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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAR 01 1993

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Registration 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.

I. Name of Property	
nistoric name <u>East Howard Street Commercial Historic D</u>	istrict
other names/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & number 101-510 East Howard Street	N/A□ not for publication
ity or town Hibbing	N/A □ vicinity
tate Minnesota code MN county St. Louis	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth meets  does not meet the National Registeric riteria. I recommend that this nationally state ride  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional continuation sh	property be considered significant priments.)  73 on Officer ety
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
. National Park Service Certification	Snow a land
hereby certify that the property is:  Signature of the Kerner of the Ker	eeper Setional Registral Date of Action
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Name of Property	County and State					
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.)					
☑ private ☐ building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing					
☐ public-local	34 buildings					
☐ public-State ☐ site ☐ public-Federal ☐ structure	sites					
□ object						
	structures					
	objects					
	34Total					
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register					
N/A	2					
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)					
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store	COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store					
department store	department store					
restaurant	restaurant					
7. Description	Blobariala					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)					
Colonial Revival	foundation Concrete					
Tudor Revival	walls Brick					
Prairie School	Stone					
	roofTar and gravel					
	other Terra Cotta					
	OUIGI					

St. Louis County, Minnesota

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

East Howard Street Commercial Historic District

8. Statement of Significance	entre de la composition de la composit La composition de la
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
To Matorial Hogiston listing.)	Community Planning and Development
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
☐ <b>B</b> Property is associated with the lives of persons	
significant in our past.	
☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	1919-1925
☐ <b>D</b> Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1919
Property is:	1921
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
religious purposes.	Significant Person
☐ <b>B</b> removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	
	Cultural Affiliation
□ <b>D</b> a cemetery.	N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.	Oliver Iron Mining Company, architect
	Haglin, C.F., and Sons, builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	
CFR 67) has been requested	☐ Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register	☐ Local government ☐ University
negistei □ designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ Other
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

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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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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*		Hibbing, St. Louis County, MN

### Narrative Description

The East Howard Street Commercial Historic District in Hibbing is confined to an approximate four-block area on both sides of Howard Street between First and Fifth Avenues. This district comprises the primary business area established in 1920-21 when the town of Hibbing was moved and rebuilt about one mile south of its original location because of expanding mining activities.

Buildings within the district are all two-story brick interspersed by one three-story brick building. The tallest building, the four-story Androy Hotel, is located on the eastern edge of the district. Most of the first floor store-fronts have been covered with modern siding or altered in other ways, although some of these changes are cosmetic and reversible. The vast majority of the upper floors remain intact or have only minor window alterations.

Of the thirty-six buildings in the district, three date from 1919, thirty were constructed in either 1921 or 1922, one was built in 1925, and two date from 1970 and 1980 (the last two are the only noncontributing buildings in the district). Numerous buildings were designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers who incorporated stylistic details popular during the early twentieth century including Colonial Revival, Tudor, Prairie School, and Renaissance Revival features. All are clad with brick and many have decorative elements such as terra cotta tile, stone trim, and patterned brickwork. The uniform building height, use of similar materials, and brief period of construction combine to create a visually and historically cohesive group of commercial buidings. Original cast-iron lampposts made by the Central Foundry Company of New York add visual interest within the district.

The following summary description of the buildings in the district corresponds to a map enclosed with the registration form. The building address is followed by the historic name, date of construction, and contributing/ noncontributing status.

100 Block, North Side of East Howard Street

#### 1) 101-107, Ostdiek Garage/Norman Motor Company, ca. 1921, contributing

Located at the northeastern corner of East Howard Street and 1st Avenue, this is a nearly square, two-story brick building with a metal canopy extending from the corner across part of each facade. The glass enclosed corner auto showroom

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has been opened to street traffic, and the two Howard Street storefronts were altered. The 1st Avenue elevation has aluminum windows on the first floor, double hung sash on the second story, and a stepped parapet. Subtle corbeled brick decorates the cornice.

Built for Christopher Ostdiek, former vice president of the Hibbing State Bank, the main part of this building housed an automobile dealership and supply company. The remaining space was occupied by various businesses including Norvitch Brothers Cigars, Range Dry Cleaners, George Kamuchey's Barbershop, Oscar Pylvala's fur store, Tracy and Haley's Hat Shop, and Larson and Larson, doctors.

### 2) 109, A.C. Schirmer Company, 1921, contributing

This two-story, buff-colored brick building is three bays wide and has an altered storefront with a wood shingle awning. To the east side is a door that provides access to the upper floor. The second story has three double hung 1/1 windows, each of which is framed by a stone lintel and quoins. A carved stone shield is centered in the wall. Capping the facade is a crenelated parapet with a central arch and stone coping.

A.C. Schirmer moved to Hibbing in 1903 and became a successful heating and plumbing contractor. The <u>Hibbing Daily News and Mesaba Ore</u> (1 October 1921) noted that "very many large contracts have been handled by the [Schirmer] company throughout the range." Schirmer was active in civic affairs and helped arrange a deal for the sale of land in North Hibbing by its residents to the Oliver Iron Mining Company. By 1938, the Mechanical Construction Corporation and the Jugoslav Club were located at this address. The A.C. Schirmer Company remains in business today in Hibbing.

#### 3) 111, Oliver Billiard Hall, ca.1921, contributing

Faced with brown brick, this two-story building has a modern storefront. The second floor has five double hung 1/1 windows with a continuous stone lintel, above which is a crenelated parapet with stone coping.

