National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD								
NRIS Reference Number: 89002116	Date Listed:	12/21/89						
Main Street Historic District Property Name	Walworth County	WI Stat						
Multiple Name								
in the nomination documentation.								
Beth Boland Signature of the Keeper Amended Items in Nomination:	/ኃ/3//8 Date of Actio							
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Signature of the Keeper Amended Items in Nomination: Item #8: Significance: The applicable areas of significance and social history.	Date of Actions e are architecture ded eligible for the	g on e, education						
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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

7116

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.			
1. Name of Property			
historic name Main Street Histor	ric District		
other names/site number N/A			
2. Location	., .,		
street & number Various, see inve	entory		not for publication
city, town Whitewater			y icinity
state Wisconsin code WI	county Walwort	h code 127	zip code 53190
3. Classification			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	gory of Property	Number of Resource	• •
	ouilding(s)		loncontributing
	listrict	42	22 buildings
	ite		sites
	tructure		structures
	object		objects
		_43	<u>22</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing:	*		ing resources previously
N/A		listed in the Nationa	l RegisterΩ
4. State/Federal Agency Certification			
National Register of Historic Places and many opinion, the property meets Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservati State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau	on Officer- WI	egister criteria. See cont	tinuation speet.
F. National Bank Comics Contillection			
5. National Park Service Certification			
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	_		
entered in the National Register.	Beth Boland		17/20/20
See continuation sheet.	Det Oolend		
determined eligible for the National			, ,
Register. See continuation sheet.	•		_
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.	·		
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)			_
	Signature of	the Keeper	Date of Action

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)			
DOMESTIC/single dwelling			
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling			
EDUCATION/library			
RELIGION/religious structure			
Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
foundation Stone			
walls Brick			
Stone			
roof Asphalt			
other Wood			
Metal			

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Main Street Historic District is located at the western edge of Whitewater's original town plat, now at the center of the city between the central business district and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus. It is a residential neighborhood of nineteenth and early twentieth century homes and churches that represents Whitewater's most prestigious historic neighborhood. The scale and density of fine historic homes in the district clearly distinguishes it from the less stately and more recently developed residential areas that surround it.

Main Street forms the spine of the district which extends from Prairie Street on the west to Fremont Street on the east. It has developed from its beginnings as an Indian trail leading west from Milwaukee to a highway for westward-bound immigrants to a federal highway acting as a major thoroughfare through the city. At the eastern end of the district is a triangular block platted as a village green. South of this block is Church Street along which are three churches and their accompanying rectories and halls. This street extends the district south off of Main Street.

Throughout this district are stately brick and frame nineteenth and early twentieth century houses of two and two and one-half stories with smaller residences interspersed in the streetscapes. Of the 42 principal buldings in this district that are contributing, they are almost evenly divided between frame and brick construction (23 frame, 17 brick) with 2 buildings of stone construction. Most are two or two and one-half stories in height (24 two stories, 14 two and one-half stories) with 3 either one or three stories in height. The buildings in the district represent all the major architectural styles of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. Of the 42 contributing buildings there is one Greek Revival, six Gothic Revival, 11 Italianate, 2 Second Empire, 8 Queen Anne, and other styles. As can be seen by these brief statistics, the district's buildings have a continuity of scale, construction materials, and nineteenth century style.

There are four large churches in this district, three of which are located on the west side of the 100 block of Church Street. They are architecturally compatible with the residential neighborhood around them and just as the houses in the district feature fine historic residential architecture, the churches feature fine historic religious architecture. These churches include the Gothic Revival St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Map No. 31); the large Romanesque Revival First English Congregational Church (Map No. 34); the late Gothic Revival St. John's Lutheran Church (Map No. 36); and around the corner on Main Street the late Gothic Revival First English Lutheran Church (Map No. 21).

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Over the years the large residences in this district have been converted to new uses. These new uses include a law office, a clubhouse, fraternity and sorority houses, and rooming houses for students. These new uses have resulted in some alterations, although surprisingly, not as many as expected for a residential area close to a four-year college campus. And, many of the district's buldings have been well maintained or have been restored to their historic appearances.

There are only two non-contributing structures (Map Nos. 37 and 43) in this district. They are non-contributing because a) one is an apartment building erected in 1972, and b) one is a duplex that has been remodeled both in the 1950s and again in 1985 and has none of its historic appearance remaining. Unfortunately, only one historic outbuilding remains in the district—the Esterly Carriage House (Map No. 5). The other outbuildings in this district are modern garages and are all marked non-contributing to the district.

DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT

Map No. 1 708 W. Main St. Bassett House 1857, 1878 1

This well preserved two-story cream brick house consists of a rectangular block with rear wing, low-pitched hipped roof, wide eaves, and a bracketed frieze. The front porch was elaborately decorated originally but today consists of simple square wooden columns. A rear porch is similar. There is a one-story side bay that features a mansard roof, bracketed eaves, modillions, and large keystones above the windows. Windows are generally regularly placed on the facades and are generally single pane doublehung sashes, probably not originals. Upper windows are two-over-four double-hung sashes. All windows, except on the bay, feature flat stone lintels and stone sills. The two-story wing on the north of the main block was added in 1878.

Map No. 2 622 W. Main St. Engebretsen-Dorr House 1895² Architect: George Bradley and Son³

This two and one-half story Queen Anne house is the best example of this style in the district. The house has a basic rectangular form with many projections providing the asymmetry of the building. The roof is an intersecting gable roof that creates pediments on the upper story. A corner octagonal tower projects from the southwest corner of the house and features a tent roof. Most of the house is clad in very narrow clapboards, although there is lavish use of scalloped, square, and diamond shaped shingles. Other decoration on the house includes fanbursts, brackets, and returned eaves. A very fine curved veranda graces the front facade, wrapping around the tower to the west facade. It features groups of thin round columns, a plain balustrade, and a frieze with dentils and brackets. A wooden staircase leads to the main entrance of the house and above it on the porch is a pediment with a relief carving. This line continues to the second floor which features an inset balcony repeating the balustrade and columns of the veranda. Above this is a decorated gable. The windows on the house are irregularly placed and irregular in size. Most are one-over-one double-hung sashes. Windows in the tower have leaded glass panels. This outstanding house is a showplace along Whitewater's main thoroughfare through town.

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Map 1	No.	3 (514 W.	Main	St.	C. 1	W .	Waite	Hous	se	189	64				

This two and one-half story residence features a classically detailed front porch, wood clapboard siding, and an intersecting gable roof. The house has a basic rectangular plan with two and one-half story gable sections projecting from the main facade. The projecting gables feature square and sawtooth type wooden shingles. The window openings in these gables are varied and include square multi-paned sashes, arched multi-paned sashes and an elliptical window with multiple panes is placed in the uppermost gable of the roof. The wide roof eaves are decorated underneath with both modillions and dentils. A large front porch covers most of the front facade. It features Corinthian columns, a spool-and-spindle balustrade, and a frieze decorated with dentils and modillions. At the center of the porch roof is a large pediment that features a relief carving. Openings are generally very large single-paned double-hung sashes. Some large single-pane windows feature transoms of leaded glass as well. This fine classically-influenced Queen Anne house is now used as a fraternity house.

Map No. 4 604 W. Main St. G. W. Esterly House 1876. Architect: H. C. Koch

This two-story Italianate house is constructed of cream brick and features a low-pitched hipped roof with paired chimneys projecting from it. The basic rectangular plan is accented by projecting bay windows. The building has a lavish cornice that features brackets, modillions, and a sawtooth-type molding. The cornice rises to a gable with returned eaves that tops the shallow projecting entry pavilion. Openings are single paned double-hung sashes that are arched at the top. They are individually placed or doubled under round brick arches that extend all the way down to form a complete surround. The double wooden doors are also framed with a round brick arch and surround. The bay windows are decorated like the cornice and the two-story east bay is topped with metal cresting. The front porch is plain with simple square posts and was added in the 1950s.

Map No. 5 122 N. Esterly St. G. W. Esterly Carriage House 1885, 1919⁷

This two-story Italianate cream brick structure was built in 1885 as the carriage house and stable for the G. W. Esterly House at 604 W. Main St. In 1919 it was remodeled into living quarters. This building has a hipped and gable roof, wide eaves, brackets and a plain frieze. The eaves are returned on the gable ends. Many of the windows of this building have the same round brick arch and surround that is seen on the Esterly House. Other windows are simple squares. All windows are single pane double-hung sashes. Modifications from 1919 include the Colonial Revival style entry which features a pediment and square columns, and the one-story east facade sun room that is topped with a simple balustrade.

