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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Other names/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: Roughly located between the Illinois River, the Fox River, Shabbona Street, and Green Street

City or town: Ottawa State: IL County: LaSalle

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Chris E. Hadd</u> 05480	<u>7/24/13</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date:
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Title :** \_\_\_\_\_ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Jon Edson W. Beall* \_\_\_\_\_ *9.18.13* \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site



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Structure   
Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>301</u>	<u>121</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- EDUCATION/school
- COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Italian Renaissance

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Prairie School

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Aluminum

Wood

Brick

Vinyl

Stucco

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The East Side Historic District is one of Ottawa's oldest and premier residential neighborhoods, dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Located on a peninsula just east of downtown Ottawa, its singular connection to the rest of the city is by a bridge across the Fox River along Main Street. The district contains a wide range of architectural styles and types spanning 100 years, most of them with excellent integrity – 83% of the primary structures (204 of 245) are considered contributing to the character of the historic district.

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## Narrative Description

The City of Ottawa is located at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox Rivers in LaSalle County, Illinois, just twelve miles east of the terminus of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. It was platted by the Canal Trustees in 1830 with a canal route that cut across the city just north of the business district. Construction started in 1836, and the canal opened to barge traffic in 1848. Railroads heightened the city's growth, with the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific coming in 1853 and the Chicago Burlington and Quincy in 1867. Besides its early role as an agricultural and later industrial center, Ottawa has always served as the county seat of LaSalle County with an impressive historic courthouse located downtown. With a city population today of 18,786 (2010), Ottawa is connected to the Chicago metropolitan region -- just 84 miles away -- by Interstate Highway 80.

The Ottawa East Side Historic District comprises one of the city's oldest subdivisions and was among its premier neighborhoods in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its location is unique, on a peninsula bordered on the north and west by the Fox River, and on the south by the Illinois River. The only bridge linking the district to the rest of Ottawa west of the Fox River was first built along Main Street in the mid-1850s. To the east, land remained undeveloped. Because of this proximity yet relative isolation to the city's central business and commercial district, the East Side became a prime location for the city's early professional class, who built gracious homes on large lots, many overlooking the Fox River. As the neighborhood matured through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, these larger properties were subdivided into smaller lots with more modest houses.

The majority of the historic district falls within Green's Addition of 1835. Despite the irregular edges of its land mass, this subdivision imposed an orthogonal grid street pattern stretching from Division Street on the west to Green Street on the east. Major streets run east-west, including East Main, Congress, Pearl and Chapel, while minor streets run north-south, including South Division, Orleans, York, Chester, Grafton, and Green. Just outside the eastern and southern edges of the district, south of Main Street and east of Griffith Court, lay unimproved marshland and woodland. Although the area between Main Street and the north bank of the Illinois River was originally laid out for development when the East Side was first platted in the 1830s, these streets flooded regularly, and were never built up. The exception to this is the land between the Ottawa Township High School and the Illinois River, which in recent years has been converted into playing fields and parking lots for the school. The small western section of the historic district between Shabbona and South Division was part of the original Canal Trustee's subdivision. The few streets east of Green Street, which were platted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, were excluded from the boundary of the historic district.

Blocks within the district are rectangular, with most homes oriented along the east-west streets. Most houses sit on similar-sized lots, with some using adjacent parcels as side lots. Only the lots

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along the north side of Chapel Street, which are located on a bluff that runs along the south bank of the Fox River, vary substantially from the standard lot size. The larger lots along these blocks accommodate some of the grandest homes in the district. Only a small handful of streets feature rear alleys. The lots on the north side of Chapel Street back up right against the Fox River shoreline. There are some historic brick streets remaining in the area, notably Pearl and Congress Streets. All streets have curb and gutter, sidewalks running parallel to the street, with narrow, landscaped parkways. Some homes have side driveways. Mature vegetation abounds throughout.

The historic district features a wide variety of architectural styles from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and includes impressive architect-designed mansions standing alongside 19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular residences and 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular building types. The district contains a total of 245 principal buildings. Of these principal buildings, 204 (83%) were rated contributing to the character of an historic district, and 41 (17%) were rated non-contributing. The vast majority of the principal structures—230 or approximately 94%—were built as single-family residential; seven (3%) were built as secondary structures but are now used as primary residential structures (six carriage houses and one garage); six (2%) were built as multi-family residential, and two (just over .5 %) were built as educational structures. There are 177 secondary structures, most of which are detached garages. Of these secondary structures, 97 were rated contributing (55%) and 80 non-contributing (45%).

OTTAWA EAST SIDE INVENTORY							
Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
507		Chapel	St	C	Tudor Revival	1930 (circa)	
515		Chapel	St	C	Colonial Revival	1936	Wolcott, Charles
519		Chapel	St	C	No Style	1916	Hanifen, John
523		Chapel	St	C	American Foursquare	1910 (circa)	
524		Chapel	St	NC	Neo-Traditional	1997	
530		Chapel	St	C	Colonial Revival	1935 (circa)	
535		Chapel	St	C	No Style	1920 (circa)*	
539		Chapel	St	NC	Ranch	1917 (altered 1955)	
542		Chapel	St	C	Bungalow	1915	
543		Chapel	St	C	Italianate	1870 (circa)	
602		Chapel	St	C	Greek Revival	1854-7	
609		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front	1890 (circa)	
616		Chapel	St	C	Dutch Colonial Revival	1920 (circa)	Hanifen, John W.
619-621		Chapel	St	C	Carriage House - Italianate	1868-72	



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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
622		Chapel	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
626		Chapel	St	C	Prairie	1914	Hanifen, John W.
633		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front	1880 (circa)	
635		Chapel	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
640		Chapel	St	C	Italianate	1864	
645		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front	1870 (circa)	
702		Chapel	St	C	Queen Anne	1892	Watson, John W.
703		Chapel	St	C	Upright and Wing	1870 (circa)	
707		Chapel	St	C	Bungalow	1920 (circa)	
714		Chapel	St	C	Italianate	1867-69	
715		Chapel	St	NC	No Style (altered)	1900 (circa)	
723		Chapel	St	NC	American Foursquare	1913-14	
725		Chapel	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
727		Chapel	St	NC	Gable Front	1860 (circa)	
736		Chapel	St	C	Dutch Colonial Revival (altered)	1848	Cook, Norman W. (remodeling)
737		Chapel	St	C	Bungalow	1910 (circa)	
745		Chapel	St	NC	Gable Front Cottage	1900 (circa)	
801		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front	1911	
804		Chapel	St	C	Italianate	1853	
807		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front Cottage	1876	
810		Chapel	St	NC	Bungalow	1940 (circa)	
812		Chapel	St	NC	Bungalow	1940 (circa)	
813		Chapel	St	NC	Contemporary	1971	
815		Chapel	St	C	Craftsman Bungalow	1920 (circa)	
816		Chapel	St	NC	Upright and Wing	1860 (circa)	
817		Chapel	St	NC	Ranch	1952	
819		Chapel	St	C	Minimal Traditional	1940 (circa)	
820		Chapel	St	C	Gable Front	1865 (circa)	
824		Chapel	St	-	Vacant Lot		
825		Chapel	St	C	Dutch Colonial Revival	1926	
828		Chapel	St	-	Vacant Lot		
603		Chester	St	NC	Carriage House (altered)	1890 (circa)	
300		Congress	St	C	Prairie	1914	Hanifen, John

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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
311		Congress	St	C	Gabled Ell	1900 (circa)	
314		Congress	St	C	Craftsman	1910 (circa)	
317-319		Congress	St	C	Duplex--Second Empire	1893 (circa)	
320		Congress	St	C	Greek Revival/Italianate	1860 (circa)	
326		Congress	St	C	No Style	1870 (circa)	
404		Congress	St	NC	Neo-Traditional	1996	
405		Congress	St	C	Greek Revival (altered)	1865-70 (circa)	
406		Congress	St	NC	Gothic Revival (altered)	1860 (circa)	
409		Congress	St	C	Pyramidal	1880 (circa)	
412		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1865-70 (circa)	
413		Congress	St	C	Gable Front	1895 (circa)	
424		Congress	St	C	Duplex--Italianate	1875 (circa)	
426		Congress	St	C	Craftsman	1920 (circa)	
429		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
431		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1886	Youmans, William
433		Congress	St	C	Stick Style	1885 (circa)	Youmans, William
434		Congress	St	C	Craftsman Bungalow	1924	
514		Congress	St	C	Tudor Revival	1914-15	Hanifen, John
515		Congress	St	C	Gabled Ell	1920	
519		Congress	St	C	Colonial Revival (altered)	Mid-19th-century	
526		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1875 (circa)*	
527		Congress	St	C	Greek Revival	1860-65 (circa)	
532		Congress	St	C	Greek Revival/Italianate	1855 (circa)	
535		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1885 (circa)	
543		Congress	St	C	Gable Front	1880 (circa)	
544		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
620		Congress	St	C	Gable Front	1870 (circa)	
621		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1865-70 (circa)	
626		Congress	St	C	Bungalow	1930 (circa)	
631		Congress	St	C	Greek Revival	1865 (circa)	
632		Congress	St	C	T-Form Cottage	1870 (circa)	
633		Congress	St	C	Gable Front	1895 (circa)	

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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
637		Congress	St	C	American Foursquare	1905	
638		Congress	St	C	Upright and Wing (altered)	1870 (circa)	White, Kesson (alterations)
643		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1880 (circa)	
644		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
702		Congress	St	C	Gable Front	1900 (circa)	
703		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
707		Congress	St	C	Gabled Ell	1913	
708		Congress	St	C	Pyramidal Cottage	1880 (circa)	
709		Congress	St	C	Bungalow	1916	
714		Congress	St	C	Side Gable Cottage	1910 (circa)	
720		Congress	St	C	Craftsman Bungalow	1925 (circa)	
721		Congress	St	C	Bungalow	1927	Donovan, Frank L.
725		Congress	St	NC	Split-Level	1952	
726		Congress	St	C	Gable Front Cottage	1880 (circa)	
731		Congress	St	C	Cape Cod	1925-30 (circa)	
732		Congress	St	C	Gable Front Cottage	1900 (circa)	
735		Congress	St	C	Bungalow	1930 (circa)	
738		Congress	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
740		Congress	St	NC	Minimal Traditional	1950 (circa)	
802		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1900 (circa)	
814		Congress	St	C	Colonial Revival	1915 (circa)	
818		Congress	St	C	Dutch Colonial Revival	1903	
834		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	
836		Congress	St	C	Craftsman	1915	
838		Congress	St	C	Queen Anne	1880 (circa)	
601		Division	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1892	Hanifen, John (interior, 1922)
623		Division	St	NC	Ranch	1950 (circa)	
625		Division	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
714		Division	St	C	Colonial Revival	1905 (circa)	
608		Grafton	St	C	Gable Front	1900 (circa)	
612		Grafton	St	C	Queen Anne	1885 (circa)	
622		Grafton	St	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	

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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
625		Grafton	St	NC	French Eclectic	1945 (circa)	
722		Grafton	St	C	Prairie	1908	Richardson, Jason F.
611-613		Green	St	C	Carriage House/Stable (altered)	1905 (circa)	
615		Green	St	C	Carriage House (altered)	1900 (circa)	
901		Green	St	-	Vacant Lot		
903-905		Green	St	-	Vacant Lot		
903-905		Green	St	-	Vacant Lot		
901		Green	Street	-	Vacant Lot		
001		Gridley	Pl	NC	Colonial Revival	1941	Cook, Norman W.
002		Gridley	Pl	C	Queen Anne (altered)	1900 (circa)	
004		Gridley	Pl	C	L-form	1900 (circa)	
006		Gridley	Pl	C	Gabled Ell (altered)	1900 (circa)	
007		Gridley	Pl	C	Dutch Colonial Revival	1910 (circa)	
011		Gridley	Pl	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
012		Gridley	Pl	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	
008		Gridley	Pl.	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
211	E	Main	St	C	School - Tudor Revival	1916	Ittner, William B.
211 (B)	E	Main	St	C	Educational/Gymnasium - Classical Revival	1931	Llewellyn, Joseph C.
304-306	E	Main	St	NC	Duplex	1895 (circa)	
310	E	Main	St	NC	Garage	1930 (circa)	
314	E	Main	St	C	Greek Revival	1855 (circa)	
403	E	Main	St	C	Upright and Wing	1865 (circa)	
404	E	Main	St	C	Italianate	1875 (circa)	
405	E	Main	St	-	Vacant Lot		
408	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1901 (circa)	
412	E	Main	St	C	Craftsman	1927	
413	E	Main	St	-	Vacant Lot		
420	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1885 (circa)	
421	E	Main	St	C	Bungalow	1915 (circa)	
424	E	Main	St	C	Pyramidal Cottage	1880 (circa)	
427	E	Main	St	-	Vacant Lot		



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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
432	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
433	E	Main	St	-	Vacant Lot		
500	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1885	Youmans, William A.
501	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	
507	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	
514	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1893 (circa)	
515	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne (altered)	1865 (circa)	
519	E	Main	St	-	Vacant Lot		
520	E	Main	St	C	Duplex	1870 (circa)	
524	E	Main	St	NC	Gable Front	1865 (circa)	
526	E	Main	St	C	Gable Front Cottage	1870 (circa)	
527	E	Main	St	C	No Style (altered)	1860 (circa)	
534	E	Main	St	C	L-Form	1865 (circa)	
535	E	Main	St	C	Italianate	1870 (circa)	
539	E	Main	St	C	Side Gable	1900 (circa)	
545	E	Main	St	C	Italianate	1865-70 (circa)	
546	E	Main	St	C	Colonial Revival	1922	Hanifen, John
603	E	Main	St	C	Stick Style	1885 (circa)	
604	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1886 (circa)	
610	E	Main	St	NC	Minimal Traditional	1950 (circa)	
615	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1900 (circa)	
620	E	Main	St	C	American Foursquare	1911-12	
621	E	Main	St	C	Bungalow	1920 (circa)	
627	E	Main	St	NC	Upright and Wing (altered)	1860 (circa)	
629	E	Main	St	C	Gable Front Cottage	Mid-to-late-19th-cent.	
630	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1902	White, Kesson
632	E	Main	St	C	Carriage House	1905 (circa)	
639	E	Main	St	C	L-Form Cottage	1850 (circa)	
640	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1895 (circa)	
643	E	Main	St	C	Gable Front Cottage (altered)	Mid-to-late-19th-cent.	
644	E	Main	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
701	E	Main	St	C	Minimal Traditional	1940 (circa)	