By 1926, Earl Thompson, an occupant of one upstairs apartment, operated a soft drink business at this address. The Pryor Pastry Shop is also listed as a tenant in the 1938 city directory.

#### 4) 113, Lurye Furniture Company, ca. 1921, contributing

The storefront of this two-story brick building has been changed, although the soldier course of brick above the windows is intact. Five double hung 1/1

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windows pierce the second floor, topped by a wide stone cornice. Two stone globes cap the brick pilasters that frame the facade.

Morris J. Lurye opened his furniture store on the first floor of this building; the second story served as a public hall. Montgomery Ward occupied the building in 1938.

### 5) 115-121, Brown Motor Company/Corey Agency, 1921, contributing

Located at the northwestern corner of East Howard Street and 2nd Avenue, this 80' x 115' one-story building is made of brown brick with Bedford stone trim. Storefronts on both street facades have been altered. A thin stone beltcourse with ornamental motifs and small colored brick panels decorate the upper walls. There is a carved "B" centered in the stepped parapet of the northeastern wall.

This building was constructed to house several shops and offices, an auto salesroom, and a post office. The original owner, Edward A. Brown, operated the Brown Motor Company from 119 E. Howard Street. Brown established his business in 1916 as a Dodge dealer, later selling Studebakers and Garford trucks. The Corey Insurance Agency first occupied 117 E. Howard in 1922.

### 100 Block, South Side of East Howard Street

#### 6) 102-104, Delvic Building, 1921, contributing

The Delvic Building occupies a 50' x 115' lot on the southeastern corner of East Howard Street and 1st Avenue. Two stories high, the brown brick building has altered storefronts and a 1st Avenue entrance set in a rusticated stone arch. Double hung 1/1 windows with stone sills and lintels pierce the second floor, between which are diamond-shaped colored tiles recessed into the brick. The parapet is embellished by stepped gables that cap projecting bays framed by buff-colored carved stone. The design of the Delvic Building has been attributed to architects and engineers of the Oliver Iron Mining Company.

The Hibbing State Bank was the first primary tenant and during the 1920s the Jason Shapiro Drugstore occupied part of the building. The Delvic Building was independently listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 17 July 1980.

#### 7) 106, Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant, ca. 1970, noncontributing

This modern, one-story building has an intrusive false stone facade.

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### 8) 108, Cowan-Griesbach Grocery, ca. 1922, contributing

This two-story brown brick building has an altered storefront. The second floor has a row of five double hung 1/1 windows with a continuous concrete sill and lintel. The upper part of the facade is adorned by a Prairie School-inspired geometric pattern of raised bricks.

Cowan and Griesbach operated the Cash Market Company prior to moving into this building. Gershgol's Economy Market occupied the building in 1938.

#### 9) 110, Savolainen Jewelers, ca. 1922, contributing

Executed in the Neoclassical Style this two-story gray brick building has an altered first floor capped by a simple stone cornice. On the east side of the storefront is a transomed entrance that provides access to the upper floor. Punctuating the second floor are three double hung 6/1 windows set in round blind arches with keystones and springing blocks. A carved beltcourse forms the window sill, with another one just above the keystones. The stone cornice has dentils and is capped by a parapet with a central roundel.

Abraham Savolainen ran his jewelry store from this building.

#### 10) 112, Nankin Hotel, ca. 1922, contributing

This three-story, light brown brick building has a simple facade decorated on each side by three narrow vertical stone strips that extend from the cornice to the third story windows. The storefront is covered with black vitrolite tile.

The Nankin (or Nanakin) Hotel was managed by Sim Sue and had a "high class Chinese restaurant." In 1929, C.A. Remington opened a hardware and building supplies store here.

#### 11) 114, Geiselman's Recreation Parlor, 1921, contributing

This two-story brick building has a modern storefront. The second floor features two small windows flanking an ornate oriel with four double hung 1/1 windows and carved woodwork. Above the oriel are a shield and other decorative projections, and the crenelated parapet.

Originally serving as a billiard hall, in 1926 this building housed the Blake Electric Company and three small businesses including a dancing studio, a seamstress, and a music store. The Garden Lounge and Cocktail Room occupied the building in 1938.

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### 12) 116, Garden Theater, 1925, contributing

This two-story brown brick building has an altered storefront and an entrance on the east side of the facade that provides access to the upper floor. Piercing the second story are four double hung 1/1 windows capped by maroon and gold metal panels.

The Garden Theater, later known as the Gopher, was constructed for B.H. Edelstein, Julius Edelstein, and Louis Deutsch. They sold it to Finkelstein and Reuben, prominent theater businessmen in the Upper Midwest. The first motion picture shown in the theater was "I'll Show You the Town" starring Reginald Denny.

### 13) 120, McEachin Building, 1921, contributing

Executed in a restrained Beaux Arts Style this two-story, 50' x 125' building occupies the southwestern corner of East Howard Street and 2nd Avenue. It is constructed of brick and faced with white terra cotta tile. The first floor has been altered while the second story has double hung 1/1 windows with projecting sills and terra cotta swags.

This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers and constructed by the Minneapolis contractor C.F. Haglin and Sons for D.D. McEachin, who came to Hibbing in 1895 and was in charge of the Itasca Mercantile Company before it was purchased by Mrs. D.M. Power and consolidated with the Bazaar (see 214-220, The Itasca Bazaar). McEachin then opened his own store in the Hotel Hibbing. In 1921, the J.C. Penney Company leased space in the McEachin Building for a short time.

