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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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: Blair 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: Portions of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, A, B, High, Illinois, Main and Washington streets

City or town: Belleville State: Illinois County: St. Clair

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


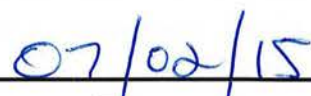
I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x 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 x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	 Date
<u>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Blair Historic District
Name of Property

St. Clair County, Illinois
County and State

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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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 Gibson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8-18-15
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)
-

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>57</u>	<u>21</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>57</u>	<u>21</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL/clubhouse

VACANT

Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Movements

Classical Revival
Commercial
Romanesque Revival
Modern Movements

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, terra cotta, stone

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.)

Summary

The Blair Historic District is an urban historic district of moderate density located across 10 blocks in the center of Belleville, Illinois. The district encompasses part of the city's downtown west of the Courthouse Square, and is located entirely on blocks within the original plat of the city on land donated by the eponymous George Blair. The District's scale, building forms, styles and dates of construction conform with other parts of downtown Belleville that are not able to be included in this nomination due to severance across areas with low to no remaining streetscape integrity. Within the nominated District are commercial and light industrial buildings, two fraternal buildings, public buildings, a church, a small number of single and multiple dwellings, and a small number of outbuildings. The district conveys a typical 19th century grid plan and building typology, with most resources being commercial buildings built between 1850 and 1930. However, other resources demonstrate ongoing development and evolution of the District, as well as compatible scale and materials. The buildings demonstrate a range of vernacular and designed stylistic attributes, with the majority being masonry structures falling into locally prevalent types and styles. There are several architect-designed larger buildings, including the U.S. Post Office (1911) and the Turner Hall (1924). The District retains integrity despite demolition and building alterations.

The distribution of resources is as follows:

	Contributing	Non-Contributing	
Primary Buildings	57	20	78
Secondary Buildings	0	1	1
Objects	0	0	0
	57	21	78

Setting

The District is located within the city of Belleville, which recorded a population of 43,765 in 2012. The District is situated within the center of Belleville, which is laid out on a grid and characterized by urban development dating to the 19th and early 20th century. While Belleville's layout follows road and rail lines, the center city adheres to an ordinal grid with a few diagonal streets. To the west of the District, Richland Creek remains a natural topographic boundary between the center city and the west side, once the independent village of West Belleville. There is a noticeable cessation in building density in the area around the creek. Open land and wooded areas line the banks. Main Street separates and curves at the creek, inscribing a historic political and geographic division.

The primary commercial area lies between A Street and Washington Street, 1st Street and 3rd

Street. This area is anchored by the nearly continuous street walls of Main Street and the relatively massive Turner Hall at 1st and A streets. This portion is complementary to the development along Main Street to the east, but is disjoined due to the redevelopment of the Courthouse Square in the 1970s and 1980s through three large-scale buildings (the St. Clair County Courthouse and two bank buildings). This area's scale transitioned to residential along Washington Street, but included some commercial and institutional buildings south toward St. Peter's Cathedral. Front yards typify the houses along Washington and 2nd Streets. However, south of Washington Street, demolition has removed any sense of visual relationship.

Illinois Street's character maintains the prevalent architectural character even in mixed-use buildings with commercial storefronts. This character is comparable with the area between Illinois Street and Third Street, A Street and C Street, in which everything from the ornate United States Post Office, stately St. Paul's Church complex, monolithic telephone exchange and several houses stand amid paved and unpaved lots where buildings once stood. In both areas, sidewalks run along streets with only some tree plantings. There are a few front yards.

While the District's disparate areas have differing tones, the overall cohesion comes from a compatible range of styles and uses that embody downtown development. The District's resources narrate the story of the growth of an emergent urban area, and visually read as such. In a larger city where uses were restricted through zoning, and the landscapes likely reordered through twentieth century renewal programs, the District might appear incoherent. However, compared to the typical patterns found in smaller railroad cities in southern Illinois, such as Alton, Carbondale or Vandalia, or even nearby towns such as Freeburg or Smithton, the District's assortment of buildings is easily legible as "downtown."

Integrity

The District retains integrity of location, feeling, association, setting, materials, design and workmanship. The period of significance incorporates over one century of development, including some demolition since the publication of the 1949 Sanborn fire insurance map included in the nomination (figure 2). Some of the open space within the district actually is historic. For instance, the wide paved lots between 2nd and 3rd streets on the north side of A street was the location of a multi-spur freight yard now removed. This site has been open during and after the period of significance. The biggest changes to the District have come through scattered demolitions, whose biggest cumulative effect is removing logical visual connections between the District and other parts of downtown Belleville that are likely National Register-eligible.

Building alterations are fairly typical for vernacular architecture in continuous use. The preparers have interpreted integrity of individual resources erring on the side of inclusion of changes needed to maintain occupancy and thus prevent vacancy or demolition. Commercial and mixed-use buildings are evaluated for ability to convey historic use and design elements related to uses. For instance, two-part commercial blocks that demonstrate both historic ground-level storefronts and the upper level office or apartments through original fenestration possess integrity. The two-part commercial block at 105 N. Illinois Street retains integrity despite a non-historic shingled awning because the first floor storefronts and upper floor fenestration remain legible.

Storefront alterations have been accepted as evolutionary, and in the absence of building permit records, cannot be dated with certainty outside of the period of significance. The two-part commercial building at 125 W. Main sports board-and-batten siding around its storefront windows, but otherwise retains original composition; it is contributing. One- and two-part commercial buildings that have been re-clad to remove recognition of storefront configuration and historic second floor cladding material are non-contributing, such as the building at 204 W. Main. Almost no building built during the period of significance counted as non-contributing to the District shows any alterations that would preclude re-evaluation for contributing status if the alterations were reversed based on evidence of historic appearance.

Inventory

105 W. A (United States Post Office Building) *Photograph 2*

Date of Construction: 1911

Architect: James Knox Taylor

Style: Classical

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Stone

Features: Built as a United States Post Office, decorative monumental coupled capped columns flanking tall windows topped with round windows, capped parapet wall

Status: Contributing

111 W. A (Belleville Township Office)

Date of Construction: 1955

Style: Modern Movements

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Glass entrance

Status: Contributing

116 W. A (Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois Hall)

Date of Construction: 1931

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Non-historic wooden storefront addition, one story back portion juts behind two story street facing building, lintel and sill, and roofline details

Status: Contributing

126 W. A (Batdorf & Fink Feed Store)

Date of Construction: 1894

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmental arches on window and door openings, some historic openings filled in on sidewall, some brick detailing along roof edge

Status: Contributing

222 W. A

Date of Construction: c. 1970

Style: No Style

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Concrete blocks

Features: Three vehicle entrances with roll-up doors; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

15 W. B (Southwestern Bell Telephone Exchange)

Date of Construction: 1955

Style: Modern Movement

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Thin, vertical windows, smooth, uninterrupted brick wall planes

Status: Contributing

106 W. B

Date of Construction: c. 1970

Style: No Style

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Frame

Wall Cladding: Paneling

Features: Commercial storefront; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

110 W. B

Date of Construction: c. 1940

Style: Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick, concrete block

Features: Vinyl awning, garage door-sized windows

Status: Contributing

112 W. B

Date of Construction: c. 1940

Style: Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Large roll-up windows

Status: Contributing

115 W. B (St. Paul's UCC Church Complex) *Photographs 5 and 6*

Date of Construction: c. 1861; 1905; 1960; c. 1970

Style: Gothic Revival / Modern Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Wall Cladding: Brick, stone

Features: Interconnected church buildings, including a Gothic Revival sanctuary, modernist school building with gymnasium addition and a modernist church building.

Status: Contributing

212 W. B

Photograph 7

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Glass block basement windows, non-historic entrance, historic door no longer has steps leading to it

Status: Contributing

14-16 W. C

Photograph 8

Date of Construction: c. 1870

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/German Street House

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Vinyl

Features: Non-historic windows and doors, non-historic siding, two gable heights

Status: Contributing

15 N. 1st (Belleville Turner Hall)

Photographs 1 and 4

Date of Construction: 1924

Architect: Julius Floto

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick and Limestone

Features: Art deco details including geometric limestone accents, sculptural roof edge, large rounded arch transom window extending over main entry, rectilinear footprint

Status: Contributing

115 N. 1st

Photograph 2

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Decorative shutters on front windows, segmental arches over windows and doors, star anchors, very large, elaborate cornice, non-historic vinyl clad back addition

Status: Contributing

118 N. 1st

Date of Construction: c. 1940

Style: Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Engineer brick walls, window opening covered in siding but legible

Status: Contributing

119 N. 1st

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Pyramidal

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Decorative shutters on front windows, segmental arches over windows and doors

Status: Contributing

220 N. 1st

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Wooden gable awning over door

Status: Contributing

23 S. 1st

Photograph 15

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/German Street House

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Pyramidal

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Vertically bisected windows with segmental arches and keystone and sill details, elaborate cornice decoration

Status: Contributing

105 N. Illinois

Photograph 9

Date of Construction: c. 1950

Style: Commercial/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Rectilinear windows, large shingled shed awning

Status: Contributing

113-15 N. Illinois

Photograph 9

Date of Construction: c. 1880

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Hipped

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Rounded arch windows on front left door and window, garage at center, segmental arches on second floor windows, simple cornice

Status: Contributing

201 N. Illinois

Photograph 10

Date of Construction: c. 1940s-50s

Style: commercial/One-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Several vehicle entrances with windowed garage doors, fabric awning over storefront
Status: Contributing

209 N. Illinois (George Gauss and Son Dry Goods) *Photograph 10*

Date of Construction: 1916
Style: Commercial/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Glass block windows on storefront, terracotta decorative elements, replaced window openings on sidewall, stepped roofline
Status: Contributing

219 N. Illinois

Photograph 10

Date of Construction: 1916
Style: Commercial/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Rectilinear window openings
Status: Contributing

223-25 N. Illinois

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Gable
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Stucco and Permastone
Features: Permastone on front base and around door frame, altered for storefront purposes, original window openings have segmental arches; non-contributing due to reversible front elevation cladding
Status: Non-contributing

227 N. Illinois

Photograph 8

Date of Construction: c. 1925
Style: Commercial
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Garage facing W. C Street.
Status: Contributing

229 N. Illinois

Photograph 10

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Hipped
Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Stucco and brick

Features: Stucco on front face, segmental arches above windows, decorative shutters, altered first floor storefront with awning, shorter rear portion; non-contributing due to reversible front elevation cladding

Status: Non-contributing

100 W. Main (Olms & Jung Building)

Photograph 11

Date of Construction: 1892

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Altered façade as a result of historic detail removal, vertically chamfered Roman arch arcade on skin of second floor

Status: Contributing

101-03 W. Main

Photograph 1

Date of Construction: c. 1890

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Non-historic awning additions and first floor cladding, segmental arches over side window openings with keystone highlights on second floor windows

Status: Contributing

104 W. Main

Photograph 11

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/One-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Heavily altered storefront; non-contributing due to extensive alteration of front elevation

Status: Non-contributing

107 W. Main (Edward Joseph's Clothing Store for Men)

Date of Construction: 1906

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Non-historic wooden shingled awning, brick detailing, window openings obscured on second floor

