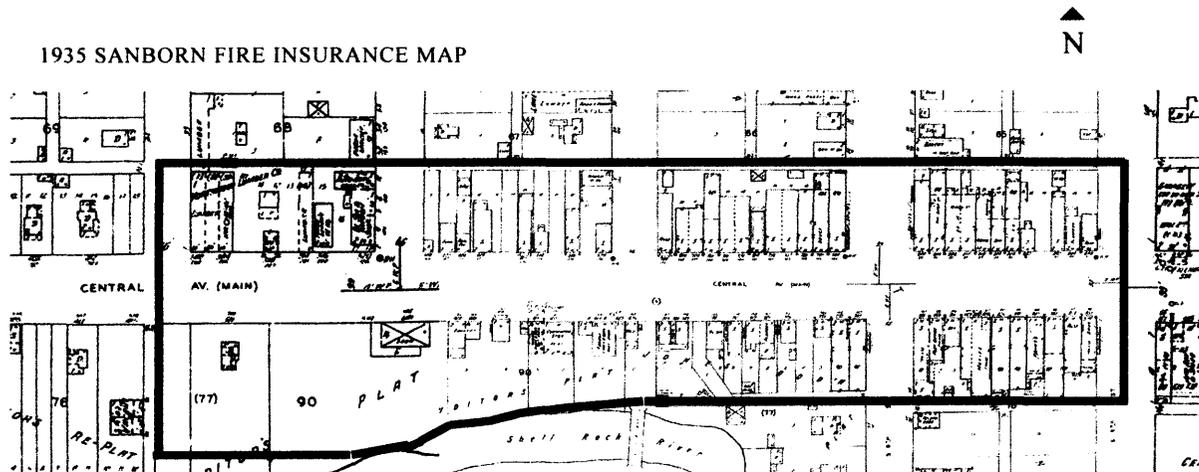
Like the rest of the country, Northwood was devastated by the crisis of the Depression years. All three of the town's banks closed in 1932, though later that year a new bank, the Northwood State Bank, was organized; it located in the 1906 Worth County State Bank building in the eight hundred block of Central Avenue. As a community that relied heavily on the success of the farmer to drive the commercial economy, Northwood was particularly challenged during these years. A lack of growth in the downtown is one indication of the situation; only two buildings in the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District were constructed between 1935 and 1945.

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NOTE: The block outline indicates the boundaries of the Central Avenue Historic District.

The 1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map confirms that the district remained relatively unchanged during the period from 1916 to 1935. As indicated, a general lack of development continued through the war years.

The years following the Second World War brought a slow but steady return to normalcy. The creation of the Northwood Chamber of Commerce in 1946 is an indication of the desire on the part of the local businessmen to reassert their efforts to promote business in Northwood. The group's articles of incorporation indicate that their purpose was "... to advance the educational, civic, social, commercial and economic interests in the city of Northwood, Iowa...." Further, the Chamber advocated good roads, an effort that paid off in the mid-1950s with the paving of Highway 105 to St. Ansgar.<sup>21</sup>

The post-war era also signaled a return of construction along Central Avenue. During the period from 1946 to 1956 nine new buildings rose within the boundaries of the district. As suggested by Jan Nash in the Multiple Property Document, *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture*, these buildings follow a pattern typical of Iowa commercial architecture with an appearance reflecting a shift in function, desired materials, and the tendency in Iowa to abandon multi-story construction.<sup>22</sup> They are, predominantly, one-story, brick or clay tile buildings with little or no applied ornament. While it is difficult to compare their "beauty" with the likes of the Kean Building, they, nonetheless, contribute significantly to our understanding of the history of the community in which they stand.

<sup>21</sup> *Worth County Heritage*.

<sup>22</sup> Nash, Jan Olive. *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* (Multiple Property Document, State Historical Society of Iowa/State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, 2002), E-23.