#### 200 Block, South Side of East Howard Street

#### 14) 202, Hibbing Hardware Company, 1921, contributing

This two-story, 26.5' x 125' building occupies the southeastern corner of East Howard Street and 2nd Avenue. It is made of reddish-brown brick trimmed with buff-colored terra cotta. Above the altered storefront is a wide terra cotta cornice with shields and other decorative elements. The second floor has double hung 6/1 windows with a continuous stone lintel and a terra cotta cornice. The crenelated parapet has a terra cotta coping. The west-facing 2nd Avenue elevation has a transomed entrance with curved overdoor, and square windows on the first floor that have been enclosed with brick. Two horizontal bands of terra cotta frame the second story windows.

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This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. The Hibbing Hardware Company was established ca.1909 and taken over by E.A. Bergeron in 1910. Bergeron was a prominent Hibbing citizen who served as the president of the Kiwanis Club and Public Library Board, as well as the treasurer of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

### 15) 204-206, Canelake Brothers Building, 1921, contributing

This two-story, buff-colored brick building has a symmetrical facade with terra cotta trim. Centered in the first floor is a pair of doors with fanlight enframed by a classical entrance featuring Tuscan pilasters, a broken pediment with dentils and modillions, and an urn. The left (east) storefront is covered with vitrolite panels, while the right (west) storefront is intact and features faux marble bulkheads and diamond-patterned transoms. The second story has four sets of paired double hung 6/1 windows with flat arches and keystones. There is a wide cornice with dentils and modillions above which is a series of five balustrades in the parapet.

The Canelake Brothers Building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers and constructed by the Minneapolis contractor C.F. Haglin and Sons. The two original occupants were the Canelake brothers, who operated a confectionery with luncheon counter and soda fountain, and Abraham Jereissati, who had a women's clothing store. The second story was divided into six apartments. Three of the Canelake brothers lived here in 1922.

#### 16) 208, Alden's Music Store, ca.1921, contributing

Alden's Store is a two-story, pale orange brick building that has a well preserved storefront with transom glass and a side entrance. There are two sets of paired double hung 1/1 windows set in a recessed panel on the second floor. A wide stone cornice with dentils is carried by two pairs of decorative stone brackets at each edge of the facade.

John M. Alden's music store occupied this building from the time of its construction into the 1940s.

#### 17) 210-212, The Hub and McLellan's, ca. 1922, contributing

This two-story, grayish brick building has two altered storefronts and a side entrance. Piercing the second story are seven double hung 8/1 windows with a wide stone sill and a modillioned cornice. The parapet is embellished with colored tiles and decorative ornaments at each corner.

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The building was designed by prominent Duluth architects, Holstead and Sullivan, for Hibbing attorney and former mayor, Victor Power, and successful Hibbing contractor, E.W. Coons.

#### 18) 214-220, The Itasca Bazaar, ca.1919, contributing

Located at the southwestern corner of East Howard Street and 3rd Avenue, this tall, two-story building measures 106' x 125'. It is made with coarse, dark brown brick called "Greensdale rug face brick" and trimmed with granite and Bedford, Indiana limestone. The East Howard Street facade is divided by pilasters into five bays, with each bay containing a display window (except the second bay, which has the entrance) and three altered windows on the second floor. Square stone tiles decorate each pilaster and the area above and below the upper story windows. The 3rd Avenue facade consists of six bays and has the same fenestration and decoration as that of East Howard Street.

This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. Mrs. D.M. Powers purchased the Itasca Department Store in 1911 and merged it with her other store, The Bazaar. A 1919 mining company memorandum indicated "Mrs. Powers agreed on May 9, 1919 to put down \$25,000 in cash or more and pay \$7,500 or more per year and interest on unpaid balance of 6%. She desires that all contracts be referred to her before being signed up. Mrs. Powers to have a contract for deed and control of building after erection. Plans and specifications are now complete and will be submitted to contractors for bids in December 1918. Cost of this building based on these bids is \$133,450.00, including property." Gus Anderson of Chisholm was awarded the contract.

#### 300 Block. North Side of East Howard Street

#### 19) 301, Merchants and Miners State Bank, ca. 1980, noncontributing

Constructed on the former site of the Victor Power Building, which housed the original Merchants and Miners State Bank, this is a two-story, cast concrete building.

#### 20) 311-313, Klass Jewelry/Godfrey's Clothing, 1919, contributing

This two-story, brown brick building has two altered storefronts. The second floor is divided into four groups of tripled windows with 6/1 double hung sash. There is a cornice with dentils and a simple stepped parapet.

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This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. Its original occupants were the Klass Jewelry Store, established in 1895 by F.A. Klass, and a men's clothing store operated by T.J. Godfrey.

#### 21) 315-319, Masonic Temple/Costakos Confectioner/J.C. Penney, 1921, contributing

Constructed at a cost of about \$125,000, this 78' x 125', two-story brown brick building is located at the northwestern corner of East Howard Street and 4th Avenue. The facade has a modern storefront, a beltcourse, and seven new windows in an alternating pattern of one with a keystone and one with a stone lintel set in a blind arch. There is a simple stone cornice and a brick parapet. The 4th Avenue elevation has windows enclosed with brick and blind arches with keystones on the second floor divided by paired brick pilasters.

The first Masonic Temple was built in North Hibbing in 1906. The local lodge announced in 1920 plans to build a new hall, and by January 1921 they had started a fund raising campaign. A Hibbing contractor, the Dohm Building Company, completed the building by the end of the year.