Status: Contributing

110 W. Main

Photograph 11

Date of Construction: c. 1970

Style: Modern Movements/One-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Windows ribbon across front elevation; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

111 W. Main (YMCA Swimming Pool)

Photograph 12

Date of Construction: 1964

Style: Modern Movements/One-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Thin windows between regularly spaced brick panels; originally the swimming pool wing of adjacent Belleville YMCA at 15 N. 1st Street; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

117 W. Main

Photograph 12

Date of Construction: c. 1915

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Limestone detailing on sill, between/above second floor windows, and at the non-linear roofline, non-historic wooden shingled awning and wooden frame windows on first floor

Status: Contributing

119 W. Main

Photograph 12

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Decorative shutters on second floor windows, non-historic storefront alterations, decorative wooden cornice, non-historic three-part vinyl-clad dormer (shed roof dormer flanked by thin gable roof dormers)

Status: Contributing

120 W. Main

Photograph 11

Date of Construction: c. 1980

Style: Contemporary/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmented arch and square column arcade along first floor, series of bay windows with shed roofs set into the pseudo-mansard roofline along second floor; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

122-24 W. Main

Date of Construction: c. 1870

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Brick detail cornice, segmental arches above second floor windows, two gable roof dormers, non-historic storefront alterations

Status: Contributing

123 W. Main*Photograph 12*

Date of Construction: c. 1850

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Decorative shutters and segmental arches on second floor windows, large, wooden, ornate cornice, wooden cased storefront

Status: Contributing

125-27 W. Main*Photograph 12*

Date of Construction: c. 1850

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick, Vinyl

Features: Large brick dentil cornice, segmental arches on second floor windows, non-historic vinyl and stone cladding on first floor

Status: Contributing

126 W. Main

Date of Construction: c. 1870s (remodeled later)

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Rectilinear window and door openings generally conform to historic openings but not in exact dimensions, re-clad in modern brick or brick tile; non-contributing due to cladding and alteration of sizes of window and door openings

Status: Non-contributing

128 W. Main

Date of Construction: c. 1870s

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: PermaStone

Features: Cast iron storefront; four window openings on second floor with replacement windows

Status: Contributing

129 W. Main*Photograph 12*

Date of Construction: c. 1860; 1950

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/ Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick sides, concrete front

Features: No second floor windows, concrete skin with rectilinear grid, large awning; non-contributing due to reconstruction of front elevation

Status: Non-contributing

132 W. Main

Date of Construction: 1910
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Dentil detail on front cornice design, segmental arches over second floor windows, side bay window projection with hipped roof, glass block windows on side first floor, windowed storefront with large awning on front first floor
Status: Contributing

133 W. Main

Photograph 12

Date of Construction: c. 1940s
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/One-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick and stucco
Features: Front facing Main Street is clad in brick, features mansard roof awning; sidewall is clad in stucco; non-contributing due to lack of legible historic elements on either street-facing elevation
Status: Non-contributing

200-02 W. Main (Reichert Business Block)

Photograph 13

Date of Construction: 1880
Style: Second Empire/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 3
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Third floor is mansard roof front with three dormers and a large wooden cornice below, second floor windows have decorative elements above segmental arches, non-historic storefront, side first floor windows are glass block
Status: Contributing

201 W. Main (Kastel Electric Company Building) *Photograph 14*

Date of Construction: 1923
Architect: Otto Rubach
Style: Commercial/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Limestone decorative elements above and around storefront, along non-linear roofline, and on second floor; prism glass transoms
Status: Contributing

204 W. Main

Photograph 13

Date of Construction: c. 1870s
Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Gable
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick and artificial siding
Features: Three rounded arch arcade along storefront, rectilinear windows along second floor, appears heavily altered
Status: Non-contributing

211 W. Main, Governor French Academy *Photograph 14*

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat (historically gable)
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Stucco
Features: Segmental arches over second floor windows, modern altered storefront
Status: Contributing

213 W. Main, Governor French Academy

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Gable
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Stucco
Features: Segmental arches over second floor windows, modern glass storefront divided into two entrances,
Status: Contributing

217 W. Main, Governor French Academy *Photograph 14*

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 3
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Decorative elements below and above third floor windows and along roof line, plate glass storefront with fabric awning
Status: Contributing

218 W. Main

Photograph 13

Date of Construction: c. 2000
Architect: Charles Pauly & Son
Style: Contemporary/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Concrete Panels
Features: Mimics older styles, three four panel windows and one doorway of similar proportions; non-contributing due to date of construction
Status: Non-contributing

219 W. Main (Hiken Furniture Store) *Photograph 14*

Date of Construction: 1929
Style: Classical Revival/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Symmetrical front elevation with six central window bays (containing one-over-one replacement windows) set between slightly projecting outer bays containing covered paired windows in openings; storefront ribbon at base with central entrance; buff terra cotta forming cornice over storefront and central bays as well as surrounds in outer window bays; ornamental details in parapets

223 W. Main Street (Belleville Distillery, Oliver C. Joseph Dodge)

Photograph 14

Date of Construction: c. 1889; 1923

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmental arches above second floor windows, large plate glass windows on storefront frame the main entrance, fabric awning; the building was reconstructed in 1923 following damage.

Status: Contributing

222 W. Main (Washington Theater)

Photograph 13

Date of Construction: 1913

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals/Two-Part Commercial

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Modillioned cornice, elaborate altered fenestration, altered street-level storefront

Status: Contributing

232 W. Main (Firestone Automotive Center)

Date of Construction: 1935

Style: Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Flat-roofed building with wide overhang sheltering vehicle drive; storefront ribbon wrapping corner with plate glass windows and metal siding as well as vehicle entrances; engineer brick with steel windows on other elevations; some alterations since construction

Status: Contributing

17 N. 2nd

Photograph 3

Date of Construction: c. 1925

Style: Commercial

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Large storefront windows, horizontal glass block windows on the sides of the building; there is a connected section that dates to 1880

Status: Contributing

112 N. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Style: Romanesque Revival

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmental arches above window openings, brick dentil details, a raised stone foundation, and side glass block windows.

Status: Contributing

112 N. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1980

Style: No Style

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Steel

Wall Cladding: Metal siding

Features: Two interconnected additions to adjacent c. 1900 building; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

112 N. 2nd (garage)

Date of Construction: c. 1980

Style: No Style

Number of Stories: 1

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Frame

Wall Cladding: aluminum or vinyl clad

Features: Three garage doors; non-contributing due to date of construction

Status: Non-contributing

117 N. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1860s

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Shallow gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmental arches above all window and door openings

Status: Contributing

123 N. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1860

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable front, flat back

Construction: Bearing Wall

Porch Type: 2 story wooden back porch

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Segmental arches and details over windows, wooden detailing underneath gabled roof

Status: Contributing

12 S. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1915

Style: Craftsman/Bungalow

Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Gable

Construction: Bearing Wall

Porch Type: Half, shed roof, bungalow-style wooden tapered posts supported by faux stone brick glad posts, wooden railings

Wall Cladding: Brick

Features: Decorative shutters on all windows, large shed dormer

Status: Contributing

14 S. 2nd

Date of Construction: c. 1915

Style: Craftsman/Bungalow

Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Gable
Construction: Bearing Wall
Porch Type: Full, bungalow-style wooden tapered posts supported by brick, gabled roof, wooden railings, concrete base and steps
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Gabled dormers, segmental arches over some window and door openings, raised basement with side windows
Status: Contributing

18 N. 3rd

Date of Construction: 1949
Style: Modern Movement
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Bow Truss
Construction: Steel
Wall Cladding: Brick, Transite
Features: Ribbons of multi-light steel sash, brick cladding of base, garage openings with roll-up doors, transite cladding on roof ends.
Status: Contributing

120 N. 3rd

Date of Construction: c. 1895
Style: Romanesque Revival/Two-Part Commercial
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Shaped parapet with articulated end blocks, one-over-one replacement windows, entrance with non-original shed-roofed hood, garage openings on side elevations infilled around window banks.
Status: Contributing

14 S. 3rd

Date of Construction: c. 1880
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements
Number of Stories: 3
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Mansard Roof third floor, rounded arch over front door, 1 and 2 story additions on the back
Status: Contributing

105 W. Washington

Photograph 15

Date of Construction: c. 1870
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/German Street House
Number of Stories: 2
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Stone clad foundation, segmental arches over tall windows, large cornice
Status: Contributing

111 W. Washington

Photograph 15

Date of Construction: c. 1860
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/German Street House
Number of Stories: 2

Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Segmental arches over windows, brick dentil cornice, star anchors, 2 story portion attached to smaller, 1 story section with similar detailing
Status: Contributing

115 W. Washington

Photograph 15

Date of Construction: c. 1860
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/German Street House
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Gable
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Non-historic sky lights, decorative lintel over front door, decorative shutters on front windows, segmental arches over front windows, brick dentil cornice
Status: Contributing

117 W. Washington

Photograph 15

Date of Construction: c. 1970
Style: Contemporary
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Features: Rounded arch transom window over front door, large cornice, two bay windows flanking the entrance; non-contributing due to date of construction
Status: Non-contributing

123 W. Washington

Date of Construction: c. 1950
Style: Modern Movements
Number of Stories: 1
Roof Plan: Flat
Construction: Bearing Wall
Wall Cladding: Brick
Status: Non-contributing

7. 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1850-1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, James Knox/architect

Floto, Julius/architect

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 Blair Historic District, located in Belleville, Illinois, is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for COMMERCE and Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE. The District represents part of the historic central business district of Belleville, and its buildings are associated both with significant local design trends and commercial history. The District's land lies entirely within the original plat of the city, donated by George Blair around 1814, and demonstrates the long-term evolution of the center city across an entire century. While all of downtown encompassed a larger area, these blocks' resources include part of the central retail and wholesale backbone of the city along Main Street and Illinois Street as well as some warehousing and manufacturing along A and B streets. The District's resources span a range of both vernacular and designed buildings comprising a large part of the historic center city. The buildings embody national stylistic trends, including the deployment of the American one- and two-part commercial block forms, as well as the regional folk form of the German street house. Buildings in the District include one- and two-part commercial buildings, two fraternal organization buildings, warehouses, garages, a public school, a church complex, two public buildings and some single and multiple dwellings built between 1850 and 1960. The buildings embody significant trends in the urbanization of Belleville through developments in both the utility and aesthetics of local architecture. The period of significance begins in 1850, after which the first building is presumed to have been built, through 1960, when active architectural development ends.