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Map No. 6 532 W. M. Builder: Nelson Salis	ain St.	Lucius	Winchester	House	1867 ⁸	

Local builder Nelson Salisbury built this two-story Italianate house in 1867 and it is similar in form, materials, and detailing to Map No. 7 and 13, houses also built by Salisbury. The building is a two-story cream brick structure with a low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves supported by paired brackets that are attached to a paneled frieze. Windows of the building are regularly placed and are single pane double-hung sashes. They are decorated with pedimented stone lintels and stone sills. There is also fine metal cresting at the peak of the roof. Unfortunately on this house the original porch has been removed in favor of a heavy wooden overhang supported by modern metal columns.

Map No. 7 522 W. Main St. Sanger Marsh House 1861¹⁰ Builder: Nelson Salisbury¹¹

Local builder Nelson Salisbury built this two story Italianate house in 1861. The building is a rectangular cream brick structure with a low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves supported by paired brackets that are attached to a paneled frieze. There is fine metal cresting at the top of the roof. Windows are generally regularly placed on the facades and are single pane double-hung sashes decorated with pedimented stone lintels and stone sills. Two particularly fine details of the house are the front and side porches, original to the structure. They have hipped roofs, square Italianate type columns and small brackets. A pediment marks the main entrance to the house.

Map No. 9 504 W. Main St. Kinney-Coxe House 1851, 1878¹²

This Italianate-French Second Empire house was originally built as an Italianate block in 1851. In 1878 it received its classically appointed mansard roof. Around the early twentieth century, it received the west side addition. The two and one-half story cream brick main block is topped with a wood-shingled mansard roof. Projecting from the mansard are classically-appointed dormers featuring pilasters, brackets, a denticulated frieze, and a decorated roofline. Under the eaves of the mansard is a denticulated frieze and paired brackets. The windows are mostly single pane double-hung sashes with stone lintels and sills. The entrance is flanked with sidelights and topped with a transom in the Greek Revival manner. Covering the front facade is a classical porch probably added during the early twentieth century. It features a heavy wooden roof and frieze supported by large round wooden columns, and a spooland-spindle balustrade. The one and one-half story addition on the west facade features brick construction, small square double-hung sash windows, and a barrell-vault porch with round, thin, wooden columns.

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Map No. 10 452 W. Main St. T. D. Weeks House 1849, 1879 This two story Italianate-Second Empire house is a cream brick structure with an

This two story Italianate-Second Empire house is a cream brick structure with an elaborate cornice and front entry porch. Projecting from the mansard roof of the house are two large chimneys and several small, simply decorated dormers. The wide overhanging eaves are supported by brackets and the paneled frieze is decorated with dentils. A gable rises from the cornice creating a gable-roofed projection from the mansard. Windows of this house are single pane double-hung sashes decorated with prominent stone sills and lintels. An elaborate Italianate porch decorates the front entrance and features square posts, large and small brackets, and a frieze with two carved moldings. Recently renovated into law offices, this building is a fine example of adaptive reuse of large homes.

Map No. 13 404 W. North St. Nelson Salisbury House 1874 14

This two story cream brick Italianate house was built by local builder Nelson Salisbury as his own residence in 1874. The building has a very low pitched hipped roof with intersecting gables. A massive cornice decorates the building and includes heavy paired brackets and heavy modillions. The cornice rises to a gable on the front facade, making a broken pediment. Single pane double-hung sash windows are decorated with pedimented stone hoods and stone sills. The front facade is covered with a porch that includes thin posts, brackets, and a denticulated frieze. A rear porch is similarly decorated.

Map No. 14 Library Grounds Julius Birge Fountain 1903¹⁵

Julius Birge purchased this zinc and cast iron fountain from J. W. Fiske of New York in 1903. Its height measures 17 1/2 feet. A ground level basin, 9 feet in diameter encompasses a pedestal supporting a smaller, second basin, which supports a figure described as a water nymph. Four cherub-on-dolphin figurines surround the pedestal between basins; each figurine is 3 1/2 feet tall. Julius Birge was a local miller and he gave this fountain to the community because it represented both the land and water that caused the success of the town. The fountain is located on the site of the first brick schoolhouse of the community reportedly where Birge attended school. On August 14, 1988 the city of Whitewater celebrated the completion of the restoration of this fountain. The refurbished fountain is one of the largest and most complicated public restoration projects in the community's history.

Map No. 15 402 W. Main St. White Memorial Library 1903-04¹⁶
Architect: Claude and Starck¹⁷

This one story library building is constructed of tan brick and is decorated in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The building has a hipped roof with a projecting gable that caps the front entry pavilion. The building has a raised foundation defined by a stone water table and a plain entablature surrounds the building under the roof-line. Windows on the front facade are large single panes with transoms that are divided in a cross pattern by wooden muntins. Windows on the side facade are ribbonswindows on the upper part of the wall. These windows also feature the cross

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pattern done in wooden muntins. The windows have stone lintels and sills and on the side facade the window sills run together creating a belt course. There are raised, narrow brick pilasters separating the front windows. These pilasters are topped with Ionic capitals. The main entrance to the building is set in the entry pavilion. It is flanked by colossal Ionic columns and a stone surround. There is a transom over the double wood and glass door entrance. There are pilasters decorating all four corners of the building.

Map No. 16 328 W. Main St. Hamilton House 1861¹⁸

This Second Empire House is elaborately decorated with both Second Empire and Queen Anne details. The building is one and one-half stories in height and constructed of cream brick. The mansard roof is shingled with asphalt shingles and features arched-roofed dormers decorated with pilasters and arches. Two two-story bays at each end of the house rise above the roofline with narrow mansard roof peaks. These bays are decorated with brackets, a denticulated frieze, pilasters, and wooden panels. One story bays that are similarly decorated also occur on the house. Windows are single pane doublehung sashes and are either square, round arched, or segmentally arched. Some windows have brick arches. There are several porches on this house. Two front porches feature square Italianate style posts, brackets, and a simple balustrade. One front porch is part of the Queen Anne decoration on this house. It features turned posts, a spool and spindle balustrade and frieze, brackets, and a pediment. The other Queen Anne feature of the house includes a west side two-story bay that has a Queen Anne style decorated gable. These Queen Anne additions are minor and do not overwhelm the original Second Empire style.

Map No. 21 401 W. Main St. First English Lutheran Church 1886¹⁹

This Gothic Revival church features fine rusticated stone construction that suggests the Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time of its construction date. It has basically a square plan with a main steeply pitched gable roof off which are both the square corner tower and a hipped roof projection. The tower features an entrance with a decorated transom and steeply-pitched gable overhang. There are also buttresses, rows of rectangular windows, battlements, and round arched openings for the belfry decorating the tower. A large round arched window with stained glass decoration dominates the main front facade of the church. It has muntins separating individual panes of stained glass and arched muntins continue the round arched theme of the openings. The northwest entrance on the front facade features a tudor arch over a transom and double doors. Buttresses flank this entrance.

Map No. 24 429 W. Main St. Newton M. Littlejohn House c. 1859²⁰

This two-story Italianate cream brick house represents the cross-gable variation of the style common in Wisconsin and is a change from the standard square forms seen most frequently in this district. It features an intersecting gable roof, wide eaves, paired brackets with pendants, and a narrow frieze. Its windows are tall, narrow single pane double-hung sashes for the most part and are decorated with

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pedimented stone lintels and stone sills. There is a large two-story bay on the west facade that is clad in wood and is decorated with modillions, pilasters, scalloped shingles, and panels. Small occulus windows appear in the center of each gable end. The building sits on a fine ashlar sandstone foundation and there are two entry porches that cover the front entrances. These porches feature thin, square wooden posts, paired brackets between the eaves and frieze, and cut-out brackets between the posts and frieze. Some alterations to this building, mostly at the rear, have effected its integrity, although not significantly enough to detract from the building's expression of a different version of the Italianate style in this district.

Map No. 29 431 Center St. O'Connor House c.1847²¹

This one and one-half story frame Gothic Revival residence sits on a large lot, much larger than most houses in the community. It features a steeply-pitched intersecting gable roof with wide overhanging eaves. The eaves are decorated with scroll barge-board. The double-hung sashes are decorated with wooden drip moldings. The house also has a screened-in porch on the north facade and there is a large, one-story addition on the south. This addition does not overly detract from the building's original integrity, which is high. One of only two Gothic Revival houses in the district, this building well represents the carpenter Gothic tradition of the style.