300 Block, South Side of East Howard Street

#### 22) 302-308, Lippman-Sachs Building, 1921, contributing

Located at the southeastern corner of East Howard Street and 3rd Avenue, this two-story buff-colored brick building has altered storefronts and entrances. The facade is divided by brick pilasters into six bays, with three fixed windows on the second floor of each bay (except the east bay, which has three sets of paired double hung 1/1 sash). Above each group of windows are two small colored ceramic tiles set in square stone panels. Each pilaster has a pair of large limestone brackets that support a wide stone cornice with dentils. Decorative shields project from corbeled brick in the second and fifth bays of the parapet, and limestone globes crown each pilaster. There is a stone panel incised with "SACHS" below the cornice of the first bay. The 3rd Avenue elevation is divided into five bays and is similar to the East Howard Street facade.

This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers and constructed by C.F. Haglin and Sons for approximately \$175,000. It was reportedly modeled after Louis Sullivan's Marshall Fields department store in Chicago. Benjamin M. Lippman's Department Store occupied the majority of the building, while Thomas Sachs operated his men's clothing store in the left or eastern part of the interior. Lippman opened his first store in Mountain Iron in 1899 and established his Hibbing business in 1907. The Sachs family was one of 18 Jewish families to settle in Hibbing by 1906; they opened their clothing shop in 1908.

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### 23) 310-314, Geary Jewelry/Day Clothing, 1919, contributing

This two-story, brown brick building has two altered storefronts. The east side of the second floor has a pair of modern windows, while the right bay has a pair of tripled, double hung 1/1 sash. There is a stone cornice with dentils and a brick parapet.

This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. Among the original occupants were the Richard Geary Jewelry Store, William H. Day Clothing and Dry Goods, and a dentist.

### 24) 316-320, Thouin-Coons Building and Annex, 1921, contributing

Located at the southwestern corner of East Howard Street and 4th Avenue, this property consists of the main two-story building behind which is a narrow, two-story annex with its facade facing 4th Avenue. The facade of the larger building is arranged into three bays, each with a relatively intact storefront featuring green polished stone bulkheads and cream-colored glazed terra cotta that resembles rusticated stone. Each bay of the brown brick second story has five double hung 1/1 windows. There is a terra cotta cornice and a brick parapet with terra cotta coping. The terra cotta first floor of the 4th Avenue elevation is unbroken except for three small windows and an arched entrance that has been altered. Ten double hung windows pierce the upper floor. The annex is made of brown brick and has an altered storefront.

Both the Thouin-Coons Building and Annex were designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. They were constructed by C.F. Haglin and Sons and the E.W. Coons Company, which was a partial owner. G.L. Thouin, whose hardware store was one of the building's first occupants, came to Hibbing in 1906 and worked as a steam shovel operator for a year before purchasing a hardware business. The E.W. Coons Company, another original tenant, was a successful general contracting firm specializing in road construction. The Nides Brothers, a third tenant, began their business in North Hibbing in 1905 and were among the first companies to move to South Hibbing in 1921. Morris and Nathan Nides were members of one of the original Jewish families to settle in North Hibbing prior to 1906.

#### 400 Block, North Side of East Howard Street

#### 25) 401, Cianca Billiards, ca. 1921, contributing

Located at the northeastern corner of East Howard Street and 4th Avenue, this long and narrow two-story building is made of brown brick and has a modern wooden

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storefront and infilled windows on the first floor. Second floor windows along the facade and corner are double hung 6/6 sash with sidelights and keystones. All other windows are the same except they lack sidelights. Tiny buff-colored stone insets around the windows embellish the second story. There is a stone beltcourse above the keystones, a stone cornice, and a brick parapet.

Goffredo Cianca ran his billiard parlor here, and by 1926 John Labate had an auto livery in the building. The Security State Bank was a tenant in 1938.

### 26) 403-405, Hibbing Decorating Company/Avalon Hotel, ca. 1921, contributing

This two-story, buff-colored brick building has two altered storefronts flanking a central entry. The second story has groups of three double hung 1/1 windows with transoms. There is a metal cornice and brick parapet.

By 1926, the occupants of this building included the Hibbing Decorating Company, Chester L. Merry's Barber Shop, Barley-Keller Soft Drinks, and the Avalon Hotel.

## 27) 407-409, Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore/Coyne Electric Supplies, 1921, contributing

Containing one of the most elaborate facades in the district, this two-story building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architect William A. Hunt and constructed by C.F. Haglin and Sons. It has buff-colored terra cotta, "red tapestry brick," and "vari-colored" tile. The first floor has two altered storefronts flanking a central entrance with a garland over the door. Each corner pier has a pedimented entrance with transom, a garland on a raised panel, a narrow double hung window with terra cotta label, and colored tiles. The second floor is pierced by eight double hung 1/1 windows above which is a band of herringbone bricks framed by molded terra cotta and four small diamond-shaped colored tiles. The crenelated parapet has a terra cotta coping and a decorative centerpiece of multi-colored tile.

The original tenants in this building were the <u>Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore</u>, and Frank G. Coyne's Electrical Supplies. Coyne was a Winnipeg native who came to Hibbing in 1917.

### 28) 411, Rano-Buzzelli Men's Wear, 1922, contributing

This two-story, rust-colored brick building has an altered storefront of false brick and wood shingles. The second floor has five double hung 1/1 windows set in a recessed panel with soldier and corbeled brick. There is a bracketed metal cornice with modillions, and a brick parapet.

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Joseph Rano and Antonio Buzzelli, owners of this building, operated a clothing store here.