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

Background: The Development of Belleville, 1850-1960

The City of Belleville, county seat of St. Clair County, Illinois, sits fourteen miles southeast of the Mississippi River in township one north, range eight west of the third principal meridian.¹ The Algonquian Native Americans, specifically the Illiniwek tribe, first inhabited this region's bountiful land atop the eastern bluffs of the American Bottom². After a series of European-colonizer-backed conflicts between Illiniwek coalitions and British-supported Iroquois from the north, the French seized control of the land, soon followed by British control. In 1778, volunteer soldiers from Virginia led by George Rogers Clark captured what would later become southern Illinois. Virginia's new acquisition was transferred to the United States' Northwest Territory in 1787, shifted to the Indiana Territory in 1800, and was finally molded into the Territory of Illinois in 1809, which achieved statehood in 1818.³

Settlement in St. Clair County, named for the Northwest Territory's governor Arthur St. Clair, was concentrated inland from the river in the early 1800s. The riverfront town of Cahokia served as its first county seat, but these new patterns of settlement meant Cahokia was distant from the new population center. In 1813 the Territorial Legislature moved the seat to the property of George Blair, who named the town "Beautiful City." Blair, of Scottish and French heritage, had served as sheriff of St. Clair County after arriving in Illinois in 1796. In 1806, Blair had built the first house in what became Belleville, which he operated as a hotel. Blair acquired 200 acres of land around the house, from which he donated land to create the city. John Messenger, later the first Speaker of the House in Illinois, first surveyed the town in 1814, preparing for a village charter that materialized in 1819. Belleville later acquired its city charter in 1850.⁴

Because of his donation, Blair was given the honor of naming the town and the streets. Yet when Belleville's prospects began to look dim only a few years after establishment, Blair sold all of his interests to a Mr. Etienne Pensoneau, a French Canadian. Blair was remembered both as a benevolent town founder and as a simple man. Then Governor John Reynolds recalled Blair as a man of "no extraordinary talents" and simple disposition, and attributed the success of the hotel and investment to Blair's wife Mary Blair.

The city's growth was hampered by weak transportation links to St. Louis and other places. While the city enjoyed prosperity in the 1820s and 1830s, St. Louis dominated industrial and commercial activity in the region. Belleville leaders fell into two factions, one that favored a separatist economic development, and one that favored developing better transportation connections to St. Louis. Stagecoach connections along the Cahokia-Vincennes Post Road were adequate for business but not for industry.⁵ The pro-connectionists gained the upper hand, and

¹ Robert L. Gentsch, *The Early History of Belleville, Illinois, to 1850* (Master's Thesis, Washington University in St. Louis, 1963), p. 2.

² Federal Writers Project, *The WPA Guide to Illinois* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983), p. 619.

³ Gentsch, p. 11.

⁴ Gentsch, p. 2-11.

⁵ Alvin L. Nebelsick, *A History of Belleville* (Belleville, Ill.: Township High School and Junior College, 1940), p. 89.

prevailed in securing a publicly-financed macadamized turnpike from Belleville to Wiggins Ferry at Illinoistown (now East St. Louis).⁶ After a new private company took over the project, turnpike to St. Louis was under construction by March 1848 and opened in 1851.⁷ The new turnpike terminated at 17th and West Main streets, but the macadamized road connected directly to Main Street in the District, making its lots more desirable for development than ever.

The new turnpike extended to High Street in 1852, fully connecting the center of Belleville to St. Louis. Other transportation systems landed upon the District in ensuing decades. A horse car service opened in 1874, but ended two years later. In 1893, General Electric Company opened an electric streetcar system that ran through the center city until replacement with buses in 1932.⁸ The streetcar system necessitate the replacement of the old wooden bridge on Main Street at Richland Creek. A modern concrete bridge opened there in 1896, improving the circulation on West Main Street in the District. An electric interurban line opened in 1899, and the toll on the turnpike ended in 1902.⁹ The turnpike was designated as West Main Street west of the creek in 1906, and fully paved by 1917.

Railroads reached toward Belleville early, beginning with the introduction of the six-mile Illinois & St. Louis Railroad in 1837.¹⁰ A series of companies seizing on the St. Louis demand for coal from the Belleville area began constructing railroads in the 1850s and 1860s. In 1854, the Belleville and Illinoistown Railroad opened. Later this line became a Belleville branch of the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, a major coal carrier. This line would be integrated into the Illinois Central in 1896.¹¹ The Illinois and Southwestern opened in 1869, and later became part of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. By 1880, the Southern Railroad's "Air Line" between Belleville and St. Louis was open after subsuming both the Illinois & St. Louis railroad and the Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis Railroad. The latter line began in 1867 as the Pittsburg Railroad & Coal Company, and had reached downtown by 1871. Generally the city's shape would follow track lines, especially on the west side.

Most significant for the development of the District was the extension of the early Illinois & St. Louis Railroad into the center of Belleville by the Pittsburg Railroad & Coal Company. The company started developing a line to the center city in 1850, and succeeded in reaching the District with a terminal at 2nd and A streets.¹² This terminal attracted breweries, manufacturing concerns and warehouses. The track placement, however, also permanently cleaved the Main Street district from the residential blocks north of B Street.

Another division was Richland Creek, a topographic, commercial and political boundary. Historian Nebelsick calls the creek "a dividing line" in *A History of Belleville*.¹³ However, the author also notes that the creek attracted industrial concerns who could utilize its waters and,

⁶ Kay J. Carr, *Belleville, Ottawa, and Galesburg: Community and Democracy on the Illinois Frontier* (Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1996), p. 75.

⁷ Carr, p. 76.

⁸ Nebelsick, pp. 92-4.

⁹ Nebelsick, p. 90, p. 94.

¹⁰ Fred Kern, *St. Clair County Centennial Edition* (Belleville, Ill.: Belleville News-Democrat, 1914), p. 2.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Nebelsick, p. 225.

more often, use it for drainage and discharge.¹⁴ Thus the creek attracted development that generally reinforced its dividing powers. The divide between Belleville and West Belleville was deeply cultural, and residents often skirmished along the divide until the eventual annexation. Richland Creek also caused flooding, with major floods in 1897 and 1915 impacting the District. Few residences were built adjacent to the creek, which never was channelized or buried. The worst flood occurred in 1957, when 300 buildings were submerged. Several buildings were demolished after the 1957 flood.

The District's rise also coincided with demographic movement. German immigrants, many fleeing political persecution, defined much of the character of early Belleville as they arrived in waves from 1830-1848. As late as the 1940s Belleville was still known as a "Dutch Town" and was anchored still by German cultural institutions. These immigrants worked first as farmers and later were leaders in Belleville's industrial age.¹⁵ Immigration propelled urbanization in Belleville, and the District is testament. The city's population increased by 155% between 1850 and 1860.¹⁶ Germans accounted for most of the growth, and by 1870, 65% of Belleville's population may have been German-born or of German descent.¹⁷

Industries associated with agriculture dominated the early Belleville economy. In the 1820s bituminous coal mining began in the region and continued to spark growth for many decades to come; unfortunately this sooty enterprise would have consequences for the region's public health, geologic stability, and environmental purity.¹⁸ A flourishing manufacturing economy was established in the mid-1800s, which lasted into the next century. Prominent businesses during the city's industrial era included the Belleville Nail Company (first in the state), several stove foundries, the Stag Brewery (a German cultural import), two nationally-known stencil companies, Brosius & Co. (at one time, the nation's largest supplier of pecan oil), and the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company. In the second half of the twentieth century the city transitioned into a more service-oriented economy, where major local employers now include the two major hospitals and Scott Air Force Base, founded in 1917.¹⁹

Rich in both clay and coal, the city became a major brick producer. Brick is, naturally, the dominant material in Belleville's historic buildings. A few blocks of dense brick streetscape define a commercial district along Main Street, surrounded by a less dense historic residential, commercial, and manufacturing mix. Modest, German-style, street-hugging brick cottages scatter these historic residential areas in abundance but are interspersed with other (brick) building types, including bungalows and factories.

Commercial Architecture in the District: Building a Downtown

The district's architectural forms emanate from a street grid system that essentially copies the 1682 plan of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. George Blair, the first settler to arrive to what would

¹⁴ Nebelsick, p. 105.

¹⁵ Federal Writers Project, p. 619-20.

¹⁶ Carr, p. 142.

¹⁷ Robert Wagner, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form: Belleville Historic District* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1976), p. 8-2.

¹⁸ *Tapestry of Time*, 48-49

¹⁹ *Tapestry of Time, History of St. Clair County*. The thorough work of the St. Clair County Genealogical Society is appreciated.

become Belleville, donated one acre of his land to St. Clair County for a square and promised to develop another 25 acres for the original town in 1814.²⁰ Blair gave every fifth lot to the County for use, and sold the rest for profit. John Messenger surveyed the land and designed the grid system copying the City of Brotherly Love. All of the District is located on Messenger's 1814 plat. By 1815, there was a hotel and store on the square.²¹ The first Court House opened in 1817 on the site of the square itself, after government had used Blair's house as a temporary location.

The establishment of the courthouse square in Belleville dates to the original plat, upon which Blair specified that the courthouse be located 25 to 30 rods northeast of his house. The County elected to build the courthouse on that site in 1815. The official 1817 plat of Belleville, utilizing Messenger's plat but completed by Ninian Edwards, shows the courthouse square in the present location.²² The rest of the street grid throughout the district evolved through the 19th century. Although the location changed, the later placement of the St. Clair County Courthouse on a corner of the square also was conventional in American county seat planning.²³ Belleville's commercial district followed the placement of the square, which is a harmony that historian Edward T. Price notes that not every American county seat has. Price describes the typical 19th-century courthouse square's surroundings as such:

The typical buildings surrounding the square are still late nineteenth-century, two-story, flat-roof brick structures, distinguished by the repetitive Victorian trim of the windows and cornices, somber reflection of the grandeur sought in the courthouse opposite.²⁴

The demolition of the historic St. Clair County Courthouse (1861) in 1971 removed the sign that the Belleville downtown conforms to a typical pattern identified by Price (see Figure 3). Today, however, the commercial architecture adjacent to the square – historically left open but now supplanted by a memorial fountain – embodies the traits of a typical setting. While the district excludes the new County Courthouse (1973) and the square itself for issues of integrity, it derives its origin from the planning of the square and subsequent development.

The 1874 atlas shows that the district streets still retained its original street names (see Figure 1).²⁵ Among the east-west streets: A Street was First North Street, B Street was Second North Street, C Street was Franklin Street, D Street was Washington Street, E Street was Railroad Street and F Street was Mill Street. Among the north-south Streets: 1st Street was Race Street, 2nd Street was Richland and 3rd Street was Spring Street. Streets were paved first in the 1850s, with most streets macadamized by 1860.²⁶

The early commercial development of the courthouse vicinity included activity along the now-removed rail lines that were once the Pittsburg Coal & Railroad Company and later the Southern Line. The Southern Line depot was sited at the northwest corner of A and 2nd streets. The City

²⁰ Wagner, p. 8-2.

²¹ Ibid.

²² *St. Clair County History*, (Philadelphia: Brink, McDonough, and Company, 1881), p. 183.

²³ Edward T. Price, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," *Common Places: Readings in Vernacular American Architecture* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 138.

²⁴ Price, p. 139.

²⁵ *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of St. Clair County, Illinois* (Chicago: Warner & Beers, 1874).

²⁶ Wagner, p. 8-4.