Map No. 30 445 Center St. Smith-Allen House 1856²²

This fine Italian Villa two story cream brick residence is one of the finest residences in the district. The main block features a low-pitched hipped roof with wide eaves under which are modillions and a denticulated frieze. A three-story tower dominates the front facade and it features a low-pitched hipped roof under which is decoration like that of the main block. In the third story of the tower is a set of three four-over-four light round arched windows that are topped with a lintel of dentils. Main block windows are casements that are larger on the first floor than the second floor. These windows feature round arched transoms and are decorated with elaborate round arch hoodmolds. The hoodmolds on the first floor feature keystones and brackets while on the second floor they feature scrolls at the top of the hoodmold and pendants at each end. The main entrance is a single wood and glass round arched door decorated with a round arch and pilasters. It is framed by an entablature that features pilasters, brackets, and a small cornice overhang. Above this entrance are two six-pane casement windows topped by a multi-paned round-arched transom and decorated by a cornice hoodmold that is supported with brackets. The house was built by local carpenters Porter and Hunter.

Map No. 31 150 Church St. St. Luke's Episcopal Church 1869²³

This fine Gothic Revival church is constructed of rusticated limestone and has a square plan. The main section of the church lies under the steeply-pitched gable roof and there is a large tower at the southeast corner. The main block is decorated with stepped buttresses and features a large three-part gothic-arched stained glass window unit on the front facade. Dressed stone surrounds contrast with the rusticated stone exterior. Topping the main or middle window section is a quatrefoil stained glass window. At the peak of the gable is an occulus window. The tower is heavily

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decorated with tall, stepped buttresses that are framed in dressed stone. Battlements top the tower and there—are Gothic arched openings for the belfrey. Other Gothic arched openings decorate the tower. A Gothic arched entrance in the tower features double wooden doors and an enclosed transom. All the openings are decorated with dressed stone arches and stone tabs. This use of the dressed stone with the rusticated stone creates a polycromy that suggests the Victorian Gothic style.

Map No. 34 130 Church St. First Congregational Church 1881²⁴

This church is the largest of the fine churches in this district and is a fine example of the Romanesque Revival architectural style. Basically square in plan it features tall, intersecting steeply-pitched gable roofs and a cream brick exterior. A very tall, square tower reaches upward forming the church's spire. Openings in the church are generally all tall and narrow with round arches decorated with round brick arches. Stained glass fills most of the openings. A large rose window dominates the front gabled facade of the church. Most imposing, though, is the tower which is decorated with brick corbelling, stepped buttresses, and clocks which appear on all four sides of the steeply-pitched gable-roofed peaks of the tower. The shingled spire rises from the top of the tower and the belfry has louvered openings. The main entrance is in the tower and features two heavy wooden doors slightly recessed from the facade. The doors are decorated with a round brick arch identical to those on the windows.

Map No. 36 116 Church St. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1924²⁵

This red brick church is an example of the late Gothic Revival style, a style still seen extensively in churches well into the twentieth century. The church features a rectangular main block with two massive square towers flanking the front facade of the building. The main block has a steeply-pitched gable roof and its openings are large, multi-paned gothic arched windows. The gothic arches are decorated with red brick and stone arches and the windows have stone sills. The use of stone to accent the red brick gives the building a polychromatic feeling. A polychromatic gothic arch also decorates the main entrance to the church. The two towers have openings that are almost all similar to those of the main block. The towers, as well as the church walls, have buttresses and the towers are decorated at the top with battlements. On the first floor of the towers are groups of three narrow windows with a stone lintel and stone sill, somewhat out of character for the building, but reflecting its early twentieth century construction date.

Map. No. 45 619 W. Main St. Hanford Conger House 1867²⁶

This two and one-half story cream brick house was built in the Gothic Revival style and has a modern mid-1900s addition that is non-contributing. The main block of the building has a steeply-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves under which are paired brackets with cut-outs and pendants. The openings on the building are symmetrically placed on the facades and mostly consist of single-pane sashes that are gently arched at the peak. The windows are decorated with arched stone hoods and stone sills. The entrance has a barrel-vault portico with carved brackets and a frieze. Narrow grouped columns on paneled bases support the roof. The entry has glass and wood doors and a transom. The porch covering the ell of the old building is

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slightly less elaborate and features the paired narrowed columns seen on the entry The new addition to the west of the house does detract from the building's historic appearance, but it does not detract from the old portion's high level of preservation. 1873²⁷

707-709 W. Main St. William DeWolf House Map No. 46

This two story frame Italianate house has a gabled ell form with a large rear wing. house has an intersecting low-pitched gable roof with wide overhanging eaves. Under the eaves are modillions and the eaves return at the gable ends of the house. Under the eaves on the ells of the house is a frieze with modillions and brackets. Openings in this house are generally single pane sashes decorated with architrave surrounds. Some of the windows have elaborate hoods that feature overhangs with brackets and carved peaks. There are hipped roofed bays that are decorated with pilasters and brackets that also appear on the facades. The large front porch features grouped columns and large brackets supporting the porch roof. The porch has an elaborately carved frieze. The main entrance features a double wood door with square transom. This late Italianate building type is seen elsewhere in the community in at least two examples outside this district. All have elaborately carved details and, in the case of this building, feature original clapboards and architectural details intact.

BUILDING INVENTORY

Map NO.	Address	<u>Name</u>	Date	Classification
1	708 W. Main St.	Bassett House	1857, 1878	C*
2 2 a	622 W. Main St.	Engebretsen-Dorr House Outbuilding	1895	C NC*
2 2 3 3 4	614 W. Main St.	C. W. Waite House Cutbuilding	1896	C NC
4 4a	604 W. Main St.	George W. Esterly House Outbuilding	1876	C NC
5	122 N. Esterly Ave.	G. W. Esterly Carriage House	1885, 1919	C
5a.	**	Outbuilding		NC
5a. 6	532 W. Main St.	Lucius Winchester House	1867	C
6a	n	Outbuilding		NC
7	522 W. Main St.	Sanger Marsh House	1861	C
8	514 W. Main St.	DeBauffer Residence	1915 ²⁸	C
8A	11	Outbuilding		NC
9	504 W. Main St.	Kinney-Coxe House	1851,1878	8 c
9A	504 W. Main St.	Outbuilding	.	NC
10	452 W. Main St.	T. D. Weeks House	1849, 1879	C
11	426 North St.	I. G. Graham House	c. 1890 ²⁹	e c
12	416 North St.	L. L. Clark House	c. 1890 ³⁰	O C

^{*}C=Contributing: NC=Non-contributing

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Map	Address	Name	Date	Classification
12a	416 North St.	Outbuilding		NC
13	404 North St.	Nelson Salisbury House	1874	C
14	402 W. Main St.	Julius Birge Fountain	1903	Ċ
15	402 W. Main St.	White Memorial Library	1903-04	C
16	328 W. Main St.	Hamilton Hause	1067	α .
17	314 W. Main St.	Rufus Cheney House	1851-52 ³ 1858 ³²	31 C
18	310 W. Main St.	Bowers House	185832	~
	304 W. Main St.	Simon Law Office	c.1880 ³³ 1841 ³⁴	G .
	329 W. Main St.	Powers House	184134	Č ,
21	401 W. Main St.	First English Lutheran Church	1886	f ?
22	413 W. Main St.	Skindingsrude Funeral Home	c.1870 ³⁵	Š Č
22a	"	Outbuilding	0.1070	. NC
23	417 W. Main St.	First English Lutheran Parish Hse.	c 1885 ³⁶	C
24	429 W. Main St.	N. M Littlejohn House	c.1859	. Ğ
25	123 Church St.	Thrift Shop	c.1859 c.1879 ³⁷	, G
25a	"	Outbuilding	0.10/9	NC
26	129-133 Church St.	Residence	c.1879 ³⁸	
27	139 Church St.	Residence	c.1879 ³⁹	d
27a	"	Outbuilding		NC
28	430 Center St.	L. J. Stephens House	190140	C
28a	"	Outbuilding	1901	NC
20a 29	431 Center St.	O'Connor House	1847	C
29a	" "	Outbuilding	1047	NC
30	445 Center St.	Smith-Allen House	1856	C
31	150 Church St.	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	1860	C
32	146 Church St.	St. Luke's Rectory	1869 1884 ⁴¹	C
32a	"	Outbuilding	1004	NC
33	140 Church St.	St. Luke's Guild Hall	1902 ⁴²	C
34	130 Church St.	First Congregational Church	1 2 2 1	a
35	120 Church St.	St. John's Rectory	c.1870 ⁴³	3 č
25a	11	Outbuilding	0.1070	NC
35a 36	116 Church St.	St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church	1924.	C
37	451 W. Main St.	Griffith House Apartments	197244	NC
38	507 W. Main St.	J. J. Starin House	186045	C
,	201 m. c.man. 200			
39	519 W. Main St.	Pescheret House	c.1924 c.1912,	16 c
))	<i>J1</i> / " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	1 CDCNCIC U NOUDC	c.1935	U
40	519 W. Main St.	Outbuilding		MO
41	527 W. Main St.	Everhardt Residence	c.1890 ⁴⁷	, NC C
41a	βεγ w. Haili 50.	Outbuilding		NΩ
42	531-33 W. Main St.	Whaley Residence	c.1857 ⁴⁸	NC C
42a	n norm no.	Outbuilding		MC
42a 43	603 W. Main St.	Residence	c.1890 ⁴⁹) NC
4)	OO) W. MAIN DO.	MESTMENCE		NC
			C.1955	
43a	11	Outbuilding		NC