### 29) 413, Fotopoulos Shoe Repair/Zelda Hotel, ca.1921, contributing

This two-story, brown brick building has a new storefront resulting from a 1983 remodeling. The second story has a pair of tripled double hung 1/1 windows surmounted by a large Sullivanesque glazed white terra cotta panel.

### 30) 417, Bubley & Jaffe Tailors/Laugier Piano Company/Riggio's Taxi Service, ca. 1921, contributing

This two-story, brown brick building has an altered storefront. The second story has Tudor-inspired oriel surmounted by a green ceramic tile gable with barge-boards and false half timbering. The west side of the upper floor features a set of double hung 1/1 windows with a carved stone surround. The stepped parapet has a stone coping.

Edward Bubley and Isaac Jaffe operated a tailor shop in this building by 1924. Other occupants included the Laugier Piano Company and Riggio's Taxi Service.

#### 31) 421, Kelly Furniture Company, ca. 1921, contributing

Located at the northwestern corner of East Howard Street and 5th Avenue, this two-story brown brick building has an altered storefront and a separate entry on the west side of the facade with double doors surmounted by a round arched window (covered) and flanked by engaged columns made of stone. Four original windows set in blind arches with keystones have been infilled with brick. The first and second stories of the 5th Avenue elevation have been similarly changed.

Early occupants of this building were the Kelly Furniture Company and the Marion Hotel.

400 Block, South Side of East Howard Street

### 32) 402-406, Congdon-McIntyre Building, 1921, contributing

Located at the southeastern corner of East Howard Street and 4th Avenue, this two-story brown brick building measures 75' x 125' and has three altered store-fronts in the facade. The northwestern corner is canted and has a door with fanlight; another entrance with transom along Howard Street is set in a round arch. Piercing the second story are six pairs of double hung 8/1 windows with a continuous sill. There is a simple stone cornice and brick parapet with stone coping adorned with tile cross motifs.

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This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers for Thomas Congdon, who had a pharmacy in one part. Another original occupant was Sapero's Style Shop, operated by a man who opened his Hibbing store in 1919. Other offices located here by 1922 included James Foley, realtor; Lute Hamilton, tailor; Sampson Brothers, confectionery; Victor Johnson, attorney; and William E. Munroe, dentist.

### 33) 408, The Golden Rule, 1921, contributing

This is a two-and-one-half-story Colonial Revival building with a gable roof and Flemish bond red brick walls. The storefront reflects a 1983 remodeling. Attached to the first floor cornice is a decorative iron grill, above which are six double hung 6/1 windows with stone lintels and sills. The cornice has dentils and modillions, and there are three pedimented dormers.

Lewis H. Milkes, the proprietor of the Golden Rule since 1908, had this building designed and constructed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. The second floor originally contained four flats with six rooms each.

### 34) 412-414, Sonaglia-Barbadori-Antonelli Building, 1921, contributing

This is a two-story building with brown bricks laid so that each course has one header followed by two stretchers. It has two altered storefronts divided by a pair of doors with transoms set in a compound Tudoresque arch. The second story has two double hung 8/1 windows with stone surrounds flanked by two oriels that are covered with modified quatrefoil motifs. Ornate downspouts and brackets further enhance the facade. The gable roof is clad with red ceramic tile.

This building was designed by Oliver Iron Mining Company architects and engineers. The three partners listed above probably operated a soft drink business from this building. Herman Antonelli arrived in Hibbing in 1894 and was one of the first Italians to settle in the community. After traveling to Ely in 1896 he served in the Spanish-American War.

### 35) 416-420, Kalliman/Ratican/Underwood Building, ca. 1922, contributing

Located at the southwestern corner of East Howard Street and 5th Avenue, this two-story, orange-red brick building has altered storefronts. The facade has three brick pilasters with stone capitals, one of which divides the wall into two symmetrical halves. The second story of each half has a stone beltcourse, three double hung 8/1 windows, and an ornamental iron balcony. Green and cream-colored ceramic tiles decorate the area below the dentilled cornice. The parapet has corbeled brick and two rounded gables inset with tile. The 5th Avenue

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elevation has one entrance and altered windows on the first floor, and eleven double hung 8/1 windows on the second story.

Theo Kalliman's Shoe Repair, William Ratican's Barber Shop, and the Underwood Typewriter Company occupied this building as early as 1924.

500 Block, South Side of East Howard Street

### 36) 502-10, Androy Hotel, 1921, contributing

The Androy Hotel is located on the northwestern corner of East Howard Street and 5th Avenue and forms the eastern anchor for the district. Executed in the Second Renaissance Revival Style, it measures 133' x 125' and stands four stories high. The facade is comprised of three, three bay sections, each separated by a light court. It is faced in red brick trimmed with St. Cloud granite, and has a round arch storefront enframed with stone. A wide stone beltcourse divides the first and second floors and three bays of rectangular double hung windows punctuate the second and third floors. There is another wide stone beltcourse below the fourth story windows, which consist of paired double hung sash with round arches set in larger round stone arches. A wide, bracketed cornice is surmounted by a brick parapet.