Park at the northeast corner of A and 2nd streets was central to the development of breweries in the northwest sector of the district. A large brewery stood on the south side of what would become West A Street between 2nd and 3rd streets by 1860.²⁷ Alderman, bathhouse owner and fire department director John Klug operated the brewery until 1870 as the Illinois Brewery. Phillip Neu re-opened the facility in 1873 until 1876.²⁸

The City Park Brewery was opened in the 1850s at the southeast corner of A and 1st streets by the Heberer family. This brewery produced some 2,500 barrels a year by 1862, but its owners' income tax evasion led to seizure and auction. Anheuser-Busch next took over the Heberer brewery by 1895. The brewery continued to operate the City Park Theater, operated at 2nd and A streets by the Heberers to sell their product.²⁹ Anheuser-Busch grew a substantial presence in the district, with a now-demolished beer depot at the southwest corner of A and 2nd streets open by 1903, an opera house, pleasure park and beer garden and glass plant.³⁰ The Anheuser-Busch sites are all paved open lots today. However, in 2004 owners of the Amann Feed Store located adjacent located five 25' x 60' underground cellars on the site.³¹

Remaining commercial buildings largely are either two-part or one-part commercial blocks or freestanding service or machine shops. Most commercial buildings date to between 1850 and 1910, and employ storefront bases with decorated facades above. Roofs are flat or gabled, buildings are located at the sidewalk line. Commercial buildings can be found both in the area west of the Courthouse Square along Main, A and B Streets as well as along Illinois Street. The largest commercial building is the former Southwestern Bell Telephone Company exchange building at 15 W. B Street (1955), a later complex with Modern Movement design elements.

The earliest resources showcase native brick craft, sensitivity to pedestrian utility and traces of prevalent American styles. Examples of early gabled two-part commercial buildings can be found at 123 W. Main (c. 1850), 124 W. Main (c. 1870), 213 W. Main Street (c. 1870) and 401 N. Illinois Street (c. 1850). Of these buildings, the building at 213 W. Main Street retains the lowest integrity through the application of stucco parging on the main elevations. This is not uncommon in the District. The others demonstrate the stylistic details evident in balconies, decorated cornices and window hoods that present elements of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles. Other commercial buildings, including the row at 113-5 N. Illinois Street, placed retail storefronts side by side with garage-style fronts opening to stables or warehouses (see Figure 4 and Photograph 9).

Many of the early resources in the District embody the development of the vernacular architectural forms of commercial architecture in America, especially the one-part and two-part commercial blocks. These types were prevalent between 1820 and 1930, although historians identify examples outside of those dates. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth defines the characteristics of these cubic buildings as such: the façade is the distinguishing characteristic, except when placed on a corner where two elevations are decorated, a plain cubic volume, wide variation across American regions, and a lack of identical instances (that is, exemplified freehand

²⁷ Terry L. Mueller, *St. Clair County, Illinois: Breweries and Distilleries, 1829-1988* (Belleville, Ill.: Self-Published, 2005), p. 9.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Mueller, p. 5-7.

³⁰ Mueller, p. 1-3.

³¹ *Ibid.*

of designers).³² Longstreth identifies the two-part block as between two and four stories, with two distinct divisions emphasizing the different uses.³³ The form originated in Europe, and was especially popular before the Civil War. The two-part commercial block allowed growing American cities to establish urban identities.

Belleville's two-part commercial blocks range from stylistically plain to fully elaborate. Most show European influences through employment of details from Italianate, Second Empire, Classical Revival and Romanesque Revival styles. By far the most elaborate 19th century commercial building in the District is the three-story Reichert Business Block building at 200 W. Main Street (1880), which has Second Empire stylistic traits (Photograph 13). The building evinces a third floor mansard roof and dormers, ornate wooden cornice and applied iron hoods on the Main Street elevation. The first floor storefront retains a historic cornice and blond brick infill from later in the period of significance. This building captures the appropriate of "picturesque" details from popular residential styles for commercial architecture in period between 1845 and 1885.³⁴ The commercial picturesque would have once given the Romanesque Revival building at 100 W. Main Street (1892) a comparable visual power, but today it stands non-contributing due to alterations (see Photograph 11).

The former Hoeffken Brothers Supply and Construction Company Building at 120 N. 3rd Street (c. 1895) embodies the Romanesque Revival style of architecture (see Figure 5). This building housed the office and warehouse of the company, which had been in business ten years before opening the facility adjacent to its material yards.³⁵ The one-story building located at 112 N. 2nd Street (c. 1900) also possesses the robust commercial architecture of the Romanesque Revival, with a shaped parapet and pronounced masonry massing.

At the turn of the century, commercial architecture in the District reflects the rise of academic study. Architectural historian Alan Gowans writes that after 1890 academic styles "functioned on all levels to provide requisite images of personal dignity, personal and national."³⁶ Developers and businesses veered away from more eclectic or scenic designs toward the mode of the Classical Revival. The investment in national pride in this period turned even the designers of Main Street buildings toward sober classicism derived from ancient models.³⁷ On Main Streets across the nation, this trickled down into small terra cotta panels, symmetry, massing and strong shaped parapets. Belleville has good examples of the stripped down classicism at 209 N. Illinois Street (1916), built by the George Gauss & Sons Dry Goods Company, and 201 W. Main Street (1923, Photograph 14). These buildings also demonstrate the integration of mass-produced building materials and the traditional urban commercial forms.

Another major Classical Revival-influenced commercial anchor was the Washington Theatre at 228 W. Main Street, completed in 1913 (see Figure 6). St. Louis businessman Louis Landau, Jr. opened the 910-seat Washington Theatre, after successfully purchasing or opening four others in

³² Richard Longstreth, "Composition Types in American Common Architecture," *Common Places: Readings in Vernacular American Architecture* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986) p. 15.

³³ Longstreth, p. 17.

³⁴ Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression* (New York: IconEditions, 1992), p. 175-6.

³⁵ Centennial Edition, p. 7

³⁶ Gowans, p. 228.

³⁷ Gowans, p. 223.

Illinois.³⁸ At the Washington, Landau booked both vaudeville performances and motion pictures. By the end of the year, Landau had added an air dome behind the theater building for outdoor performances. Eventually, the theater ceased the vaudeville operations and removed the air dome. The Washington reopened as the Illinois Theatre in 1938, and closed in 1955, with the building converted to apartments.³⁹ After the theater closure, the original front elevation was concealed under later cladding until owner Renae Hillesheim Eichholz undertook partial restoration in 2008.

Later commercial architecture offers a mix of styles. The storefront at 17 S. 3rd Street (c. 1920) reprise the Classical Revival, with its shaped parapet surmounted by terra cotta urns. Buildings like the Firestone Automotive Center at 232 W. Main Street (1935) demonstrate the shift in the District's commercial life and modes of transportation. A large number of businesses (nine in 1950) were devoted to automobile sale or repair in the 1950s and 1960s, the most of any business type.

Institutional and Residential Architecture in the District

The District has been home to several buildings occupied by churches, fraternal organizations and public agencies. Today, five institutional buildings or complexes remain to bind together the commercial and residential architecture into a cohesive neighborhood. The oldest of these is the original section of St. Paul's United Church of Christ on B Street, which dates to 1861, before the now-demolished 1861 St. Clair County Courthouse was completed.

The original congregation of St. Paul's Church gathered for the first time in May 1839 at the St. Clair County Courthouse under the guidance of Rev. J. Riess.⁴⁰ The congregation may have been the first German-speaking Protestant church in southern Illinois.⁴¹ By November 1839, the church had obtained a permanent pastor and built a small frame church on today's site of Franklin School.⁴² The church leased its property to the Board of Education in 1857, and eventually sold. The congregation purchased its current site in 1861, and raised \$4,721 to build a brick sanctuary in the *Rundbogenstil* (round-arch style).⁴³ The "round arch style" is associated with the rise of the Romanesque Revival style in America, which flourished between 1860 and 1900.

St. Paul's Church expanded continuously, and remodeled the original sanctuary in 1902.⁴⁴ The sanctuary was altered with a new street-facing elevation and towers (see Figure 7 and Photograph 5). The side elevations reveal the building's original appearance. The building, which is intact today although bereft of spire, exemplified the Perpendicular Gothic style. The interior layout followed the hall church plan. Heavy horizontal bands of stone disrupted the red brick wall plane, while emphasized lancet arches surrounded stained glass windows. The

³⁸ Kern, p. 20.

³⁹ Illinois Theatre; Belleville, Illinois; on Cinema Treasures. <<http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/11524>>. Accessed 14 April 2015.

⁴⁰ Nebelsick, p. 132-3.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Otto Pessel, "History of St. Paul's Church," *St. Clair County Centennial Edition* (Belleville, Ill.: Belleville News-Democrat, 1914), p. 24.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

entrance was in the north tower, with the south tower being shorter and smaller. The Gothic Revival proliferated in America between the early years of the republic into the 1920s and 1930s.

After 1960, the church embarked upon a major expansion, resulting in construction of the present Modern Movement sanctuary and school buildings as well as the clearance of the north half of the block for surface parking. The present sanctuary repeats the hall church form, with a modern gabled form partially clad in rough-faced stone. The modernist architecture reflects the trends of American architecture between 1940 and 1970 away from ornament, toward geometric massing and flat roof or strongly pronounced roof forms.

The District's most impressive building, in quality of design and cost of construction, remains the United States Post Office Building at the northwest corner of 1st and A streets (see Figure 8 and Photograph 2). The building's design was drafted under the hand of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect for the Department of the Treasury, who had charge of all federal architectural works during the period. While not always the architect of record, Taylor oversaw form and detail on many significant projects, including the Denver Mint (1897), Third Building at the Philadelphia Mint (1901) and the Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital (1908). At the time that Belleville's \$100,000 post office was underway, Taylor had signed off on designs for post offices in Greenville, Texas (1910), Des Moines, Iowa (1910), Belvidere, Illinois (1911) and Waterville, Maine (1911).

Taylor (c. 1857-1929) served as Supervising Architect from 1897 through 1912, and presided over the design of dozens of new federal buildings, post offices and court houses across the nation. The designs of most buildings were contracted to local architects, but Taylor retained some control.⁴⁵ Taylor's appointment was followed by publication of his essay on public building design in the *Inland Architect*. In the essay, Taylor proposed three criteria for selecting a style: dignity of design; beauty; and conduciveness to a convenient interior layout.⁴⁶ Taylor joined the mass of architects of his time in favoring classicism of the Beaux Arts as expressive of American democratic ideals. Taylor was notorious for interfering with design details throughout his tenure, making his involvement in the Belleville project likely extensive.⁴⁷ Caroline Rifken summarizes the employment of Beaux Arts Classicism in American architects as typified by "enlivened by dynamic shifts in scale and form" with "classical ornament applied for theatrical affect."⁴⁸ The United States Post Office Building possesses those traits, along with a resolute formality on its street-facing elevations.

Just south of the United States Post Office Building, the massive 20,000-square-foot Belleville Turner Hall would open in 1924 (see Figure 9). The original location of the Belleville Turnverein, later the "Turner Hall," was one block east in 1852. The new Turner Hall was designed by Julius Floto (1866-1951) and demonstrates both Classical Revival and Craftsman influences. The entrance from 1st Street led up stairs to the massive assembly hall. On the lower level facing the sidewalk was a ribbon of retail storefronts maintaining the scale and effect of a walk down Main Street. Floto, a structural engineer by training, was the structural engineer for

⁴⁵ Antoinette J. Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 200), p. 207.

⁴⁶ Lee, pp. 199-200

⁴⁷ Lee, p. 215.

⁴⁸ Rifken, p. 219.

Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. After the hotel survived the 1923 Tokyo earthquake, Floto published the article "Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan" in the February 1924 issue of *Architectural Record*, at the same time his Belleville building was nearing completion. Floto worked in Chicago as a structural engineer and architect through the 1940s. The Belleville YMCA used the Turner Hall building from 1960 through 2005, and today it has been partially renovated as offices.