²¹Cravath, p. 78.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Section number Pag	ge 10 Main Street Historic Whitewater, Walworth						
Map NO. Address	Name	Date Classification					
44 611 W. Main St. 44a " 45 619 W. Main St.	" Outbuilding NC						
45 619 W. Main St. 46 707-709 W. Main St.	Hanford Congar House William DeWolf House	1867 C 1873 C					
NOTES TO SECTION 7:		-					
Whitewater Register, 23 Milwaukee Journal, 15 J Tbid.	May 1857; Whitewater Register, uly 1962.	1 August 1878.					
Whitewater Register, 10							
Whitewater Register, 5 6 Ibid.	October 1876.						
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	December 1885; Whitewater Regis	ter, 9 October, 1919.					
8 Whitewater Register, 8							
9 Ibid.	·						
10 Whitewater Register, 9 11 Ibid.	March 1861.						
12 Whitewater Register, 1	August 1878.						
Federation of Women's Clubs	Annals of Whitewater, 1837-1867, 1906, p. 83.	Whitewater, WI: Whitewater					
Whitewater Register, 5	February 1874 and 6 August 1874.						
Whitewater Register, 5 fountain.	February 1903 and inscription on	the lower basin of the					
16 Whitewater Register, 7	May 1903 and 21 June 1904.						
17 <u>Ibid</u> . 18 <u>Milwaukee Journal</u> , 2 No	vember 1075						
Whitewater Register, 16	January, 1975.						
²⁰ Information for the c. possession of the building'	date came from an analysis of th s owner, David Kachel, Whitewate reat grandson of Newton M. Littl	r, wisconsin and information					

22 Whitewater Gazette, 15 May 1856 and 25 December 1856; Whitewater Register, 23 May 1857.

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Main Street Historic District. Section number ⁷ Page Whitewater, Walworth Co., WI 23 Account of the church's history, on file at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Whitewater, 24 Diamond Jubliee of the Congregational Church of Whitewater, Whitewater: First Congregational Church, 1915, p. 18. ²⁵Building cornerstone. 26 Whitewater Register, 8 November 1867. 27 Whitewater Register, 23 October, 1873. Date of construction information from the current owner, Sally DeBauffer. ²⁹Field Observation. 30 Field Observation. 31_{Cravath, p. 92.} 32 Whitewater Register, 20 November, 1858. 33Field Observation. 34 Cravath, p. 226. 35 Field Observation. 36 Field Observation. ³⁷Plat Maps for the city of Whitewater, 1870, 1885 and field observation. 38_{Tbid} . 39 Thid. Whitewater Register, 19 December 1901. 41 Account of the church's history, on file at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Whitewater, Wisconsin. 42 Tbid. 43 Plat Maps for the city of Whitewater, 1870, 1885 and field observation. Information on date from the owner. Whitewater Register, 19 May 1860; 1912 and 1924 Sanborn-Perris Maps for the city of Whitewater, on file in the Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. 46 Dates of construction and alteration based on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1912 and the abstract of the property in the possession of the current owner. ⁴⁷Field Observation. Plat map for the city of Whitewater, 1857 and field observation.

⁵⁰Property abstract in possession of the current owner, and field observation.

8. Statement of Significance					
Certifying official has considered the	significance of this nationally	s property in r		er properties: ocally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	XXA B	ZZC □D			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	XXA B	_c	□E □	F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categorie Architecture	s from instructions	s)	Period of Sig 1840-193	nificance	Significant Dates
Education					
Industry Commerce					
Commerce			Cultural Affili N/A	ation	
Significant Person N/A		_	Architect/Buil Claude, Koch, H.	Louis W.,	and Starck, Edward ²

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Main Street Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is being nominated under criterion A because, as the most prestigious residential neighborhood in Whitewater during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the district contains several homes of important businesspersons in the areas of commerce and industry. Also located in this district is the White Memorial Library, Whitewater's first and only free public library, a center of community education since the early twentieth century. The district is also being nominated under criterion C, because it contains several outstanding examples of nineteenth century architecture, and because the district as a whole, contains the most concentrated selection of fine architecture in the city.

The residential and cultural center of Whitewater since the village was platted in 1858, the Main Street Historic District is a historically and architecturally significant group of buildings reflecting the community's rapid rise from a railroad town to Walworth County's largest city. Built mostly between 1855 and 1905, the district includes many fine Italianate and Queen Anne homes, as well as Gothic and Romanesque Revival churches and a Neo-classical Revival public library. Collectively, the buildings form a neighborhood of religious, educational, and social activity. Despite the variety of functions of individual buildings, both past and present, and the span of years during which they were built, the district maintains a remarkable unity of scale, materials, and design. Today, the historic character and architectural integrity of the district is fairly well preserved and the district sits in a prominent position, located between the city's commercial district and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus.

Historical Background

The history of the Main Street Historic District in Whitewater is tied to the general development of the community. With the completion of the Blackhawk War, the federal government successfully extinguished Indian titles to the lands of the old Northwest. Federal surveyors blocked out the area under provisions of the Ordinance of 1785. Walworth was one of the several counties created by the first session of the Wisconsin territorial legislature in 1836. A Milwaukee district land office opened in that year. The Erie Canal provided cheap access to the west since 1825. A trickle of New

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Englanders passed through the Whitewater area on route from Milwaukee to establish homesteads in Lima or Fort Atkinson or beyond. But only Samuel Prince, a widower from Vermont, staked his claim in 1836. He built his log cabin in section six of the township, and, thus, became the first resident of present-day Whitewater. 4

Better transportation was provided when an improved territorial road from Racine County included Whitewater on the route to Madison. A regular mail stage soon connected Whitewater with the lake cities of Milwaukee and Racine. Area settlers raised wheat in abundance and the fresh fertile lands of the town provided rich harvests. Soon the waterpower of Whitewater Creek would be harnassed for mills for the fledgling community. A grist mill was built in 1839 and it attracted trade to Whitewater. Being the center of the community, the mill became a hub from which the city was platted westward. It was to the north and west of this original town that this district developed. (The district map shows how the original streets radiated from the hub--see Main St., Center St., Forest Ave. and Whitewater St. on the map.)

The busy grist mill and the 1852 completion of the railroad to Whitewater increased the opportunities for trade and commerce. Whitewater village soon became the local market center of a twelve-mile agricultural region which included 200 farm families. By 1850 the community had a school, two churches, two hotels, six stores, two cabinet shops, and brick kilns. Three major industries in the nineteenth century began in the 1850s in Whitewater. They were the Winchester Wagon Works, the Esterly Reaper Works, and the Trippe and Crombie paper mill. Between 1852 and 1854, 77 buildings were erected in the community and the population swelled to 1825. Between 1850 and 1860, other industries grew in the community including Wright and Cash, a corn cultivator manufacturer, a pottery factory, lumber yards, and a furniture factory.

By 1860 the town had increased by 1200 inhabitants and had 412 dwellings. The tremendous housing efforts and the increased business and manufacturing activity possibly account for the 77 carpenters, 25 masons, 46 blacksmiths, and 86 laborers found on the roll of village residents. In April of 1858 a meeting of 42 leading citizens petitioned the legislature to incorporate the village and the Governor approved. 7

The rapid economic growth in the community as described above meant that the physical development of the community was also rapid. Several neighborhoods of small houses sprang up around the factories of the community. The same type of modest housing was part of the early development of the Main Street Historic District and is represented by the Powers House (Map No. 20), constructed in 1841. But while early homes in the district were modest, during the 1850s and 1860s the Main Street Historic District began to develop into a spacious residential neighborhood where many of Whitewater's prominent middle class citizens lived. Leading the way for this development were the Bassett House, built in 1857 (Map No. 1); the Smith-Allen House, built in 1856 (Map No. 30); the J. J. Starin House, built in 1860 (Map No. 38); the Sanger Marsh House, built in 1861 (Map No. 7); and the Lucius Winchester House, built in 1867 (Map No. 6). Other large homes of prominent residents soon followed until the modest houses were overshadowed by the newer, prestigious houses designed in the Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Second Empire Styles. Adding to the graciousness of many homes

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was their fine brick construction. Brick-making in Whitewater had begun in 1841 and continued past the end of the nineteenth century. Bricks were one of Whitewater's best known products. The fine clay, found in the vicinity of Whitewater Creek, produced a cream-colored brick which was soon found in the fabric of business blocks, public buildings, and fine residences of the area. At least five firms were involved, at different times, during the nineteenth century brick-making era.