This building was designed by S.S. Rumsey, architect for the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and constructed by C.F. Haglin and Sons at a cost of approximately \$375,000. The Androy was equipped with 62 rooms with baths and toilets, 80 rooms with hot and cold running water, offices, dining rooms, shops, and other facilities. The Androy Hotel was independently listed in the National Register on 13 June 1986.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

Under National Register Criterion A, the East Howard Street Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development because it represents the efforts of the Oliver Iron Mining Company to move and construct an entire city in the early 1900s. The business district is especially important as one part of a townsite created by the Oliver Company, which planned and laid out the city's streets and whose architects and engineers designed many of the East Howard Street buildings. These buildings demonstrate the economic impact of iron ore mining on Minnesota's Mesabi Range and, more specifically, on one community whose existence was tied directly to the mines. Under the statewide preservation plan, the district relates to the historic context, Minnesota's Iron Ore Industry, 1880s-1945.

Permanent settlement in northern St. Louis County began in the early 1880s when confirmed rumors of the presence of paying quantities of iron ore incited a great rush to the area. Much of the economic development of the region during the nineteenth century relied upon mining, lumbering, or related activities.

Mining operations centered on three concentrations of iron ore, called "ranges," extending from east to west across northeastern Minnesota: the Vermilion, the Mesabi, and the Cuyuna. In 1884, the first load of ore was shipped from the Vermilion Range, followed in 1892 by a shipment from Mountain Iron on the more expansive Mesabi Range. Extending in a northeast-southeast direction for approximately 100 miles, the Mesabi Range was destined to become the nation's largest iron ore producer. Extraction of ore began on the Cuyuna Range in 1908, although the first shipment from the Kennedy Mine near Crosby was not until 1911.

Hibbing is located near the center of the Mesabi Range in western St. Louis County. The village was founded by Frank Hibbing, a German entrepreneur who began exploring for ore in 1888 and is credited with finding the first of many extensive ore bodies on the central Mesabi in 1892. With the financial assistance of Alexander J. Trimble, Hibbing developed the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine (NHL 1966), which became the largest and most productive open pit in the world. 3

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In 1893, Hibbing and Trimble became leaseholders of land that was platted as the original townsite of Hibbing. This consisted of 80 acres in the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 57, Range 20. Later, the 40-acre Pillsbury Addition was platted directly south of the original townsite. In the same year the town was platted, 1893, the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railway Company reached the community, and the town was incorporated.

Construction of the railroad and the town's close proximity to dozens of productive mines encouraged rapid growth. In 1893, its population was only 326 people, but just two years later the number had increased to 1,085 to become the second largest village on the Mesabi. It had 2,481 residents in 1900 and by 1920 that figure had grown to 15,089. Geographer John R. Borchert has noted that "Hibbing and Virginia had just taken their turn as the fastest-growing urban areas in the Upper Midwest" about 1920.

Like nearly all other Range towns, Hibbing's economy was largely dependent upon the iron ore mining industry. One historian wrote in 1921 that Hibbing was "a place wherein mining was supreme and all other considerations secondary." During the first mining season more than 100 test-pits, most of which revealed high levels of ore, were drilled within a three-mile radius of the village. The Burt-Pool Mine was the first at Hibbing to ship ore in 1895. At about the same time, the open-pit method of mining -- in which glacial overburden was removed and the ore excavated by steam shovel -- was becoming more common on the Mesabi. Although open-pit mining did not originate at Hibbing, it was developed and refined at the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine. During both World Wars, when iron ore production peaked at the Hull-Rust-Mahoning, the mine supplied as much as one-fourth of the total ore mined in the United States.

Exploitation of open-pit mines such as the Hull-Rust-Mahoning resulted primarily from activities by the Oliver Iron Mining Company, the most prominent mining concern on the Range. Formed in 1892 by Henry W. Oliver, the Oliver Iron Mining Company leased large tracts of land from which to extract ore. In 1896, a majority of the Oliver Iron Mining Company stock was transferred to the Carnegie Steel Company. Five years later, in 1901, Carnegie Steel was organized into the United States Steel Company, of which the Oliver Iron Mining Company became a wholly owned subsidiary.

When mining companies such as the Oliver expanded their operations, settlements were often at risk if new ore bodies were discovered. In some cases, mining activities encroached to the extent that entire townsites had to be moved. Eveleth was abandoned in the late 1890s after iron ore was discovered under part of the original townsite, and in 1909 the nearby community of Sparta was moved for the same reason. In the original townsite, and in 1909 the nearby community of Sparta was moved for the same reason.

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The Oliver Iron Mining Company had extensive experience in building mining communities that reflected idealized corporate town planning policies. In the early twentieth century, small residential communities such as Taconite, Holman, and Marble were established on the western Mesabi Range to house employees who worked in nearby mines. In one case, the mining concern developed a more extensive company town, Coleraine, which was a model village organized under strict corporate control.

As early as 1902, concerns arose that ore directly below Hibbing would need to be extracted, although one newspaper dismissed the notion and suggested it was doubtful that mining companies would have any need for the mineral "within the present century." During the early 1900s, however, mining activity encroached on all but the south side of the original townsite's "North Forty," and a large body of rich iron ore was discovered beneath the village. By 1909, explosives and open-pit mines had moved so close to Hibbing that buildings were shifting on their foundations. From 1912 to 1914, angry residents of the dwindling town surrounded on three sides by "continuous yawning chasms" filed lawsuits against With the assistance of attorney Victor Power, the Oliver Iron Mining Company. inhabitants successfully forced the Oliver Company to temporarily suspend their operations at the Hull-Rust and Burt-Sellers Mines.2 These open-pit mines obliterated streets, ruined parts of the water and sewer system, and devastated Hibbing's landscape, which, according to one writer in 1915, "looks like hell with the lid off; like an artificial bad lands."