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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
703	E	Main	St	NC	No Style	1930 (circa)	
704	E	Main	St	C	Colonial Revival	1911-12	
716	E	Main	St	C	Greek Revival	1855-60 (circa)	
730	E	Main	St	C	Prairie	1916	Hanifen, John
738-742	E	Main	St	NC	No Style	1885 (circa)	
744	E	Main	St	C	Duplex - Italianate	1870 (circa)	
802	E	Main	St	NC	Bungalow (altered)	1910 (circa)	
850	E	Main	St	NC	Ranch	1952	
514		Orleans	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1911-12	
616		Orleans	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
620		Orleans	St	C	Italianate	1860 (circa)	
704		Orleans	St	C	Italianate	1868	
720		Orleans	St	C	Colonial Revival	1925	
825		Orleans	St	C	Colonial Revival	1936	
300		Pearl	St	C	Tudor Revival	1880 (circa)	Youmans, William A. (original)
323		Pearl	St	C	Colonial Revival	1929	
325		Pearl	St	C	Colonial Revival	1913	Hanifen, John
400		Pearl	St	C	Colonial Revival (altered)	1865 (circa)	
403		Pearl	St	C	L-Form	1860 (circa)	
410		Pearl	St	C	Colonial Revival (altered)	1870 (circa)	
417		Pearl	St	C	Italianate	1870 (circa)	
422		Pearl	St	C	Upright and Wing (altered)	1860 (circa)	
428		Pearl	St	C	Prairie	1919	Hanifen, John
431		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne	1896	Richardson, Jason F.
432-434		Pearl	St	C	Duplex - Italianate	1860 (circa)	
433		Pearl	St	C	Greek Revival	1865 (circa)	
500		Pearl	St	C	Italianate	1850 (circa)	
508		Pearl	St	C	Shingle Style	1902	
510		Pearl	St	C	Craftsman (altered)	1895 (circa)	Hanifen, John (remodeling)
515		Pearl	St	C	Renaissance Revival	1926	
520		Pearl	St	C	Gable Front	1860 (circa)	

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Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
521		Pearl	St	C	Gable Front	1895 (circa)	
524		Pearl	St	C	Gable Front	1860 (circa)	
525		Pearl	St	C	Gable Front	1860-65 (circa)	
529		Pearl	St	C	Cape Cod	1925	American Lumberman House Plans
530		Pearl	St	NC	Gable Front Cottage	1855-60 (circa)	
536		Pearl	St	NC	Minimal Traditional (altered)	1950 (circa)	
540		Pearl	St	C	Gable Front	1870 (circa)	
608		Pearl	St	NC	Neo-Traditional	1990 (circa)	
612		Pearl	St	C	L-Form	1869 (circa)	
614		Pearl	St	NC	Ranch (altered)	1977	
617		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
622		Pearl	St	C	Italianate	1868-1872	
629		Pearl	St	C	American Foursquare	1905 (circa)	
631		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne	1890-91	
632		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1922	
634		Pearl	St	NC	Cape Cod	1947-9	
638		Pearl	St	NC	Ranch	1952	
645		Pearl	St	C	I-House	1870 (circa)	
701		Pearl	St	NC	Minimal Traditional	1955 (circa)	
702		Pearl	St	C	Upright and Wing	1870 (circa)	
704		Pearl	St	C	American Foursquare	1905-7	
707		Pearl	St	NC	Ranch	1950 (circa)	
714		Pearl	St	NC	Shed	1975 (circa)	
719		Pearl	St	C	Italianate	1865-70 (circa)	
720		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
724		Pearl	St	C	T-Form	1875 (circa)	
730		Pearl	St	C	No Style	1870 (circa)	
737		Pearl	St	C	Craftsman	1916	
739		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne	1900 (circa)	
740		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1910 (circa)	
743		Pearl	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
744		Pearl	St	NC	Pyramidal Cottage	1910 (circa)	

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OTTAWA EAST SIDE INVENTORY							
Street #	Direction	Street	Street Suffix	NR District Rating	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect
808		Pearl	St	NC	Split-Level	1975 (circa)	
809		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1920 (circa)	
812		Pearl	St	C	Queen Anne - Free Classic	1900 (circa)	
815		Pearl	St	C	American Foursquare	1910 (circa)	
817		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1920 (circa)	
819		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1926	
820		Pearl	St	C	Prairie	1915 (circa)	
824		Pearl	St	C	American Foursquare	1910 (circa)	
829		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1930 (circa)	
830		Pearl	St	C	American Foursquare	1920 (circa)	
831		Pearl	St	C	Bungalow	1926	
833		Pearl	St	NC	Ranch	1951	
618		Shabbona	St	C	Colonial Revival	1925	Hanifen, John
620		Shabbona	St	C	Italianate	1865 (circa)	
504		York	ST	C	Carriage House (altered)	1890 (circa)	
620		York	St	NC	Ranch	1950 (circa)	
622		York	St	C	Queen Anne	1890 (circa)	
712		York	St	-	Park	post-1970s	
719		York	St	C	Queen Anne	1895 (circa)	
818		York	St	C	I-House	1870 (circa)	



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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1848-1940

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William Youmans

Kesson White

Jason Richardson, Jr.

John Hanifen

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ottawa East Side Historic District is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an intact assemblage of residential architecture representing both high-style, architect-designed houses and vernacular structures spanning nearly 100 years. Ottawa's East Side remains one of the city's most diverse collections of high-style architecture, with a number of significant Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne residences from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Prairie, Craftsman, and Revival-style houses from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The district is also eligible under Criterion A, community planning and development, as a neighborhood with a unique geography and development history in Ottawa. Located on a peninsula created by the Illinois and Fox Rivers, the East Side Historic District developed as an exclusively residential area through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Because of its relative isolation from Ottawa's central business and commercial district, the East Side became a prime location for the city's early professional class, who built gracious homes on large lots, many overlooking the Fox River. As the neighborhood matured through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a

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mixture of larger homes and more modest structures were built throughout Green's original 1835 Addition, creating a more varied building stock that reflected the district's broad appeal to homeowners in Ottawa.

The period of significance for the proposed district is from 1848 to 1940. The year 1848 marks the date of construction of Henry Green's house, the first to be built within the East Side district. The year 1940 marks the point at which the East Side Historic District reached residential maturity.

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

## **HISTORY OF OTTAWA'S EAST SIDE**

From its earliest years of settlement, Ottawa's development was defined by its position at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox Rivers, which split the city into three distinct sections— Central/West Ottawa north of the Illinois River and west of the Fox River; South Ottawa south of the Illinois River; and East Ottawa, located on a small peninsula north of the Illinois and east of the Fox. Due to its proximity to the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the lateral canal, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific RR, Central/West Ottawa naturally became city's commercial and industrial center. South Ottawa attracted some of the earliest settlers to the area. Although South Ottawa developed mainly as a residential area and did not display the commercial or industrial density of Central/West Ottawa, the area did support industrial development along the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy RR, as well as commercial development along State Street, which remains a commercial corridor today.

The East Side of Ottawa was the only one of these three sections that was historically purely residential in character, with almost no non-residential development. Lack of access to the canal and railroads discouraged any large-scale commercial and industrial building; its proximity to the central business district and its relatively small size also meant that the East Side didn't need to develop its own secondary commercial district as South Ottawa did.

The pattern of residential development in East Ottawa also differed slightly from what occurred in Central/West Ottawa and South Ottawa. In Central/West Ottawa, large, high-style houses for the city's upper-class professionals were built in concentrated areas like Washington Square Park, and along Ottawa Avenue, while workers housing tended to concentrate nearer to the industrial centers along the canal and railroad. In South Ottawa, the bluffs along the south bank of the Illinois River were a draw to the city's elite from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, while areas farther south featured more modest residential development for middle-class residents.

Residential development in East Ottawa was less stratified, and featured impressive houses built for the upper class mixed with smaller houses, often vernacular types, built for the middle-class.

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This building pattern is evident in the district from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## OTTAWA'S FOUNDING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

The early development of Ottawa and several other towns in LaSalle Count was directly linked to the planning and construction of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The U. S. Congress began seriously pursuing the plan for a canal to connect Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico via the Chicago, Illinois, and Mississippi rivers in the mid-1820s, when it made the first land grant to Illinois for the construction of the Illinois & Michigan canal.<sup>1</sup> In 1829, the state of Illinois formed a Canal Commission charged with platting towns along the proposed route of the canal, and selling lots. It platted the Town of Ottawa in 1829-1830, consisting primarily of land along the south side of the Illinois River, with smaller sections platted on the north side of the Illinois and east side of the Fox River.<sup>2</sup> The creation of the plats roughly coincided with the organization of La Salle County in 1831. Ottawa, which was centrally located, was named the seat of the new county. Its current courthouse dates from 1881.<sup>3</sup>

Original plans for the I & M Canal named Ottawa as its southern terminus. But the route was later extended to LaSalle, shifting commercial development in Ottawa to the north side of the Illinois River, which was closer to the canal route.<sup>4</sup> In 1837, Ottawa filed for a village charter and held its first local elections.<sup>5</sup> By 1839, Ottawa's commercial district north of the Illinois River boasted approximately 50 buildings.

Ottawa prospered in the years following the 1848 opening of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Commercial and industrial development concentrated on the land north of the Illinois River and west of the Fox River, in close proximity to the canal and the courthouse. The construction of the lateral canal, running south from the I & M route along Canal Street to a hydraulic basin, attracted flour mills, hardware, brick, and furniture manufacturers, and other industries. The north side of the Illinois River along the hydraulic basin also filled with industry.<sup>6</sup> Modest frame houses were built just west of the commercial district for laborers and skilled workers, many of whom were immigrants.

The I & M canal established Ottawa as an early center of the grain trade in the county. With the

<sup>1</sup> James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004), p. 406.

<sup>2</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> Michael P. Conzen, ed., *Focus on Ottawa: A Historical and Geographical Survey of Ottawa, Illinois in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago: Michael P. Conzen and Contributors, the Committee on Geographical Studies, the University of Chicago), p. 30-32.

<sup>5</sup> Historic American Buildings Survey, *Town of Ottawa, LaSalle County Illinois Survey and Inventory*, 1986-1987, p. 268. Held in the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, DC. (cited as HABS from this point forward).

<sup>6</sup> *Focus on Ottawa*, p. 30-32; *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 15.



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newfound ability to easily transport crops to the commercial center of Chicago, farmers flocked to the lands surrounding the town. By 1850, over three-quarters of the land in La Salle County was being farmed, with the harvests moving out of the county through towns along the canal like Ottawa.<sup>7</sup> Although the coming of the railroads in the 1850s and 1860s led to the decline of Ottawa as a center for agricultural trade and transport, other industries came in to take the place of this trade. Foremost among these was the mining of silica deposits around the city beginning in the late 1860s and is still a viable industry today. Farm implement manufacture also emerged in Ottawa in the late 19th-century.<sup>8</sup>

Ottawa's position as a hub for legal business in La Salle County and the surrounding region also had a significant impact on its development. In addition to county business, the town was also home, from 1857 to 1897, to the Northern Grand Division of the Illinois Supreme Court. In 1877, the Appellate Court was brought to Ottawa, and is still located there. Demand for services and, most pressingly, lodging for the large numbers of lawyers, judges, and others in the legal profession visiting Ottawa, led to the construction of several hotels within the town's commercial district, the earliest of which were built around 1840.<sup>9</sup>

In 1853 Ottawa, which had grown from around 1,000 residents in 1840 to over 3,000 citizens, was incorporated as a city. As part of the city's incorporation, Ottawa was divided into five wards. The area east of the Fox River, where the East Side Historic District lies, was named the second ward.<sup>10</sup> The incorporation also marked the joining of Ottawa with south Ottawa, on the other side of the Illinois River.<sup>11</sup> The first toll bridge was built over the Illinois River in the mid-1850s, and the first bridge across the Fox River soon followed, allowing for easier travel among the newly-incorporated city's three sections.

In 1853, the first passenger train on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad line from Chicago to La Salle passed through Ottawa. The tracks closely followed the path of the Illinois & Michigan Canal as rail came through town. The coming of the train reinforced and expanded the pattern of commercial and industrial development already established by the canal. The passenger service provided by the railway made the area more attractive to potential residents. A second railroad, the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, arrived in Ottawa in 1867, coming through South Ottawa just west of town, and running along Walnut Street north of the Illinois River before following the Fox River feeder at the north end of town.<sup>12</sup>

The 1850s also mark the first period of public improvements in the new city. In 1856, the city's first gas plant was built near the hydraulic basin, and served the courthouse and street lamps throughout the commercial district. In the coming decades, gas was slowly supplied to residential areas. The city's first water system was established in 1860, and was replaced with an expanded

<sup>7</sup> HABS, p. 269.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 271.

<sup>9</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 19; HABS, p. 270-71.

<sup>10</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 21.

<sup>11</sup> HABS, p. 269-270.

<sup>12</sup> *Focus on Ottawa*, p. 30-32.