Another major development in the history of Whitewater and one that had an impact on the Main Street Historic District was the establishment of the Whitewater Normal School. The selection of Whitewater as a site was due largely to the foresight and generosity of local citizens and the political astuteness of local judge Samuel A. White. In 1860, citizens of the town had approached the newly established State Normal School Board with an offer of money and land to establish a school at Whitewater, but met with no success. When Judge White was appointed to the Board of the Normal School Regents in 1865, he moved for the immediate establishment of two normal schools. His proposal was adopted and the first school, Platteville, soon opened in an old academy building. The Board then voted to accept bids for a second school. There was some lively competition between the several cities that sought the Normal but Whitewater's bid was accepted. The Normal School opened in its handsome new building in 1868 and was located just west of the Main Street Historic District. A faculty of nine enrolled 48 pupils in the Normal Department and the area supplied 102 students for the Model School. By 1876 the enrollment at Whitewater Normal School was 343 and by 1898 the enrollment reached 386 students.

In 1876, Whitewater was described as a "prosperous village . . . containing nearly 4000 [people] presenting many attractions [with] handsomely shaded streets. . . . "
It was clear that Whitewater had made tremendous growth spurts between 1836 and 1876. In the centennial year almost 40 percent of the less than 100 Whitewater citizens regarded as entrepreneurs lived on two of the "handsomely shaded streets"—Main and North—both in the Main Street Historic District. Their residences were substantial; some were built with the soft cream colored brick made in Whitewater brickyards. Residences along Main and North lined the streets on 47 lots west of the business district to the Normal School. The north side of North Street, which merged at the Library site (then Triangle Park) ran unbroken by intersections to Prairie Street. Three streets entered from the south. In this manner, owners of these prestigious residences were removed from the noise and clamor of the village center. The factories and warehouses lay well to the south along the railroad or east of the stone mill. 10

Most of the largely Yankee and New Yorker transplants living in the district dated their residency in Whitewater from before the Civil War; ll could even claim the same address for more than 20 years. Their occupations mirrored the diverse facets of the village's industrial, commercial, and professional life from the head of the Normal School to the prosperous Norwegian dealer in millinery and fancy goods. The district certainly provided a fine place to live.

Whitewater's boom period ended during the 1890s with the closing of the Esterly Reaper Works, the demise of the Winchester Wagon Works, and the shutdown of the Trippe and Crombie paper mill. The result was that from the 1890s on, Whitewater was in a

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period of business stabilization, but not growth. This had a great impact on the physical development of the community and on the Main Street Historic District. Few Queen Anne houses or commercial blocks were built and later styles, such as the period revival styles, the bungalow, and the craftsman are not seen in the numbers that the Italianate or nineteenth century vernacular forms had been seen in the community. There are a few exceptions to this in the district including the outstanding Engebretsen-Dorr House (Map No. 2), built in 1895, a fine Queen Anne house; and the C. W. Waite House (Map No. 3), built in 1896, a more classically-influenced Queen Anne House. But by and large, the Queen Anne and later styles are seen less frequently than earlier styles in this district and in the community. 12

On the other hand, the stabilization of Whitewater meant that remodeling and updating of existing houses was held to a minimum and few neighborhoods were radically changed with demolition and new construction. The result was that the Main Street Historic District, with its large concentration of fine nineteenth century homes, saw little change until well into the mid-twentieth century. This accounts for its current appearance of mostly mid-nineteenth century residences with a fairly high degree of integrity overall. It would take the growth of the Normal School into a university during the last 30 years to start adversely affecting this neighborhood that sits on its edge.

During the twentieth century, the community's business interests created a stable economic environment and the steady growth of the Normal School created job opportunities for Whitewater residents. During the last 30 years, the Normal School has been transformed into a university with a student enrollment that is double that of the community's population. This growth has meant jobs for the community, but it has also meant changes in the district. The larges houses near the university were perfect for transformation into rooming houses for students or for fraternity or sorority houses. And, many of these houses have been altered or remodeled to better fit these new uses. Today the neighborhood is one of mixed uses: apartment houses, Greek houses, and office spaces. But, still, the overall appearance of the district is that of a nineteenth century neighborhood that grew out of the tremendous successes of the community in the mid-nineteenth century.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Main Street Historic District is significant for architecture because it has, within its boundaries, a number of outstanding examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture, and, because the district as a whole contains the greatest concentration of fine residential architecture in the city. The architecture of this district is outstanding because many of its individual buildings represent fine or outstanding features of a particular architectural style. Also, taken together, the large and distinguished buildings of this district architecturally represent a stately nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhood. And, contributing to the cohesive nature of the district is the fact that many of the buildings are constructed with local cream brick, and several are the work of a local builder or prominent architect.

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According to Wisconsin's <u>Cultural Resource Management Plan</u>, the Italianate style is seen in great numbers throughout Wisconsin. Most examples of this style were built between the 1850s and 1870s and the style commonly featured wide eaves, brackets, low-pitched hipped or gable roofs, and square plans. Details of the style also included window hoodmolds or round arches, and bays. Examples are seen with clapboard, brick, or stone exteriors. This district has an outstanding concentration of Italianate buildings, most of which were built with local cream brick. The vast majority of Italianates in this district have a square plan, hipped roof, wide eaves, and brackets. Elaborately decorated cornices are seen on several examples, but most often on three buildings constructed by local builder Nelson Salisbury (Map Nos. 6, 7, and 13).

Probably the most outstanding Italianate residence is the Smith-Allen House (Map No. 30), built in 1856. It features the standard square plan but has a fine three-story tower of the Italian Villa style. It also has an elaborate cornice, window hoods, and main entrance. The round arched windows are also outstanding. This fine house is in excellent condition with a high level of integrity. Probably the next finest Italianate houses in the district are the G. W. Esterly House and Carriage House (Map Nos. 4 and 5). The Esterly House was built in 1876 and expresses itself as a late Italianate building with the trademark central gable with returned eaves. Its outstanding features include round arched windows and an elaborate cornice with brackets. The matching carriage house built in 1885 and remodeled into living quarters in 1919 mirrors the Esterly house with its bracketed cornice and arched windows. It features some Colonial Revival details from its 1919 remodeling, but they do not overly detract from the original structure. What is particularly outstanding about the Esterly House and Carriage House is that they exist today as an intact house with matching carriage house, both built with brick. Whitewater has only a few extant carriage houses in the community, most of which are of the frame variety with little detail. That the Esterly House and Carriage House exist today is truly significant and speaks to the preservation efforts of past and present owners.

The Esterly House is also significant as the work of noted architect H. G. Koch of Milwaukee. Koch was a German immigrant who came to Milwaukee with his family in the 1840s. After service in the Civil War and architectural studies, Koch established the firm of Henry G. Koch and Son. He gained a reputation in the late nineteenth century after designing a number of public buildings in Milwaukee. The most important were the old City Hall, 1895, and the city's finest fire-proof building, the Pfister Hotel. Koch designed outside of Milwaukee frequently. His best known works are the Richardsonian Romanesque Science Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in 1888, and the Catholic Church of Il Gesu in Marquette, Wisconsin. The firm of Koch and Son designed numerous courthouses and schools in Wisconsin and other states as well. Koch's Esterly House (Map No. 4), a fine Italianate structure, is a good example of the architect's early residential work outside of Milwaukee. It also indicates the prominence of G. W. Esterly, son of industrialist George Esterly, who could afford and desired a prestigious out-of-town architect to design his home.