City voters showed their displeasure with the company in 1913 when they elected as mayor Victor Power, who, unlike other Iron Range public officials, had no obligation to the Oliver Company. Power was instrumental in securing funds to improve living conditions in the city. When he came into office in 1913, the municipal budget was \$275,000, but by 1921 it had risen to \$2.4 million. Taxes levied on the profitable mining companies entitled the city to about \$2 million annually in revenues that were used to build and paye roads, lay new sewer and water lines, and make numerous other improvements.

Even though Power and his administration gained control of tax revenues, the Oliver Iron Mining Company had already (since 1899) acquired the mineral rights to part of the town, and in 1918 the firm began to buy the surface rights. At the same time, the Oliver Company proposed to the Hibbing city council to move the entire community about one mile south of the North Forty to a new townsite. The enormity of relocating a community the size of Hibbing (about 15,000 residents) surpassed that of any range town, and demonstrated the value of the iron ore to the Oliver Company. By 1921, they owned a majority of the lots and buildings in an eight-block area, and had paid over \$2.5 million for the surface real estate.

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Since the Oliver Company was mining the North Forty, they had to assume primary responsibility for moving the town, especially because they were the only organization with the capacity to do so. In the process, they also played the major role in planning and developing a new settlement. The company laid out "New Hibbing" (also referred to as "South Hibbing," the "Central Addition," and "Alice") with a business district six blocks long on an 80'-wide street and an accompanying residential quarter. Beginning in 1919, buildings were transported to the new site and construction began on at least three commercial buildings. Within the next few years over 200 buildings, including 185 houses, were moved. It is estimated that by 1920 the company had already spent approximately \$20 million to relocate and repair buildings and to make new improvements.

South Hibbing's commercial center was located on East Howard Street and extended for five blocks in an east-west direction between 1st and 5th Avenues. In order to encourage an easy transition into the new business district, the Oliver Iron Mining Company initially refused offers by land speculators and gave priority to established business people who wanted to purchase a lot on Howard Street. Lots were reportedly sold at low prices and on "practically the purchaser's own terms," averaging about \$1,000-\$1,200 per lot. Merchants were asked to select a lot and then given the choice of having their old building moved, constructing their own building, or allowing the company to erect one for them, which then would be sold to the owner. Nearly all business people reportedly chose the third option, leaving the design and construction of each building to the Oliver Company. By 1920, an estimated \$3 million had been spent by the company for new commercial buildings.

Although North Hibbing was originally a speculative development "promoted by individuals and companies seeking to capitalize upon the real estate potential of booming mining areas," South Hibbing, and particularly its business district, came under some short-term regulations by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. Blocks not required for businesses were divided into lots fifty feet wide and sold for houses to be erected "under building restrictions insuring an ideal residential district." The new Hibbing, however, was not a company town in the sense of Marble and Coleraine since the Oliver Company exercised little direct control over businesses and residences. Once the move was made, Hibbing was similar to any of the other townsites on the Range in that there was a measureable degree of political independence exerted by the community.

The Oliver Iron Mining Company employed a staff of architects and engineers who designed many of the East Howard Street commercial buildings. The same staff designed numerous types of residences for mining towns throughout the Range, varying from simple one-story, four-room laborer's cottages to multi-story,

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twelve-room superintendent's houses. At least thirteen of the Howard Street buildings were designed and built by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. William A. Hunt, supervising architect for the company, is credited with directing the construction of most of the downtown buildings. Hunt (1859-1930) was born in Cincinnati and worked for three years as a draftsman before moving to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. His St. Paul designs include the Andrew R. McGill House (1887 NRHP). Hunt moved to Duluth in 1899 and joined the architectural firm of Palmer and Hall where he was employed until 1906. In Duluth he designed Central High School, St. Lukes Hospital, the Marshall Wells Building, and many residences. He later became supervising architect for the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and moved to Hibbing where he died in 1930.

Spencer Rumsey, the Oliver Iron Mining Company's chief engineer, is also credited with the design of some Hibbing buildings, including the Androy Hotel (502-10 East Howard Street), and the Rood Hospital, built in 1920-21 with financial assistance from the mining company. In 1904 Rumsey became a civil engineer for the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and between 1917 and 1927 he served as the company's chief engineer, working out of their Duluth headquarters.

The Duluth architectural firm of Holstead and Sullivan designed The Hub and McLellan's Building (ca.1922) at 210-12 East Howard Street. They also designed the Hibbing Village Hall (1921 NRHP), the Municipal Power Plant (1918-20), the original Hibbing Memorial Building (destroyed by fire in 1933), and the Duluth Power Plant. Abraham Holstead was born and educated in England before coming to Chicago where he worked for the firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge. He went to Duluth around 1910, and in 1912 formed a partnership with William J. Sullivan.

Charles F. Haglin and Sons of Minneapolis constructed the majority of the East Howard Street buildings for the Oliver Iron Mining Company. Haglin came to Minneapolis in 1873 where he became partners with F.B. Long for three years and then with Frederick S. Corser. He then began working as a contractor and in 1918 formed a partnership with his sons.

The East Howard Street Commercial Historic District represents one part of a community that was planned and designed as a result of increased open-pit activities by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. The historic district conveys strong architectural cohesiveness through its 1920s stylistic treatments, consistent two-story building height, and regular use of brick, terra cotta, and stone as building materials. Its historic association with the mining industry continues today because Hibbing's central business district remains the dominant regional shopping area on the Mesabi Range.

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#### **ENDNOTES**

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Professor Arnold Alanen, who provided comments on an earlier draft of this nomination.