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system in 1895.<sup>13</sup>

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Within Ottawa's central business district, a new four-story stone courthouse was erected at a cost of over \$400,000 and the new building dedicated in 1884. The city's first electric rail system, the first in Illinois and the second in the country, was installed in 1889, and was quickly expanded to serve South and West Ottawa. The system was powered by its own power house, which was located in North Ottawa. The following year, the city installed its first electrical generating plant, at a cost of \$15,000.<sup>14</sup>

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST SIDE OTTAWA

The establishment of Ottawa's East Side as a residential district began in 1834, with the arrival of its first developer, Henry Green. Green, a native of New Hampshire, came to Ottawa with his wife in the early 1830s, and initially settled south of the Illinois River before purchasing nearly all of the land in the East Side Historic District from two farmers.<sup>15</sup> Green subdivided the land in 1835. The plat included 51 blocks of varying sizes bounded by the Fox River on the north, Green Street on the east, the Illinois River on the south side, and Division Street on the west. The blocks between Division Street and the Fox River had been subdivided as part of the Canal Trustee's Subdivision of Ottawa. Larger blocks were located in the northern half of the subdivision, from the south side of Main Street to the Fox River. Smaller, square blocks were located south of Main Street, including streets named Canal, Merchant, Market, and Water Streets. Because of frequent flooding, this area of Green's Subdivision was never developed. This single subdivision included almost all available land in Ottawa's East Side, and, with the exception of a handful of blocks that were re-subdivided in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, has remained essentially intact.<sup>16</sup>

Green constructed his own residence, an impressive Italian Villa on the northeast corner of the subdivision, on a parcel along the Fox River, in the mid-to-late-1840s. The house, at 736 Chapel Street, still stands today, but was completely remodeled in the 1920s. Although Green himself became one of the first residents within his subdivision, he was apparently not interested in developing the area. Around 1848, Green sold his house and land in East Ottawa to William H. W. Cushman who had arrived from Massachusetts in 1834. Cushman was an astute businessman, founding the Ottawa Machine Shops and a foundry along the lateral canal.<sup>17</sup> He soon became one of the most wealthy and influential of Ottawa's early citizens, amassing real estate across the city. He was intimately involved in Bank of Ottawa, which was known in La Salle County as "Cushman's Bank." Cushman was twice elected to the Illinois State Legislature.<sup>18</sup> Soon after his

<sup>13</sup> HABS, p. 270

<sup>14</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 32.; HABS, p. 270.

<sup>15</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 54.

<sup>16</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Ottawa, Illinois, 1891*, Key (Sheet 1).

<sup>17</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 19.

<sup>18</sup> Michael Cyprian O'Byrne, *History of LaSalle County Illinois, Volume I* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1924), p. 228.

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purchase of Green's Subdivision, Cushman put the majority of the lots up for sale.<sup>19</sup>

## THE EARLY DECADES OF THE EAST SIDE

The 1850s through the early 1870s were a time of brisk growth for Ottawa, and, by extension, for Ottawa's East Side neighborhood. Between 1850 and 1860, the population of the city doubled, from 3,219 to 6,541.<sup>20</sup> By the mid-1850s, over 25 new residences had been constructed within the East Side neighborhood, a relatively impressive number considering that the area had been nearly empty less than a decade earlier. Although still sparsely inhabited, the East Side was nevertheless developing a reputation as one of the premiere neighborhoods in the burgeoning city. The East Side was the only residential area in the city to have landscaping requirements. The 1855 city ordinance stipulated that two rows of ornamental trees, set at the curb and 13 feet from the curb, were to flank each sidewalk in the district.<sup>21</sup> Many of these original trees still survive, creating canopies of shade throughout the district.

Early houses in the district were built on lots scattered throughout the Green Subdivision north of Main Street. Most were either handsome Greek Revival residences (a popular style at the time) or more modest vernacular structures. Through the 1850s and 1860s, members of Ottawa's professional and merchant class began to settle in the area, buying up multiple lots, sometimes taking up an entire block, and building impressive houses. Among these new residents were John G. Nattinger, a merchant and coal dealer who constructed a Gothic Revival-style house at 406 Congress Street around 1860, and Jeremiah Strawn, a retired farmer whose handsome Greek Revival house was constructed at 532 Congress Street in the mid 1850s.<sup>22</sup> Several of the finest houses from this period, including John Manley's house (1864) and H. M. Hollinger's residences (1853) were built on the north side of Chapel Street, which boasted sweeping views of the Fox River.

Washington Bushnell, who served as a state senator from 1861 to 1868 and as Illinois Attorney General from 1869 to 1873, was also an early and prominent resident of the East Side. Bushnell purchased a large parcel along the 600 block of Pearl Street and built a massive Italianate house at 622 Pearl Street. Local merchant E. Y. Griggs built his impressive home at 704 Orleans Street, a combination of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles, around the same time. These houses still stand as landmarks within the historic district.

It was also during this early period of development that the East Side's first non-residential structure was built. When the city was divided into wards as part of its incorporation in the early 1850s, the intent was for each ward to build its own elementary school to serve the children living there. East Ottawa's school, called the Washington School, was first erected around 1860

<sup>19</sup> HABS, p. 269.; *History of LaSalle County, Illinois, Volume I* (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Company, 1886), p. 482.

<sup>20</sup> *Focus on Ottawa*, p. 10.

<sup>21</sup> HABS, p. 299.

<sup>22</sup> National Register Nomination. The Jeremiah Strawn House. Prepared by Christine A. Jowers, submitted November 30, 1994, Section 8, p.7.

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on York Street between Pearl and Congress Streets, in the middle of the neighborhood. This first school building was replaced in 1906 with a new structure, which was demolished in the 1970s.<sup>23</sup> The block on which the school stood is now a public park.

## THE EAST SIDE IN THE LATE 19th CENTURY

Residential development in Ottawa's East Side continued at a slightly slower pace in the 1870s, only to pick up again with the city's second population boom the following decade. The population surged during the decade between 1880 and 1890, from 7,834 inhabitants to 9,985, and Ottawa's East Side neighborhood continued to attract the city's most prominent citizens.<sup>24</sup> Many built grand Queen Anne-style residences along Main Street, which was the district's main thoroughfare and route to the business district. Among them was Charles E. Hook, whose handsome home was built in the early 1890s at 514 East Main Street. A native of Ottawa, Hook was director of the First National Bank, and served as city treasurer from 1885-87. In 1897, he was elected as Ottawa's 24th mayor, and was re-elected in 1903 and 1905.<sup>25</sup>

Dr. John Cushman Hathaway, a prominent physician who had come to Ottawa after graduating from Jefferson Medical College in 1856, settled in a picturesque Queen Anne home at 622 Chapel Street around 1890. Upon Hathaway's death in 1901, the house passed to his daughter Annie and her husband Robert Carr. Other prominent citizens who moved to the neighborhood during this period include John F. Reed, owner of the farm implement factory Reed & Co., and W. C. Vittum, a real estate broker and director of the Ottawa Development Association.

Vittum's house at 431 Pearl Street, was designed by local architect Jason F. Richardson, who worked in Ottawa from the late 1890s through the 1930s. Richardson was a prolific designer, and is best known for his public and commercial works in the city. This early example of Richardson's residential work is one of several houses constructed in the late 19th-century that were designed by local architects, a relatively new phenomenon in Ottawa. Earlier houses in the city had been architect-designed, but usually by firms based in larger cities.

The 1880s and 1890s saw the emergence of a small number of locally-based architects working in Ottawa, nearly all of whom designed houses within the East Side. Among the earliest was John W. Watson, who practiced in the city between 1885 and 1895. Watson designed the sprawling Queen Anne residence at 702 Chapel Street for Walter D. Strawn in 1892. Also practicing in Ottawa during the mid-to-late 1880s was William Youmans. Youmans designed four houses in the East Side neighborhood that are still standing. The Queen Anne residence of Charles and Louisa Green built around 1885 at 500 East Main Street is among the finer examples of the style. Youman also designed a residence for Moses Stiefel at 831 Congress Street. Moses Stiefel founded a men's clothing store under his name soon after his arrival from Austria in the

<sup>23</sup> HABS, p. 316.

<sup>24</sup> *Focus on Ottawa*, p. 10.

<sup>25</sup> *Ottawa Old and New: A Complete History of Ottawa, Illinois 1823-1914* (Ottawa, IL: The Republican-Times, 1912-1914).

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1860s—the store remained a fixture in Ottawa’s business district until it was shuttered in 1995.<sup>26</sup>

As in previous decades, these larger, more expensive houses for wealthy Ottawa citizens were balanced by substantial numbers of less ostentatious residences, some built on speculation, for middle class residents, on single lots. Perhaps seeing opportunity, one of the early residents in the area, S. B. Gridley, divided his large estate on block 19 in Green’s Subdivision, at the eastern end of the neighborhood, into multiple smaller lots, with a new street, named Gridley Place, running through its center. This was one of only a handful of small re-subdivisions of Green’s original Subdivision.<sup>27</sup> The houses along the west side of Gridley Place, and along the east side of Grafton Street, were built up with the more modest houses.

### THE EAST SIDE IN THE EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Residential development in Ottawa’s East Side slowed slightly in the years after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which is not surprising considering that the total population in Ottawa between the years 1900 and 1910 actually dropped by nearly 1,000 people—from 10,588 to 9,535.<sup>28</sup> Even with this drop in population and subsequent lull in development, several public projects impacted the East Side during this period. The first, and most significant, was the coming of the Chicago, Ottawa, and Peoria interurban electric railway in 1901, linking Ottawa to a rail network that extended from Joliet to Princeton.<sup>29</sup> The track for the interurban ran along Main Street in East Ottawa. The bridge over the Fox River connecting the interurban from the East Side to Ottawa’s business district was completed in 1904.<sup>30</sup>

Two public buildings were also built in the East Side during the first decade of the 20th century. The first was the Third Infantry Regiment Armory building, constructed along the south side of East Main Street just east of the Fox River, in 1904, rebuilt in 1912-13, and demolished in 1987.<sup>31</sup> The second was a new elementary school building, constructed in 1906 on the site of the original Washington School. This building has also been demolished.

In 1906, the same year that the elementary school was built, the East Side became the first residential district in Ottawa to have its streets paved—streets were covered with paving bricks, stone curbs were installed, and scored brick sidewalks replaced wooden ones.<sup>32</sup> Although the brick sidewalks have since been replaced with concrete, much of the brick paving on the street is still visible within the district.

### THE EAST SIDE EXPANDS AGAIN IN THE 1910s AND 1920s

<sup>26</sup> Steve Stout, “He Was Definitely Old School,” obituary for Sid Stiefel dated November 30, 2010, <http://www.mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=418991>; HABS, P. 285-286.

<sup>27</sup> Alden, Ogle & Co., *Plat Book of LaSalle County, Illinois* (Chicago: Alden, Ogle & Co., 1892), P. 59.

<sup>28</sup> HABS, p. 276.

<sup>29</sup> *Ottawa Sesquicentennial*, p. 35-36.

<sup>30</sup> John A. Hilliard. *Old Ottawa: 1850s-1930s*, Published by John A. Hilliard, 2000, p. 190-191.

<sup>31</sup> HABS, p. 608.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, p. 299.



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In the 1910s, population levels started to climb slowly again, reaching the original 1900 levels by 1920.<sup>33</sup> Between 1920 and 1930, Ottawa experienced its greatest increase in population in any single decade, from 10,816 residents in 1920 to 15,094 in 1930. Not surprisingly, this population increase led to a corresponding residential building boom in the East Side neighborhood. Even during the 1910s, when population growth continued at a slightly anemic pace, construction within the East Side neighborhood continued at an impressive clip, which can be seen as a testament to the continued desirability of the area for many in Ottawa's middle- and upper-classes.

New houses continued to be constructed on lots across the entire neighborhood—some of these may have been occupied by older homes. In addition, the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the expansion of development east across Green Street into areas that were being subdivided. Beginning in 1908, with the platting of the Eastwood Subdivision east of Green Street between Main and Congress Street (and located east of the proposed historic district), the eastern edge of the neighborhood was subdivided in several stages, offering up new lots just in time for the rise in construction during the 1910s and 20s.<sup>34</sup>

Although a substantial number of residential construction during this period consisted of bungalows and cottages, two housing types that were seen with increasing frequency in Ottawa's more working-class neighborhoods in the southern and western reaches of the city, the East Side continued to see a mix of modest housing and more expensive, often architect-designed residences. Well-known local architect John Hanifen designed twelve houses in the East Side of Ottawa in the 1910s and 1920s—more than any other neighborhood in the city. Most of these houses were Prairie designs or handsome historic revival styles, both of which were popular at the time. Hanifen also remodeled the interior of two houses in the area.<sup>35</sup>

Another interesting trend during this period was the remodeling of older, 19<sup>th</sup> century houses to reflect a more current design sensibility. Among the most notable examples of this trend are two houses re-designed by architect Norman Cook. In 1922, Cook transformed the Italianate residence originally built by Henry Green on 736 Chapel Street in the 1840s into a textbook example of the Dutch Colonial Revival Style. Seven years later, Cook created a handsome Tudor Revival design from a 19<sup>th</sup>-century residence at 300 Pearl Street, for its current owner, Louis A. Wilson.<sup>36</sup>

In an unusual reversal of updating an older house into a current style, Dr. Roswell Petit and his wife, Dorothy, built a new house at 323 Pearl Street as an exact replica of a late-18<sup>th</sup>-century residence in St. Genevieve, Missouri. Petit and his wife moved into their new "old" house in

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, p. 276.

<sup>34</sup> Abstract of Title for 905 Congress Street (provided by owner); Brock & Company, *Standard Atlas of LaSalle County, Illinois* (Chicago: Brock & Company, 1929), p. 15.

<sup>35</sup> HABS, p. 288.

<sup>36</sup> National Register Nomination, "Andrew J. O'Connor, III House," Prepared by Andree-Marie A. Koban, certified March 11, 1993, p. 8-10; *Daily Republican Times*, December 1929.

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1929—they had been living across the street, at 300 Pearl Street.<sup>37</sup>

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The 1910s also saw the construction of the new Ottawa Township High School building along the south side of Main Street. The building, which replaced an earlier brick school building constructed in the 1880s at Columbus and Washington Streets, was built along the south side of Main Street, just east of the Armory Building. A manual arts building and gymnasium were added in the 1930s.<sup>38</sup>

## EAST SIDE OTTAWA REACHES MATURITY

Residential construction in Ottawa's East Side slowed considerably by the 1930s, in large part because of the effects of the Great Depression on building across the country, and ground to a halt by 1940. Although residential building after World War II picked up in the newer subdivisions east of Green Street, where most of the area's unimproved lots remained, the proposed East Side Residential Historic District had reached residential maturity by 1940, with very few new houses built within the district after that date.