Another fraternal hall is the Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois Hall at 116 W. A Street (1931; Photograph 4). The Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois (C K & L of I) was founded in 1884 in Carlyle, Illinois and moved to the new hall upon completion. The building's architectural imprint has fairly modest traits of the Classical Revival in decorative terra cotta on a modern brick body. The C K & L of I moved to 123 W. Washington in the late fifties, and now resides in neighboring Swansea. The C K & L hall often was rented to host social and civic events.

Belleville Township Office at 111 W. A Street (c. 1955) demonstrates a small-scale use of Modern Movement design principles for a public building. In contrast to the flourish of its neighboring United States Post Office Building, the Township Office is a low, one-story building with minimal ornament. The building expresses some of the traits of the International style, which was defined in practice through buildings with flat roofs, emphasis on contrasts between horizontal and vertical elements, asymmetry and honest expression of interior plan on the exterior.⁴⁹ The International style influence is strong throughout Belleville construction between 1950 and 1970, especially work by native son Charles E. King (who designed City Hall in 1961 and may have designed this building as well).

While downtown changed during the century-plus period of significance, it retained some of the residential architecture inimical to the city's architectural identity. Some of these buildings, especially along Washington and Illinois Streets, lent themselves to later commercial use by professional offices.

Some of the residential buildings in the District are 19th century vernacular single and double houses known locally as "German street houses." This is a significant local folk type that also exemplifies a nationally-recognized housing typology associated with German-American settlement. Nonetheless the later additions to the District include 20th Century houses with Craftsman traits, including some fitting the bungalow form, as well as a handful of multiple dwellings and single dwellings with different forms. The appearance of the District may have partially inspired the Federal Writers Project's 1930s-era depiction of Belleville in the *Federal Writers Project Guide to Illinois*:

No town in Illinois manifests such a bewildering combination of old and new in architecture; 1930 bungalows rub elbows with dwellings built in 1830. Nowhere else in Illinois can be found block after block of century-old, one-story brick cottages.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ William H. Jordy, *American Buildings and Their Architects Volume 5: The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1972), p. 119.

⁵⁰ Federal Writers Project, p. 620.

Even this informal survey recognizes the presence of the German street houses, while also noting the hybrid nature of area streetscapes. This character continues throughout the adjacent Belleville Historic District (NR 1976), which is mostly residential of comparable moderate density.⁵¹ Early subdivisions of Belleville contained few deed restrictions governing setback or house size, so that blocks in the District have no uniform setbacks from the street or between houses. This irregular placement of buildings typifies the streets in the Belleville Historic District as well.⁵²

The city's *Neighborhood Conservation Plan* identifies the "German Street House" as one of the city's key residential styles, alongside Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire Mansard and Queen Anne.⁵³ The document states that the characteristics of the German Street House are as follow: One story tall; brick construction; low pitch roof; end chimneys; positioned on sidewalk; dormers rare; 6-over-6 windows with shutters; solid paneled doors (see Figure 10).⁵⁴ The "variations" noted as follow: Half House, with a central door flanked by single windows; Three-Quarter House, with one window to the left of door and two to the right; Double House, with two central doors leading to separate dwellings, with single windows on each end; Full House, with a central door flanked by two windows on each side; Row House, a common wall house multiple dwelling.⁵⁵

The German Street House is mentioned in the Belleville Historic District National Register nomination as a "masonry cottage" type, and cited as an "indigenous" local type.⁵⁶ The typology resonates with similar buildings across St. Clair County and Southern Illinois more generally. In their survey of vernacular architecture in southern Illinois, historians John M. Coggeshall and Jo Anne Nast describe the type as "Greek Revival style houses built close to the street in German communities."⁵⁷ Other architectural historians disavow the simplified traits of these houses as purely Greek Revival, instead noting general reliance on classical forms like gabled roofs, trabeated entrances and multi-light windows.⁵⁸

There is a general convergence of the German Street House traits with architectural historian Carole Rifkin's characterization of Greek Revival houses as possessing a bold silhouette, broad proportions, simplified details and, if cladding is masonry, cladding that is refined with even, fine joints.⁵⁹ Yet beyond stylistic affinity, the German settlers' forms had a lineage to Middle Atlantic forms, with distinct regional variation despite allegiances to layouts including the center hall and double pen or double house. In clay-rich Belleville, these forms' descendants first were built of frame clad in weatherboard and later brick. Most of the extant houses in the District showing German folk form influence are brick variants. A double house subtype exists in frame at 16 W. C Street (c. 1870), while a center-hall brick form is located at 115 W. Washington (c. 1860). The multiple dwelling at 24 S. 3rd Street (c. 1870) in some ways in an attenuated German

⁵¹ Wagner, p. 7-2.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Southern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission, *City of Belleville: Neighborhood Conservation Plan* (Prepared for the Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Belleville, 1980), p. 18-19.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Wagner, p. 8-1.

⁵⁷ John M. Coggeshall and Jo Ann Nast, *Vernacular Architecture in Southern Illinois: The Ethnic Heritage* (Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988), p. 98.

⁵⁸ Gowans, p. 124-6.

⁵⁹ Carole Rifkin, *A Field Guide to American Architecture* (New York: New American Library, Inc., 1980), p. 39.

street house, but its mansard-roofed third story shows the Second Empire influence. The houses at 23 S. 1st Street (c. 1860), 105 W. Washington (c. 1870) and 111 W. Washington (c. 1860) offer two-story variants on the street house form.

According to Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the Craftsman style was prevalent in American residential architecture from 1905 through 1930. Several examples of the style from that period exist within the District. They embody the traits of the style identified by the McAlesters: low pitched, gabled roof with wide and often unenclosed eaves; decorative braces or brackets added under gables; half or full-width porches with columns or pedestals extending to ground level, and stylistic details often converging with Tudor Revival or Prairie Style traits.⁶⁰ Bungalows at 12 and 14 S. 2nd Street (c. 1915) embody the style.

Commercial Significance: Belleville's Central Business District

As a central part of the original 1814 plat of Belleville, the District was always poised to develop as the commercial center. Historically, throughout the district period of significance, the development patterns within the District were shared across a larger area that includes areas to the south and east, but those areas were eventually physically separated and cannot be listed here. Generally the areas of West Main and North Illinois included in the District attracted general and dry goods retail, wholesaling and some manufacturing while the eastern area attracted more banks, professional services, hotels and upscale retail specialists like jewelers.

Surrounded by farms, Belleville's center city was nonetheless well-developed by 1845, when the city had 2,000 residents.⁶¹ Belleville attracted German immigrants to its surrounding farms as well as to emergent jobs in manufacturing and retail. The rise of a skilled workforce aided development of the city's central business district, which grew around the courthouse. Light industry, including a saw mill, developed along Richland Creek at the city's western edge, drawing commercial activity westward from the courthouse on West Main Street.⁶² By 1867, a bird's-eye view by A. Ruger shows West Main Street as an identifiable urban street lined with mostly two-part commercial blocks (see Figure 12).⁶³

In 1913, the German-language *Belleviller Post und Zeitung* published the reminiscences of a Belleville resident who had arrived in the 1840s, under the title "A Picture of Early Belleville." The anonymous writer depicted the commercial life of the city by starting to enumerate the scores of saloons, shoe stores, book stores, print shops, dry goods stores, furniture stores, bakeries and other establishments on West Main Street and surrounding streets.⁶⁴ The writer asserted that the blocks of Main Street leading from Richland Creek's bridge to the Courthouse Square were both a crucial gateway to the heart of the city and an enclave of German-American capitalism.

⁶⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984), p. 453-4.

⁶¹ Robert J. Fietsam, Jr., Judy Belleville and Jack LeChien, *Belleville: 1814-1914* (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), p. 20.

⁶² Fietsam, Belleville and LeChien, p. 10.

⁶³ A. Ruger, *Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chicago Lithographing Company, 1867).

⁶⁴ Maude Underwood (translator), *A Picture of Early Belleville* (*Belleville: Belleviller Post und Zeitung*, October 1913), pgs. 5-7.

To this day, buildings along West Main Street retain their commercial function and the Main Street blocks contained in the district continue to describe a late 19th century commercial drag with integrity. Advertisements posted in 1890's directories show buildings along Main Street serving out-of-town guests to the booming coal town, with 119 W. Main street housing the Farm Yard Boarding House and Saloon and 200-02 W. Main, the Imperial Bar and Pool Room. Businesses serving locals thrived in the row as well, including Dietz the Tailor, established in 1884 in 204 W. Main. 1896-7 City Directory lists 62 different businesses, retailers, wholesalers or manufacturers within the District boundary. By 1900, the city's population grew to 17,484.

Dry good merchants provided a staple of District activity. One of the earliest was W.L. Batdorf & Company, later Batdorf & Fink Feed Store, established in 1889 at 126-30 W. A Street (see Figure 12). Batdorf was the local agent for national brands Sleepy Eye and I.H. Flour, and sold hay, straw, feed, grain and flour; he paid farmers in cash.⁶⁵ While earlier establishments like Batdorf's catered to farm families, later businesses represented more typical urban general merchandisers. Batdorf built the extant building in 1894. By 1896, there were four general dry good shops on Main Street, with William Eckhardt's store at 108-112 W. Main Street and the Goodman Brothers store at 202 W. Main Street being largest. According to local histories, Eckhardt's store was the city's largest dry goods store until chain stores arrived in the city.⁶⁶ Eckhardt's operated from 1867 through 1945, nearly paralleling the period of significance. The last location was 124 W. Main Street, which became Vitality Feed Store after 1945, showing the persistence of ties between downtown Belleville and farms outside of the city.

Tobacconists proliferated throughout the District. The 1896-7 City Directory lists Martin J. Herzler as a manufacturer of cigars at 133 W. Main. Frank Wilkens was both making and selling cigars at 222 W. Main Street in the same year. Late, Beck Cigar Company was located at 208 W. Main Street between 1901 and 1913 (see Figure 13). Charles "Sonny" Beck built a custom oven and humidior for use in his factory, and later a machine to strip tobacco.⁶⁷ His company relocated to Church Street in 1913, in an area around East Main Street. Later Beck was located at 123 N. Illinois Street within the District.⁶⁸

West Main attracted two substantial signs of modernity in the 1910s: a theater and an automobile retailer. The already-mentioned Washington Theater attracted large audiences both to its interior and its 3,000-seat Airdome. Advertisements boasted that only union members worked at the theater in all ranks.⁶⁹ Businessman Louis Landa left his position at St. Louis' Famous-Barr Department Stores Company to open five theaters across Illinois, including the Washington. Landau's theater investments totaled \$200,000 when the Washington opened.⁷⁰

In 1914, schoolteacher Oliver C. Joseph opened his St. Clair Motor Company in an already-extant building at 219-23 W. Main Street.⁷¹ Joseph attained the local franchise for Chrysler Dodge, which is still held by the successor Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler Dodge store. The company

⁶⁵ Fietsam, Belleville and LeChien, p. 102.

⁶⁶ Nebelsick, p. 190.

⁶⁷ Fietsam, Belleville and LeChien, p. 97.

⁶⁸ Nebelsick, p. 187.