- 1. David A. Walker, <u>Iron Frontier: the Discovery and Early Development of Minnesota's Three Ranges</u> (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1979), 57, 105, 252, 254.
  - 2. Duluth News Tribune, 31 July 1897; Walker, Iron Frontier, 94.
- 3. Norene Roberts, "Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mines Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, December, 1989.
- 4. "Hibbing of the Future," Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 2 February 1920, p. 2.
- 5. Walter Van Brunt, <u>Duluth and St. Louis County</u>, <u>Minnesota</u>, vol. 2 (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1921), 542, 551, 553.
- 6. Virginia, founded in 1892 and located east of Hibbing, was the largest town on the Mesabi Range with a population of 3,647 in 1895. See the <u>Fourth Decennial Census of the State of Minnesota</u> (St. Paul: Pioneer Press Co., 1895), 50.
- 7. Van Brunt, <u>Duluth and St. Louis County</u>, 573; <u>Fourth Decennial Census of the State of Minnesota</u> (St. Paul: Pioneer Press Co., 1895, 50; <u>Fourteenth Census of the United States</u>, 1920 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1920), 26.
- 8. John R. Borchert, America's Northern Heartland (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987), 69. Quoted in Arnold R. Alanen, "Years of Change on the Iron Range," in Minnesota in a Century of Change: The State and Its People Since 1900, ed. Clifford E. Clark, Jr. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989), 190, n.11.
  - 9. Van Brunt, Duluth and St. Louis County, 538-39.
- 10. Paul H. Landis, Three Iron Mining Towns: A Study in Cultural Change (Ann Arbor, MI.: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1938), 27.
- 11. The Hull-Rust Mine, The Man-Made Grand Canyon of the North (Hibbing, MN.: Hibbing Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), 3.

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- 12. Walker notes that open-pit mining was used at seven Mesabi Range mines in 1895, but also states that this method began at the Hull Mine near Hibbing in 1905. See <u>Iron Frontier</u>, 123, 130.
  - 13. The Hull-Rust Mine, 2.
  - 14. Walker, Iron Frontier, 104-05, 207-16, 226.
- 15. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 5 March 1920, p. 6; Alanen, "Years of Change on the Iron Range," 164.
  - 16. Alanen, "Years of Change on the Iron Range," 167, 169.
- 17. Donald L. Boese, <u>John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi</u> (Bovey, Minnesota: Itasca Community College Foundation, 1975); Arnold R. Alanen, "The Planning of Company Communities in the Lake Superior Mining Region," <u>APA Journal</u> 45 (July 1979): 265-66.
  - 18. Mesaba Ore and the Hibbing News, 2 August 1902, p.4.
  - 19. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 2 February 1920, pp. 2-3.
- 20. Alanen, "Change on Iron Range," 165. The quote is from the Chisholm Tribune-Herald, 18 June 1915, p.4.
- 21. Mesaba Ore and the Hibbing News, 2 March 1912, p.1. See also p.1, 20 April 1912 of the same newspaper.
  - 22. Chisholm Tribune-Herald, 18 June 1915, p.4.
  - 23. Alanen, "Change on Iron Range, 165.
  - 24. Ibid.
- 25. Edmond L. DeLestry, "The Romance of a Town: The Story of Hibbing, Wonder-Village of the World," Western Magazine 7/6 (May 1916): 260; Mesaba Ore and the Hibbing News, 9 October 1915, p. 1; Van Brunt, Duluth and St. Louis County vol. 2, 538-39.
  - 26. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 5 March 1920, p. 6.
  - 27. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 2 February 1920, p. 2.
  - 28. Hibbing Daily Tribune, 26 July 1958.

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- 29. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 4 July 1920, p.1.
- 30. Howard Street was named for the son of Bart Hayes, who platted the Western Addition and worked for the Great Northern Railroad as depot agent. See the Hibbing Daily Tribune, 14 February 1969.
- 31. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 2 February 1920, pp. 2-3; 4 July 1920, p. 1.
  - 32. Hibbing Daily Tribune, 26 July 1958.
  - 33. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 4 July 1920, p. 1.
- 34. Arnold R. Alanen, "Documenting the Physical and Social Characteristics of Mining and Resource-Based Communities," Association for Preservation Technology 11/4 (1979): 51.
  - 35. Hibbing Daily News and the Mesaba Ore, 2 February 1920, p. 2.
- 36. Photo Album 6, Oliver Iron Mining Company, Audiovisual Department, Minnesota Historical Society.
  - 37. Duluth Herald, 16 August, 1930.
  - 38. William A. Hunt file, Northwest Architectural Archives, St. Paul, MN.
- 39. Patricia Murphy and Gary Phelps, "Hibbing Historic Sites Survey," May 1984, p. 12. The authors note that the <u>Improvement Bulletin</u>, a contractor's periodical published in the Twin Cities, lists some Hibbing building projects but without street addresses.
  - 40. Spencer Rumsey file, Northwest Architectural Archives, St. Paul, MN.
- 41. Abraham Holstead and William Sullivan files, Northwest Architectural Archives, St. Paul, MN.
  - 42. Improvement Bulletin, 5 March 1921.

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#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the East Howard Street Commercial Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "East Howard Street Commercial Historic District, Hibbing, Minnesota 1991."

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the commercial buildings that have historically been part of Hibbing's central business district and that maintain historic integrity. Lots 1-10 of Block 2 have been excluded because all of the original historic buildings were replaced by a modern, noncontributing building.