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF OTTAWA'S EAST SIDE

The Ottawa East Side Historic District contains a wide range of building styles and types spanning over nearly 100 years of construction. The vast majority (230 of 245) of the principal structures within the district were built originally as single family residences, with only six built as multi-family or duplex structures. Most residences include garages or carriage houses—there are 177 of these secondary structures within the district. Seven secondary structures (six carriage houses and one garage) were later converted to residential use, and were considered principal structures for the purposes of this nomination. The number of non-residential buildings within the district is very small—there are no structures that were built for commercial or business use, and no religious structures. The only two non-residential buildings remaining in the area are associated with Ottawa Township High School. There are ten parcels without structures within the district—one park and eleven vacant lots.

The earliest remaining residences in the Ottawa East Side Historic District date from the late 1840s and early 1850s. Residential development within the neighborhood remained steady throughout the following decades, with 69 single family homes and 4 duplexes structures built between 1848 and 1879. The latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century (between 1880 and 1909) saw the construction of 71 single family homes and two duplexes, with the greatest number of those built in the 1890s and 1900s. The teens, twenties and thirties, a period of historic revival styles throughout much of the country, produced 64 residences in the historic district, along with Ottawa Township High School's main building (1916) and gymnasium (1931). After this period, building slowed dramatically. From 1940 through the present day, the immediate post-World War II period, only 26 houses were built in the district; most of these

<sup>37</sup> *Daily Republican Times*, December 1929.

<sup>38</sup> HABS, p. 611-614.

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houses were built in the decades including and immediately following World War II.

Many of the residential structures in the East Side Historic District have already been honored with historic landmark designations. Two buildings have been individually listed to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Andrew J. O’Conor, III House, 736 Chapel Street (listed 1993)
- Jeremiah Strawn House, 532 Congress Street (listed 1994)

Since its inception in 1995, the Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission has designated ten individual local landmarks throughout the city. Of these, six are located within the East Side Historic District:

- Dr. Joseph Cushman Hathaway House, 622 Chapel Street (designated 2008)
- Hoganson House, 626 Chapel Street (designated 2009)
- Andrew J. O’Conor, III House, 736 Chapel Street (designated 2009)
- H. M. Hollister House, 804 Chapel Street (designated 2009)
- E. Y. Griggs House, 704 Orleans Street (designated 2008)
- Albert C. Bradish House, 631 Pearl Street (designated 2008)

The Illinois Historic Sites Survey (IHSS) is an inventory of architecturally-and historically-significant structures across the state of Illinois. The survey was undertaken in the early 1970s, and there are 39 structures still standing in the East Side district that are listed in the IHSS.

## ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND TYPES

Single family residential buildings within the historic district can be divided into the following architectural classifications: 19<sup>th</sup>-century high style and vernacular types, 20<sup>th</sup>-century high-styles, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular types. The two non-residential structures within the district are identified first by use, then by architectural classification.

High-style architecture can be described as fitting within well-defined stylistic categories that are based on the distinctive overall shape, floor plan, materials, and architectural detailing that can be identified in a building. High-style buildings may be architect-designed, but even if no professional architect was involved, these buildings display a conscious attempt to incorporate architectural characteristics “in fashion” during the time they were built.

The Ottawa East Side Historic District contains a wide range of buildings designed in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century high styles. Of the 245 principal residential buildings in the district, over half (125) can be classified as high-style architecture, with all but three dating from historic time periods. There are many excellent examples of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne homes. Early-20<sup>th</sup>-century high styles are also represented in the area, with Prairie, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, Dutch Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival examples. The high-

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style classification also includes structures that are considered Neo-Traditional. These are non-historic (less than 50 years old) buildings with designs based on historic styles.

Nineteenth-century vernacular house types are generally non-stylistic, with designs dependent on a builder's craftsmanship. They were usually built by an owner or builder who relied on simple, practical techniques and locally available materials for overall design and plan, which resulted in a consistency in structural systems, materials, and millwork throughout a given community. Vernacular buildings are most easily classified by their general shape, roof style, or floor plan, such as Gable Front, L-Form or Upright and Wing. Although these types were first built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they continued to be built into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Ottawa East Side Historic District contains 52 examples of 19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular buildings, roughly 21% of the total inventory.

Beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, plans for popular house types were widely published in books and catalogs. The earliest of these house types was the American Foursquare. Bungalows of various sorts were built throughout the country until 1930. During the modern period, popular house types included Minimal Traditional, Ranch and the Split-Level. There are 45 examples of 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular types in the district—of this group, the Bungalow is the most well-represented type with 19 examples.

The following sections describe in more detail the high-style architecture, 19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular house types, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular house types represented in the Ottawa East Side Historic District. Only styles that have multiple examples, of which at least one must be rated significant or potentially significant, are discussed in detail. Examples of each style and representatives chosen for illustration are, in most cases, those rated locally significant or potentially significant.

## **19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY HIGH STYLE ARCHITECTURE**

The majority of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential structures within the Ottawa East Side Historic District can be classified as high styles. Seventy-seven houses have been identified as a 19<sup>th</sup>-century high style, accounting for 65% of houses built before 1900, and approximately one-third (33%) of the total number of single-family homes in the district. The most well-represented of these 19<sup>th</sup>-century high styles are the Queen Anne style and its Free Classic variant (42 combined examples); the Italianate style (22 examples); and the Greek Revival style (nine examples). Two of these homes combine Greek Revival and Italianate features. Other styles from this period seen in smaller numbers within the district include the Stick style (two examples) and Shingle style (one example).

### **GREEK REVIVAL**

The Greek Revival style was one of the earliest high styles to become popular in residential building in the Chicago area, and its influence filtered down to common 19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular forms such as the Gable Front and Gable Front and Wing. Archaeological investigations in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century shifted American and European interest in classical building from Rome to

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Greece. Widely distributed carpenter guides and pattern books such as Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter: The Builder's Guide*, and the work of prominent trained architects such as Benjamin H. Latrobe and William Strickland further popularized Grecian classicism. The style reached the height of its popularity in the United States between 1830 and 1860, but remained popular in the Midwest and in rural areas across the country through the 1870s. Interpretations of the style varied widely by region. In the Midwest, Greek Revival houses are often modest, front-gabled frame or brick structures with uncovered entryways.

Of the nine Greek Revival style residential structures in the district, all have been rated contributing to the historic character of the district. Some notable examples of the style include the F. C. Florey House at 602 Chapel Street; the Jeremiah Strawn House at 532 Congress Street, which was listed to the National Register in 1994; and 314 East Main Street.

The house at 602 Chapel Street, built sometime between 1854 and 1857 for local butcher F. C. Florey, is the only one-story example of the style in the historic district. The low-pitched hipped roof is pierced by four corbelled chimneys. The full front porch, rarely seen on Greek Revival residences in the Midwest, is supported by fluted Doric columns. The paired brackets punctuating the wood cornice on the house and porch is reminiscent of the Italianate style, which was also popular in the mid-19th century in Ottawa.

Among the most impressive Greek Revival structures in the East Side survey is the Jeremiah Strawn House, located at 532 Congress Street. The house is an interesting combination of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The treatment of the façade, which is divided into three bays by a series of four square pilasters topped with simple Doric-style capitals, is characteristic of Greek Revival, while the bracketed cornice on the house and porch, as well as the overall verticality of the house, are associated with the Italianate style.

A much more typical example of the Greek Revival style can be found at 314 East Main Street. As with the Jeremiah Strawn house, the façade of the house has been divided by a series of square pilasters. The front-facing gable has been enclosed with a wide band of trim to form a triangular pediment. A two-story west side wing projects from the main body of the house, and originally featured a double-height porch, the second story of which was later enclosed.

## ITALIANATE

The Italianate style was popular in the Midwest at approximately the same time as Greek Revival, from 1860 to 1880. The style was loosely based on the Italian country villa and grew as a reaction against the formal classical ideals that had dominated American architecture for 150 years. Italianate houses are generally two full stories topped by low-pitched hipped roofs. They have deep overhanging eaves supported by ornamental brackets frequently found in pairs. Tall, narrow windows with decorative lintels are common. Most Italianate homes have broad front porches that sometimes wrap around the corner.

After the Queen Anne style, the Italianate style is the most represented 19th-century high style in the district, with 22 examples. All of these examples are rated contributing. This collection



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contains a number of residences that are not only excellent examples of the Italianate style, but are also some of the finest residences built in any period in the district.

One of the finest Italianate houses in the East Side Historic District is the Manley-Brown House at 640 Chapel Street. Built in the early 1860s on a generous lot overlooking the Fox River, the house features a shallow hipped roof with shed roof dormers and corbelled brick chimneys. The frieze band within the cornice is punctured by oval windows between the paired brackets that are characteristic of the style. The east side window bay, front porch, and east side porte cochere are also notable features, as are the historic windows in segmental arch openings topped with brick hoods.

Another impressive mid-19th-century Italianate in the historic district is the Washington Bushnell House, at 622 Pearl Street. The house was built on an oversized lot that stretched from Pearl Street to Chapel Street; its brick carriage house, facing Chapel Street, has been converted into an apartment building. The house is the only example of the style that features a square tower. Italianate houses with towers are often referred to as "Italian Villas." Other characteristic features of the style include the low-pitched hipped roof, cornice with paired brackets and paneled frieze, and round and segmental arch window openings. The building has been altered, but retains a fair amount of historic integrity, and is also historically significant for its first owner, who served as both an Illinois state senator and Illinois attorney general.

The E. Y. Griggs House at 704 Orleans Street is a refined blending of elements of the Italianate and Early Classical Revival styles, an unusual combination in the Midwest. The low-pitched hipped roof is pierced by round-arch, through-the-cornice dormers on the front and side elevations. The cornice features oversized dentils and a paneled soffit that continue around the window openings of the dormers. A one-story, rounded portico supported by Doric columns covers the front entrance to the house, which is offset along the front wall of a slightly projecting center bay. The two-part window just north of the entry mimics its elliptical arch opening. A first story window bay is located at the south end of the façade. Most of the windows along the front and side elevations are paired, round arch windows with 1/1 sash, placed within elliptical-arch openings with simple brick hoods. The first story windows along the south elevation are covered with canopies supported by elaborately scrolled brackets. The house has been designated a local landmark.

Another interesting variant of the Italianate style in the district is the Daniel Eichelberger House, located at 404 East Main Street. In this example, the cubic massing of the typical Italianate has been broken up by the addition of two full-height, polygonal bays to the façade, as well as a one-story square bay at the southwest corner. A second-story porch between the two front bays features delicately elaborate brackets that are more characteristic of the later Stick or Queen Anne Styles, and may be an historic alteration. The front and west side porches date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **STICK STYLE**

The Stick Style is a transitional style dating from 1860 through 1890, between the preceding

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Gothic Revival style and the subsequent Queen Anne style. Stick style buildings are Gothic in their overall verticality but look toward the Queen Anne style in their picturesque complexity, both in form and detailing. Characteristic are gable and cross-gable roofs with decorative trusses in the apex of the gable peaks. Wood wall surfaces are decorated with patterns of vertical or diagonal boards. Porches commonly show diagonal or curved braces. Although the style was popularized in house pattern books of the 1860s and 1870s, it never became as widespread as the closely related Queen Anne style that replaced it.

There are only two examples of the Stick Style house in the Ottawa East Side Historic District. The Benjamin Hess House, built at 433 Congress Street c. 1885, was constructed by local architect William Youmans, who was active in the area in the mid-to-late 1880s. Youman also designed the house at 431 Congress Street for Moses Stiefel at around the same time. The Stiefel house has been altered, but the massing and rooflines are identical to 433 Congress. The house is a fine example of the Stick Style, and exhibits the characteristic horizontal and vertical boards, or “stickwork,” breaking up the exterior. Other features associated with the style include the square corner tower and gabled bays. The front porch is an historic alteration.

## QUEEN ANNE

The Queen Anne style followed the Italianate period, and homes in this style were built throughout the country from 1880 until approximately 1910. Named and popularized by a group of 19<sup>th</sup>-century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw, its roots are in the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods in England. It is characterized by asymmetry and irregularity in overall shape, facades, and roofs. The Queen Anne house often has gables, dormers, round or polygonal towers, and wings with full or wrap around porches. A variety of materials and patterns are used to break up the surface of the walls. Shingles and clapboard are often combined, sometimes with brick masonry.

The Queen Anne style is the most well-represented 19<sup>th</sup> century high style in the Ottawa East Side Historic District, with 42 examples, all of which have been rated contributing. Some of the finest examples of the style include the Dr. Joseph Cushman Hathaway House at 622 Chapel Street, the Walter D. Strawn House at 702 Chapel Street, 500 East Main Street, and 408 East Main Street.

The Dr. Joseph Cushman Hathaway House, built around 1890 at 622 Chapel Street, is a handsome example of the picturesque variant of the Queen Anne Style, popular in the 1880s and early 1890s in the Midwest. The house exhibits the irregular massing, multiple rooflines, variety of exterior wall treatments, and prominent wraparound porch with spindle work ornamentation, all of which are characteristic of the style. The house was remodeled in the 1920s—stucco was applied to the exterior walls, and the original porch was replaced—but was brought back to its original appearance in the 1990s.

The Walter D. Strawn House, built in 1892 at 702 Chapel Street, is another impressive example of the style, with a steeply pitched hipped roof interrupted by front and side gable bays, and a polygonal corner tower. A generous wraparound porch dominates the front and east elevations,

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and features relatively restrained ornamentation. The classically-inspired corner pilasters on the front gable bay hint at the coming influence of classicism on the style in the mid-to-late 1890s.

Many of the finest Queen Anne houses in the district were built along East Main Street, which was the main thoroughfare through the neighborhood. Local architect William Youmans designed the elegant 1880s Queen Anne residence at 500 East Main Street. The defining feature of this house is its square corner tower, which is cantilevered over the first story and topped by a distinctive bellcast roof. The delicate spindle work on the front entry porch is also a notable feature.

The Henry L. Hossack House, at 408 East Main Street, is a charming, one-story example of the style, and features a nested front gable roof with flared ends and unusual, conical-shaped projections at each peak. The wraparound porch is inset, with classical columns set on upon stone knee walls.