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There are three Italianate buildings in this district that add to the architectural significance of the district because they are fine examples of Italianate architecture. but also because they were examples of the work of local builder Nelson Salisbury. Salisbury was born in New York in 1813. He came to Wisconsin in 1841 and farmed in the Town of Lima in Rock County. In 1856 he moved to Whitewater and engaged in the lumber business, banking, and eventually building. He built the Sanger Marsh House (Map No. 7) in 1861, the Lucius Winchester House (Map No. 6) in 1867, and his own house (Map No. 13) in 1874. All the buildings were constructed with cream brick and both the March House and the Winchester House feature almost identical hipped roofs.lintels, and plans. They are both almost classic square plan Italianates. His own house reflects more the late Italianate style with a front gable that features a broken pediment that is formed by the returned eaves of the cornice. The porches on his own house are also more decorative and detailed than that of the Marsh House (the Winchester House has lost its original porches). Clearly, Salisbury was a prolific and talented builder who utilized the local cream brick and standard Italianate details to create spacious and elegant residences for himself and two prominent residents of the district. And, while he did not stray from the standard interpretation of the Italianate style, his buildings indicate that he had talent in executing fine, if standard, buildings in the style. 15

Finally, there are two other outstanding Italianate structures in this district that help support the fact that this district is significant for architecture. They are the Bassett House (Map No. 1) and the William DeWolf House (Map No. 46). The Bassett House, built in 1857, is a good example of the standard square plan Italianate house. Its early construction date explains why it has the symmetrical feel of the Greek Revival style. It is simply decorated with a bracketed cornice, bay, and flat window lintels. But it high level of preservation, and lack of extensive remodeling, make this house, currently the home of the Whitewater Women's Clubs, a prominent landmark along Main Street. The William DeWolf House is unusual in this district because it is not constructed of brick. But its Italianate features make it an outstanding example of the late Italianate style. Built in 1873, the DeWolf house has an intersecting gabled ell plan, unusual in this district of square plan Italianates. Its outstanding feature is the finely decorated cornice with its returned eaves at the gable ends. The decorated bays, hoodmolds, and elaborate porch all add to the distinction of this building. There are at least two other similar houses outside of this district in Whitewater. This suggests a common builder, but none has been discovered. This building has a high level of integrity and adds to the diversity of architecture in this district.

There are two outstanding Gothic Revival residences in this district that add to the architectural significance of the district. The O'Connor House (Map No. 29) is a fine carpenter gothic house and the old portion of the Hanford Conger House (Map No. 45) is an excellent example of this style in a brick structure. Wisconsin's <u>Cultural Resource Management Plan</u> indicates that the Gothic Revival style in Wisconsin spanned the years between 1850 and 1880. Typical Gothic Revival details were pointed arches, steeply-pitched gable roofs, pinnacles, battlements, and decorative bargeboards. The style was popular for churches, and in Wisconsin, churches in the style were frequently built of stone. 1680th houses have the bargeboards, drip moldings, arched windows and steeply-pitched roofs of the style. For this neighborhood to have two such fine examples

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of the Gothic Revival style that are not churches is a significant statement about the architecture in this district.

There are several residences in the district that are examples of the Second Empire style of architecture, including one example that is outstanding. According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Second Empire style was popular in Wisconsin between 1870 and 1880. They are characterized by their mansard roofs that often include dormers. Details on Second Empire buildings were very similar to those of Italianate buildings even though the popularity of the two styles was not concurrent. Often, Italianate houses were given mansard roofs in an effort to update or remodel an older house. In this district there are three examples of Second Empire architecture, two of which were probably Italianate houses with mansard roofs attached and one of which is a fine example of an elaborate Second Empire house. The two houses that may have been altered with mansard roofs are the Kinney-Coxe house which was a very classical Italianate house when first constructed in 1851 and received a mansard when remodeled in 1878 (Map No. 9); and the T. D. Weeks house, a finely detailed Italianate house when it was built in 1849, then given a mansard roof in 1879. Both of these houses are good examples of the use of the Second Empire style to update a house during the height of the Second Empire's popularity. The third house is the Hamilton House (Map No. 16) and it features an abundance of detail. The mansard provides the small building with a second story, but it is the heavily detailed bays and porches that give this house much of its stylish appearance. The few Queen Anne era details of the house do not overly detract from its original style and add to the elaborateness of the building. Vacant in recent years, the house is in need of renovation, although its current condition has not yet effected its overall integrity.

According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Queen Anne style was an important architectural movement of the period 1880 to 1910 in Wisconsin. Queen Anne houses expressed complexity and irregularity in their plans and details. Other Queen Anne details include a variety of surface textures, multiple roofs and wall projections, steeply-pitched roofs, round or polygonal turrets, wrap-around verandas, and classical details. 18 Because the boom years in Whitewater were over by the peak popularity of the Queen Anne style, fewer houses were built in that style than had been built in the Italianate, Gothic Revival, or Second Empire. One noted exception, though, is the Engebretsen-Dorr House (Map No. 2), the most opulent Queen Anne house in Whitewater, and one of the finest frame Queen Anne houses in the area. It features all the classic details of the Queen Anne including complexity and irregularity of plan, the use of clapboards and scalloped shingles for a variety of surface textures, many gable peaks and projections, a fine octagonal turret, a wrap-around veranda decorated with classical details, and irregularly placed and grouped openings. This house has a high level of preservation and is truly an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. The C. W. Waite House (Map No. 3) is also a fine example of the Queen Anne style, although more symmetrical than the Engebretsen-Dorr House. It uses projecting gable sections to create more asymmetry on the basically square plan, and also features a classically-detailed wrap-around veranda. The window treatment is more symmetrical than the Engebretsen-Dorr House, although there is some variation in window size. Especially nice are multi-paned windows in the attic story. Other Queen Anne houses in this district are much simpler, expressing their style only in their size and asymmetrical plans.

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Aside from the fine residences in this district, there are four churches of outstanding style and construction existing very close to each other in the district. These churches are outstanding in their style as good examples of the Gothic Revival, late Gothic Revival. Gothic Revival-Richardsonian Romanesque, and Romanesque Revival styles. The early Gothic Revival St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Map_No. 31), built in 1869 features the gothic arched openings, buttresses, and battlements typical of the style. But they are achieved in a building of exceptional rough stone construction, with smooth stone trim, creating a Victorian polychromatic touch. The late Gothic Revival St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Map No. 36), built in 1924 shows how the Gothic Revival style was still popular in church construction well into the twentieth century. . It, too, features the gothic arched openings, buttresses and battlements of the style, and the use of red brick with light stone trim also give this building a polychromatic touch. The First English Lutheran Church (Map No. 21), built in 1886 is an example of how the Gothic Revival was blended with the Richardsonian Romanesque style. very popular in 1886, to create an unusual church building with some steeply-pitched roofs and round arched openings. Even more outstanding, though, in this building is the rusticated stone construction of the church, a popular building material of the Richardsonian Romanesque style era. Finally, the First Congregational Church (Map No. 34), built in 1881 is a very traditional Romanesque Revival cream brick structure. It features the round arched openings and rose window popularly seen with the style, and its overall plan and construction details reflect typical church construction in Wisconsin. The outstanding feature here, though, is the very tall steeple with the clock above the belfry. The steeple is a landmark and can be viewed from outside the city.

The last outstanding feature of this district is the White Memorial Library (Map No. 15), built in 1903-04. It was designed by the prolific library architectural firm of Claude and Starck of Madison. Louis W. Claude and Edward Starck were both Madison area natives. After working in Chicago for Louis Sullivan and other progressive designers, Claude returned to Madison and formed a partnership with Edward Starck, who had worked in Chicago and in Milwaukee for the noted Milwaukee architect. E. T. Mix. The firm of Claude and Starck (1896-1929) not only was noted for their many fine prairie style buildings in Madison, but also as the most prolific of library architects in the state and the upper midwest 19 The White Library is typical of Claude and Starck's classical library designs and resembles the firm's work on libraries in nearby communities. The Claude and Starck designed library in this district is an architectural gem, primarily because it has had no remodeling and therefore, little loss of integrity. It represents a pristine work of the firm in the area of library architecture in which Claude and Starck excelled. It also is one of the few classically-influenced buildings in the community (the best example being the local Masonic Temple in the commercial area of Whitewater). Because of its fine design in a style not seen often in the community, and because it is one of the community's few buildings designed by a noted architectural firm, the White Library adds architectural significance to this district.

These architectural elements, taken together, give this district its architectural significance. The fine architecture, along with the continuity of style, scale, and building materials, and an appearance that still reflects the district's origin as a

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prestigious residential neighborhood, all come together to make the Main Street Historic District an architectural landmark in the community.