⁶⁹ Fietsam, Belleville and LeChien, p. 83.

⁷⁰ *Centennial Edition*, p. 20.

⁷¹ Fietsam, Belleville and LeChien, p. 116.

is the oldest Chrysler Dodge franchise operated by the original franchise owner, but left the original location one decade ago. A streetcar struck the building in 1923, prompting reconstruction into the current configuration (see Figure 14).

By 1920, Belleville had 24,823 residents and downtown was dense with retail serving the large population. The prowess of retail in downtown was shown by the new building that the George Gauss & Sons Dry Goods Company built in 1916 at 209 N. Illinois Street; the three-story, elevator-served, fireproof building was state-of-the-art for a small urban department store. The 1920-21 and 1922 Belleville Directories for West Main identify a large number of retail stores along the two blocks, including two furniture stores (Long & Sons, 125-127 & Fohr Bros, 120), three shoe stores (Jacob Imber shoes, 117, Peskind & Sons shoes, 131, and Jung Shoe Co at 100-02), several grocers, two cobblers, and Karr Supply Co for plumbing supplies at 129. Main was also home to restaurants and, at 116, the Lafayette Hotel, while 204 W. Main remained in use as Dietz's Tailor shop. Most of these businesses remained in operation as of the publishing of the 1929 directory.

By 1933 and 1937, however, larger numbers of storefronts along W. Main were vacant as the country suffered through The Depression, though many businesses, such as Jung Shoe Co, persisted. In the mid-thirties 204 W. Main became the Reliable Loan Co. after standing vacant for a few years. One new business to open in this era was the Firestone franchise shop at 232 W. Main Street, which opened in 1935. In the forties, businesses repopulated most of the vacant storefronts, and these commercial blocks remained vibrant until a decline in the seventies. Among the later business growth was the expansion of the Bell Telephone Company exchange located on the north side of W. B Street east of N. 1st Street. Although the district was declining by the end of the period significance, 1960, the city's population continued growing and reached 37,264. However, retail growth was following population growth to new suburban locations.

The following table charts the changes in uses between 1920 and 1961 as reported by Belleville City Directories available at the Belleville Public Library. The chart shows a definite decline in retail diversity and the rise of automobile-related facilities. The automobile retail and repair business demonstrate changing needs but also the fact that downtown real estate was experiencing lower values and the dirtier environments of automobile repairs and parts had replaced many of the long-time specialty and general retailers.

Retail Uses in the Belleville North Historic District, 1920-1961
 (Source: *Polk's Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois, City Directory*)

	1920-1	1922	1929	1931	1933	1937	1939	1941	1943	1946	1950	1955	1961
Vacant	1	1	1	3	7	5	4	2	4	2	1	0	3
Shoe Retailers	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Supple or Hardware	1	2	2	4	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	4	4
Tailors and Cleaners	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1
Undertaker	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycles Sales/Repairs	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dry Goods/Seed Retail	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beer/Liquor Retailers	1	1	0	0	1	3	3	4	5	7	4	4	2
Soft Drink Retailers	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing and Accessory Retailers	2	2	6	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cigar Retailers and Manufacturers	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Schools	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Produce/Grocery	2	3	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Medicine	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Furniture Retailers	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1
Automobile Supply/Repair	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	9	7	8
Barbers	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Restaurants	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	2	2	1	0
Electric/Appliance Retailers	0	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	4
Theaters	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Finance	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Photographers and Music Retailers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Sporting Goods and Gun Retailers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2
Confections/Ice Cream	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Apartments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Beauty Retailers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Recent History

The demolition of the historic St. Clair County Courthouse in 1972 sounded an alarm to Belleville that its historic resources were at risk. That demolition severed the nominated District from the historic courthouse square. Charles Nichols successfully ran for mayor of Belleville in 1973 on a platform that included officially adopting a historic preservation ordinance. By 1974, in Nichols' administration, the City of Belleville had adopted the ordinance and established a Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission designated the Old Belleville Local Historic District east of this District in its first year.

The Historic Preservation Commission organized architectural survey of Belleville in 1975 that led to the nomination of the Belleville Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The boundary of that district excluded the nominated District despite similarities in building typology. At the time of designation, however, there was resistance to including commercial properties around Main Street, which was largely excluded. Illinois Street was a commercial barrier to western expansion of the district.

At the same time that the Courthouse demolition occurred, the city began realizing that downtown's shopping district was in decline.⁷² Although a 1973 *Belleville News-Democrat* cover story profiled downtown merchants worried about the opening of St. Clair Square Mall in nearby Fairview Heights, the reality was that the downtown already showed signs of decay. Demolitions already had removed many buildings in favor of parking lots. Eventually, grassroots small business development revitalized downtown, but there was a definite close to the retail heyday.

In 2009, the City of Belleville completed a large survey of the center of the city and the old village of West Belleville. The survey identified the nominated District as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a larger 27-block District. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency determined that the larger district was not eligible due to lack of integrity throughout most of its residential blocks, but that the commercial historic district nominated here was eligible. Again, demolition separates the nominated area from a similar district east of the courthouse square centered on Main Street that appears to be eligible for listing as well.

⁷² "Belleville Shopping District Not the Only Center of Activity," *Belleville News-Democrat* (27 August 1973).

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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
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- 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 59.5 acres

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: 38.515529 | Longitude: -89.988218 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.516612 | Longitude: -89.984222 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.512624 | Longitude: -89.988242 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.512644 | Longitude: -89.985563 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary begins at the intersection of Washington and Third streets, where it proceeds north to W. B Street. At W. B Street, the boundary runs east to N. 2nd Street, where it runs north to W. C Street and then east on W. C. Street to Illinois Street. The boundary then runs south on Illinois Street to W. A Street, then south on W. A Street to Washington Street. The boundary runs west on Washington Street to its origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the District includes the part of the historic central business district of Belleville, Illinois that constitutes an identifiable entity west of the Courthouse Square. There is a similar concentration east of the Courthouse Square largely omitted from the existing Belleville Historic District, but impossible to include here due to lack of contiguous historic building density. The boundary to the west is constrained by vacant lots where buildings once stood, and the boundary at south is limited by an area lacking sufficient integrity to be included. To the north is a residential area typified by local vernacular architecture, but its significance, if any, is unrelated to that of this area.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael R. Allen/Director and Robin Harvey/Project Associate

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city or town: St. Louis state: MO zip code: 63118

e-mail michael@preservationresearch.com

telephone: 314-920-5680

date: June 23, 2015

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.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Blair North Historic District

City or Vicinity: Belleville

County: St. Clair

State: Illinois

Photographer: Michael R. Allen

Date Photographed: March 31, 2015

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

1. View of N 1st Street looking northwest from the intersection at W. Main Street.
2. View of N. 1st Street looking northwest from the intersection at W. C Street.
3. View of N. 2nd Street looking southwest from the intersection at W. A Street.
4. View of W. A Street looking southwest from the intersection at N. 1st Street.
5. View of W. B Street looking northeast from the intersection at N. 2nd Street.
6. View of the St. Paul's Church building looking northeast.
7. View southeast down W. B Street from near the intersection at N. 3rd Street.
8. View southeast along W. C Street from the intersection at N. 1st Street.
9. View southwest along N. Illinois Street looking from the intersection at W. B Street.
10. View northwest along N. Illinois Street from the intersection at W. B Street.
11. View toward the southwest at the intersection of W. Main Street at S. 1st Street.
12. View toward the northeast at the intersection of W. Main Street and S. 1st Street.
13. View toward the southwest at the intersection of W. Main Street at N. 2nd Street.
14. View toward the northwest at the intersection of W. Main Street and N. 2nd Street.
15. View toward the northeast from just east of the intersection of W. Washington Street and S. 1st Street.

Index of Figures

1. The District marked on An Illustrated Historical Atlas of St. Clair County, Illinois (1874).
2. The District marked on the 1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.
3. Photograph of the St. Clair County Courthouse under demolition, 1972.
4. The commercial buildings at 113-15 N. Illinois Street, 1910.
5. Hoeffken Brothers Supply & Construction Company Building, 1914.
6. The Washington Theatre after opening in 1913.
7. St. Paul's Church after its 1902 renovation.
8. The United States Post Office Building after completion in 1911.
9. Rendering of the Turner Hall Building, looking southwest from the intersection of 1st and A Streets.
10. Rendering of a typical German street house in Belleville.
11. An 1867 bird's-eye view of Belleville showing the District.
12. A photograph of the W.L. Batdorf & Co. storefront at 126-30 W. A Street in the 1890s.
13. A photograph of Beck Cigar while still located at 2081-0 W. Main Street between 1901-1913.
14. The Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler Dodge building at 219-23 W. Main Street after a streetcar struck the building in 1923.

Figure 1: The District marked on *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of St. Clair County, Illinois* (Chicago: Warner & Beers, 1874).

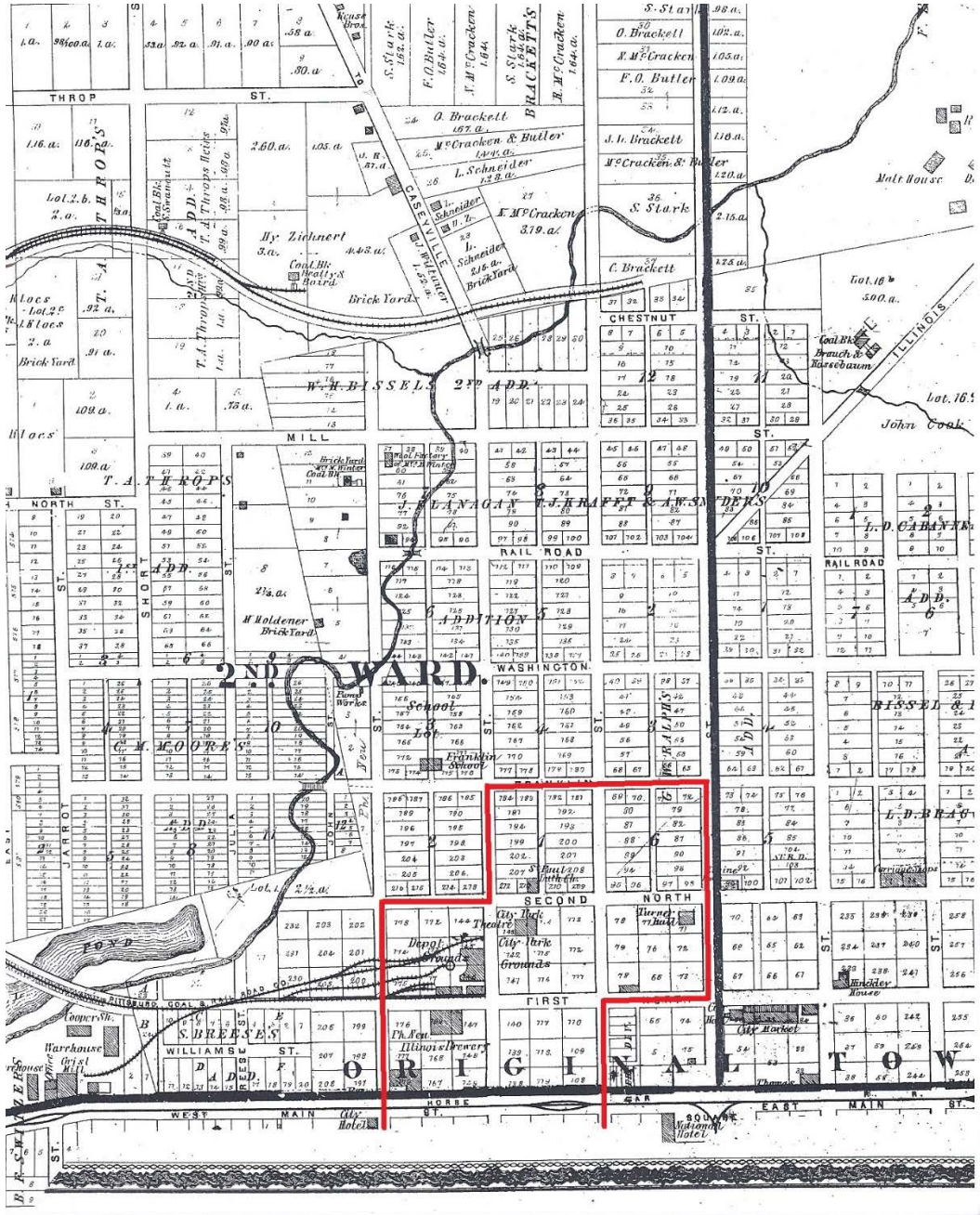


Figure 2: The District marked on the 1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