Queen Anne residences built after 1893 reflected the influence of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which celebrated classicism and was popularly known as "The White City." Late 19<sup>th</sup>-century examples of the Queen Anne style are simpler than their predecessors, with less detailing, and frequently have classical or square columns. These later examples are sometimes referred to as "Free Classic" Queen Anne-style houses. Within the East Side Historic District, seven of the Queen Anne style homes are of the Free Classic variant and all are contributing. Three are especially noteworthy — the Dr. James N. Downs House at 615 East Main Street, the Anthony-Johnson House at 630 East Main Street, and the John J. Shanley House at 514 Orleans Street.

The Dr. James N. Downs House, built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at 615 East Main Street, is one of the finest Queen Anne houses in the district. The house exhibits the characteristic classical elements seen on the Free Classic variant of the style, including a wrap around front porch with paired round columns and a triangular pediment above the entrance, pent gable bays, and festooned decorative frieze. The rounded west corner of the porch echoes the line of the three-story corner tower.

A less conventional example of the Free Classic sub-type is the Anthony-Johnson House, at 630 East Main Street. The classical elements of the full front porch, the simple classical lintels over the window and door openings, and the cornice returns on the front and side gable bays are all typical of the style. The crenellated square tower at the west end of the façade, however, is an unusual feature, and more common in the earlier Gothic Revival style.

A pristine, late example of the Free Classic variant can be found at 514 Orleans Street. Built for John J. Shanley between 1911 and 1912, this 1.5-story residence has a sweeping wraparound porch with a modillion cornice, decorative frieze, and paired Ionic columns set on square piers. A rounded corner window bay occupies the first floor under the porch. The Palladian window under the front gable, and the triangular pediment at the porch entrance are also typical Free Classic elements.

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**SHINGLE STYLE**

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The Shingle Style, popular between 1880 and 1900, borrows characteristics from several other styles. Many examples are closely related to the Queen Anne style, with a façade that is usually asymmetrical, with irregular, steeply pitched roof lines having cross gables and multi-level eaves. Others exhibit Colonial Revival or Dutch Colonial Revival elements like gambrel roofs, classical columns, and Palladian windows. The distinguishing feature that sets this style apart is the use of continuous wood shingles that clad the roof and walls and wrap the house like a skin. Shingled walls may curve into recessed windows, and in some examples even porch and stair rails are covered with shingles.

The Dr. Pearl James House at 508 Pearl Street is the sole example of the Shingle Style in the district, and is an impressive design. Built in 1902, the house exhibits the characteristic wood shingles along its second story and under its flared, overhanging front gable. The polygonal southwest corner tower and inset front porch are notable features, as are the bull's eye and diamond-patterned wood windows set into its façade.

## **19<sup>th</sup>- AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY VERNACULAR TYPES**

The Ottawa East Side Historic District contains 52 vernacular houses, dating from as early as the 1850s to the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although not as numerous as the 19<sup>th</sup> century high-styles, these vernacular types still represent approximately 21% of the district's total housing stock. The most popular vernacular type by far in the East Side is the Gable Front and its one-story variant, the Gable Front Cottage, with 26 combined examples. The Upright and Wing type is also well-represented, with seven examples and the L-Form with five examples. Others with fewer examples include: Gabled Ell (four), I-House (two), Pyramidal and Pyramidal Cottage (four), Side Gable and Side Gable Cottage (two), and T-Form and T-Form Cottage (two). The six carriage houses, and the two vernacular duplexes also date from the 19<sup>th</sup> or just over the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Because 19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular types are generally simple in plan and were originally built with little stylistic ornamentation, they are frequently underappreciated. Changes over the years tend to obscure their original character. Determining significance in a vernacular structure is usually based on integrity, that is, the presence of original, historic configuration and materials, with no or few alterations.

### **GABLE FRONT AND GABLE FRONT COTTAGE**

The Gable Front house is a vernacular house type from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries characterized by roof shape. The roof has two sloped sides that meet at a center ridge. The triangular ends of the walls on the other two sides are called gables. In a Gable Front house the gable end faces the street and forms the front of the house. These were built as working-class homes, usually frame, with a rectangular plan, minimal projections on the front facade, and the front entry on the open end of the gable. Often a porch extends the full width of the front of the house. The Gable Front house is commonly found in Midwest towns because it was a simple

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type for local builders to construct and could fit on narrow lots.

Although the Gable Front is the most numerous 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular type in the district, most of the 26 Gable Front houses and Cottages have been altered from their original appearance. The Gable Front Cottage built for William Sinsel, now located at 807 Chapel Street, is a relatively rare example that retains a very high degree of architectural integrity. The charming cottage features a wealth of Italianate detailing, including tall, narrow, segmental arch window openings with classical wood trim, a Palladian window centered along its front gable, and a polygonal side window bay with decorative panels. The house was originally built at 804 Pearl Street, and was moved to its current location sometime in the 1970s or 80s.

### **GABLED ELL**

The Gabled Ell type is characterized by a prominent front gable on an L- or T-shaped house. The side wing or wings are not separate, but rather an integral part of the building core. There are almost always two entries, one on the front façade and one in the “ell,” that is, the interior corner of the L, or T-shape. These frame houses are simple in design, 1 1/2 or 2 stories tall, with an intersecting gable roof at the same height as the main roof.

The Joseph Quinn House, built in 1910, is a handsome and solid example of the Gabled Ell from the waning years of the type’s popularity. The sturdy full-width porch with square columns and simple trim around the windows and doors complement the utilitarian nature of the type.

### **PYRAMIDAL AND PYRAMIDAL COTTAGE**

Another 19th-century vernacular house type classified by its roofline is the Pyramidal House or Cottage. Square in plan, usually one-story, and topped with a pyramidal, or hipped roof whose slopes meet at a single roof peak, these modest cottages often date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and have usually been altered over the years.

There are four examples in the district, of which three have been rated contributing. The characteristic Pyramidal Cottage at 424 East Main Street, among the best examples of the type in the district, has a partial front porch joined to a polygonal window bay on its façade. The historic 1/1 wood windows are topped with classical lintels.

### **L-FORM**

Some simple vernacular house types are based on general massing, overall floor plan, and roof configuration. One common example of this type of vernacular house is described as the L-Form, or L-Plan, type. L-Form houses do not have two separate house sections, but rather an L-shaped floor plan that is one integrated whole. The gable roof intersects at a right angle and the roof ridges are usually, but not always, at the same height as a multiple gable roof. There are four L-form houses and one L-Form Cottage in the historic district, one of which—534 East Main Street—is a notable example of the type.



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The residence at 534 Main Street is an excellent example of the L-Form, with many of its historic features intact, an important factor in rating the significance of these vernacular types. The two-story building features a front gable bay with a setback side gable wing. A modest porch stretches along the length of the wing.

## **UPRIGHT AND WING**

An Upright and Wing house combines a 1 1/2 or two-story Gable Front section with a one- or 1 1/2-story section that meets it at a right angle. Unlike the similar L-Form type, the side wing of the Upright and Wing is always lower than the upright portion. This building type was often built in stages, with the upright section as the addition. There are seven Upright and Wing houses in the district, five of which contribute to its historic character. The house at 422 Pearl Street, among the best examples of the type in the district, exhibits the typical two-story Gable Front bay; an historic addition dating from the 1890s slightly obscures the house's original one-story west wing.

## **HISTORIC 20TH-CENTURY HIGH STYLES**

The historic district contains 48 historic 20<sup>th</sup>-century high-style buildings, accounting for approximately 20% of its single-family residences. The majority (30 or 66%) of the 20th-century high styles are historic revival styles from the 1910s, 20s, and 30s. There are also six Craftsman-style houses and six Prairie-style residences. The Colonial Revival style is the most popular, with 15 examples. Two other classically-inspired styles, the Dutch Colonial Revival and Cape Cod styles, are also well-represented, with five and three examples, respectively. Other historic high styles within the district include Tudor Revival (three), and Renaissance Revival (one). Non-historic high styles include the Neo-Traditional style, with three examples, and the Contemporary and Shed styles, with one example each.

## **EARLY 20<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY HIGH STYLES BREAK WITH HISTORIC PRECEDENT**

As in many cities and towns across the county, development in Ottawa's East Side in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century followed design trends that broke with the architectural styles of the past. The simpler Prairie School and Craftsman styles were remarkable departures from the picturesque styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In these styles, the pure expression of materials, without unnecessary ornamentation, was the dominant design feature.

## **PRAIRIE**

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century introduced an indigenous style of architecture not based on any historical precedents. The Prairie School of Architecture, practiced by Frank Lloyd Wright, takes inspiration not from historical precedents but from the Midwest's most characteristic natural feature, the prairie. Hence, the horizontality of the Midwest landscape is emphatically expressed

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in Prairie houses. Identifying features of Prairie architecture include low-pitched roofs with wide overhangs, flat stucco or brick wall treatment, casement windows (frequently leaded) lined up in horizontal bands, and brick detailing in geometric patterns. Many of the examples of the Prairie style found throughout the Midwest hew more closely to the vernacular variation known as the American Foursquare or Prairie Box, which features a more upright profile and straightforward massing, but still has some of the detailing of the more iconic examples designed by the Prairie School architects. There are six contributing examples of the Prairie School style in the historic district.

Of the six Prairie style houses in the East Side Historic District, three—the Hoganson House at 626 Chapel Street, the Albert E. Butters House at 300 Congress Street, and the Charles Woodward House at 428 Pearl Street—were designed by local architect John Hanifen. Hanifen's designs show his attraction to the Prairie Style. Of the 10 houses originally designed by Hanifen in the East Side district, four have been classified as Prairie.

The Woodward House, built in 1919, is perhaps the most quintessential example of the Prairie style that Hanifen designed in the district. The house features an irregular, geometric massing, a low-pitched, multi-hipped roof with overhanging eaves, stucco cladding, and a recessed, offset entry covered by a cantilevered canopy. The ribbon casement windows, which wrap around the corners of the house, are the defining element linking the house to the Prairie style.

The Butters House, built five years earlier, is also a fairly typical example of the style. The low-pitched roof with deep overhangs, the plain stringcourse that runs along the sill level of the second story, the stout, square piers flanking the front entry steps, and the art glass windows are all hallmarks of the style. The brick exterior, with decorative brick panels between the second story windows, sets the house apart from text-book Prairie houses.

The Hoganson House, also built in 1914, is an interesting combination of Prairie and Craftsman design elements. The low-pitched hipped roof, stucco cladding above the sill line of the second story, and the lack of ornamentation around the window and door openings, are all elements characteristic of the Prairie style, while the modillions under the eaves, the center front dormer, and the prominent brackets supporting the front entry canopy are Craftsman elements. The house is a local landmark.

## CRAFTSMAN

Another architectural style in the Ottawa East Side Historic District from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and not based on historic precedent is the Craftsman style. Often exhibiting low-pitched roofs with deep overhanging eaves, Craftsman homes have exposed rafter ends, decorative brackets or knee braces under shallow gable roofs, dormers, and a deep front porch. Windows are frequently double-hung sash with three panes in the upper sash and one in the lower. Although they were built into the 1920s, the Craftsman style was particularly popular between 1901 and 1916, when the architect and furniture maker Gustav Stickley published his magazine, *The Craftsman*. There are six Craftsman-style houses in the historic district and three Craftsman Bungalows, all of which are rated contributing.

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in Prairie houses. Identifying features of Prairie architecture include low-pitched roofs with wide overhangs, flat stucco or brick wall treatment, casement windows (frequently leaded) lined up in horizontal bands, and brick detailing in geometric patterns. Many of the examples of the Prairie style found throughout the Midwest hew more closely to the vernacular variation known as the American Foursquare or Prairie Box, which features a more upright profile and straightforward massing, but still has some of the detailing of the more iconic examples designed by the Prairie School architects. There are six contributing examples of the Prairie School style in the historic district.

Of the six Prairie style houses in the East Side Historic District, three—the Hoganson House at 626 Chapel Street, the Albert E. Butters House at 300 Congress Street, and the Charles Woodward House at 428 Pearl Street—were designed by local architect John Hanifen. Hanifen's designs show his attraction to the Prairie Style. Of the 10 houses originally designed by Hanifen in the East Side district, four have been classified as Prairie.

The Woodward House, built in 1919, is perhaps the most quintessential example of the Prairie style that Hanifen designed in the district. The house features an irregular, geometric massing, a low-pitched, multi-hipped roof with overhanging eaves, stucco cladding, and a recessed, offset entry covered by a cantilevered canopy. The ribbon casement windows, which wrap around the corners of the house, are the defining element linking the house to the Prairie style.

The Butters House, built five years earlier, is also a fairly typical example of the style. The low-pitched roof with deep overhangs, the plain stringcourse that runs along the sill level of the second story, the stout, square piers flanking the front entry steps, and the art glass windows are all hallmarks of the style. The brick exterior, with decorative brick panels between the second story windows, sets the house apart from text-book Prairie houses.

The Hoganson House, also built in 1914, is an interesting combination of Prairie and Craftsman design elements. The low-pitched hipped roof, stucco cladding above the sill line of the second story, and the lack of ornamentation around the window and door openings, are all elements characteristic of the Prairie style, while the modillions under the eaves, the center front dormer, and the prominent brackets supporting the front entry canopy are Craftsman elements. The house is a local landmark.

## CRAFTSMAN

Another architectural style in the Ottawa East Side Historic District from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and not based on historic precedent is the Craftsman style. Often exhibiting low-pitched roofs with deep overhanging eaves, Craftsman homes have exposed rafter ends, decorative brackets or knee braces under shallow gable roofs, dormers, and a deep front porch. Windows are frequently double-hung sash with three panes in the upper sash and one in the lower. Although they were built into the 1920s, the Craftsman style was particularly popular between 1901 and 1916, when the architect and furniture maker Gustav Stickley published his magazine, *The Craftsman*. There are six Craftsman-style houses in the historic district and three Craftsman Bungalows, all of which are rated contributing.

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The John Stewart McElvoy House at 905 Congress Street was designed by John Hanifen and built in 1916. The 1.5 story house features vertical, decorative half timbering on most of its façade, which is filled with rows of large, multi-light wood windows. The front entry of the house is recessed, creating a canopy over the entry supported by an oversized L-bracket. The broad, inset gabled dormer echoes the pitch of the side gable roof.

