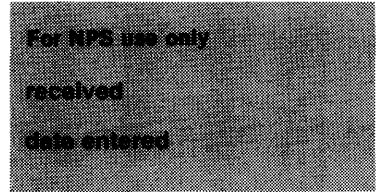


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V. DESCRIPTION OF THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

This district includes the most significant architectural and/or historical commercial buildings in Galesville. The streetscapes of the district are clustered around the Public Square and Bandstand and extend along Gale Avenue. The buildings are sited close together along most of the streetscapes and possess a continuity of scale and design which gives the district its form and character. While some unsympathetic alterations have occurred, most of the buildings in the district have retained enough of their turn-of-the-century details to indicate what Galesville's commercial district was like during the height of the community's development. This turn-of-the-century character is evident throughout the district beginning with the Bandstand and Public Square, which forms the core of the district. While the Public Square, which was a slightly larger open space when it was originally platted in 1854, has been surrounded by pavement and parking, it and the Bandstand are significant reminders of the importance of the central commercial area at the turn of the century.

The continuity of design and scale of the buildings in the district is reflected in their form and architectural detailing. Most buildings are two-story, of various shades of red brick, have flat roofs, and simple to elaborate cornices of wood, stone, cast iron, or pressed metal highlighted with dentils, brackets, and modillions. Gable-roofed buildings in the district have "boomtown" false-fronts with cornices, which make these buildings highly compatible in scale and design with their neighbors. Many buildings have additional decoration, including belt courses; decorative brickwork; round, semi-circular, or segmental arched windows; polychromy; and parapets.

(continued on next page)

*Roughly Gale Ave., Main and Davis Sts.*



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## DESCRIPTION OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

first altered in 1925 when the outside stone steps were removed and the entrance was brought down to the street level. A marble staircase was built inside to provide access to the main floor. While these alterations remain, the interior was altered again in the 1960s when it was converted from a bank to two separate businesses. The Clark Block housed the Bank of Galesville from its date of construction to the 1960s. This bank was the most significant financial institution in Galesville, surviving to the present day. The building is now occupied by printing and insurance businesses on the first floor, and residential units in the upper floor.

The Galesville Building and Realty Company Building, 212 S. Main Street is the second most elaborate commercial building in Galesville. It is a plain interpretation of the commercial Neo-classical style and also sits on a prominent corner lot. It is a two-story, rectangular structure of red-orange brick with a flat roof with four prominent parapets separated on the front facade by shallow reveals. A bracketed cornice extends across the entire building and the ground and second floors are defined by a denticulated belt course. The storefront has been altered with metal siding and the entrances replaced with modern glass doors. The first-floor interior has also been completely altered by the current hardware business occupants. The upper floors are currently used as apartments and remain largely unaltered. This building was built in 1911 by the Galesville Building and Realty Company, an early twentieth century real estate and development company. A short-lived bank, the Farmer's and Merchants State Bank, occupied one section of the first-floor of this building. The building is now a hardware business with residential usage on the second floor.

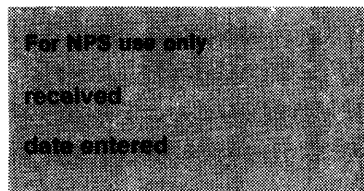
A third pivotal building in the district is the Gilbertson-Myhre Company Store, 106 E. Gale Avenue. Originally built in 1884 as a two-story building with a mansard roof, turret and spire, after 1913 a third story was added and the building took on its current appearance. It is a three-story building with a flat roof, belt courses, a large, semi-circular polychrome arch over the central second-story windows, and an early twentieth century intact storefront which features a small bracketed cornice, tall windows, and a full span multi-paned glass transom extending across the storefront. The interior retains its turn-of-the-century details and the first-floor is highlighted with a mezzanine with a wooden railing. This building housed the Gilbertson-Myhre department store, and for a short time, an "Opera House", and public hall. Later, a roller skating rink replaced the hall, until in the 1890s the business expanded its merchandise selection taking up the space these recreational facilities possessed. In the early twentieth century, this store was a large, thriving department store and continues to exist as such today, known now as Casberg's Department Store.

The final pivotal building in the district is a good example of an attempt to use popular Romanesque commercial design elements in a small-town, small-scale building. Jensen's Cafe, 112 E. Gale Ave. was built in 1902 and designed by the Racine architectural firm of A. L. Flegal and Company. It is a two-story building of brown brick with a flat roof and simple step parapet at the top of the building. The second floor windows have semi-circular corbelled arches springing from paneled brick "capitals". The storefront has been slightly altered with wood panels around the entrance, although the decorative cornice between the first and second floors remains. The building was built as a confectionary-ice cream parlor and is still used today as a cafe.