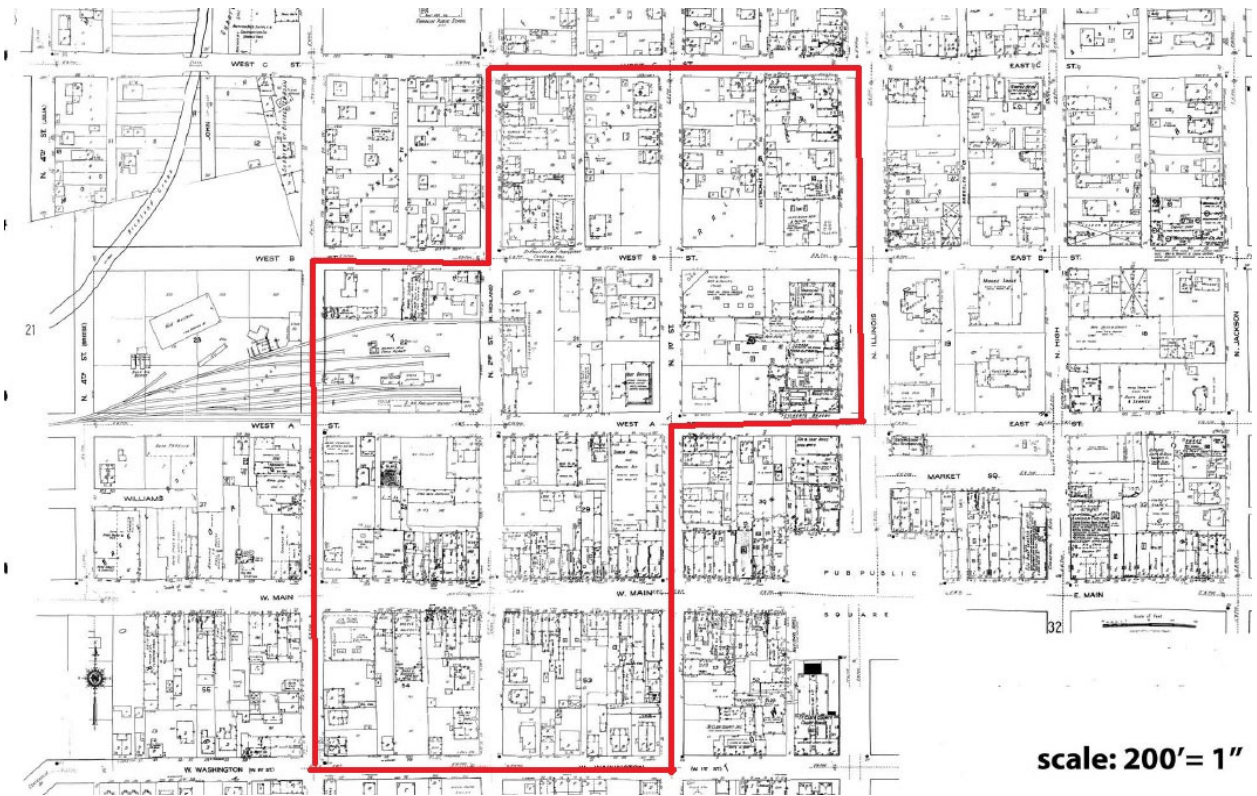


Figure 3: Photograph of the St. Clair County Courthouse under demolition, 1972. Source: Belleville Historical Society.



Figure 4: The commercial buildings at 113-15 N. Illinois Street, 1910. Source: Belleville Historical Society.



Figure 5: Hoeffken Brothers Supply & Construction Company Building, 1914. Source: *St. Clair County Centennial Edition* (1914).



Figure 6: The Washington Theatre after opening in 1913. Source: Postcard view.



Figure 7: St. Paul's Church after its 1902 renovation. Source: *St. Clair County Centennial Edition* (1914).



Figure 8: The United States Post Office Building after completion in 1911. Source: Postcard view.



Figure 9: Rendering of the Turner Hall Building, looking southwest from the intersection of 1st and A Streets. Source: Postcard in the collection of the Belleville Historical Society.

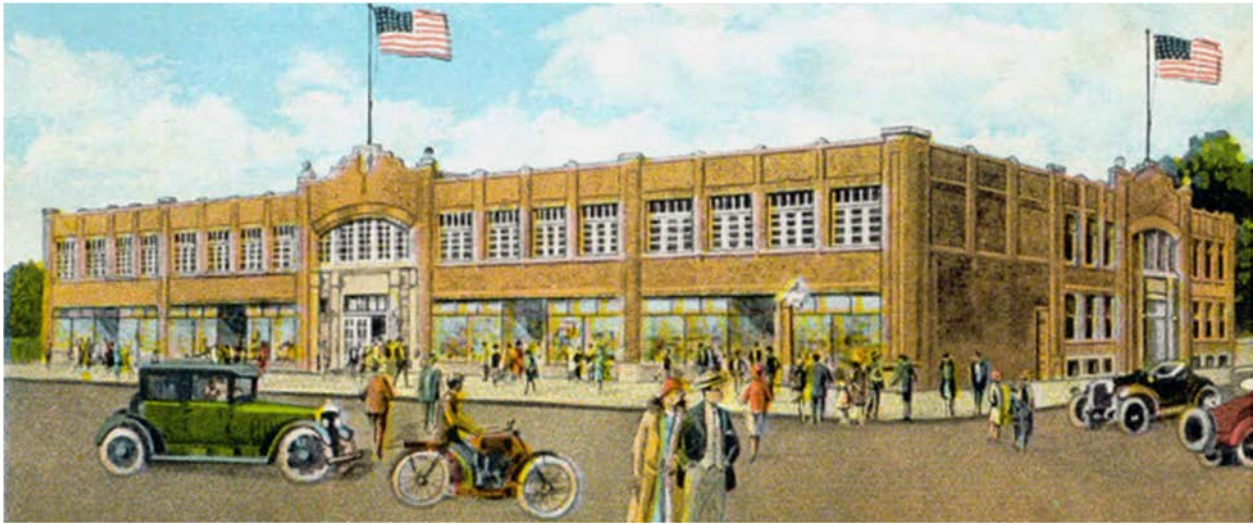


Figure 10: Rendering of a typical German street house in Belleville. Source: *City of Belleville: Neighborhood Conservation Plan*.

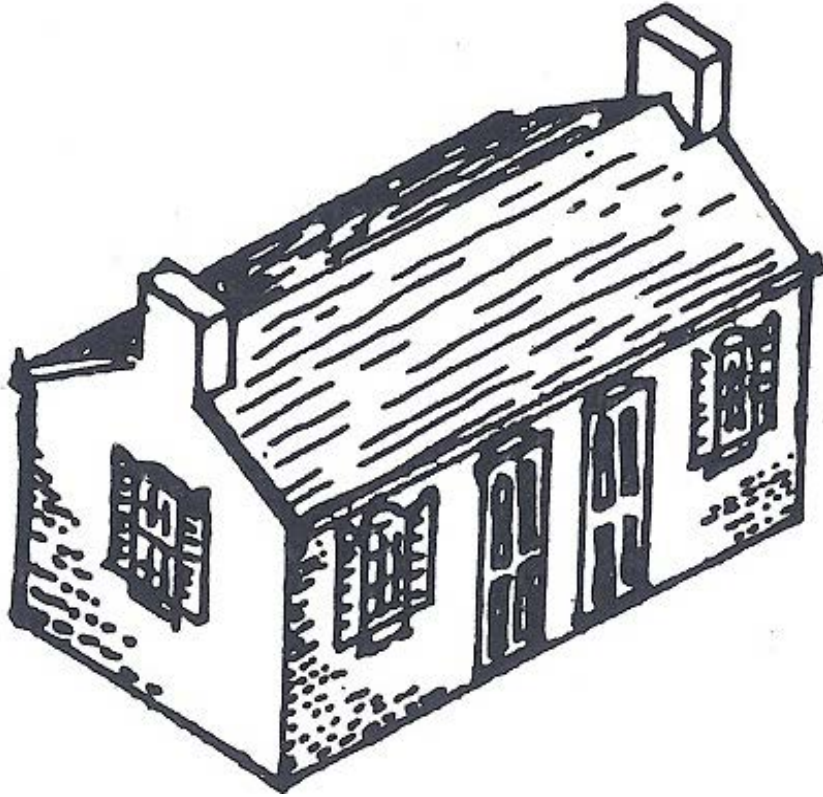


Figure 11: An 1867 bird's-eye view of Belleville showing the District (marked by solid line).
Source: Library of Congress.