A more restrained example of the Craftsman style is the John Irwin House at 915 Congress Street. This modest two-story residence exhibits several Craftsman features, including overhanging eaves, a gabled entry porch with battered square columns on a solid knee wall, double hung windows with a 3/1 sash configuration, and a shed roof front dormer.

Features of the Craftsman style are so frequently combined with the popular Bungalow form that there is a separate classification for these houses called "Craftsman Bungalow." Craftsman Bungalows, inspired by the work of California architects Greene and Greene, were widely published in architectural journals and popular home magazines of the day. Plans were often included in articles about the style, and the Craftsman Bungalow became one of the country's most popular house styles during the teens and twenties. Craftsman Bungalows by definition have more high-style features and can be quite remarkable despite their often modest size. There are three Craftsman Bungalows in the district. The Milton Weiss House at 815 Chapel Street is a pristine example of this style, with its low-pitched, hipped, side-gable roof, inset porch supported by paired, square columns set on squat square piers, and horizontal, shed roof dormer.

## **HISTORIC REVIVAL STYLES PEAK IN THE 1920S**

Although interest in Prairie, Craftsman, and their variations dominated popular taste in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some examples of historic styles were often built. But it was in the 1920s, a boom time for construction throughout the country, that architectural favor turned in full force to historic revival styles. These were influenced by classical, European, and other models in a trend that continued into the 1950s.

### **CLASSICAL THEMES:**

#### **COLONIAL REVIVAL, DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL, AND CAPE COD**

##### **Colonial Revival**

The Colonial Revival style dates from the years following the 1876 United States Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia. It became the most popular historic revival style throughout the country between World Wars I and II, as the country enjoyed a resurgence of patriotism. Many people chose Colonial Revival architecture because of its basic simplicity and its patriotic associations with early American 18<sup>th</sup>-century homes. Most of these buildings are symmetrical and rectangular in plan. Detailing is derived from classical sources, partly due to the influence of the classicism that dominated the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Many front facades have classical, temple-like entrances with projecting porticos topped by a pediment. Paneled doors flanked by sidelights and topped by rectangular transoms or fanlights are common, as are multi-

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pane double-hung windows with shutters.

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The Colonial Revival style was among the most popular of the 1920s revival styles in the Midwest and throughout the country, so it is not surprising that it is the best represented of the historic revival styles within the East Side Historic District. Of the 15 examples, all but one contributes to the character of the historic district. Three of the examples—the Hibbs House and the houses at 400 and 410 Pearl Street—were originally constructed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and were remodeled in the 1910s, 20s, and 30s in the Colonial Revival Style.

The Clara French House at 325 Pearl Street was designed by respected local architect John Hanifen. Among the more elegant Colonial Revival residences in the district, the house features the characteristic symmetrical façade punctuated by a center entry porch with flanged segmental arch roof supported by paired, round columns. The rounded arch of the porch roof is repeated in the three eyebrow windows that line the roof.

A more modest but lovely iteration of the style can be found at 530 Chapel Street. Dating from the 1930s, its rectangular massing and attached garage hint at the emergence of the Ranch style within the next decade. A rubble stone veneer covered the façade of the main house, which is enlivened by the presence of a polygonal first story window bay and steeply pitched gable dormers.

Inspired by the minimalism of the Prairie School and the later International Style and Art Moderne, many builders and architects began producing a stripped down, streamlined version of the Colonial Revival, creating a modernized style that was still recognizable to the average homebuyer. A typical example of this streamlined Colonial Revival can be found at 515 Chapel Street. The brick-clad residence, designed by Charles Wolcott and built in 1936, features almost no ornamentation, with very simple window surrounds, and an unadorned cornice. The only ornamental feature is the entry porch, with its sweeping metal roof and wrought iron supports. The attached garage bay is another popular feature of these later Colonials.

### **Dutch Colonial Revival**

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is a subtype of the Colonial Revival style, marked by a gambrel roof, with a double slope on each side of the building. Those with the gambrel facing the street tend to be earlier, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, while those with side-facing gambrels and a broad front dormer were very popular during the 1920s. There are five contributing houses in the Dutch Colonial Revival style in the district.

The Dutch Colonial at 818 Congress Street, built in 1903 for Dr. Nicholas Guthrie, is an early example of the style in the district. Like many Dutch Colonial Revivals dating from around the turn of the century, the house features a front-facing gambrel roof. The shingles under the front and side cross-gambrels, the inset front porch with rounded columns, and multi-light wood windows are design details that are characteristic of the style, and are also seen on 19<sup>th</sup> century high styles like Queen Anne and Shingle.



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A slightly later example of the style is located at 7 Gridley Place. Built around 1910, this massive Dutch Colonial exhibits the more typical side-facing gambrel roof seen in examples of the style from this period. Classical elements, including the triangular pediment above the porch entry, the paired, round arch windows under the side gables, and arched-top front dormers, are all notable features.

The house at 736 Chapel Street, the most pristine example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style was originally built in 1848 as an Italianate for Henry Green, the original developer of Ottawa's East Side. In 1922, Andrew J. O'Connor III commissioned Ottawa native and architect Norman W. Cook to re-design the house into its present form. Cook seamlessly integrated the elements of the Dutch Colonial style—the side gambrel roof with cornice returns, the Classical entry porch with segmental arch roof and round columns, the dormers topped with triangular pediments—onto the existing structure. The house remains essentially as it was when it was transformed in 1922. It was individually listed on the National Register in 1993, and is a designated local landmark.

### **Cape Cod**

The Cape Cod style house is another subtype, a much smaller traditional alternative to the typical two-story Colonial Revival style house. One- to 1½-stories, it is characterized by a rectangular plan with a side gable roof, a central front entrance, and generally two front-facing dormers. There is frequently some classical detailing such as multi-light windows and classical door and window surrounds. There are three Cape Cod houses in the historic district, two of which—731 Congress Street and the Elizabeth Herring House at 529 Pearl Street—are rated contributing.

The Cape Cod at 731 Congress Street dates from the late 1920s, and features a side-facing jerkinhead roof punctuated by three shed roof dormers. A classical entry porch with a gable roof and classical columns is centered along the façade. The house also retains its historic 6/1 double hung wood windows.

A more elaborate example of the Cape Cod style is the Elizabeth Herring House at 529 Pearl Street. Built in 1925, the house was built using House Plan#195 from the American Lumberman, a lumber trade journal based in Chicago. The American Lumberman often compiled house plans that had been featured in the pages of the journal into separate booklets that were then distributed to companies in the lumber industry. The house is typical of the house plans offered through the American Lumberman in the early 20th century. The side-gable roof is covered with green ceramic tile, and punctuated by two small, round-arch dormers. The center front entry porch dominates the façade of the house features prominent cornice returns, a round center window under the gable peak, and paired fluted columns with decorative trellis work.

### **TUDOR REVIVAL**

Perhaps the most popular revival style in America during the 1920s based on European traditions was the Tudor Revival style. Its design source comes from a variety of late medieval models prevalent in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Tudor England. Tudor Revival houses are typically brick, sometimes

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with stucco. Half timbering, with flat stucco panels outlined by wood boards, is common. The style is characterized by steeply pitched gable roofs and tall narrow casement windows with multiple panes or diamond leading. The front door may have a rounded arch or flattened pointed (Tudor) arch. Many examples feature prominent exterior stone or brick chimneys.

Within the Ottawa East Side Historic District, there are three examples of the Tudor Revival style, all of which are rated contributing and two of which—the Albert Gilman House at 514 Congress Street, and the J. M. French House at 300 Pearl Street—are notable.

Designed by John Hanifen and built in 1914-15, the Albert Gilman House is a finely executed example of the style. The house has a hipped main roof that is interrupted by a two-story front-facing gable bay. A one-story, asymmetrical entry bay is recessed along the building's west elevation, and features some decorative half timbering and an inset entry porch with round arch openings topped with center key stones. A first story sun room at the southeast corner of the house is evident by the series of three sets of grouped windows within segmental arch openings.

The J. M. French House at 300 Pearl Street, like several other houses in the East Side District, is a 19<sup>th</sup> century house that was completely remodeled into a more popular architectural style in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Originally constructed around 1880 from a William Youman design, the house was remodeled in 1929 by owner Louis A. Wilson. Wilson hired architect Norman Cook, who was also responsible for the remodeling of the 1840s Italianate house at 736 Chapel into a Dutch Colonial Revival design. He transformed this original house into an impressive Tudor Revival residence, complete with half timbering, prominent corbelled end chimneys, rubble stone detailing, and a rounded arch entry with a wood plank door.

## RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

During the historic revival period of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a number of European models became the basis for architectural expression in America. One of these was the Renaissance Revival style. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, many American architects as well as their clients had visited Italy, and some became interested in Italian architecture. American designs based on the Renaissance Revival style were generally rectangular in form and rendered in brick or stone, with low pitched, hipped roofs of ceramic tile. The identifying feature of the style is the presence of rounded arch openings for windows and doors; these rounded arch windows are sometimes arranged in a row along the first story of the house.

The sole example of the Renaissance Revival style in the district is the Guy Karr House at 515 Pearl Street. The house exhibits a low-pitched hipped roof covered with ceramic tile, a common feature of the style. A two-story projecting center bay contains the main entry to the house, which is recessed behind a Palladian-style opening supported by rope columns topped with Ionic capitals. Two double hung windows with blind round arches flank the front entry.

## POPULAR HOUSE TYPES OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, plans for popular house types were widely published and

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made available in books and catalogues throughout the United States. These plans could be purchased and used by individual builders or homeowners on a site of their choosing, which explains the prevalence of some popular types in various communities all across the country. The earliest of these types was the American Foursquare, which some art historians suggest was influenced by the horizontality of the Prairie School style. Also widely built in the early decades of the century was the Bungalow. After 1930, during the modern period, popular house types included the Ranch and the Split Level. During the post-World War II years in particular, Ranch houses were built all over the country by the hundreds of thousands.

Of the 230 single-family houses in the Ottawa East Side Historic District, 45 (approximately 20%) have been categorized as a 20<sup>th</sup> century popular types. Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century types include the American Foursquare and Bungalow with nine and 19 examples respectively. Popular mid-century and post-World War II types like Minimal Traditional (six), Ranch (nine), and Split-Level (two) are also represented within the district.

### **AMERICAN FOURSQUARE**

American Foursquare houses are simple, mostly symmetrical houses that began to appear at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is typically square or nearly square in plan with four equal-sized spaces — an entrance hall, living room, dining room, and kitchen — in each corner. The type became popular in house building because it was practical and comfortable for the working and middle classes. The Foursquare is usually two- to 2½-stories tall, two bays wide, with a hipped or pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves, dormers, and a full-width front porch with classical or squared-off columns.

There are nine American Foursquare houses in the district, of which eight are rated contributing. The house at 637 Congress Streets is representative of the typical American Foursquare found in the district and throughout the Midwest in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Notable features include the hipped roof with flared eaves and front gable dormer, the full front porch with paired classical columns resting on solid wood knee walls, and the variation of stucco and wood cladding on the exterior walls.

### **BUNGALOW**

The Bungalow is 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular house type that began in California and quickly spread to other parts of the country. Although it evolved from the Craftsman heritage, Bungalows may incorporate various other stylistic features. It became so popular after 1905 that it was often built in quantity by contractors and builders. Plan books and architectural journals published plans that helped popularize the type for homeowners and builders. Bungalows are one- or 1½-story houses that emphasize horizontality. Basic characteristics usually include broad and deep front porches and low-pitched roofs, often with dormers. Porches can be full across the front, small and recessed, or projecting. There are many roof variations found in bungalows, including front or side-facing jerkinhead (a gable roof with the peak clipped), front or side-facing gable, and hipped. Exterior materials can be brick with cut stone trim, or can be frame.

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In the East Side Historic District, the Bungalow is the most prevalent of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century popular types, with 19 examples. Of these, two, the William Clegg House at 819 Pearl Street, and the Nellie Bradish House at 542 Chapel Street, are particularly well-designed.

The Bungalow at 542 Chapel Street was built in 1915 and remodeled less than a decade later. The house retains the essential features that are associated with the popular building type, including a full-width, inset front porch supported by simple square posts on solid knee walls, stucco exterior, and broad side gable roof with overhanging eaves and shed roof dormer.

The Clegg house, built in 1926, is an interesting mix of the Bungalow type with architectural details seen on Renaissance Revival and Spanish Eclectic houses from the same period. The rectangular massing and multi-gable roofline, along with the flush west side entry, are typical Bungalow features. The Palladian-style French doors with shallow wrought iron balcony and the round arch entry canopy are often seen of grander Renaissance Revival homes. The combination of these elements with the massing is reminiscent of the Spanish Eclectic homes popular in Florida and the West Coast.

## **MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING TYPES**

Within the Ottawa East Side Historic District, there are structures that are currently classified as multi-family residential. Of those, only six were constructed as multi-family buildings; the rest were originally single-family residences or secondary structures like garages and coach houses that were converted into multi-family. Each of the six historic multi-family residential structures within the historic district can be classified as a duplex, with two units arranged side-by-side within a single building. All of the these duplexes date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the earliest dating from around 1860 and the latest from 1893. Most of them exhibit Italianate or Queen Anne detailing. Of the six duplexes in the district, all but one contributes to its historic character. Of particular note are the Henry & Maria Reifnsnyder House at 432-434 Pearl Street and the Abraham Alschuler House at 744 East Main Street.

The Reifnsnyder House, constructed around 1860, is an impressive Italianate Duplex situated on the northwest corner of Pearl and Orleans Streets. The building exhibits all the hallmarks of the popular 19<sup>th</sup>- century style, including the low pitched hipped roof, prominent cornice with paired brackets and paneled frieze, full front porch with, fluted columns, and classical trim. The two units are mirror images, with the front entries placed side-by-side in the center of the façade, under the front porch. Although originally constructed as a residential duplex, the building is currently being used as professional office space.

The Alschuler house is another elegant iteration of the Italianate Duplex. The building features full-height polygonal bays at either end of the façade, joined by a two-story entry porch with a curving segmental arch roofline at the second story. The building has undergone some alterations over the years, but retains a good deal of architectural integrity.