Commerce

The Main Street Historic District is significant under criterion A, in part because the district was home to a number of prominent individuals involved in commercial activities in Whitewater. These individuals are not individually significant, but taken together, reflect the type of prominent individual that made this district a home during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Wisconsin's <u>Cultural Resource Management Plan</u> has yet to discuss and identify historic resources in <u>commerce</u>, but historians of Wisconsin have discussed the importance of commerce in Wisconsin communities. Trading in goods and services began in Wisconsin communities almost from the beginning of their settlement, some businesses starting out in primitive log cabins. Often pioneer businesses were multi-dimensional, incorporating general store, inn, and post office. As communities developed, even the smallest towns had a variety of stores such as groceries, dry goods, and hardware stores, among others. Larger communities, such as Milwaukee, had larger stores featuring more specialty goods. The popularity of retailing increased during the late nineteenth century and while the pioneer general store persisted during this time, it did not increase in numbers, as retailing became more specialized. Most significantly, in retailing during the nineteenth century, high turnover of businesses was the rule and not the exception. 20

An important part of commercial activities in Wisconsin were service activities, especially banking. A boom in the establishment of banks occurred in Wisconsin during the 1850s, and by 1871 there were 105 banking facilities in 58 towns in Wisconsin. Nineteen of these towns had more than one facility. In 1891 there were 272 banking facilities in 172 communities and 67 towns had more than one bank. Most communities also featured a wide range of other services, such as livery stables, photographers, dentists, physicians, and lawyers. 21

The development of commerce in Whitewater was typical of the above scenario. Between 1836 and c. 1890, as detailed in the historical background section, there was a great growth in commercial businesses in the community. Some of these businesses became large and significant establishments in Whitewater and some of their owners were typical of the prominent residents of this district. For example Sanger Marsh (Map No. 7) was a native New Yorker who was born in 1815 and came to Whitewater in 1845. He opened a general store in town and was a prominent merchant in the community until 1855. But in 1863, just after he had his home in this district built, he and C. M. Blackman organized the First National Bank of Whitewater, a long-time bank in the community. Marsh was President of the bank until he died in 1872.

Another resident of the district who was prominent in commerce was Newton M. Littlejohn, who lived at 429 W. Main St. (Map No. 24). Littlejohn was born in New York State in 1823 and came to Wisconsin in 1856. A successful lumber merchant, Littlejohn was a local politician who served several terms as a state senator. He lived in the district during much of his productive work life in the community. J. J.

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Starin, like Littlejohn, was a transplanted New Yorker who came to Whitewater in 1840. He began his career as a merchant's clerk and eventually bought his way into the business. The Brady, Starin, & Cook Store was a prominent business in Whitewater in the nineteenth century and Starin lived in his house in the district (Map No. 38) during much of his productive life in the community.²³

Finally, in the area of commercial services, T. D. Weeks (Map No. 10) was a leading citizen. Weeks was born in Massachusetts in 1833. He came to Wisconsin in 1843 as a boy, was educated in local schools, then at Lawrence University, where he graduated in 1858. He attended Albany Law School in New York State and graduated in 1859. He began practicing law in Whitewater around 1860 and the firm of Weeks and Steel was one of the most prominent in the community. Weeks was also a member of the legislature in 1867 and served in the State Senate in 1874.²⁴

These men indicate the type of person attracted to this district during the period of significance. While not individually significant, they help, in part, explain the historical significance of this district.

Education

The White Memorial Library is individually significant for history under criterion A because it is the site of Whitewater's free public library, in existence since 1903-04. The library is the most important educational institution to serve the entire community and in many cases is the only public educational institution serving adults after their primary and/or secondary education is completed.

Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan discusses the history of the free public library movement in Wisconsin and indicates that the establishment of free public libraries in communities was a significant event in that community's history of education. According to the Plan, the earliest libraries in the state were generally private collections that were occasionally offered for public lending or donated to communities or community organizations. The State of Wisconsin authorized municipalities to establish libraries with tax levies as early as 1868, but few communities did. Most likely, an early public library was established when wealthy citizens donated money for that purpose. Between 1882 and 1900, 20 communities received donations for public libraries from wealthy citizens. In the 1890s the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Free Library Commission promoted free public libraries as a means to promote intellectual and moral development in young people, and as an aid in assimilating immigrants. But the movement was, overall, stymied by a lack of funds until steel magnate Andrew Carnegie began issuing grants for libraries. A total of 64 Carnegie libraries were built in Wisconsin, slightly surpassing the number of libraries founded with local philanthropy. The Plan indicates that early free public library buildings are important resources in the history of education in Wisconsin.25

In 1903-04 the White Memorial Library was built just east of a spot where in 1852 a public school was erected for west side residents of Whitewater. Money for the new library came from Mary Flavia White's estate. Mary White was the daughter of Judge Samuel

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White who had helped Whitewater get the Normal School located there. Claude and Starck of Madison, the prolific library architects, designed the building. Unlike other communities that had to achieve their libraries through massive public fundraising and Carnegie grants, Whitewater was fortunate to have had a local benefactor fund the building and provide a trust that still provides money every year toward the operation of that library. The Whitewater public library has existed in the building in this district ever since its erection. The small classical building has served the community well beyond its capacity to do so. For at least the last decade, the library has been overcrowded as the public usage and demands continue to stretch the facility. The library continues to serve the public in a variety of ways. It has a large reference and fiction collection, a children's collection, and a collection of non-fiction and self-help volumes that are of interest to adults in their quest for more knowledge and job improvement. Space restrictions have hampered the library's desire to provide computer access for both school children and adults. It is clear that the library has served and continues to serve the broad public needs of the community, filling an educational niche not provided by either the public schools or the University of Wisconsin. That the library continues to be a broad public concern is evident by the recent over-one-year public argument and discussion on the construction of a new facility for the library. If this building is vacated, there are already plans to make use of it as a public stucture to continue the building's long history of service to the community.

The White Memorial Library was established during the height of the free public library movement in Wisconsin. Through a local benefactor, a fine public library building could be erected without massive public fund-raising that proved so difficult in many communities and without a Carnegie grant. Because the White library was an important event in the history of education in Whitewater and because it has served and continues to serve the educational needs of the general public, it is significant for education in this district.

Industry

The Main Street Historic District is significant under criterion A, in part because the district was home to two prominent individuals involved in important industrial activities in Whitewater. These individuals are not individually significant, but taken together, reflect the type of prominent individual that made this district a home during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

In the mid-nineteenth century Whitewater was a booming industrial community. The boom ended around 1890, but it was responsible for much of the physical development of the community. There were three industries that fueled the boom. Two were related to the agricultural implement and wagon-making industries and one was related to the paper-making industry. Wisconsin's <u>Cultural Resource Management Plan</u> indicates that all of these industries were significant in Wisconsin. Most agricultural implement and wagon manufacturers grew out of small shops that were frequently found in Wisconsin communities. After the advent of larger factories, small shops declined and the agricultural implement and wagon-making industries were centered in a few large cities in

southern Wisconsin. Homes of owners of these industries have potential significance. 20

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An important industry in Whitewater was the Winchester Wagon Works. It began when two Yankee settlers of long standing in the community collaborated to build a greatly improved iron plow. Lucius Winchester, who migrated from Vermont in 1844 was a blacksmith by trade. William DeWolf was a successful farmer in Heart Prairie. Their skill and money combined to produce an outstanding implement which was an immediate and profitable success. In 1857 they admitted J. S. Partridge, a prosperous merchant and grain trader, to partnership in the Plow Works. In the eary 1860s, the firm expanded the plow manufacturing business and began manufacturing wagons. The business employed about 100 men. In 1873 the firm became known as Winchester and Partridge and a few years later, the Whitewater Wagon won the top award at the Centennial Exposition ` of 1876. For some years the Whitewater Wagon was a staple commodity; made in a variety of models and shipped to remote parts of the world. At peak production, 5,000 wagons were produced annually by a labor force of 200 men. In the late 1880s demand for the wagons fell off and the works virtually stopped production in 1888. In 1892, the firm was disolved. The success of the Winchester and Partridge Wagon helped to build the image of Whitewater as an important manufacturing town. Both Lucius Winchester and William DeWolf, founders of the company lived in this district, but only Winchester lived in the district at the height of the wagon company success (Map No. 6). DeWolf (Map No. 46) lived in the district while he was operating another factory, a wire cloth factory. 2

Industry was very important to Whitewater's growth and development in the nineteenth century. Industry was so important that when it virtually died out at the turn of the century, the community was hard pressed to remain stable. Only the growth of the Normal School maintained economic stability in the community. Had the industries of the nineteenth century been maintained and experienced success, Whitewater would have been a much larger community in the twentieth century. Winchester and DeWolf, along with George W. Esterly (Map No. 4), who inherited his wealth from his industrialist father, are some of the prominent persons who made a home in this district. Because of their wealth the district contains some of its fine nineteenth century homes, since it was the wealthy and successful industrialist, along with the wealthy and successful merchants, bankers, and attorneys who together made much of the Main Street Historic District their homes. So, even though the above mentioned men are not individually significant for industry, they help, in part, give the district its historical significance.