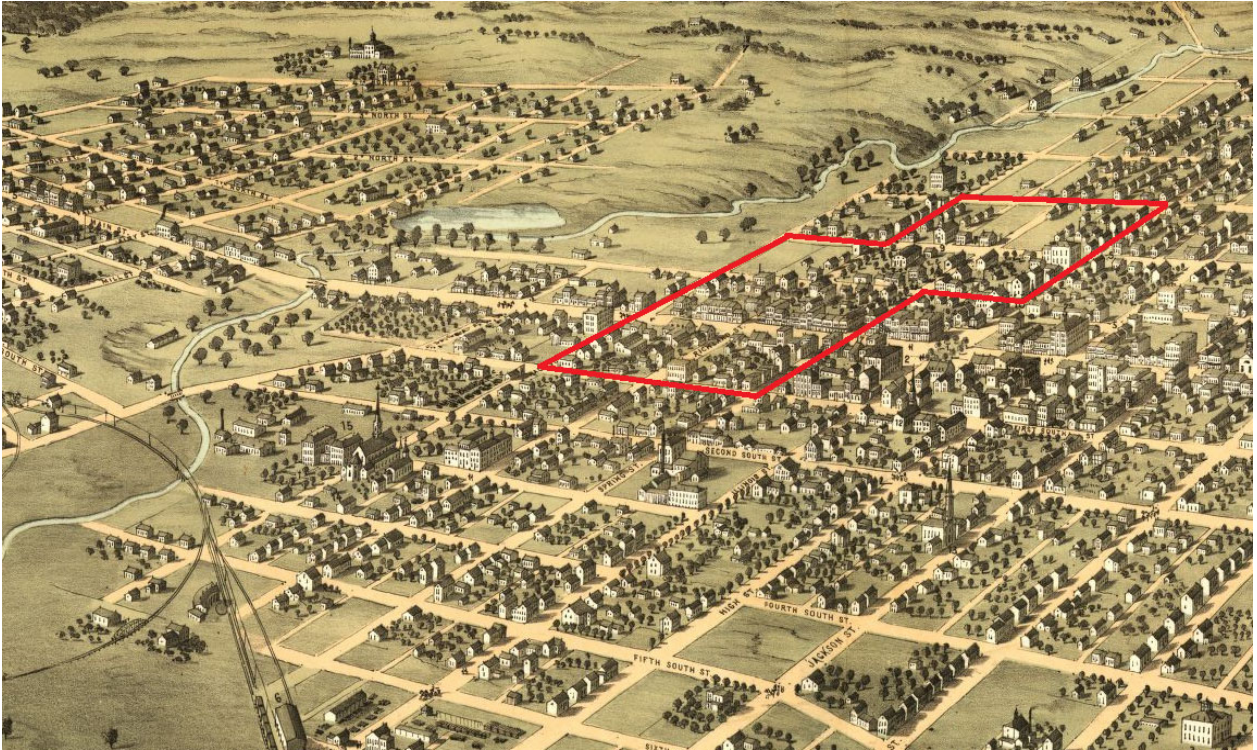


Figure 12: A photograph of the W.L. Batdorf & Co. storefront at 126-30 W. A Street in the 1890s. Source: Belleville Historical Society.



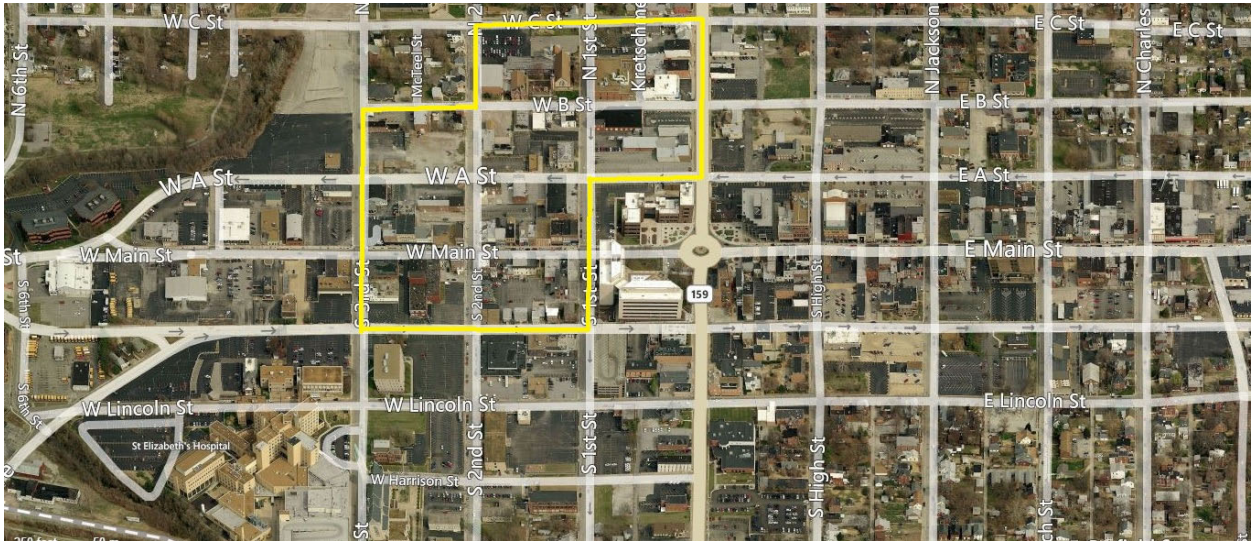
Figure 13: A photograph of Beck Cigar while still located at 2081-0 W. Main Street between 1901-1913. Source: Belleville Labor and Industry Museum.



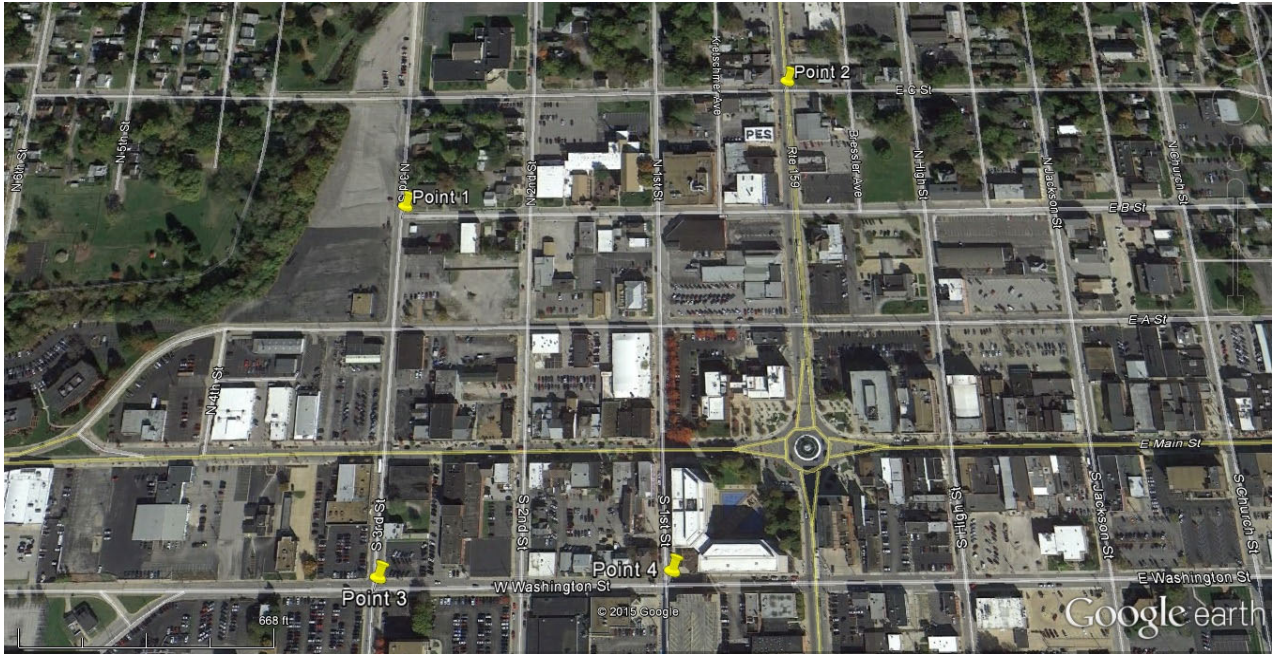
Figure 14: The Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler Dodge building at 219-23 W. Main Street after a streetcar struck the building in 1923. Source: Belleville Historical Society.



Figure 15: Aerial view of downtown Belleville showing nominated district bounded by thick line. Source: Bing.com.



Google Earth Map



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.



1000
ELD
GREEN

N 1st St

Dixon & Johnston, P.C.
Attorneys At Law

Dixon & Johnston, P.C.
Attorneys At Law

NO LEFT TURN

LANE



ONE
WAY
←

100
W. 10th St

← ONE WAY →



REFINISH
NATIONAL AUTO SUPPLY

P



ONE WAY
→

Parker's
RESTAURANT

STOP
SCHOOL



175 Years of Faith

BOOKLINK





LANDAU GROCERY CO.
WHOLESALE ONLY

NO LEFT TURN
ANY TIME







COLLISION PLUS
PAINT & BODY

METRO
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WEBB HOSPITALITY



CORDELL | CORDELL, Inc.
A COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE FIRM

MAIN ST

PIZZERIA'S SPORTS PUB & PIZZERIA

ELMOTT



Yellow banner with illegible text.

EGYPTIAN BUSINESS FURNITURE
20 WEST MAIN STREET







ROAD
CLOSED
AHEAD

SPEED
LIMIT
20

MAIN ST
20

Robert's
Florist

Robert's Florist

Robert's Florist



National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 17 2016

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Blair Historic District – Additional Documentation

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

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

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city or town Belleville vicinity

state Illinois county St. Clair zip code _____

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

[Signature] 6/9/16
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

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): Additional Documentation Approved

[Signature] 8-2-16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Blair Historic District – additional documentation

Name of Property

St. Clair, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number additional documentationPage 1

This additional documentation is being submitted in order to clarify an error in the original Blair Historic District nomination which was listed on 8/18/2015. Turner Hall located at 15 North 1st Street is listed as a contributing building in Section 7 page 9. After Turner Hall was converted to a YMCA, a pool addition was added in 1964. The pool addition is listed as a stand alone building in section 7 page 13. Its address is 111 W. Main Street. It should have been listed in the inventory as an addition to Turner Hall.

15 N. 1st (Belleville Turner Hall) Photographs 1, 4, and 12

111 W. Main (YMCA Swimming Pool Addition)

Date of Construction: 1924, 1964

Architect: Julius Floto

Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements, and Modern Movements/One-Part Commercial (addition)

Number of Stories: 2, and 1 (addition)

Roof Plan: Flat

Construction: Bearing Wall

Wall Cladding: Brick and Limestone

Features: Art deco details including geometric limestone accents, sculptural roof edge, large rounded arch transom window extending over main entry, rectilinear footprint

Status: Contributing

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Blair Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, St. Clair

DATE RECEIVED: 7/03/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/24/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/18/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000523

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 8.18.15 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.



RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 3 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

July 2, 2015

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Register of Historic Places Program
National Park Service, Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nominations recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its June 19, 2015 meeting and signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer:

East Rockford Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Expansion), Rockford, Winnebago County
Condon Bros & R. H. Shumway Building, Rockford, Winnebago County
Blair Historic District, Belleville, St. Clair County
Central Manufacturing District: Pershing Road Development Historic District, Chicago, Cook County
Central Berwyn Bungalow Historic District, Berwyn, Cook County

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

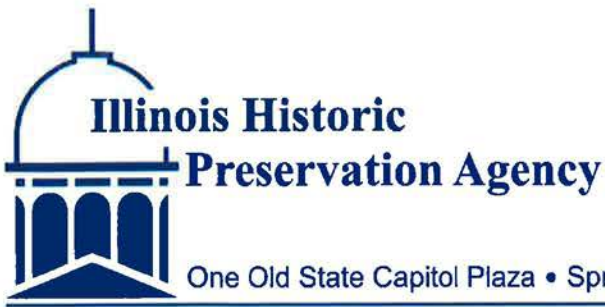
Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator
Survey and National Register program

enclosures

1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield IL 62701

ILLINOISHISTORY.GOV



RECEIVED 2280

JUN 17 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

June 13, 2016

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 is Additional Documentation for the **Blair Historic District**. It has been signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at 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

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Blair Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, St. Clair

DATE RECEIVED: ~~7/03/15~~ DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6-17-16 DATE OF 45TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

~~8/18/15~~
8-2-16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000523

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 8-2-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

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.