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**NON-RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**

The Ottawa East Side Historic District is almost completely residential in character, and has been since it was first developed in the 1840s. Of the 245 principal structures, only two were constructed as non-residential. Both of these buildings are associated with the Ottawa Township High School. Officially established in 1878, the high school held classes in the basement of the Congregational church before an impressive brick school building was completed at the corner of Columbus and Washington Streets in 1880. With growing enrollment placing new demands on the old building, a new high school building was erected on the south side of Main Street east of the Fox River in 1916. The 2.5-story brick Tudor Revival school building was designed by St. Louis architect, William B. Ittner, under the supervision of local architect John Hanifen. Ittner was known for his modern designs for school buildings. A slightly projecting entry bay along the center of the building's front façade is the main focus of the structure, and features square brick pilasters topped with Ionic capitals, and a massive stone entry surround with "Ottawa Township High School" engraved in the frieze. Above the entry are a series of ceramic tile panels representing the original Native American population of the area, and early settlement.

The Manuel Arts Building and Kingman Gymnasium was constructed in 1931, east of the high school building. The brick structure was a simpler iteration of the high school building, with straightforward, rectangular massing, brick parapet, and stone cornices and entry surrounds. A bridge connecting the Manuel Arts Building and gymnasium to the main high school building was added a few years later. Both structures have been added onto, and the windows on both buildings have been replaced, but the complex retains much of its architectural integrity, and remains a landmark within the neighborhood.

**ARCHITECTS OF THE OTTAWA EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Like many other small cities in Illinois, Ottawa's built environment was the work of local carpenters and builders, with architects playing a relatively minor role in the city's development even into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Within the East Side Historic District, only around 10% of the houses have been identified as the work of a particular architect or builder. Most of these houses date from after 1900, and were designed by John Hanifen, one of Ottawa's most prolific architects. Although most of these architects and builders were not well-known outside of LaSalle County, they produced residences of fine quality, many of which stand as landmarks within the district.

**William Abram Youmans**

One of the earliest known architects known to have worked in Ottawa, William Abram Youmans designed several houses in the East Side Historic District in the 1880s. Born in 1854 in New York, William Youmans was the son of carpenter Charles Edwin Youmans, a long-time resident of Seneca. A carpenter by trade, Charles Youmans moved his family from New York to LaSalle County in 1855. Personal papers owned by Youmans' great-grandson indicate that the family initially settled in South Ottawa, and that Charles Youmans may have built the well-known



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octagon house for James Pickens there (the house was demolished in the 1930s).<sup>39</sup> Census records show that, by 1860, Charles Youmans had relocated to Manlius Township, where he remained with his family until his death in 1887. William Youmans apprenticed with his father as a carpenter, and the two men worked together as C. E. Youmans & Son in Seneca.<sup>40</sup>

It is unknown exactly when William Youmans moved from Seneca to Ottawa, but it is likely that he relocated after his father's death. It is also possible that he received commissions for houses in Ottawa before becoming a resident. Youmans appears for the first time in the Ottawa City Directory in 1888, and is listed as an architect. It seems doubtful that Youmans had any formal training, but it was not unusual for seasoned 19<sup>th</sup> century builders in rural locations to call themselves architects, and to be considered as such by local residents. He remained in Ottawa for a relatively short time—by the early 1890s, Youmans and his brother Louis had opened an architectural firm in Chicago called William A. Youmans & Bro. William Youmans remained in Chicago until his death in 1911.<sup>41</sup>

Within the Ottawa East Side Historic District, there are four known designs by William Abram Youmans: the Moses Stiefel House at 431 Congress Street; the Benjamin Hess House at 433 Congress Street; the Charles and Louisa Green House at 500 East Main Street; and the J. M. French House at 300 Pearl Street. The Hess House and Green House are both elegantly and competently rendered 19<sup>th</sup>-century eclectic designs. Both the Stiefel House and the French House were extensively remodeled in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Jason F. Richardson, Jr.

Jason F. Richardson, Jr., was among the most prominent architects working in Ottawa in the 1890s through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Ottawa in 1870, Richardson attended local schools in the city and graduated in 1889. Richardson began studying architecture under William Abram Youmans, and briefly partnered with local architect J. W. Watson before practicing on his own. Richardson was the principal architect for many of Ottawa's major commercial and civic building projects in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including numerous school and bank buildings, a hotel, a theater, and Ottawa's City Hall. Richardson also designed several tuberculosis sanitariums during his career, including the LaSalle County Sanitarium, DeKalb County Sanitarium, the Pratt County Sanitarium, and the Christian County Sanitarium. Although it is unknown whether Richardson ever received any formal education or training in engineering, he was listed as a civil engineer in the 1913 Ottawa City Directory.<sup>42</sup> Richardson was also active in civic and social life in Ottawa—he served as city clerk, and was a member of several fraternal organizations in the city.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>39</sup> "Kin of Marseilles Man Built Octagon House," newspaper article [no paper name, no date, no page] attached to Brodbeck-Goddard family tree, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>40</sup> 1860 and 1880 census, <http://www.genealogytrails.com/ill/lasalle/town/seneca.html>.

<sup>41</sup> Chicago City Directories, 1890 and 1893, accessed via [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com); Ancestry.com, Cook County, IL Death Index, 1878-1922 [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011).

<sup>42</sup> HABS, p. 285.

<sup>43</sup> *Ottawa, Illinois in Nineteen Hundred* (Ottawa, IL: E. A. Nattinger, 1900), reprinted by the LaSalle Genealogy

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Among the handful of Richardson's known residential commissions in Ottawa, two are located within the Ottawa East Side Historic District. The W. C. Vittum House at 431 Pearl Street is a handsome, compact Queen Anne design from the 1890s. The second house designed by Richardson in the district was his own, a stucco-clad Prairie-style residence constructed in 1908. Richardson lived there with his family until his death in 1934.

### **Kesson White**

Kesson White was an early contemporary of Jason Richardson, Jr., but worked primarily as a residential architect in Ottawa. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, White received formal architectural training in Scotland, and had worked for five years for Campbell Douglas and James Sellars, a respected Glaswegian architecture firm that operated from the early 1870s to the late 1880s. White immigrated to the United States in the late 1870s, settling in Omaha, Nebraska. After practicing architecture there for a number of years, he moved to Ottawa in 1896. White opened an office downtown, and succeeded in garnering early commissions for several schools.<sup>44</sup> According to the 1987 Historic American Buildings Survey report on Ottawa, White designed a number of large, handsome houses in the city's south side in the roughly two decades he spent working in Ottawa. In Ottawa's East Side Historic District, White is known to have designed only one house—the Anthony-Johnson House at 630 East Main Street. Built in 1902, the building features an unusual square corner tower attached to a Free-Classic, Queen Anne design.

During the final years of his career, Kesson White formed a partnership with Ottawa architects John Hanifen. After retiring in 1916, he moved to Chicago, where he remained until his death in 1927.

### **John Hanifen**

One of the most prolific architects in Ottawa in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was John Hanifen. A native of Ottawa, Hanifen studied architecture at the University of Illinois before moving back to Ottawa and joining the firm of Kesson White in the 1910s. Hanifen became a full partner in the firm in 1913, and upon White's retirement in 1916, continued to practice alone.<sup>45</sup>

The ten houses in the Ottawa East Side Historic District designed by John Hanifen illustrate both the influence of his formal education and his working relationship with Kesson White. A number of Hanifen's historic revival style designs reflect the early years of his career spent working under White, who favored more traditional architectural styles. Among the most ably-rendered of these revival styles include a stately Colonial Revival-style residence built in 1913 at 325 Pearl Street, and a handsome brick Tudor Revival house completed in 1915 at 514 Congress

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Guild in 1995, p. 132-133.

<sup>44</sup> *Ottawa, Illinois in Nineteen Hundred*, p. 133.

<sup>45</sup> HABS, p. 286-7.

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While at the University of Illinois, Hanifen was exposed to the work of Prairie School architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, which inspired his own Prairie designs. An early example of Hanifen's interpretation of Prairie School architecture is the Albert E. Butters House at 300 Congress Street; built in 1914. It is among Hanifen's finest Prairie designs in the district. Other excellent examples include the Hoganson House at 626 Chapel Street and the Charles Woodward House at 428 Pearl Street.

### **Norman Cook**

Norman Cook was born on December 8, 1882 in Ottawa, Illinois. The son of bank examiner David A. Cook and his wife Georgia, Norman Cook spent his childhood at 602 Chapel Street in the East Side. After graduating from Ottawa Township High School, Cook studied architecture at the Armour Institute (later the Illinois Institute of Technology) in Chicago. Cook remained in Chicago for much of his early career as an architect, and moved back to Ottawa in the mid-1930s. Cook was a member of the American Institute of Architects from 1922 to 1935.

Cook designed two residences in the East Side Historic District—an early 1940s Colonial Revival residence at 1 Gridley Place, and the Andrew J. O'Connor, III House at 736 Chapel Street. The O'Connor House was not a new design, but an extensive remodeling of the oldest remaining house in the district—the 1848 Italianate residence of Henry Green. Cook re-designed the house in the Dutch Colonial Revival style popular in 1922, leaving no trace of the original design. The O'Connor House was individually listed to the National Register in 1993.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Ottawa East Side Historic District is Ottawa's premier historic residential neighborhood, with an excellent collection of the best architectural styles found in Illinois. Impressive examples of the 19<sup>th</sup> century's most favored styles dominate, including Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne, yet mix well with more modest vernacular types from the same era. A smattering of the Prairie School/Craftsman sensibility intersperse with historic revival homes from the 1920s and 1930s. Unique in its geographical isolation, it has persevered for over 150 years with very good integrity. With 83% of its principal structures contributing to the character of the district, a long list of IHSS-noted homes, and many individual buildings already recognized as local and National Register landmarks, the Ottawa East Side Historic District is a strong candidate for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

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Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Name of Property

LaSalle, IL  
County and State

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National Register Nomination. "Jeremiah Strawn House." Prepared by Christine A. Jowers, submitted November 30, 1994.

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Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. *Standard Atlas of LaSalle County, Illinois*. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1906.

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Vierling, Philip E. *Hiking the Illinois and Michigan Canal and Enjoying its Environs*. Chicago: Dandellis Printing, 1986.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register (**2 buildings in district individually listed**)  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # HABS IL-316



Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Name of Property

LaSalle, IL  
County and State

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**9. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 69.94

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.348767° | Longitude: -88.838121° |
| 2. Latitude: 41.349405° | Longitude: -88.825818° |
| 3. Latitude: 41.345443° | Longitude: -88.826479° |
| 4. Latitude: 41.344330° | Longitude: -88.838984° |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Name of Property

LaSalle, IL  
County and State

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundaries for the Ottawa East Side Historic District are as follows: beginning at the west line of the parcels containing Ottawa Township High School (211 East Main Street); south along the west side of the parcels; east along the south line of the south parcel containing the school to the southeast corner of that parcel; north along the east line of school parcels to the south west corner of 403 East Main Street; east along the south lot lines of the 400 block of East Main Street (south side); south along Orleans Street to the southwest corner 514 Orleans Street; east along the south lot line of 514 Orleans Street; north along the east lot line of 514 Orleans Street; east along the south lot lines of the 500 block of East Main Street (south side) to York Street; south along York Street to the southwest corner of 504 York Street; east along the south lot lines of 504 York Street and 615 East Main Street; north along the east lot line of 615 East Main Street to the southwest corner of 621 East Main Street; east along the south lot line of the 600 block of East Main Street (south side) to Chester Street; south along Chester Street to the southwest corner of 701 East Main Street; east along the south lot lines of 701 and 703 East Main Street; north along the east lot line of 703 East Main Street; east along East Main Street to Green Street; north along Green Street to 903-905 Green Street; west along the north lot lines of the 800 and 700 blocks of Chapel Street (north side) to the northeast corner of 714 Chapel Street; west from 714 Chapel Street along the south bank of the Fox River to Shabbona Street; south on Shabbona Street to East Main Street; west on East Main Street to the northwest corner of 211 East Main Street.

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

The boundaries for the Ottawa East Side Historic District roughly coincide with Henry Green's Addition, the first subdivision platted in the area in 1834. Because Green's Addition was never built up south of East Main Street due to constant flooding, the south boundary of the district generally runs along the south lot lines of the houses on the south side of East Main Street. The district also includes approximately two blocks between Division and Shabbona Streets, as well as the land containing Ottawa Township High School on the south side of East Main Street. This area was part of the Original Town of Ottawa plat from 1829-30, and is the only part of the plat in the East Side that remains built up. The area east of Green Street on the East Side, which was subdivided in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and most of the south side of the 700 block of East Main Street, were excluded from the district. The majority of houses built in these areas fall outside of the period of significance for the district.

Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Name of Property

LaSalle, IL  
County and State

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### 10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Victoria Granacki and Lara Ramsey  
organization: Granacki Historic Consultants  
street & number: 1105 West Chicago Avenue, Suite 201  
city or town: Chicago state: IL zip code: 60642  
e-mail: vicki@historicpreservationchicago.com  
telephone: 312-421-1131  
date: March 7, 2013

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Ottawa East Side Historic District

City or Vicinity: Ottawa

County: LaSalle

State: IL

Ottawa East Side Historic District  
Name of Property

LaSalle, IL  
County and State

Photographer: Lara Ramsey

Date Photographed: February 15, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 35  
500 block of Chapel Street, south side, facing southeast.

2 of 35  
500 block of Chapel Street, north side, facing northwest.

3 of 35  
600 block of Chapel Street, north side, facing northeast.

4 of 35  
600 block of Chapel Street, north side, facing northeast.

5 of 35  
700 block of Chapel Street, north side, facing northwest.

6 of 35  
800 block of Chapel Street, south side, facing southeast.

7 of 35  
800 block of Pearl Street, north side, facing northwest.

8 of 35  
800 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southeast.

9 of 35  
700 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southeast.

10 of 35  
600 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southeast.

11 of 35  
500 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southwest.

12 of 35  
500 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southeast.

13 of 35

Ottawa East Side Historic District

Name of Property

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County and State

500 block of Pearl Street, north side, facing northeast.

14 of 35

400 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southwest.

15 of 35

400 block of Pearl Street, north side, facing southwest.