Notes to Section 8:

The period of significance for this district encompasses the period when this district grew and developed and during which important activities took place that relate to its significance both architecturally and historically.

Whitewater Register, 7 May 1903 and 21 June 1904.

³Whitewater Register, 5 October 1876.

Prosper Cravath, <u>Early Annals of Whitewater</u>, 1837-1867, Whitewater, WI: Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs, 1906, p. 7.

⁵Ruth Dorr, "The City Beautiful," in <u>One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary</u>, Whitewater: Publisher Unknown, 1934, p. 13; Joseph Schafer. Wisconsin Domesday

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Book: A History of Agriculture in Wisconsin, Vol. 1: Town Studies, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1922, pp. 142-43.

⁶Schafer, p. 142; Cravath, pp. 66, 96-98; Dorr, p. 13.

Whitewater City Directory of 1858, compiled by Smith, DuMoulin & Company, later abstracted and printed in the Whitewater Register, 27 September 1923; Cravath, p. 109; Dorr, p. 15.

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9"Wisconsin State College," In One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, Whitewater, WI: Publisher Unknown, 1934, p. 19; D. S. Cook, "The Coming of the Normal School," in Prosper Cravath, The Early Annals of Whitewater, Whitewater, WI: Whitewater Federatio of Women's Clubs, 1906, pp. 218-224; M. Janette Bohi, A History of wisconsin State University, Whitewater, WI: Whitewater State University Foundation, 1967, pp. 46, 52, 67-97, 227-228.

10 Historical Atlas of Wisconsin, Milwaukee: Snyder, VanVechten & Company, 1878, p. 244; Combination Atlas Map of Walworth County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Everts, Baskin & Stewart, 1873, pp. 62, 73.

11 Combination Atlas Map, p. 73.

12 Wisconsin Blue Book, Madison: State of Wisconsin, 1906, p. 169.

¹³Barbara Wyatt, Ed., <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. II, Architecture, p. 2-6.

Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, <u>Biographical Dictionary of American</u> Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, p. 353.

¹⁵C. W. Butterfield, <u>History of Walworth County Wisconsin</u>, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1882, p. 641.

16Wyatt, Vol. II, Architecture, 'p. 2-5.

17 Wyatt, Vol. II, Architecture, p. 2-11.

18 Wyatt, Vol. II, Architecture, p. 2-15.

19 Architects Files of the Preservation Planner, City of Madison, Madison Municipal Building, Madison, Wisconsin; and architect's files of the Architectural Historian, State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

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²¹Nesbit, pp. 213-215.

22 Butterfield, p. 634.

23Butterfield, pp. 634, 644.

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CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A

Several churches are located within the boundaries of the Main Street Historic District and are exceptions to Criteria A because they are being nominated solely on the basis of their architectural distinction.

ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

There are no recorded archeological sites within or adjacent to the district and the potential for prehistoric archeological remains is unknown. Due to the early construction of a number of the buildings in the district, there may be extant historic archeological remains, but their location and potential significance is unassessed.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

This nomination is sponsored by the Whitewater Landmarks Commission which has taken an active interest in the preservation of the Main Street Historic District and has designated several buildings in the district as local landmarks. Although considerable sentiment exists locally for the preservation of this neighborhood, it is felt that National Register listing will increase local interest and help to promote continued preservation activity.

²⁴Butterfield, p. 561.

²⁵Wyatt. Vol. III, Education, pp. 5-1--5-5.

²⁶ Wyatt. Vol. II, Industry, Study Units 6, 13, and 14.

^{27&}lt;sub>Salisbury</sub>, "The Industries that Made Whitewater," pp. 234, 237, 259, 279.

See Continuation Pages	
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	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested previously listed in the National Register	X State historic preservation office
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Other State agency Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 23 acres	
Acreage of property	
UTM References	
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11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Carol Lohry Cartwright, Chair	
organization Whitewater Landmarks Commission	date August 31, 1988
street & number Rt. 2, 5581A Hackett Rd.	telephone (414) 473-6820
city or townWhitewater	state <u>WI</u> zip code <u>53190</u>

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the west curbline of Fremont St. and the north curbline of W. Main St., then west along the north curbline of W. Main St. to the east lot line of 329 W. Main St., then south along this line to the rear lot line of 329 W. Main St., then west along this line crossing Fourth St. to the west curbline of Fourth St., then south along this line to the south curbline of the alley between Center and W. Main St., then west along this line to the rear lot lines of 129-133, 139 Church St. and the east lot lines of 430 and 431 Center St., then generally south along this line to the north curbline of Forest Ave., then southwest along this line to the east curbline of Church St., then north along this line to the rear lot line of 445 Center St., then west along this line . to the West lot line of 445 Center St., then north along this line to the north curbline of Center St., then west along this line to the east curbline of Franklin St., then north along this line to the rear lot lines of 507 through 707-09 W. Main St., then generally west along these lines to the west lot line of 707-709 W. Main St., then north along this line, across W. Main St. and along the west lot line of 708 W. Main St. to the rear lot lines of 404 W. North to 708 W. Main St., then generally east along the rear lot lines of 404 W. North to 708 W. Main St. and along the north lot line of 122 N. Esterly Ave., crossing Prairie St., Esterly Ave., and Franklin St. to the west curbline of Park St., then south along this line to the south curbline of North St., then east along this line to the rear lot line of 304 W. Main St., then south and east along this line to the west curbline of Fremont St., then south along this line to the point of beginning.

Justification

The boundaries of the Main Street Historic District encompass the neighborhood that has the best concentration of architecturally and historically important buildings in the city. specifically, boundaries were drawn on the west to exclude the modern structures of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus. This campus provided a natural break in the district on the west and northwest. To the north of the district there is a continuation of residences, but was drawn out of the district because these residences are not of the scale and quality of that within the district and because there are many more intrusions of twentieth century construction. The same can be said for the area to the northeast of the district. However, this area does have some potential as a separate historic district, primarily centered along Fremont Street. It was not included in this district because it does not fit geographically or architectually in the district. To the east of the district is a natural break, the community's downtown commercial center where there are, in general, different types of buildings than those in the district. To the southeast, south and southwest of the district, a residential neighborhood abuts the district, but like the area to the north and northwest of the district, it is not of the same scale and quality as the district buildings. The purpose of this district is to recognize the prestigious neighborhood of large houses of Whitewater's elite historic citizens that grew up along W. Main St., North St., and Church St. There may be a number of individually eligible buildings outside of the district that are similar to those in the district throughout the community, however, outside of this district's boundaries, the cohesiveness of a prestigious neighborhood drops off dramatically.

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This nomination form was the result of a joint effort by all the members of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission for the past several years. Past members Grafton H. Hull, Reed Stvan and Kori Oberle, in particular, were responsible for much of the research contained in this document. Current members of the commission who have contributed to this document include:

Gregg Gauger Jerome Johnson Edward Morgan Florence Rhodes Joan Stradinger

Section Number 10 Geographical Data

UTM References:

E: 16/358120/4743380 F: 16/358180/4743575

G: 16/358305/4743670 H: 16/358180/4743800

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23 of 24: Nos. 44 and 45, view from the northwest.

Section number Photos Page ___ l Main Street Historic District, Whitewater, Walworth Co., WI MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, Whitewater, Walworth Co., WI. Photos by Anil Aggarwal, November, 1987. Negs. at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Area Research Center. Views: 1 of 24: No. 1. view from the southeast and looking out of the district. 2 of 24: Nos. 2, 3, and 4, from the southwest. 3 of 24: No. 2, view from the south. 4 of 24: No. 3, view from the south. 5 of 24: No. 4, view from the south. 6 of 24: Nos. 6 and 7, streetscape from the southwest. 7 of 24: 500 block of W. Main St., north side, view from the southeast. 8 of 24: No. 9, view from the southwest. Nos. 10-13, view from the southwest. 9 of 24: 10 of 24: Intersection of Park St. and North St., looking northeast out of the district. 11 of 24: No. 15, view from the southwest. 12 of 24: No. 16, view from the southeast. 13 of 24: 300 block, W. Main St., north side, view from the east. 14 of 24: No. 21, view from the north. 15 of 24: Nos. 21-24, view from the northwest. 16 of 24: No. 24, view from the northwest. 17 of 24: Nos. 26-28, view from the southwest. 18 of 24: No. 28 on left, view from the southwest and looking out of the district. 19 of 24: No. 30, view from the north. 20 of 24: No. 31, view from the east. 21 of 24: Nos. 34-36, view from northeast. 22 of 24: 400 block, W. Main St., south side, view from the northwest.

24 of 24: No. 46 at left, view from the northeast and looking out of the district.