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Summary

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District represents the history of the settlement and growth of the town of Northwood through its historic associations with commerce and industry. The district represents the physical link between the success of the industry of agriculture and the growth of commerce. That relationship began shortly after the area was settled with the production of wheat to be milled into flour for sale in the Main Street businesses. The impact of the industry of agriculture on commercial growth continued with the arrival of the railroad, which provided the means to transport an expanding array of products to be moved throughout the region. The evolution of agriculture during this period resulted in a commercial response; small manufacturing and retail enterprises grew in response to the needs of the farmer and of the growing population. And, as Northwood moved into the twentieth century, the fiscal health of agriculture continued to be reflected in the businesses and buildings of the Central Avenue Historic District.

Consistent with Nash's findings in *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture*, and in compliance with the registration requirements the document establishes, the Northwood district is comprised of "densely constructed blocks of attached brick buildings" (e.g. the 800 block of Central Avenue). The district also shows a "variety of style, massing, and materials" indicating that a block "developed slowly over a longer period of time" (e.g. the 700 block of Central Avenue) and it has an early residence located at its western fringe, "set back from the sidewalk, deeper on [its] lot than [its] neighboring storefronts."<sup>23</sup> At once both a typical Iowa main street and a one of a kind.

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<sup>23</sup> Nash, E-13.

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**RELEVANT CULTURAL RESOURCE DOCUMENTS**

The area comprising the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District has not been previously surveyed for historic or architectural significance; no relevant cultural resource documents exist.

**POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

The potential for historical archaeology was not assessed as part of the present National Register nomination. Although, given the high level of ground disturbance resulting from the construction of both buildings and roadways the possibility for such archaeological resources may be slim in much of the district, further survey of the north bank of the river and the site of the lumberyard may well provide important insight into prehistoric and historic resources. In addition, a professional archaeologist may determine other areas in the district that warrant further investigation.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The nomination of the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District comes from the joint efforts of the City of Northwood and the Northwood Historic Preservation Commission. The most significant contributor to this effort is Project Director, Peter Ausenus, who was responsible for coordinating all aspects of the process and recruiting volunteers. His love of and commitment to the history of his community also led him to invest countless hours in research and preparation of site inventory forms. Other members, including Marcia Price, Lois Hogan, Jeanette Bickford, Janice Olson, and Ann Johnson of the Preservation Commission and the Northwood community, spent many hours poring over some fifty years of newspapers in the effort to document the history of the district and the buildings which comprise it. As the bibliographic references of the associated Iowa Site Inventory Forms indicate, many members of the community offered their oral recollections about the history of Northwood and its resources. Although they are not individually named here, their help was critical to the successful accumulation of information for this document and special thanks are offered.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

“The activity that is the subject of the National Register nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.”

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**UTM REFERENCES, Continued**

<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>481933E</b>	<b>4810090N</b>
	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>481817E</b>	<b>4810075N</b>
	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The Northwood Central Avenue Historic District is essentially linear in form, running from 5th Street on the west to 9th Street on the east. The district cuts to the rear of the Central Avenue buildings on the north and abuts the curvilinear line of the Shell Rock River on the south.



MAP SOURCE: <http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu>  
SCALE: 1" = Approx. 200'

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all properties that are historically associated with the district and include non-commercial buildings sited with the commercial core. In addition, given the river's historic association and physical connection with the site of the Northwood commercial district, the boundary takes in the north side of the Shell Rock riverfront as the point of connection between the park on the south and the Northwood Central Avenue Historic District on the north.

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HISTORIC NAME	ADDRESS	OWNER ADDRESS
Abbey House	511 Central Avenue	Donald & Gloria Hagen 511 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Madson Warehouse	518 Central Avenue	Brian & Gayle Claussen 1407 1st Avenue North Northwood, Iowa 50459
Hanson Building	601 Central Avenue	Worth County Farm Bureau Jerry Hopperstad 601 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Remore Building	735 Central Avenue	Tom Capranos 4689 Jonquil Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Gerk Building	733 Central Avenue	Tom Capranos 4689 Jonquil Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Shorty's Shoe Shop	725 Central Avenue	Tom Capranos 4689 Jonquil Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Building	611 Central Avenue	Tom Capranos 4689 Jonquil Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Drury Lanes	700 Central Avenue	Sue Waller 4480 Quince Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Brebner-Low Building	714 Central Avenue	Craig Ensign 1425 485th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
Ofsthus-Lund Building	728-732 Central Avenue	Rhonda Taylor 4571 Raven Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459  Myra Greve 206 10th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
First National Bank Building	861 Central Avenue	Teresa George 1401 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Paramount Café Building	853 Central Avenue	Teresa George 1401 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459

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<b>HISTORIC NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>OWNER ADDRESS</b>
Thorson-Brown Building	738 Central Avenue	Teresa George 1401 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Hall Hardware Building	808 Central Avenue	Daryl Carlson 1405 1st Avenue South Northwood, Iowa 50459
Amundson-Grosland Building	846 Central Avenue	Dan & Joann Tucker 4420 Ironwood Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Emery Building	830 Central Avenue	Dan & Joann Tucker 4420 Ironwood Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Northwood Lumber Yard	512 Central Avenue	Randy, Scott & Mark Severson 512 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Madson Wagon Works	540 Central Avenue	Mad-Gaard Construction 520 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Garage	610 Central Avenue	Franklin & Betty Mudra 610 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Taylor Auto Building	616 Central Avenue	Robert & Vickie Hall 4462 Thrush Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Tenold Building	704 Central Avenue	Tenold Olson Hagen Insurance 704 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Colbertson Building	715 Central Avenue	Duane & Betty Kruger 4663 Nettle Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
City Meat Market	736 Central Avenue	Myra Greve 206 10th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
Northwest Pizza	830 Central Avenue	Jeff Greve 306 N. 6th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
Palmer Residence	517 Central Avenue	Alan & Peggy Sue Palmer 517 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459

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<b>HISTORIC NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>OWNER ADDRESS</b>
Thoen Building	600 Central Avenue	Laurence & Jean Johnson 9615 Muirfield Drive Grandbury, TX 76049
Stahl Building	612 Central Avenue	Guy Olson 800 N. 11th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
Worth County Coop	620 Central Avenue	Worth County Coop 613 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Tosdahl Building	710 Central Avenue	Ken Stambaugh 400 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Reiter Building	721 Central Avenue	Jorene Gunderson 721 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Holland-Haraldson Block	747 Central Avenue	Mike Evans 737 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459  Jerald Olson 4758 Vine Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Kean Building	809-811 Central Avenue	John & Jane Podgorniak 605 4th Street South Northwood, Iowa 50459
Kean Block	801 Central Avenue	John & Jane Podgorniak 605 4th Street South Northwood, Iowa 50459
Northwood Theatre Building	827 Central Avenue	John & Jane Podgorniak 605 4th Street South Northwood, Iowa 50459
R.P. Johnson Building	817 Central Avenue	Jane Bloomingdale 501 2nd Avenue South Northwood, Iowa 50459

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<b>HISTORIC NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>OWNER ADDRESS</b>
Odd Fellows-Erickson Building	835-839 Central Avenue	Vince Nieman 4767 Raven Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459  Connie Hickle 839 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Clark Building	724 Central Avenue	Peter Ausenus 722 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Baken Building	834 Central Avenue	Doug & Jennifer Krull 401 South 11th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
Dwelle Building	812-818 Central Avenue	Pam Meyer Connie Kenison Main Street Treasures 812 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Anchor Building	847 Central Avenue	Sandra Madden 208 North 7th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
J.B. Thompson Building	740 Central Avenue	TUNE Margaret Bishop 722 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Northwood City Hall	627 Central Avenue	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Worth County Index Building	852 Central Avenue	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Worth County Bank Building	822 Central Avenue	Helen Senne Worth County Treasurer 822 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Hunter Building	849 Central Avenue	Lora Brown 908 3rd Avenue North Northwood, Iowa 50459

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<b>HISTORIC NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>OWNER ADDRESS</b>
Kittleson Building	513 Central Avenue	Harvey Patterson 513 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Peoples Gas & Electric Building	826 Central Avenue	Alliant Energy Real Estate P.O. Box 769 Dubuque, Iowa 522004-0769
Wright Building	87 North 8th Street	Julie Hagen Robb Century 21 87 North 8th Street Northwood, Iowa 50459
State Liquor Store Building	618 Central Avenue	North Coop Services 620 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Haugen Water Fountain	Central Avenue & 7th Street	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Limestone Piers	Central Avenue & 7th Street	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Stairs (Swensrud Park)	Central Avenue & 7th Street	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Swensrud Park Sign	Central Avenue & 7th Street	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
Handrails	Central Avenue & 7th Street	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459
L.T. Dillon Clock	Central Avenue	City of Northwood Mayor Bob Perry 627 Central Avenue Northwood, Iowa 50459

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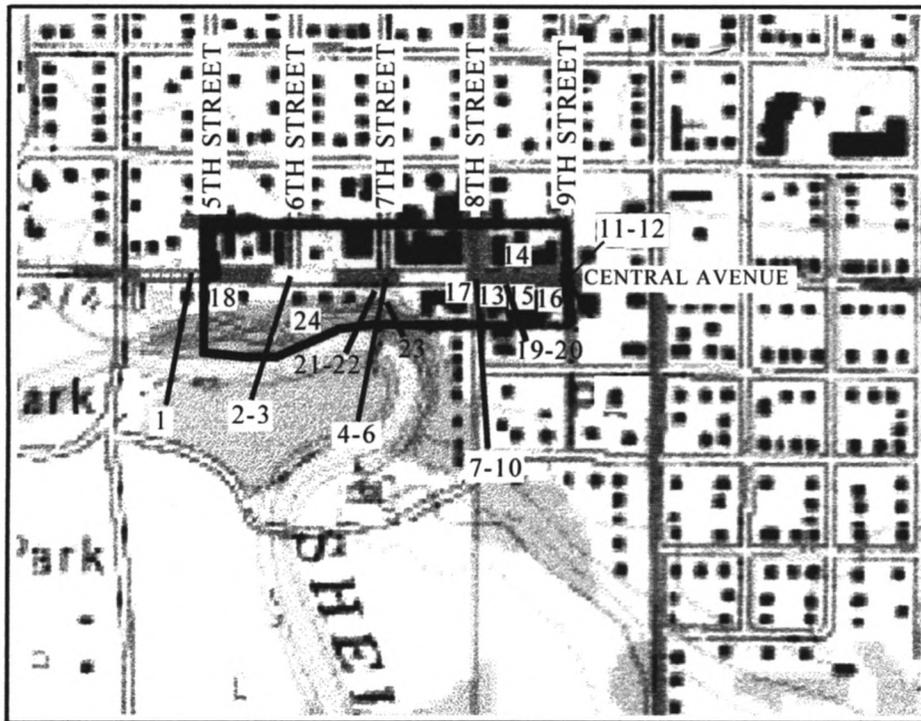
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PHOTOGRAPH KEY



NOTE: Images 1-12 are streetscapes arranged by block, moving west to east. Images 13-24 feature some of the district's most important resources.

(MAP SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Northwood Quad, 1972)

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PHOTOGRAPHS (Note - full descriptions included on pages that follow the images.)



1. Streetscape of the 500 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 5th Street.



2. Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 6th Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



3. Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking southeast from 6th Street.



4. Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 7th Street.

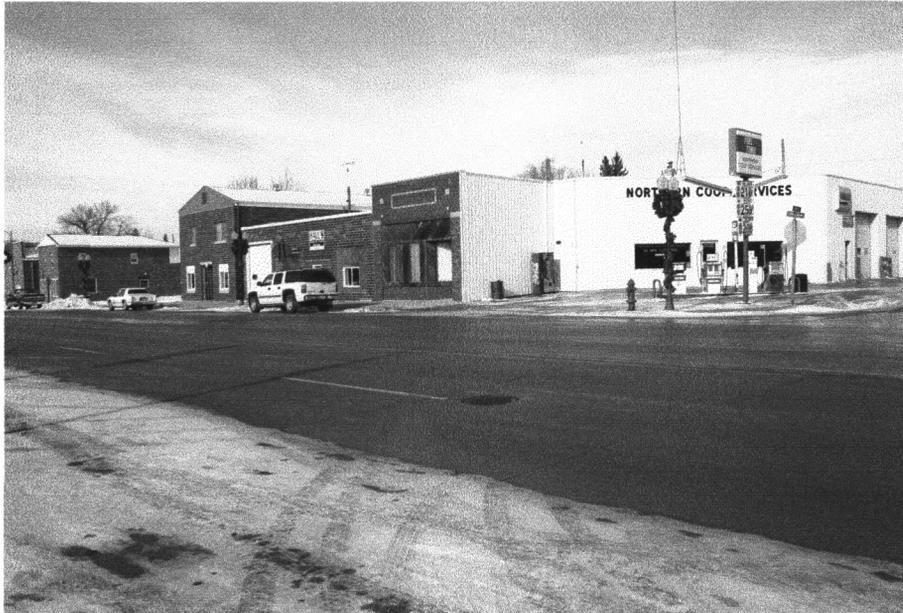
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5. Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 7th Street.



6. Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 7th Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



7. Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 8th Street.



8. Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 8th Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



9. Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking southeast from 8th Street.



10. Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 8th Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



11. Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 9th Street.



12. Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 9th Street.

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



13. Kean Block. View of the primary (north) and west elevations.



14. Dwelle Block. View of the primary (south) elevation.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



15. IOOF-Erickson Building. View of the primary (north) elevation.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



16. First National Bank Building. View of the primary (north) and east elevations.

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17. Holland-Haraldson Block. View of the primary (north) elevation.



18. Abbey House. View of primary (north) elevation.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



19. L.T. Dillon Clock at its location in front of the Kean Building.



20. The L.T. Dillon Clock.

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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



21. Haugen Fountain & Limestone Piers located on the southside of the 700 block.



22. The Haugen Water Fountain. The fountain provides water for dogs in a basin at ground level, for horses at the mid-level trough, and for humans from a spigot near the top on the riverfront side.

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
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PHOTOGRAPHS, cont'd.



23. The pathway to the riverfront. The stepped pathway connects Central Avenue with the Shell Rock River footbridge into Swensrud Park on the southside of the river.



24. View Shell Rock Riverfront taken from 611 Central Avenue. The northside of the riverfront marks the district's southern boundary.

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS

1. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 5th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 500 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 5th Street.
  
2. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 6th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 6th Street.
  
3. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 6th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking southeast from 6th Street.
  
4. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 7th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 7th Street.

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS, cont'd.

5. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 7th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 600 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 7th Street.
  
6. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 7th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 7th Street.
  
7. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 8th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 8th Street.
  
8. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 8th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Streetscape of 700 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 8th Street.

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Worth County, Iowa**

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS, cont'd.

9. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 8th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking southeast from 8th Street.

10. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 8th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking northeast from 8th Street.

11. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 9th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking northwest from 9th Street.

12. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Streetscape: 9th Street and Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

Streetscape of 800 block of Central Avenue, looking southwest from 9th Street.

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National Park Service**

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Worth County, Iowa**

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS, cont'd.

13. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Kean Building – 801 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Kean Block. View of the primary (north) and west elevations.
  
14. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Dwelle Block – 812-818 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Dwell Block. View of the primary (south) elevation.
  
15. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: I.O.O.F.-Erickson Building – 825-839 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
IOOF-Erickson Building. View of the primary (north) elevation.
  
16. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: First National Bank Building – 861 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
First National Bank Building. View of the primary (north) and east elevations.

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National Park Service**

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Worth County, Iowa**

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS, cont'd.

17. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Holland-Haraldson Block – 737-747 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Holland-Haraldson Block. View of the primary (north) elevation.
18. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Abbey House – 511 Central Avenue  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.  
  
Abbey House. View of primary north elevation.
19. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: L.T. Dillon Clock at its location in front of the Kean Building  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.
20. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: L.T. Dillon Clock  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

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**Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Worth County, Iowa**

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PHOTOGRAPHS – DESCRIPTIONS, cont'd.

21. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Haugen Fountain & Limestone Piers  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.
22. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Haugen Fountain  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.
23. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: Pathway to the riverfront  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.
24. Northwood Central Avenue Historic District  
Northwood, Iowa  
Resource: View Shell Rock Riverfront taken from 611 Central Avenue.  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell – AKAY Consulting  
December 2005  
CD-ROM on file with City of Northwood and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.