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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

VI. JUSTIFICATION OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

The boundary was selected on the basis of the following factors: (1) the number of historically and architecturally significant buildings is greater inside the District than outside of it; (2) fewer non-contributing structures are found in the District; (3) the District is denser than the excluded commercial areas, where buildings are more widely spaced; and (4) the buildings found within the District have retained more integrity than the buildings outside of the District. A primary factor used in determining the boundary of the District is that it includes the older structures that form the commercial "heart" of the city, that is, buildings which flank and visually define the Public Square along with the buildings which have retained their integrity along the city's traditional commercial streets. Buildings which have been left out of the District, particularly those along E. Gale Ave. west of the District boundary were left out because they have lost more integrity than their immediate neighbors and if included, would detract from the overall character of the District. The buildings which are included in the District boundaries have retained the most integrity and help define the character of turn-of-the-century downtown Galesville.

VII. BOUNDARY OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Downtown Historic District is limited to all properties with frontage on Main Street with street addresses 212 South to 118 North, on the west side of the street; with frontage on Davis Street with street addresses from 143 to 121 North on the east side; with frontage on Gale Avenue from 120 West up to but not including 225 on the north side and from 119 West to 230 East on the south side; including 125 on Court Street; and including the Public Square and Bandstand.

The boundary of the Downtown Historic District is formed in the following manner: Commencing at the east lot line of 230 E. Gale Ave., thence southwest along said lot line bordering on Mill Road; thence west along the south lot lines of 224, 218, 212, 130, 112, and 106 E. Gale Ave., and continuing along the same line across Main Street; thence along the south lot lines of 212 Main Street, 107, 115, and 119 W. Gale Ave.; thence north along the west lot line of 119 W. Gale Ave.; crossing West Gale Avenue; then along the west lot line of 120 W. Gale Ave.; thence along the south lot line of 120 W. Gale Ave.; thence along the west lot line of 118 Main St.; thence along the north lot line of 118 Main Street to the center line of Main St.; thence running north along the center line of Main Street to the center line of the intersection with the center line of Court Street, running along the center line of Court Street; thence north along the west lot line of 125 Court St.; thence along the north lot line of 125 Court Street to the center line of Davis Street; thence south along the center line of Davis Street; thence to the north lot line of 121 Davis Street to the



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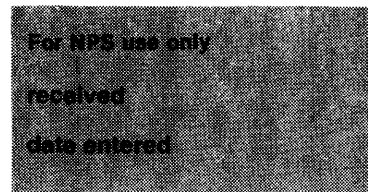
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VIII. INVENTORY OF DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS (continued)

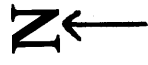
<u>ADDRESS:</u>	<u>OWNER:</u>	<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</u>
212 E. Gale Ave.	Tom McMahon Box 153 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Pt. Lots 1 & 4, Block 3, E 26'9" of W 51.2' of Lot 1, com. SE cor. above desc. th. 514' W27' N12' E3" N 2' th. E to beg.
218 E. Gale Ave.	Myron & Betty Olson Box 413 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat of Galesville, Lot 1, Block 3, E 24' of W 75.2' of N 62' lot 4, less part sold to Larson.
224 E. Gale Ave.	Dr. Leonard J. Larson Box 458 Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, pt lots 1 & 4, block 3, E 20' of W 95.2' lot 1, E 20' of W 95.2' of N 14' lot 4, also incl. parcel 35' x 42' x 100.
230 E. Gale Ave.	Galesville Ind. Dev. Corp. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, pt lots 1 & 4, block 3
107 W. Gale Ave.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 1
115 W. Gale Ave.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 1
119 W. Gale Ave.	Kenneth Olson Rt. 1, Box 328 Blair, WI 54616	Original Plat, W 33' lot 1, block 5 East 12.5' lot 2, block 5
120 W. Gale	Bank of Galesville Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 4, lot 1
124 Main St.	Rolf Hammer 507 W. Clark St. Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 4, lot 1 N 31.5' of S 67'
212 Main St.	Galesville Building & Realty Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Block 5, Lot 4
118 Main St.	Norma Smith 322 S. Atwood Janesville, WI 53045	Original Plat, Block 4, Lot 1, beg. 66' N of SE cor. th. N 33' th. W 66' th. S 33' th. E to beg.
Bandstand/Public Square	City of Galesville Galesville, WI 54630	Original Plat, Public Square





# G

## DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT GALESVILLE, WISCONSIN



RIDGE AVE.

AVE.

MILL RD.

COURT ST.

DAVIS ST.

GALE

MAIN ST.

ST.

FIRST

- Key:
-  - PIVOTAL
  -  - CONTRIBUTING
  -  - NON-CONTRIBUTING
  -  - DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Numbers correspond to black/white photo codes and show photo orientation