16 of 35

300 block of Pearl Street, south side, facing southwest.

17 of 35

300 block of Pearl Street, north side, facing northwest.

18 of 35

300 block of Congress Street, north side, facing northwest.

19 of 35

400 block of Congress Street, south side, facing southeast.

20 of 35

400 block of Congress Street, north side, facing northeast.

21 of 35

400 block of Congress Street, south side, facing southwest.

22 of 35

700 block of Orleans Street, east side, facing northeast.

23 of 35

500 block of Congress Street, south side, facing southeast.

24 of 35

500 block of Congress Street, north side, facing northwest.

25 of 35

600 block of Congress Street, south side, facing southeast.

26 of 35

700 block of Congress Street, south side, facing southeast.

27 of 35

800 block of Congress Street, north side, facing northeast.



Ottawa East Side Historic District

LaSalle, IL

Name of Property

County and State

28 of 35

West side of Gridley Place, facing southwest.

29 of 35

700 block of East Main Street, north side, facing northeast.

30 of 35

600 block of East Main Street, south side, facing southwest.

31 of 35

600 block of East Main Street, north side, facing northwest.

32 of 35

600 block of East Main Street, south side, facing southwest.

33 of 35

500 block of East Main Street, north side, facing northeast.

34 of 35

400 block of East Main Street, north side, facing northeast.

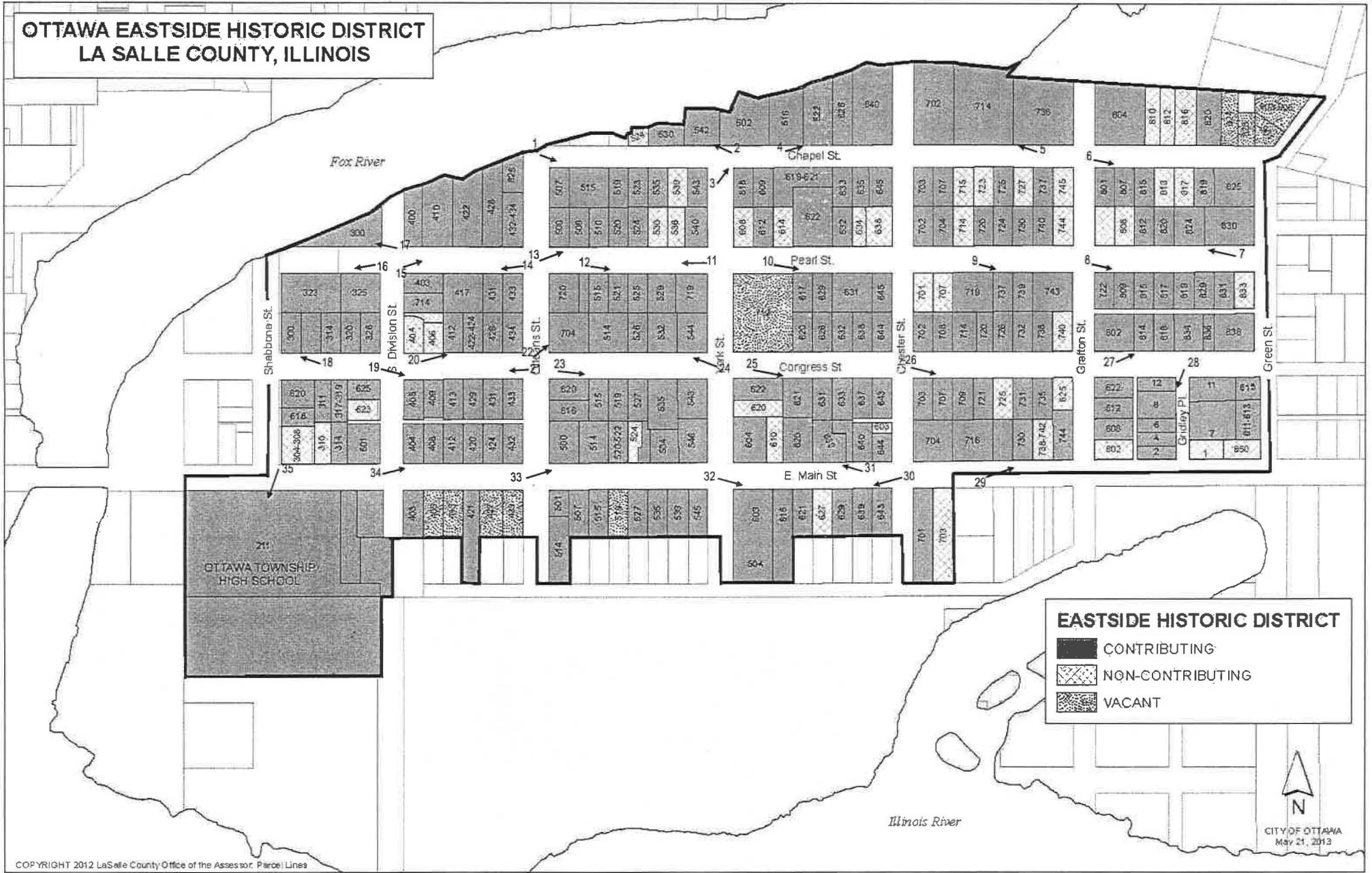
35 of 35

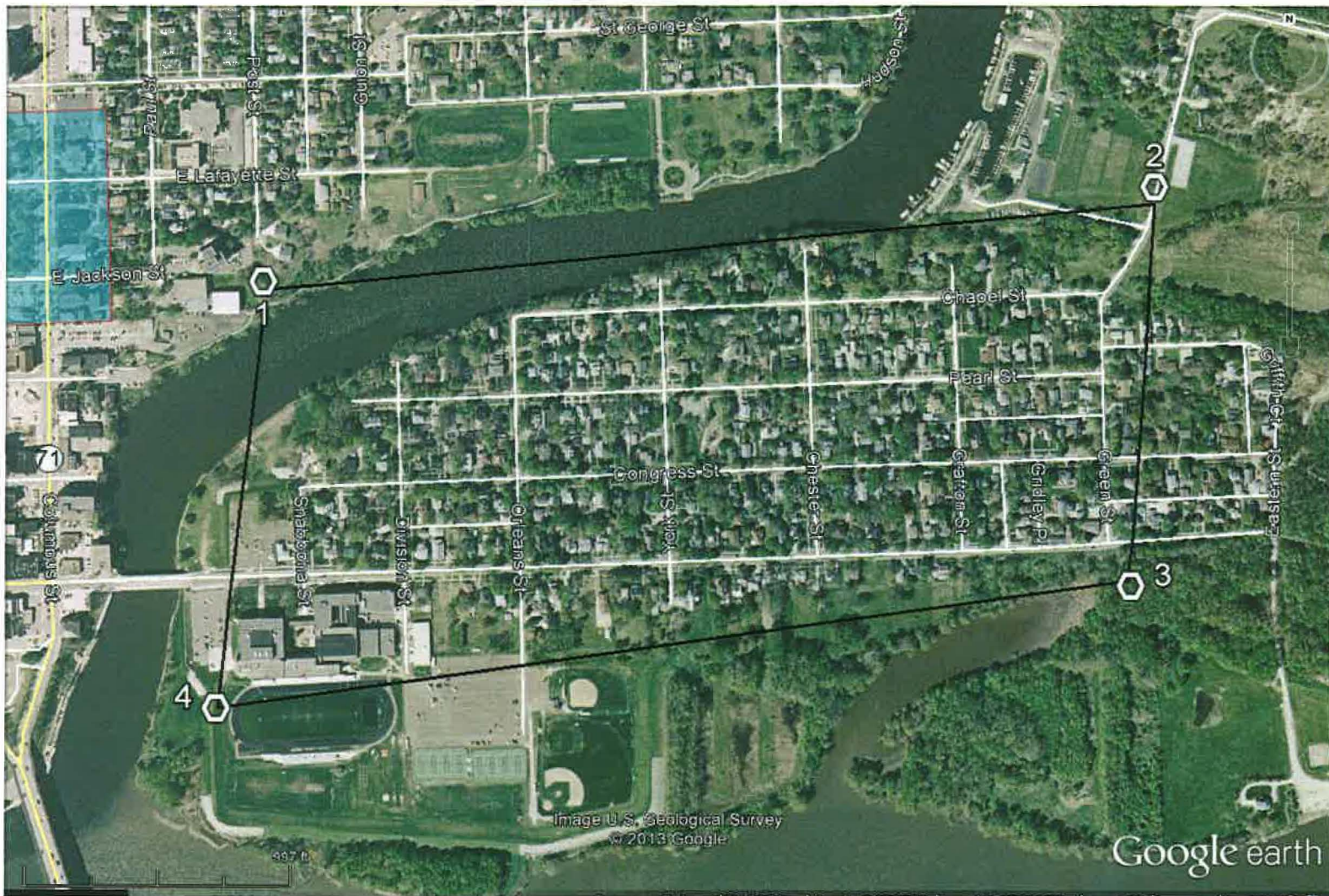
Ottawa Township High School, 200 block East Main Street, facing southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**OTTAWA EASTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**





1) 41.348767, -88.838121  
2) 41.349405, -88.825818

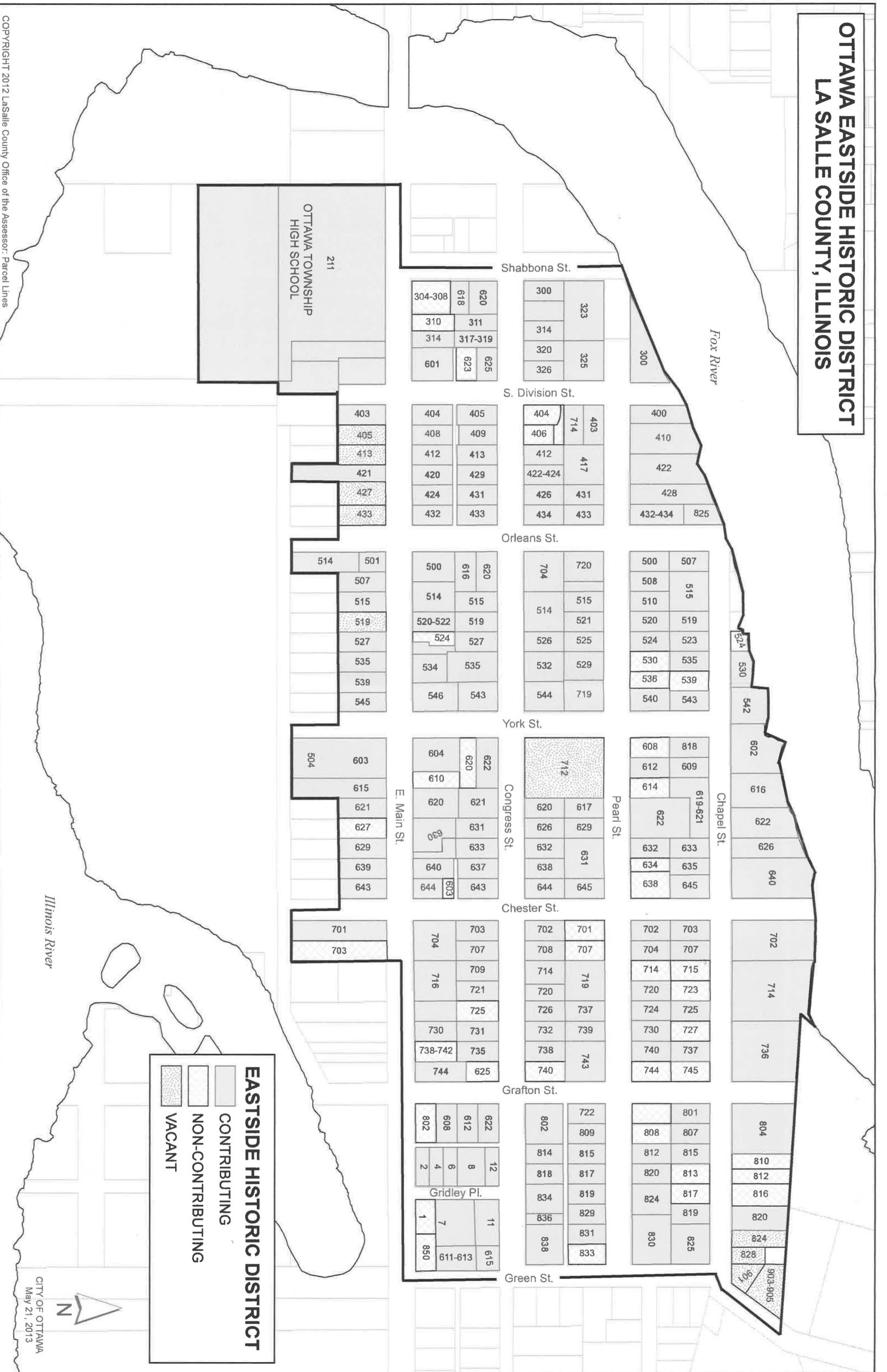
3) 41.345443, -88.826479  
4) 41.344330, -88.838984

**Ottawa East Side Historic District**  
**LaSalle Co., IL**



# OTTAWA EASTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

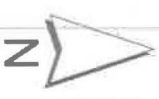
COPYRIGHT 2012 LaSalle County Office of the Assessor: Parcel Lines



211  
OTTAWA TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL

**EASTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- VACANT



CITY OF OTTAWA  
May 21, 2013



































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25

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ottawa East Side Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, La Salle

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000718

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9.18.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • [www.illinois-history.gov](http://www.illinois-history.gov)



July 25, 2013

Ms. Barbara Wyatt  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW Suite NC400  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed for your review are the following National Register Nomination Forms that were recommended by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

**Ottawa East Side Historic District (Ottawa, LaSalle County)**  
**Glen Ellyn Downtown North Historic District (Glen Ellyn, DuPage County)**  
**Glen Ellyn Downtown South Historic District (Glen Ellyn, DuPage County)**  
**Downtown Plainfield Historic District (Plainfield, Will County)**  
**Beecher Mausoleum (Beecher vicinity, Will County)**  
**Robert and Suzanne Drucker House (Wilmette, Cook County)**

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at [andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov](mailto:andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov) if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures