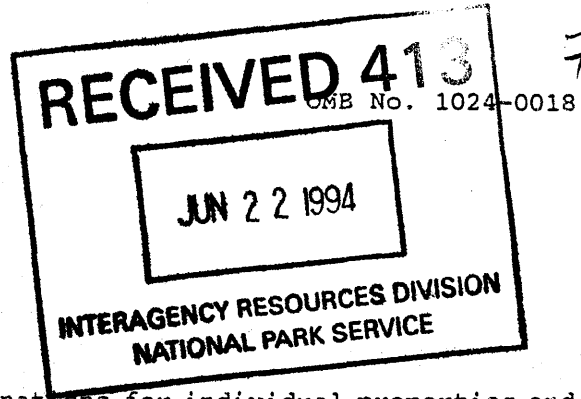


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Original Main Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street, between South Eighth and North Third Streets

not for publication N/A

city or town Sauk Centre

vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Stearns code 145

zip code 56378

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ian R. Stewart Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date 6/14/94

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Minnesota Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature]

8/5/94

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>84</u>	<u>48</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> objects
<u>90</u>	<u>55</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling, hotel</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>financial institution,</u>
	<u>business, specialty store,</u>
	<u>restaurant</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>post office</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>theater</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>manufacturing facility</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>rail-related, road-related,</u>
	<u>pedestrian related</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling, hotel</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>financial institution,</u>
	<u>business, specialty store,</u>
	<u>restaurant</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>post office</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>theater</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>rail-related, road-related,</u>
	<u>pedestrian-related</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

LATE VICTORIAN:

Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic, Renaissance Revival, Stick/Eastlake

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

MID-19TH CENTURY:

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Stone

roof Wood, Asphalt

walls Brick, Wood/weatherboard, Metal/aluminum, Concrete,

Stucco

other Brick, Wood, Concrete

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1920-1947

Significant Dates 1920
1922
1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Engineers

Stewart, Reverend George
Bonner, J. E.
Norling, Sven

Builders

Pangburn, David
Eckberg Brothers
Oaks Construction Co.
Whitcomb, D. C.
Whipple, E. A.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 45

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	348115	5065865	4	15	348120 5067240
2	15	348220	5065785	5	15	347990 5067150
3	15	348200	5067235	6	15	348110 5066860

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheets.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey A. Hess and Heather E. Maginniss
organization Hess, Roise and Company
street & number 405 Cedar Avenue South -- Suite 200
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55454
telephone (612) 338-1987
date 20 September 1993

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Original Main Street Historic District in Sauk Centre, Minnesota consists of 145 resources in a ten-block-long, roughly rectangular corridor extending from South Eighth Street on the south to North Third Street on the north. Transected by the Sauk River near the northern end of the corridor, the district is generally about 400 feet in width. It consists of the original 82.5-foot-wide Main Street right-of-way, bordered in most sections of the district by platted city lots about 160 feet deep. Throughout the corridor, the right-of-way contains a two-way, bituminous-covered roadway (Main Street itself) edged by concrete or granite curbing and concrete sidewalks. In the residential areas, the right-of-way also contains grass-covered, and sometimes tree-lined, boulevards between curbing and sidewalk. The platted lots bordering the right-of-way contain the buildings, structures, objects, and sites that create the Main Street streetscape. Except for an occasional corner property, all buildings have Main Street addresses. South of the river the addresses are for South Main Street, with odd numbers on the east side of the street; even numbers on the west side. North of the river is North Main Street, where the odd-even locations are reversed.

The entire area within the Original Main Street Historic District was part of the Main Street corridor in Sauk Centre during the Period of Significance, 1920-1947. During this period, the city's Main Street also extended about one-half mile to the north and south of the present historic district. These outlying areas were largely open farm land, which was not developed until the decades after World War II. For example, the blocks immediately south of the historic district are now covered with 1970s and 1980s commercial strip construction catering to the interstate highway traffic. The block immediately north of the historic district contains recent "strip" construction on the west side of Main Street and undeveloped land on the east side. Still further north is a 1950s and 1960s residential district of Rambler-style houses. For the most part, the historic district's east and west boundaries are defined with similar visual clarity by paved, north-south alleys marking the rear property lines of Main Street buildings.

Main Street has always been Sauk Centre's principal thoroughfare. Its prominence was established by the "Original Townsite Plat" of 1863, which allotted it a right-of-way width of 82.5 feet, compared to 66 feet for all other city streets. As the city's only crossing of the Sauk River, Main Street was a vital part of the region's primary north-south transportation artery that linked Willmar on the south to Wadena on the north. Its general importance was underscored by the fact that it was the first street in Sauk Centre to be paved, an improvement that took place in 1924. As a result of the systematic elaboration of a state and federal highway system in Minnesota

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Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

during the 1920s and 1930s, Main Street became part of U.S. Highway 71 and State Highway 28, and remains so designated to the present day.¹

In terms of both architecture and usage, the Original Main Street Historic District consists of four visually well-defined zones, which have remained relatively unchanged in basic streetscape characteristics from the Period of Significance. From south to north, these zones are as follows: (1) a three-block-long "south" residential neighborhood extending from South Eighth Street to South Fifth Street; (2) a three-block-long downtown commercial district from South Fifth Street to South Second Street; (3) a one-block-long industrial zone from South Second Street to the river; and (4) a three-block-long "north" residential neighborhood from the river to North Third Street.²

South Residential Neighborhood

The south residential neighborhood is largely a district of wood-frame, single-family homes, 1-1/2 to two stories in height, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Historically, most dwellings had outbuildings and/or carriage houses at the rear of the lot, facing an alley that runs parallel to Main Street. The alley now serves garages of varying construction dates. Although some houses display Queen Anne, Italianate, and Colonial Revival detailing, most are of vernacular construction with little or no stylistic ornamentation. Fronting Main Street, the dwellings are set back from the property line behind grassy lawns planted with large and sapling shade trees. Sidewalk boulevards are similarly planted. According to historic aerial photographs, shade trees on front lawns and sidewalk boulevards were a distinguishing landscape feature of the south residential neighborhood during the Period of Significance.³ In contrast, the downtown commercial district immediately to the north was noticeably lacking in streetside vegetation.

¹ Plat of Original Townsite of Sauk Centre, 10 August 1863, resurveyed 30 July 1874, in Stearns County Recorders Office, Stearns County Courthouse; "Pavement Opening," Sauk Centre News, 30 October 1924, p. 1.; [Highway Map of Stearns County (State of Minnesota Department of Highways, 1936)].

² These divisions are based on usage and construction patterns illustrated by Insurance Map of Sauk Centre, Stearns Co., Minn. (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1916); Insurance Map of Sauk Centre, Stearns Co., Minn. (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1929); and Insurance Map of Sauk Centre, Stearns Co., Minn. (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1929, updated 1949); all on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society.

³ Aerial photographs of Stearns County commissioned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1938, in Borchert Map Library, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

When the city first paved Main Street in 1924, it constructed 12-foot-wide grassy boulevards along the center of Main Street in the south residential neighborhood. The original plans called for boulevards on three blocks: between South Fifth and South Sixth streets; between South Sixth and South Seventh streets; and between South Seventh Street and the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge. However, an aerial photograph from 1938 indicates that only the South Fifth-Sixth Street and Sixth-Seventh Street boulevards were built. By sharpening the contrast with the unlandscaped commercial district to the north, these boulevards enhanced the neighborhood's general residential character. Consequently, the removal of the boulevards in 1956 diminished the neighborhood's integrity.⁴ The historic character also was compromised to a certain degree by the city's decision in 1954 to zone the area as a "local commercial district."⁵ This led to the construction of a few commercial buildings that are architecturally unsympathetic to the historic residential streetscape. Despite these alterations and additions, the south residential neighborhood's surviving architecture and landscaping still strongly evoke its historic character from the Period of Significance.

Downtown Commercial District

The spine of the city's central business district runs along Main Street from South Fifth Street to South Second Street. The majority of the buildings are attached, 1- or 2-story, brick commercial blocks dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Architectural styles include Italianate, Queen Anne, and Beaux Arts. Most buildings, however, are modest structures with little ornamentation. The district strongly reflects the

⁴ The original design of the boulevards is found in J. E. Bonner, "Plans of Sauk Centre Minn. Paving," n.d., in Sauk Centre City Hall; see also "Paving Will Be Under Way Soon," Sauk Centre News, 24 July 1924, p. 1. Sauk Centre taxpayers approved the boulevard scheme at a public meeting in August 1924. As the local press explained, public support for the boulevards was based on a mixture of aesthetics, civic pride, and economics: ". . . those who wanted the Parkway [i.e., boulevard] stated, that the street was quite wide enough and would look good, that other streets in other towns of the same width had a parkway, that the cost of paving the whole stree[t] was too great a burden and the saving effected by putting in the parkway would be considerable"; "Mass Meeting on the Paving," Sauk Centre News, 7 August 1924, p. 1. When the boulevards were removed in 1956, Main Street was completely paved over for a width of 50 feet; see "Final Scoping Report, S.P. No. 7319-25, TH 71 in Sauk Centre, R.P. 167.31 to 169.04, Stearns County, Minnesota," unpublished report prepared by Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson and Associates, Incorporated for Minnesota Department of Transportation, 13 December 1990, p. 1.

⁵ "An Ordinance Regulating the Location, Size, Use and Height of Buildings," Chapter No. 288 of City Ordinances, adopted 1 September 1954, in City Hall; see also "Zoning Ordinance May Be Adopted at Sept. 1 Meeting," Sauk Centre Herald, 10 August 1954, p. 1.

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Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

utilitarian ethic of early twentieth-century, American, small-town commercial construction. Owing to destructive fires, some properties have replacement exteriors dating from the 1920s and 1930s. Although several ground-floor store fronts were altered in the decades following World War II, the upper stories generally retain the design, materials, and workmanship of the Period of Significance. The most notable lapse in integrity occurs on the east side of the South 400 Block; two of its three buildings were erected after the Period of Significance. In addition, about half of the buildings on the east side of the South 300 Block are non-contributing because of inappropriate cladding of their facades. Several of these buildings, however, may retain their original facades beneath their modern "improvements," offering the possibility of a relatively simple rehabilitation in the future. Despite these additions and alterations, the downtown commercial district strongly evokes the Period of Significance in its overall feeling, association, materials, workmanship, and design, especially in terms of scale, massing, and rhythm of roof line.

Industrial Zone

The one-block area between the downtown commercial district and the river became an industrial zone in 1857, when a waterpower dam was completed across the river at Main Street. The area remained a manufacturing district until the 1920s, when the last flour mill suspended operations.⁶ Although there are no longer active factories on the riverbank, the area's industrial heritage is recalled by three visually important structures surviving from the Period of Significance: the Sauk Centre Dam, the Central Minnesota Power and Milling Company Flour Mill (now an apartment complex) at 23 North Main Street, and the Northern Pacific Railway Depot (now a feed store) at 109 South Main Street.

North Residential Neighborhood

Extending from the river to North Third Street, this northernmost section of the historic district is a single-family residential neighborhood of predominantly early twentieth-century, wood-frame, 1-1/2-story dwellings. Although the west side of the North 200 Block contains examples of Italianate and Gothic Revival architecture dating from the 1880s, most houses in the neighborhood display popular styles of the 1910s and 1920s, such as Bungalow, Craftsman, and historic revivals. As is true for the south residential district, dwellings are set back from the property line behind grassy tree-planted lawns, and the sidewalks are bordered by grassy boulevards. Although the boulevards now contain few trees, historic aerial photographs indicate

⁶ Ivy Louise Hildebrand, "Sauk Centre -- A Study of the Growth of a Frontier Town," (Master's thesis, St. Cloud State College, 1960), 16, 38-40, 55.

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Original Main Street Historic District
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that they were tree-lined during the Period of Significance. Some of this foliage apparently was planted by the City Council in 1926, presumably in connection with the original street paving and boulevard construction in the area.⁷ Unlike the south residential neighborhood, this area never was zoned for commercial use, and it does not have unsympathetic commercial construction.

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

The summary descriptions presented below are numbered to correspond to a map enclosed with this nomination, entitled "Original Main Street Historic District, 1993." The descriptions begin at the south end of the district and proceed northward block-by-block; within each block, east-side properties are discussed before west-side properties. The descriptions rely heavily on the following historical sources: Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre (1885, 1890, 1895, 1903, 1909, 1916, 1929, 1949) in the Minnesota Historical Society; municipal real-property files in Sauk Centre City Hall; and photographs in the Sauk Centre Historical Society. Other sources are cited in the text.

1. **Historic Name:** Great Northern Railroad Bridge
Common Name: Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge
Address: South Main Street, at South Eighth Street
Date: 1931

The first railroad trackage on this site was laid in 1878 by the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, which later became part of the Great Northern Railroad system.⁸ By 1924, the railroad had re-engineered the crossing with a grade separation consisting of a skewed railroad bridge above a depressed roadway.⁹ When the company rebuilt the bridge in 1931, it maintained the grade separation, which now forms an entrance portal to the historic district. Resting on reinforced-concrete piers and stone-rubble with concrete abutments, the superstructure is configured as a simple 3-span, steel-girder bridge with a railroad-tie deck bordered by metal balustrades. The construction date is imprinted on one of the structure's concrete piers. At an undetermined date, the railroad trackage was removed from the bridge and rail corridor.

This property consists of one contributing structure.

⁷ Minutes, 23 April 1926, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

⁸ Hildebrand, 50, 53.

⁹ Sauk Centre News, 12 June 1924, p. 1.

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Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

2. **Historic Name:** Walker House
Address: 721 South Main Street
Date: 1923

Constructed in 1923 for James R. Walker, this is a modest, 1-1/2-story, gable-roofed dwelling; a one-story gabled wing on the south elevation creates a tee-shaped plan.¹⁰ The asymmetrical front (west) elevation has a small enclosed entry vestibule, paired 6/6 sash windows on the first story, and one 1/1 aluminum sash window on the upper story. Aluminum or vinyl siding, added in 1976, clads the exterior. The property has a shallow front yard with a single shade tree. At the rear of the lot is a gable-roofed, single-car garage. Since the garage does not appear on a 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, it apparently was erected after that date.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

3. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 715 South Main Street
Date: C. 1915

Probably constructed around 1915, this is an almost-square, 1-1/2-story dwelling with a steeply pitched gable roof and several gabled wall dormers. An enclosed, one-story, front porch displays a pedimented gable over the entry. The foundation walls of the raised basement are covered with stucco and synthetic stone; the rest of the building's exterior has been reclad with asphalt shingles. Fronting on the alley at the rear of the lot is a one-story, side-gabled garage with a shallow-pitched roof. This building appears to have been constructed in the 1970s or 1980s.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

4. **Historic Name:** Myra and John Dimond House
Current Name: Passages, Ltd.
Address: 425 South Seventh Street
Date: 1897

¹⁰ Louis Schley, Data Sheet for Main Street Project: 721 South Main Street, prepared for Hess Roise, 1993, in Sauk Centre Survey Files of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society. Henceforth this collection will be cited as Data Sheet, with the informant's name and the property's address.

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Original Main Street Historic District
Stearns County, Minnesota

Constructed in 1897 for Myra and John Dimond, this building is a 1-1/2-story, rectangular-plan, weatherboard-clad, hipped-roofed dwelling with several cross-gables and a concrete foundation. The front (north) elevation features a cross-gable bay flanked by two one-story sections, all of which have been incorporated into an enclosed, hipped-roofed front porch. In 1989, the dwelling was remodeled as office space, with no appreciable effect on its historic character. The property has a shallow front yard and side (west) yard containing two shade trees.¹¹

This property consists of one contributing building.

5. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: Werlinger-Mitzel & Associates, Insurance
Address: 710 South Main Street
Date: C. 1985

Constructed in the mid-1980s, this one-story, rectangular-plan commercial building has a flat boxy roof with a broad projecting cornice that gives the impression of a mansard. The exterior is clad in aluminum or vinyl siding. There is an glass entrance door on the south facade, and rectangular, single-pane windows on the south and east facades.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

6. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 700 South Main Street
Date: C. 1925

According to municipal real-property files, this house was constructed in 1925, and its architectural character is compatible with this date. Resting on a stucco-covered concrete foundation, the building is a modest, rectangular-plan, one-story, front-gabled dwelling with exposed rafter tails. The almost-symmetrical front (east) elevation features a central entry with a gabled hood, flanked by a picture window to the south and a 6/6 sash window to the north. In the front gable end are two square, six-paned windows. In 1978, the exterior -- presumably wood-sided at the time -- was clad with asbestos shingles. At the rear of the lot is a gable-roofed, wood-sided, single-car garage that appears to be contemporary with the house.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

¹¹ Linda Franklin, Data Sheet, 425 South Seventh Street.

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Stearns County, Minnesota

7. **Historic Name:** House
Current Name: Main Street Farm and Home Realty
Address: 633 South Main Street
Date: C. 1910

Probably built around 1910, this dwelling is a 2-1/2-story, gable-roofed building sheathed in asbestos shingles and resting on a poured concrete foundation. An enclosed front (west) porch contains a central gabled entry. Although most windows have been altered with modern 1/1 aluminum sash, the openings retain their original wooden surrounds with simple cornices. The south elevation has a canted bay window, and there is a one-story, gable-roofed garage addition on the rear (east) elevation. The dwelling fronts a shallow yard with a shade tree.

This property consists of one contributing building.

8. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 627 South Main Street
Date: C. 1905

This is a modest Craftsman-style dwelling resting on a dressed concrete-block foundation. Municipal real-property records assign the house a construction date of 1907, which is compatible with its architectural character. It has a steeply pitched, side-gabled roof that hangs over an enclosed front porch. The front (west) elevation has a large gabled dormer with six 4/1 sash windows. The side elevations have modified pedimented gables ornamented by exposed roof rafters resembling modillions. Although the exterior has been clad in vinyl or aluminum siding, this alteration does not significantly detract from the building's historic character. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, two-stall, front-gabled garage built in the 1970s or 1980s.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

9. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 619 South Main Street
Date: C. 1885

This almost-square, two-story, hipped-roofed, brick dwelling displays Italianate detailing that often appeared on upper middle-class Minnesota residences during the 1880s. Centered on the symmetrical front (west) elevation is a flat-roofed, wood-frame portico supported by paired columns and surmounted by a roof balustrade, which echoes the widow's walk on top of the building. Except for two large picture windows flanking the portico, window openings are tall and narrow. All windows have flat stone sills and

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Original Main Street Historic District
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lintels. The shallow-pitched hipped roof has wide eaves with paired scrolled brackets. The rear elevation features a two-story brick wing, and the northeast corner has an auxiliary entry sheltered by a small wood-frame porch with delicate columns. The dwelling looks out on a small front yard. At the rear northeast corner of the lot is a 1-1/2-story, weatherboard-sided, front-gabled garage, which, judging from Sanborn Map evidence, apparently was erected after 1949.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the Period of Significance.

10. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 615 South Main Street
Date: 1910, remodeled c. 1980

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2 story dwelling a construction date of 1910, but its architectural character reflects remodeling that occurred during the period 1978 to 1980. At that time, the house apparently received a picture window on the first-story front (west) facade; wide-lap steel siding; and an enclosed, sweeping-gabled, English Cottage front entry with a pedimented portico on round columns. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, gable-roofed garage with vinyl siding; this building probably was erected after 1960.

This property consists of two non-contributing buildings: one house that lost its integrity because of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance, and one garage that was constructed after the Period of Significance.

11. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 611 South Main Street
Date: C. 1910

This dwelling probably was constructed between 1904 and 1915, since it does not appear on the 1903 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, but does appear on the 1916 Sanborn Map. Resting on a concrete-block foundation, the building is a rectangular-plan, 1-1/2-story, front-gabled house with gabled wall dormers on the side (north and south) elevations. The front (west) elevation features an open hipped-roofed porch, whose denticulated cornice and round columns alludes to the Colonial Revival style. An attached garage was added to the building's northwest corner in 1965. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, one-stall, front-gabled garage with weatherboard cladding and a concrete foundation. This garage does not appear on the 1916 Sanborn Map but does appear on the 1929 Sanborn Map, suggesting that it was constructed between these two dates.

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This property consists of two contributing buildings.

12. **Historic Name:** House
Current Name: Marc'ette Place/Ribbons & Roses Tea Room
Address: 605 South Main Street
Date: C. 1890

Constructed around 1890, this 2-1/2-story, brick-veneer dwelling is, by Sauk Centre standards, an elaborate example of the Romanesque Revival style. Occupying a corner lot, the building is irregular in plan. Its street facades (west and south) form right-angle wings, each with a steeply pitched, shaped, stone-parapeted gable. Where the two wings connect, a massive, patterned-brick chimney rises from the roof. Fenestration is highly variable, employing semi-circular, segmental-arched, and rectangular openings capped by flat stone lintels or ornamental brick hoods. Extending eastward behind the gabled wings is a 2-1/2-story, hipped-roofed section containing a small hipped-roofed dormer. In 1964, the building's side (east) elevation received an extensive one-story, brick addition for a greenhouse, currently used as a flower shop. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, gable-roofed garage of stuccoed, wood-frame construction with exposed roof rafters. Since this garage appears on the 1929 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, but not on the 1916 Sanborn Map, it probably was erected between these two dates.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

13. **Historic Name:** Betsy and Henry A. Dimon House
Address: 632 South Main Street
Date: 1899

According to a builder's lien filed against the property in 1900, this dwelling was erected for Betsy and Henry A. Dimon by E. A. Whipple in 1899.¹² Resting on a stuccoed stone foundation, the 2-1/2-story, weatherboard-clad building displays modest Queen Anne detailing, such as a steeply pitched hipped roof with cross-gables ornamented by fishscale and diamond-shaped wooden shingles. The enclosed front (east) porch, probably added in the early twentieth century, has a gable roof and a large picture window. There also is a lean-to garage addition on the southwest corner. In the rear of the lot is a 1-1/2-story, weatherboard-clad, front-gabled carriage house that appears to be contemporary with the dwelling.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

¹² Lien Record C-38, 3 March 1900, in Office of the County Recorder, Stearns County Courthouse, St. Cloud Minnesota.

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14. **Historic Name:** Sarah Elizabeth Bruce House
Address: 626 South Main Street
Date: 1906

This dwelling was constructed in 1906 for Sarah Elizabeth Bruce, widow of Samuel Milton Bruce. It is a 2-1/2-story, gable-roofed house with weatherboard cladding and a stone foundation. The building's stylistic inspiration is primarily Queen Anne, as seen in its irregular plan, asymmetrical massing, corner turret, and one-story, wrap-around front porch, which was enclosed in 1920 to provide sleeping rooms for tourists. The building continued as a guest house until the 1940s, when World War II and gas rationing curbed leisure travel.¹³

This property consists of one contributing building.

15. **Historic Name:** House
Current Name: Margaret Scofield Insurance
Address: 620 South Main Street
Date: C. 1920

Municipal real-property records assign this dwelling a construction date of 1920, which is compatible with its architectural character. Exhibiting Craftsman-style influence, this front-gabled building is a rectangular-plan, 2-1/2-story dwelling with vinyl siding on the first story and wood shingles on the upper story. Sheltered by overhanging bracketed eaves, the upper story displays 4/1 sash windows in plain wooden surrounds. Eaves of similar design shelter an enclosed front (east) porch. The dwelling overlooks a shallow front yard landscaped with shrubs and hedges. At the rear of the lot are two wood-frame outbuildings with weatherboard siding. Neither appears on the 1916 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, but both seem to be represented on the 1929 Sanborn Map, indicating that they were probably constructed between these dates. The southernmost outbuilding is 1-1/2-stories; it contains an interior brick chimney that suggests it might once have served as a either a summer kitchen or living quarters. The second outbuilding is a one-story gable-roofed shed.

This property consists of three contributing buildings.

16. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 614 South Main Street
Date: C. 1885

¹³ Birdie June Fish, Data Sheet, 626 South Main Street.

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This is a rectangular, two-story dwelling with a low-pitched hipped roof, asbestos-shingle cladding, and stone foundation. Remnants of the Italianate style, such as boxy massing and tall, narrow windows, suggest that the building dates from the 1880s. The 1890 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre indicates that the dwelling originally had a small projecting front (east) wing and a large south wing. By the time the 1929 Sanborn Map appeared, the south wing had been removed and the front had been remodeled to create a flush facade, presumably by adding the present cross-gable at the building's northeast corner. This remodeling program probably also gave the building its enclosed, one-story, wrap-around front porch at the southeast corner -- a detail that appears for the first time on the 1929 Sanborn Map.

This property consists of one contributing building.

17. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: Meyer's Portrait Studio
Address: 610 South Main Street
Date: 1990

In 1990, a 1910 residence occupying this site was razed to make way for this one-story, front-gabled, aluminum-clad commercial building.¹⁴

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

18. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 604 South Main Street
Date: C. 1915

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2-story, front-gabled, ell-plan bungalow a construction date of 1916, which is compatible with its architectural character. Resting on a poured concrete foundation, the building has an enclosed front (east) porch with a low-pitched gable roof and wide eaves. The dwelling fronts a small yard with a single shade tree. To the rear of the lot is a one-story, gable-roofed, weatherboard-clad outbuilding that appears to be contemporary with the house; it is represented on the 1929 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre. Just to its west is a one-story, two-stall, front-gabled garage with a poured concrete foundation and asbestos shingle cladding. This building probably was constructed in the 1950s; it does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map.

¹⁴ Real Property File for 610 South Main Street, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

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This property consists of two contributing buildings (house and outbuilding) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

19. **Historic Name:** M. C. Kelsey House
Address: 600 South Main Street
Date: C. 1904

According to a builder's lien filed against the property in 1905, this 2-1/2-story, late Queen Anne-style dwelling was constructed by D. C. Whitcomb for M. C. Kelsey in 1904. It remained in the Kelsey family until at least the 1920s.¹⁵ Resting on a stone foundation, the house has a pyramidal-hipped roof and weatherboard sheathing. On the front (east) elevation, there is an enclosed, shed-roofed, porch and a slightly projecting gabled bay with a pent-roof and attic windows. The north elevation features a hipped-roofed canted oriel and a hipped dormer. The dwelling looks out on a shallow yard with shade trees. At the rear the lot is a one-story, two-story, front-gabled garage with a concrete-block foundation and asbestos-shingle cladding. Since this building does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, it apparently was constructed after that date.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

20. **Historic Name:** Church of the Good Samaritan
Address: 529 South Main Street
Date: 1869

Completed in 1869 for approximately \$8,000, this Gothic Revival church was designed by Episcopal priest George Steward for his own congregation, officially organized as the Parish of the Good Samaritan in 1870.¹⁶ In its simple gabled forms and boxy tower, the building recalls the plan-book, wooden church designs promulgated by the influential ecclesiastical architect Richard Upjohn in the mid-nineteenth century.¹⁷ Standing a tall 1-1/2 stories, the stucco-covered church has basically an ell-shaped plan, with several small wings, including an apse on the east elevation. All roofs are steeply pitched, and all windows are lancet-shaped, except for an oculus in

¹⁵ Lien Book C, 143; Misc. Book 27, 125.

¹⁶ "History of Sauk Centre Prepared from Old Records," Sauk Centre Herald, 7 June 1928; Hildebrand, 8-84.

¹⁷ Richard Upjohn, Upjohn's Rural Architecture (New York: George Putman, 1852; repr., New York: Dacapo Press, 1975).

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the front (west) gable end. A fifty-foot tower with spire and cross finial rises from the northeast corner.

This property consists of one contributing building.

21. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: Sauk Centre Chiropractic Office
Address: 519 South Main Street
Date: C. 1980

Apparently constructed about 1980, this one-story, hipped-roofed, brick commercial building has a modest symmetrical design featuring a central entry flanked by single-paned windows and brick pilasters beneath a low-pitched hipped roof.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

22. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 511 South Main Street
Date: C. 1910

This dwelling's architectural character, with its late Queen Anne styling, suggests that it was constructed about 1910. Resting on a stone foundation, it is a 2-1/2-story, weatherboard-clad building with a hipped roof and several cross-gables. The front (west) entry has a wooden surround with square pilasters and a pedimented gable with stickwork on the tympanum. The first story also has a picture window topped by a stained-glass transom. The front elevation has a cross-gable with an attic window, and the north elevation has two cross-gables, also with attic windows. A one-story wing on the south elevation was added before 1929. To the rear of the building is a one-story, four-stall garage with corrugated-metal and weatherboard cladding. Since this building does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, it was probably erected after that date.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

23. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 507 South Main Street
Date: C. 1955

According to municipal real-property records, this building was constructed in 1955; its architectural character supports the date. The dwelling is a

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modest, one-story rambler with a pyramidal-hipped roof, a central brick chimney, and vinyl or aluminum siding. The front (west) facade has an entry flanked by paired, aluminum 1/1 sash windows on the north and by a large picture window on the south. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, one-stall, gable-roofed garage with weatherboard sheathing. Its exposed roof rafters and small 4-paned window suggest that the building may have been constructed during the 1920s or earlier. Its historical significance, however, has been severely diminished by the demolition of its original companion residence.

This property consists of two non-contributing buildings because the principal building (house) was constructed after the district's period significance.

24. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 501 South Main Street
Date: C. 1925

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled bungalow a construction date of 1924, which is compatible with its architectural character. Pierced by a large gabled dormer, the roof sweeps down over an enclosed front (west) porch. The rear (east) elevation has a prominent shed dormer and shed-roofed entry. Although the building's exterior has been clad in aluminum siding, this alteration has not significantly affected its historic character. Resting on a concrete foundation, the house looks out on a small yard with a single shade tree. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, two-stall garage that appears to have been constructed during the 1970s or 1980s.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

25. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 532 South Main Street
Date: C. 1916, remodeled c. 1925

Although this 1-1/2-story, side-gabled, ell-plan dwelling appears on the 1916 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, its Colonial Revival "salt box" style suggests major remodeling during the 1920s or 1930s, when historicist detailing of this nature was quite popular in Minnesota. The front (east) entry is framed in a gabled door hood, and the door is topped by a rectangular transom. The 6/6 sash windows have wooden surrounds with simple cornices and wooden shutters. A metal shed dating to the late twentieth century is located on the alley.

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This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (shed) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

26. Historic Name: House
Current Name: Dr. Jim Wachlarowicz, Family Dentistry
Address: 526 South Main Street
Date: C. 1900

According to municipal real-property records, this dwelling was constructed in 1900; its late Queen Anne styling supports this date, as does the fact that the dwelling does not appear on the 1895 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, but does appear on the 1903 Sanborn Map. Rising 2-1/2-stories from a stone foundation, the building has weatherboard sheathing and a steeply pitched hipped roof with several cross-gables. Overlooking a shallow yard with a single shade tree, the front (east) porch, which features paired columns with Scamozzi capitals, has been enclosed and capped by a mansard roof. The front cross-gable has a Palladian-like attic window and eave returns. Although the dwelling was converted into a dentist's office in 1981, there have been no significant remodelings. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, two-stall, front-gabled garage with a concrete foundation and weatherboard sheathing. Since this building does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, it probably was constructed after that date.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

27. Historic Name: House
Current Name: L. N. Kaas Company
Address: 520 South Main Street
Date: C. 1870-1880s

This rectangular-plan, two-story, weatherboard-clad dwelling appears on the 1885 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre. Its austere Greek Revival detailing suggests a still earlier construction date, probably from the 1870s. Presenting a narrow "temple front" to the street, the dwelling features a low- to medium-pitched gable roof with eave returns, a plain cornice board, and a semi-circular attic window in the front gable end. Although the first story of the front (east) elevation has been obscured by a mansard-roofed, mid-twentieth-century addition, the remodeling appears to be readily reversible and the dwelling's original historic character remains strongly in evidence. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, one-stall, front-gabled garage with a concrete foundation, board-and-batten siding, and metal vehicle door. Since this garage does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map, it probably was erected after that date.

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This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

- 28. Historic Name: Commercial Building**
Current Name: KSMR Radio Station and Mall
Address: 508 South Main Street
Date: 1968

Constructed in 1968, this rectangular-plan, concrete-block building has a flat roof and brick-veneer front. Wrapping around the northeast corner, the storefront contains large plate-glass windows and a small, projecting entry vestibule with glass doors and windows. Part of the roof is parapeted with vertical aluminum siding. There is an auxiliary entry on the north elevation sheltered by a flat-roofed portico. A large satellite dish sits prominently on the building's flat roof. At the rear of the lot is a one-story, wood-frame shed. Since this building does not appear on the 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, it probably was constructed after that date.

This property consists of two non-contributing buildings that were constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

- 29. Historic Name: Commercial Building**
Current Name: National Bushing and Parts Company
Address: 435 South Main Street
Date: 1976

Constructed in 1976, this commercial building is a rectangular-plan, one-story, utilitarian structure with a low-pitched gable roof and vertical metal siding. The front (west) elevation has a double-door entry and two windows, and the south elevation features a garage loading door.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

- 30. Historic Name: First State Bank**
Address: 423 South Main Street
Date: 1991

Constructed in 1991 in a modern Neoclassical style, this rectangular-plan, brick, one-story commercial building has a symmetrical front (west) elevation with a central, gable-roofed, granite-faced pavilion supported on five granite columns. The south elevation has a porte-cochere drive-through. This building was constructed for, and is still occupied by, the First State Bank.

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This property consists of one non-contributing building that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

31. **Historic Name:** Service Station
Current Name: Community Oil Station
Address: 403 South Main Street
Date: 1947

According to municipal real-property records, this corner-lot service station was constructed in 1947; it appears on the 1949 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre. The street corner itself has been the site of a filling station since at least the 1920s. The present building is a roughly ell-shaped, concrete-block, utilitarian building with multi-paned and plate-glass windows and a flat roof. The building faces a paved lot with two gasoline pumping islands.

This property consists of one contributing building.

32. **Historic Name:** Bryant Public Library
Current Name: Sauk Centre Public Library
Address: 430 South Main Street
Date: 1904

The Sauk Centre subscription-library movement began in 1869 with the founding of the Sauk Centre Library Association, later renamed the Bryant Library Association, in honor of the American poet William Cullent Bryant. Membership fees were fairly minimal: "\$1.00 a year for gentlemen and 50 cents for ladies." In 1880, the Sauk Centre Village Council created a public library board, which absorbed the private association. By 1903, the Bryant Public Library had outgrown its quarters in City Hall, prompting the board to petition the Andrew Carnegie Foundation for a new library building. The foundation responded by supplying architectural plans and a \$10,000 construction grant, and the Bryant Public Library was completed in 1904.¹⁸

Renaissance Revival in style, the library is a roughly rectangular, 1-1/2-story, brick building with a low-pitched hipped roof topped by a square hipped-roofed cupola. It has a raised basement with a modest watertable. The central projecting entry bay features an arched opening with entry door, fanlight, and keystone. This center bay is crowned by a gable roof with a denticulated wooden cornice and eave returns. Flanking the arched opening are plain, square, recessed panels in the brickwork. The front (east) elevation has six 1/1 sash windows topped by transom lights with muntins in

¹⁸ "Sauk Centre's Pride -- The Bryant Library with Over 12,000 Volumes in One of Oldest in the State," unidentified magazine article, in vertical file, Bryant Public Library.

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a chippendale latticework pattern. The first story has a wooden cornice molding.

This property consists of one contributing building.

- 33. Historic Name: Otto Brothers Building**
Address: 416 South Main Street
Date: 1920

According to Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre (1916, 1929, 1949), this building apparently was constructed in three sections between 1916 and 1948. The middle and oldest section is flat-roofed, with a plain brick facade, plate-glass storefront, and off-center recessed entry. The two end sections have gable roofs, brick facades with stepped parapets and patterned brickwork, and central entries flanked by large plate-glass display windows. Inscribed in concrete above the southernmost door is "OTTO BROS."

This property consists of one contributing building.

- 34. Historic Name: U. S. Post Office**
Address: 400 South Main Street
Date: 1940

The U. S. Post Office was located at 332 South Main Street until 1920, when it moved to 515 Sinclair Lewis Avenue (then, South Third Street). It remained there until 1940, when it moved into the present building.¹⁹ Completed in 1940 in the Georgian Revival style, this building is a rectangular-plan, one-story, hipped-roofed structure. While the raised foundation has granite cladding, the main exterior is brick with limestone trim. The symmetrical front (east) facade features a central entry flanked by two large 8/12 sash windows with brick lintels and stone sills. The rest of the building has 8/8 sash windows. The building also has a plain cornice with a limestone frieze embossed with "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, Sauk Centre, Minnesota."

This property consists of one contributing building.

- 35. Historic Name: Bruce Block**
Current Name: John W. Meyer, Attorney
Address: 331-335 South Main Street
Date: 1948

¹⁹ Dorothy Hansmann, "Compilation of Sauk Centre Herald Articles," 1938, in Stearns County Historical Society, Sauk Centre.

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This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed, brick building was constructed in 1948, as a replacement for a commercial block totally destroyed by fire the year before.²⁰ The building's plain, brick street facade contains three storefronts. The northernmost has an aluminum Neocolonial door surround with two entry doors. The other storefronts have plate-glass windows below vertical wood panelling.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

36. Historic Name: Northwest Motor Sales Company
Current Name: Pamida Discount/Al's Barber Shop
Address: 327 South Main Street
Date: C. 1920

Although the construction date of this attached, two-story, brick building is unknown, its architectural character is consistent with the 1920s, and it appears in a photograph dated 1926.²¹ Flat-roofed and rectangular in plan, the building has a symmetrical front (west) elevation containing three storefronts, each featuring glass doors and large plate-glass display windows. The entire first story is sheltered by a shingled roof awning. The upper story has a central 1/1 sash window flanked by a group of three 1/1 sash windows and a group of two 1/1 sash windows. The brick cornice has large, rectangular, recessed, brick panels. In the early twentieth century, this building was used by the Northwest Motor Sales Company as a display room. Other occupants included the Brown-Urness Motor Company and the Chevrolet Garage.²² Despite some exterior alterations, such as the infilling of a garage bay at the south end of the front facade, this building retains historic integrity. Its general form and appearance sufficiently recall the original, and its overall sense of past time and place is evident.

This property consists of one contributing building.

²⁰ Birdie June Fish, Data Sheet, 626 South Main Street; "Second Fire Raged in Guttred Bruce Block," Sauk Centre Herald, undated, attached to Data Sheet (Fish's in-laws owned the site at the time of the fire). See also photographs of the fire in Sauk Centre Fire Department Archives.

²¹ Photograph of Northwest Motor Sales Co., view southeast, 1926, in Sauk Centre Historical Society.

²² Dorothy Hansmann, "Compilation."

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37. **Historic Name:** International Order of Odd Fellows Block
Current Name: Sunshine Reflections Bookstore
Address: 321 South Main Street
Date: 1934

Constructed for the International Order of Odd Fellows in 1934, this building replaced the group's former headquarters on the site. Using the upper floor for their lodge, the Odd Fellows rented out the ground level, which, shortly after construction, was occupied by Calkins Hardware Store and Berggreen's Undertaking Parlour.²³

The Odd Fellows Hall is an attached, two-story, brick, rectangular-plan building with some Art Deco detailing. The symmetrical front (west) elevation contains two storefronts, one of which is boarded. The southern storefront has a central recessed entry, large plate-glass display windows, and corrugated panelling. The upper story has eight 1/1 sash windows that all share a brick lintel band. One-story brick pilasters, topped by molded concrete capitals, separate the two storefronts and delineate the building ends. The roof has concrete coping and molded concrete corner ornamentation.

This property consists of one contributing building.

38. **Historic Name:** Main Street Theater
Current Name: Main Street Theater/Waldoch's Jewelry
Address: 317-319 South Main Street
Date: 1939

Completed in 1939, this building is an attached, two-story, Moderne-style movie theater with a one-story rear (east) wing.²⁴ The front (west) elevation contains two storefronts: the one to south currently serves the movie theater; the one to the north, a jewelry store. The northern storefront has a glass entry door, display windows, and aluminum siding. The southern storefront has a series of five glass doors flanked on each side by a glassed-in display case. The original, rounded, chrome-trimmed marquee shelters the entire first-story facade. The upper story has two square glass-block windows. The original sign still ornaments the theater. Centered above the chrome marquee, it perpendicularly projects from the front facade and features chrome lettering and colored plastic panels.

This property consists of one contributing building.

²³ Hansmann, "Compilation"; Sauk Centre Herald, 9 August 1934, p. 1.

²⁴ Robert and Mary Jane Douvier, Data Sheet, 319 South Main Street.

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39. **Historic Name:** Fischer Bakery
Current Name: Bart's Bakery
Address: 315 South Main Street
Date: 1924, remodeled c. 1960

An earlier building on this site burned in 1924. Fred Fischer, who had run the Thief River Falls bakery in that building, immediately put up a new attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick bakery for a cost of about \$8,000. A local contractor named Nelson put in the concrete foundation; David Pangburn did the brick work, and the Eckberg Brothers handled the carpentry.²⁵ Although the present building still serves as a bakery, there is little else that recalls its original appearance. The brickwork of the main (west) facade has been concealed by vertical aluminum siding above the storefront and by synthetic stone at street level. In addition, the original storefront, which displayed four plate-glass windows with copper trimmings and colored transom lights, has been replaced by two large display windows with a central recessed entry. These remodelings probably occurred in the 1960s. Although it is possible that a significant amount of the building's historic character survives beneath the aluminum and synthetic stone, it currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as a result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

40. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: Hardware Tru-Test Paints
Address: 313 South Main Street
Date: C. 1935, remodeled c. 1950

Municipal real-property records indicate that this attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was constructed in 1935. Extensive remodeling, however, has obscured virtually all traces of 1930s construction. The storefront has a recessed entry, large plate-glass display windows, a chrome hood, and vertical aluminum panelling. Although the date of the remodeling has not been determined, the use of aluminum paneling indicates that it occurred after 1950. Although it is possible that a significant amount of the building's historic character survives beneath the aluminum, it currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as a result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

²⁵ Hansmann, "Compilation"; Sauk Centre Herald, 7 February 1924, p. 1; Sauk Centre News, 28 February 1924, p. 1.

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41. **Historic Name:** The Federated Store
Current Name: Sauk Centre Agency/Main Street Video
Address: 311 South Main Street
Date: 1936, remodeled 1975

This building was constructed in 1936 and rented to L. Ganrud for a dry goods and furnishings outlet known as the Federated Store.²⁶ It is an attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building. The storefront has a central recessed entry and large plate-glass display windows beneath vertical wood panelling installed in 1975. A fire in 1988 gutted the entire interior, and the roof was re-coated in 1991.²⁷ All that remains visible from the 1930s construction is the original brick parapet. Although it is possible that a significant amount of the building's historic character survives beneath the wood panelling, it currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as a result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

42. **Historic Name:** Rydholm Photo Studio
Current Name: Metropolitan Federal Bank
Address: 309 South Main Street
Date: 1934, remodeled 1975

In 1934, shortly after an earlier building on the site burned, H. C. Rydholm commissioned the present structure for use as a photographic studio.²⁸ It is an attached, one-story, rectangular-plan commercial building. The storefront features a recessed entry and large plate-glass display windows. Municipal real-property records indicate remodeling in 1975, which probably was responsible for the corrugated aluminum siding that covers all the original brickwork on the main facade. Although a significant portion of the building's historic character may survive beneath the aluminum, the property currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as a result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

²⁶ Hansmann, "Compilation."

²⁷ Gary and Nancy Mueffelmann, Data Sheet, 311 South Main Street.

²⁸ Hansmann, "Compilation."

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43. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: Evelyn's Beauty Shop
Address: 307 South Main Street
Date: C. 1900

Municipal real-property records indicate that this attached, two-story, rectangular-plan brick commercial building was constructed in 1900. Surviving architectural detailing is compatible with this date. According to the 1903 and 1909 Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre, the building served as a dentist's office in its early years. The upper story retains its original Queen Anne-style brickwork, displaying a corbelled-and-checked cornice and four buttress-like brackets partially framing three segmental arched windows. The ground floor, however, has been completely and unsympathetically remodeled with a stucco exterior, a recessed entry, and four tall, narrow windows installed in 1985.²⁹ Nevertheless, the building's original historic character is sufficiently visible.

This property consists of one contributing building.

44. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Current Name: State Farm Insurance
Address: 305 South Main Street
Date: C. 1900, remodeled 1972

According to municipal real-property records, this one-story, rectangular-plan commercial building was constructed in 1900 and remodeled in 1972. The remodeled facade is a brusque rendition of the English Cottage Style, featuring a recessed entry, a large multi-paned display window, and a pronounced shingle-roofed awning.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as a result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

45. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Common Name: Main Street Cafe
Address: 301 South Main Street
Date: C. 1893, remodeled c. 1940

This attached two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was probably constructed between 1890 and 1895, since it appears on an 1895 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, but not on an 1890 map. During its early years, the building hosted a succession of businesses, including a drug store, meat market, and pool hall. By the 1920s, it was associated with the hotel

²⁹ Evelyn and Arlund Fraser, Data Sheet, 307 South Main Street.

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business, operating first as the Waldorf Hotel (which eventually moved to 331-335 South Main Street) and then as the Belmont Hotel.³⁰ According to a photograph taken about 1915, the building once sported a Renaissance Revival style, with arcaded second-story windows and a corbelled, denticulated cornice. Its present condition is largely the result of remodeling that occurred between 1939 and 1947.³¹ During that period, the brick exterior was stuccoed and the upper-story arched openings were converted into rectangular windows. At a later date, three of the six upper windows on the front facade were restored to their original shape, and the ground-floor storefront was remodeled with a recessed entry, large plate-glass display windows, and corrugated aluminum siding.

This property consists of one non-contributing building as a result of extensive remodeling that obscures the original historic character.

46. Historic Name: Kells Building
Address: 334 South Main Street
Date: 1880, remodeled c. 1950

This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, commercial brick building is known as the Kells Building, in honor of Lucas Kells who purchased the lot in 1878. In 1880, Kells joined with Solomon Pendergast to erect on the site the Bank of Sauk Centre, which later reorganized as the First State Bank of Sauk Centre.³² According to historic photos, the building originally had an Italianate appearance, with an arcaded storefront, arched hooded windows with keystones, full-story pilasters separating the bays, and a corbelled cornice. This design remained in place until at least 1946, when the building's features were recorded by artist Margaret Lowengrund for a reprint edition of Sinclair Lewis's Main Street. By the 1950s, the building's exterior had been completely rebuilt with new brick, creating flat, unornamented facades with rectangular windows.³³ The storefront was also remodeled with a recessed

³⁰ Charles and Katherine Dicks, Deed to Joseph Dirnberger, 2 February 1920, Deed Book 168, 30, in Stearns County Courthouse; Hansmann, "Compilation"; "Main Street, 1947," Life Magazine 22 (23 June 1947): 100.

³¹ These stylistic evaluations are based on photographs of Main Street dated c. 1915, 1939, and 1947 located, respectively, in the Sauk Centre Historical Society, Sauk Centre Fire Department, and "Main Street, 1947," Life, 100.

³² Russell and Ellen L. Blakely, Deed to Lucas Kells, 24 December 1878, Deed Book 33, 126, in Stearns County Courthouse; Hansmann, "Compilation"; "History of Sauk Centre Prepared from Old Records," Sauk Centre Herald, 7 June 1928.

³³ The building appears in photographs of Main Street dated 1919, c. 1930, and c. 1955 in the Sauk Centre Historical Society. For the Lowengrund illustration, and the circumstances surrounding its creation, see Sinclair Lewis,

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entry, large plate-glass windows, and plastic panels. The resulting "Modern" look completely destroyed the building's historic integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as the result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

47. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Address: 332 South Main Street
Date: C. 1883

This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was built by Henry Parker shortly after he purchased the lot from Lucas and Martha Kells in 1883.³⁴ The building's upper facade preserves the original Italianate detailing, which features a corbelled cornice and four arched hooded windows separated by pilasters. During the 1970s or 1980s, the ground-level storefront was redesigned with a shingle-roofed awning and five new brick piers forming recesses for three tall central windows flanked by single doors. Despite these alterations, the building still strongly conveys a sense of its historic character.

This property consists of one contributing building.

48. **Historic Name:** First National Bank
Common Name: Cobblestone Court Gift Shop
Address: 328 South Main Street
Date: 1884, remodeled 1900

This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was constructed in 1884 to house the newly established First National Bank.³⁵ At the beginning of the new century, the front facade was remodeled in a Beaux Arts manner -- an event commemorated by the inscription "A 1900 D" on a pedimented cartouche atop the building's denticulated and modillioned iron

Main Street (New York: World Publishing Company, 1946), frontispiece; "World Will Issue First Volumes in Living Library in October," Publishers' Weekly 150 (20 July 1946): 282.

³⁴ Although it is possible that the Kells erected the building, deed information indicates that it is unlikely. Parker paid \$1,000 for the property and sold it seven years later for \$5,000, strongly suggesting that he was responsible for a major improvement. The building appears on the 1885 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre. See Lucas and Martha Kells, Deed to Henry Parker, 15 August 1883, Deed Book 46, 375; Henry and Jane Parker, Deed to Samuel Beidleman, 16 October 1890, Deed Book 73, 367, in Stearns County Courthouse.

³⁵ Hansmann, "Compilation"; "History of Sauk Centre Prepared from Old Records," Sauk Centre Herald; Sanborn maps for 1885, 1890, and 1903.

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cornice. The upper story features three window bays with rectangular transoms separated by marble columns, all within a stone surround articulated by quoins. The ground floor display window is set within a rusticated stone surround with a floral-patterned keystone. To the south is a recessed entry vestibule framed by two marble Ionic columns supporting an ornamental entablature.

This property consists of one contributing building.

49. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Common Name: Snyder Drug Store/Ben Franklin Store
Address: 324 South Main Street
Date: C. 1880

According to municipal real-property records, this attached, two-story rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was erected about 1880. The earliest available Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre, dated 1885, indicates that the building originally contained two shops served by a single central entrance on the front (east) facade. In the late 1920s, the building was taken over by a retail establishment known as the Burg Store; it became a Ben Franklin Store in the mid 1930s.³⁶ Although the interior was remodeled into a single interior space with a slightly off-center entrance, the building's original intention as a double store can still be read in the architectural detailing of the upper story, which reveals a central, arched window opening framed by pilasters and adjoined on either side by identical three-window bays. During the period 1960 to 1980, a large aluminum signage panel was placed above the store front so that it obscures a portion of the upper story. This alteration appears to be easily reversible.

This property consists of one contributing building.

50. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Common Name: Ben Franklin Store
Address: 322 South Main Street
Date: C. 1923, remodeled c. 1960

Currently part of the Ben Franklin Store complex, this building's entire front (east) facade is covered by aluminum and plastic paneling, which it shares with adjoining buildings. The property's historic identity is so thoroughly obscured by this post-1960 remodeling that it does not seem to be a distinct building. Yet Sanborn Maps clearly indicate that an attached, one-story brick commercial building, measuring about 22 feet by 120 feet, was constructed on this site (the south one-third of Lot 3, Block 12) during the

³⁶ Hansmann, "Compilation."

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period 1916 to 1929. Since the Sanborn Map for 1929 does not identify any interior doorways to adjacent properties, it must be concluded that the building was designed to be a separate commercial entity and not simply an addition. Historically, its mailing address was 322 South Main Street. Although a significant portion of the building's historic character may survive beneath the paneling, the property currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as the result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

- 51. Historic Name: Perkins Building**
Common Name: Ben Franklin Store
Address: 320 South Main Street
Date: 1899, remodeled c. 1960

Along with the two properties immediately to the south, this attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building is part of the Ben Franklin Store complex. Erected as a drug store by John B. Perkins in 1899, it remained in the same ownership and use for the next twenty years.³⁷ About 1935, the building was remodeled for a short-lived bakery, receiving a new front of an undetermined nature. At present, the front facade contains a recessed entry and large plate-glass display window, both apparently installed after 1960. The rest of the front is concealed by equally modern aluminum and plastic panels, which the building shares with adjoining properties. Although a significant portion of the building's historic character may survive beneath the paneling, the property currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as the result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

- 52. Historic Name: Connelly Building**
Common Name: Treone's
Address: 318 South Main Street
Date: C. 1883, remodeled c. 1960

This attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was constructed by Cassius A. Sprague between 1882 and 1885. In 1892, the property was purchased by Frank M. Connelley, whose family retained ownership until 1937, giving the property its historic name. During its early years,

³⁷ John B. Perkins, Affidavit, 20 June 1899, Miscellaneous Documents Book L, 453; Ada Perkins and others, Deed to Mathias Mathe, 15 February 1919, Deed Book 160, 502, in Stearns County Courthouse; Hansmann, "Compilation." See also Sanborn Maps for 1903, 1909, and 1916.

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the building alternately functioned as a drug store, meat market, and furniture store. By 1920, however, it had become a restaurant, and so it remained until at least the late 1940s.³⁸ At present, the front (east) facade contains a recessed entry and large plate-glass display window, both apparently installed after 1960. The rest of the front is concealed by equally modern aluminum and plastic panels, which the building shares with the three properties immediately to the south. Although a significant portion of the building's historic character may survive beneath the paneling, the property currently suffers a loss of integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as the result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

53. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Common Name: Centre Floral
Address: 316 South Main Street
Date: C. 1887

According to evidence furnished by Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre published in 1885 and 1890, this attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was constructed between these two dates. Municipal real-property records also assign this property an 1880s construction date. However, the building's three window-bay front (east) facade probably was built during the 1920s or 1930s. It displays decorative brickwork characteristic of this later period, including a basket-weave panel above the second-story windows and a soldier-course frieze along the parapet. The 4/1 is also in keeping with a 1920s-1930s remodeling. Since these alterations occurred during the Period of Significance, they are valid expressions of the building's historic character. During its first decades, the property successively operated as a meat market, drug store, and clothing store.

This property consists of one contributing building.

³⁸ Sprague completed his purchase of the site (north one-third of Lot 3, Block 12) in 1882, spending a total of \$750. In 1885, he sold the property for \$3,500, which strongly suggests that he had constructed a substantial building. The present building appears on the 1885 Sanborn map. See John B. Perkins, Deed to Cassius A. Sprague, 23 April 1880, Deed Book 35, 398; John B. and Ada Perkins, Deed to Cassius M. Sprague, 4 January 1882, Deed Book 41, 171; Cassius and Amelia Sprague, Deed to Julia Riese, 11 September 1885, Deed Book 52, 361, in Stearns County Courthouse. For the Connelly Family's association with the building, see Julia and August Riese, Deed to James and Frank M. Connelly, 5 January 1892, Deed Book 77, 388; Dora L. Connelly and Harry Irving, Deed to C. G. Urness, 3 May 1937, Deed Book 222, 79; Hansmann, "Compilation." The building's various uses are identified in Sanborn Maps for 1885, 1890, 1903, 1916, 1949.

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- 54. Historic Name: Gopher Prairie Inn/Vandesteeg Jewelry**
Address: 312-314 South Main Street
Date: C. 1883, remodeled 1922-1924

This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick, double-storefront building was jointly constructed about 1883 by Frank W. Wood, owner of the north storefront, and Ormus Marshall, Channey D. Marshall, and William D. Townsend, owners of the south storefront. The two halves of the building remained in separate ownership at least through the 1940s. In 1921, three years after purchasing the south storefront, J. B. Schoenhoff turned the premises into a restaurant called the Gopher Prairie Inn -- alluding to the fictional town in Sinclair Lewis's novel Main Street. In 1922, Schoenhoff expanded his property with a one-story rear addition. That same year, Gerald H. Vandesteeg purchased the north storefront for a jewelry store that still occupies the premises. Between 1922 and 1924, Vandesteeg and Schoenhoff remodeled their building with a new brick front that has remained in place to the present time.³⁹ Since this alteration occurred during the district's Period of Significance, it is a valid expression of the building's historic character.

In the center of the facade is an entrance (leading to the second story) surmounted by a second-story rectangular window. The two flanking storefronts contain a recessed entry adjacent to a plate-glass display window. Above each storefront is a grouping of three rectangular windows. The composition is unified by a concrete band above the second-story windows and by a brick soldier course above the storefronts. Probably during the 1970s, the south storefront was sheltered by a shingle-roofed awning.

This property contains one contributing building.

- 55. Historic Name: Sullivan Building**
Common Name: Unger Furniture
Address: 310 South Main Street
Date: C. 1937

³⁹ See John M. and Katherine Apfeld, Deed to Frank W. Wood, 26 July 1882, Deed Book 44, 193; John M. and Katherine Apfeld, Deed to Ormus Marshall, Channey D. Marshall, and William D. Townsend, 26 July 1882, Deed Book 44, 194. Like Wood, Marshall and his partners paid \$925 for their portion of the lot; two years later, they sold it for \$4,000, strongly suggesting the construction of a substantial building. The double-storefront building appears on the Sanborn Map published in 1885. For the Schoenhoff and Vandesteeg purchases, see Joseph and Annie Deters, Deed to J.B. Schoenhoff, 9 May 1918, Deed Book 161, 129, in Stearns County Courthouse; Leroy and Sarah E. Working, Deed to G.H. Vandesteeg, 24 August 1922, Deed Book 178, 91, in Stearns County Courthouse. Information regarding the remodelings in the early 1920s is from Hansmann, "Compilation."

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The original construction date for this one-story attached brick building probably is 1937. According to Dorothy Hansmann's 1938 history of Main Street buildings, this edifice was commonly known as the Sullivan Building, after Thomas Sullivan, who had owned this lot since 1918. Hansmann also states that the building received "a new front" in 1925, was repaired after a fire in 1935, and was rebuilt after a fire two years later.⁴⁰ The building's present character is consistent with 1930s construction, for the main facade incorporates such decorative elements of the period as square panels of colored-and-patterned brick and a brick basket-weave frieze below the parapet. The storefront, with its recessed entry and large plate-glass display windows, is sheltered by a shingled roof awning that probably was added during the 1970s.

This property contains one contributing building.

56. Historic Name: Mary Ann Shop
Common Name: J.C. Penney Store
Address: 306 South Main Street
Date: 1937

According to Dorothy Hansmann's 1938 history of Main Street buildings, a previous commercial structure on this site "was completely destroyed by fire" in December 1936. A year later, a Sauk Centre business known as the Mary Ann Shop occupied the premises, which had been rebuilt as "a brown brick front [with] black vitrolite around and above the large show windows."⁴¹ This attached, one-story, rectangular-plan brick building retains its original signage, displaying "MARY ANN SHOP" in white painted letters on black Vitrolite panels above the plate-glass display windows and central recessed entrance. The front facade also contains a brick basket-weave frieze below the parapet.

This property consists of one contributing building.

57. Historic Name: Model Shoe Store
Common Name: Mayer & Long, Dentist/Pike, Optometrist
Address: 304 South Main Street
Date: 1898, remodeled 1936

Constructed in 1898 by Rudolph E. Hansen, this attached, two-story brick building contained the Model Shoe Store (owned by Hansen and his wife Sophia)

⁴⁰ Hansmann, "Compilation." According to property records in the Stearns County Courthouse, Sullivan purchased the site in 1918 and retained ownership until 1941; see Deed Book 139, 33; Deed Book 234, 7.

⁴¹ Hansmann, "Compilation."

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for the next four decades. Shortly after a fire in 1936, the building received "a new modern brick front with large display windows."⁴² In the 1970s or 1980s, the storefront was remodeled with a recessed red-brick entry containing four tall, narrow, plate-glass windows. The remainder of the facade, however, strongly conveys a sense of the 1930s remodeling. It displays an expanse of brown brick with two colored-and-patterned brick squares and a Deco-like, geometric, brickwork frieze below the parapet.

This property consists of one contributing building.

58. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Common Name: Main Street Drug
Address: 302 South Main Street
Date: C. 1875

Stylistically, this narrow, attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building appears to mark a transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The rectangular shape and massive stone lintels of the two upper-story windows are reminiscent of the former, but the windows' elongated form is characteristic of the latter. With its denticulated and modillioned brickwork cornice, the building is compatible with both styles. Consequently, a construction date of about 1875 to 1880 seems appropriate. According to Sanborn Maps (1885, 1890, 1903, 1916) for Sauk Centre, the building spent the late nineteenth century as a bank and the early twentieth century as a saloon. At an undetermined date, the original storefront was replaced by large plate-glass display windows. After 1960, the ground-floor level of the front facade was integrated with the building to the north (Main Street Drug) by means of vertical aluminum paneling. Despite these alterations, the building's late nineteenth-century architectural character is clearly evident.

This property consists of one contributing building.

59. **Historic Name:** Hanson and Emerson Building
Common Name: Main Street Drug
Address: 300 South Main Street
Date: C. 1880, remodeled 1904

This attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building occupies the southwest corner of the Main Street-Sinclair Lewis Avenue intersection. Although municipal real-property records assign the building a construction date of 1880, its architectural detailing primarily reflects

⁴² Hansmann, "Compilation"; Sanborn Maps for 195, 1903. The lot had been purchased by Hanson's father, Hans, in 1880; see Deed Book 35, 429.

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remodeling in 1904, when owners Peder Bertram Hanson and Christopher Emerson rebuilt the Main Street facade in a Beaux Arts style.⁴³ Ornamentation includes a parade of second-story pilasters beneath a denticulated and modillioned iron cornice, which, in turn, is topped by a scrolled brick pediment bearing the inscription: "HANSON & (1904) EMERSON." The cornice and pilasters wrap around the building's heavily quoined corner to form a narrow pedimented pavilion on Sinclair Lewis Avenue. Probably during the 1960s or 1970s, the ground-level storefront was remodeled with extended plate-glass windows and aluminum paneling. Despite this unsympathetic alteration, the building's Beaux Arts character predominates. Sanborn Maps (1885, 1903, 1929, 1949) indicate that the building has continually served as a drugstore.

This property consists of one contributing building.

60. **Historic Name:** First National Bank
Address: 235 South Main Street
Date: 1970

Constructed in 1970, and enlarged with a matching rear addition in 1981, this detached, one-story, flat-roofed, brick building is of modern design.⁴⁴ Its most prominent feature is a cantilevered cornice band with arched panels.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was built after the district's Period of Significance.

61. **Historic Name:** Caughren Annex
Address: 229 South Main Street
Date: 1916

RAZED APRIL, 1994

Constructed in 1916, this attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick commercial building was commonly known as the Caughren Annex, because it stood immediately north of the Caughren Theater (now demolished).⁴⁵ The symmetrical facade has a central entry with a marble bracketed hood, flanked by large display windows; each display window originally was a separate storefront. The upper story displays paired rectangular windows with 3/1 sash above each storefront and a single window of similar design above the

⁴³ Hanson and Emerson purchased the building in 1897; see Deed Book 95, 464, Stearns County Courthouse.

⁴⁴ First National Bank, Data Sheet for Main Street Project: 235 South Main Street.

⁴⁵ Hansmann, "Compilation."

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entry. There is a modest corbelled cornice and a plain brick parapet. The building has not experienced significant alterations.

This property contains one contributing building.

62. Historic Name: Hatchery
Common Name: Centre Jobbing Company
Address: 223 South Main Street
Date: 1932

According to Dorothy Hansmann's 1938 history of Main Street buildings, this structure was erected by W. P. Arndt and J. F. Healy in 1932, shortly after a fire destroyed a service station/garage on the site. Originally used as a hatchery, the building is an attached, one-story, rectangular-plan structure of dark brown brick. It is ornamented with recessed panels above the ground-level storefronts, a corbelled brick cornice, and a stepped parapet. The southern storefront has large plate-glass display windows. During the 1970s or 1980s, the northern storefront was rebuilt with light brown brick, two entrances, and a small display window.

This property consists of one contributing building.

63. Historic Name: City Steam Laundry
Common Name: Bohlig Cleaners
Address: 221 South Main Street
Date: 1914

In 1913, Alfred G. Salmond and George O'Gara purchased this lot, and the next year they erected an attached, one-story, rectangular-plan, brick building for use by the City Steam Laundry, which Salmond apparently owned in partnership with Albert Markson.⁴⁶ The building remains a laundry to the present day. In 1951, the original storefront display windows were in-filled with glass block, and at an undetermined date, a band of concrete cladding was added to the base of the front facade.⁴⁷ Otherwise, the building retains its original detailing, including a recessed central entrance, a modest corbelled cornice, and a parapet that is stepped at the corners.

This property contains one contributing building.

⁴⁶ Hansmann, "Compilation"; Deed Book, 16, 72.

⁴⁷ Northwestern Glass Co., Lien, 15 November 1951, Lien Book J, 322.

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64. **Common Name:** Ken-Mart Discount Foods
Address: 213 South Main Street
Date: C. 1970

On the basis of its architectural character, this building appears to have been built in the 1970s. It is a detached, one-story commercial structure with a very low-pitched gable roofed, vertical aluminum siding, and a side glass entry.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

65. **Historic Name:** Commercial Building
Address: 209 South Main Street
Date: C. 1900, remodeled c. 1930

Municipal real-property records assign this attached, two-story, rectangular-plan, brick building a construction date of 1900. Its architectural character, however, reflects extensive remodeling in the 1930s, when the structure was converted from a wood-working shop to a chick hatchery.⁴⁸ The ground level displays an asymmetrical arrangement of two entries and three large display windows, defined by brick piers and a brick base. The window and door openings currently are boarded. The second-story is stuccoed; it contains four rectangular windows, each shaded on the upper half by a louvered screen.

This property contains one contributing building.

66. **Historic Name:** Warehouse
Common Name: Land Gas and Tire Shop
Address: 201 South Main Street
Date: C. 1900, remodeled c. 1930

Municipal real-property records assign this attached, two-story rectangular-plan building a construction date of 1900. According to a 1909 Sanborn Map of Sauk Centre, the building, originally 1-1/2 stories in height, once served as "produce warehouse." During the 1930s, the property was incorporated into a chick hatchery immediately to the south, and apparently at that time, a second concrete-block story was placed upon the original brick construction.⁴⁹ Window openings on both stories are filled with concrete block.

⁴⁸ Hansmann, "Compilation."

⁴⁹ Hansmann, "Compilation;" Sanborn Maps for 1929 and 1949.

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This property consists of one contributing building.

67. Historic Name: Palmer House
Address: 500 Sinclair Lewis Avenue
Date: 1901

Named for its original owner, R. L. Palmer, the Palmer House is an attached, three-story, rectangular-plan, brick building that has served as a hotel since its completion in 1901.⁵⁰ Occupying a corner lot, the building presents symmetrical facades to both Sinclair Lewis Avenue and Main Street; architectural detailing is inspired by the late Queen Anne style. The Sinclair Lewis Avenue facade is divided by pilasters into a central two-window bay, flanked on each side by a single-window bay containing an entrance. The Main Street facade has a central two-window/entrance bay, flanked on each side by a three-window bay, and then a single-window bay. Upper-story windows are rectangular. First-floor openings are arched and share a raised brick lintel. All entrances on the principal facades have transoms and sidelights. Corbelled cornices mark the first-story level and parapet. The Palmer House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This property consists of one contributing building.

68. Historic Name: Blue Valley Creamery
Common Name: Sauk Centre Creamery
Address: 214 South Main Street
Date: 1923-1924

According to Dorothy Hansmann's 1938 history of Main Street buildings, the Blue Valley Creamery Company erected a one-story creamery on this site in 1923, and added a second story the following year. As indicated by the Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre published in 1929, the resulting two-story rectangular-plan structure was a freestanding, 2-story, brick building. Although corrugated metal cladding now covers the first story, this alteration does not significantly detract from the building's original unornamented, utilitarian character, evident on the exposed second story. A brick chimney on the northwest corner marks the original location of the boiler room. The south elevation is equipped with a concrete loading dock and adjacent storage bins.

This property consists of one contributing building.

⁵⁰ Hansmann, "Compilation;" Sanborn Maps for 1903, 1909, 1916, 1929, 1949.

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69. Historic Name: Commercial Building
Common Name: Friedrich's Oil and Tire Company
Address: 200 South Main Street
Date: 1953

According to Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre (1929, 1949), this paved lot at the corner of South Main Street and South Second Street has been occupied by a gasoline filling station since the 1920s. According to municipal real-property records, the present structure dates from 1953. It is a utilitarian, one-story, concrete-block building with plastic panels on the front elevation. The building has two garage bays, several large plate-glass windows, and a glass entry topped by a transom. A concrete island in front of the building contains three gas pumps.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

70. Historic Name: Commercial Building
Common Name: Centre Lumber
Address: 129 South Main Street
Date: C. 1925

According to Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre, this combined office and lumber shed was constructed between 1916 and 1929; the site itself has served as a lumber yard since at least 1895. Irregular in plan, the 1-1/2-story building has a hipped roof with shed-roofed dormers on the side (north and south) elevations, and a hipped-roofed dormer on the front (west). The building is sheathed in vertical wood siding. The front (west) facade has an over-sized vehicle entrance and tall narrow windows.

This property consists of one contributing building.

71. Historic Name: Storage Building
Common Name: Golden Rule Lumber (owned by Centre Lumber)
Address: 129 South Main Street
Date: C. 1925

Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre indicate that this building was constructed between 1916 and 1929; at the latter date, it served as a storehouse for cement and coal. Rectangular in plan, the one-story building contains a hipped-roofed section in the front and a gable-roofed section in the rear. Both sections are clad in vertical metal siding.

This property consists of one contributing building.

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72. **Historic Name:** Little Falls and Dakota Railroad Depot
Common Name: Depot Feeds
Address: 109 South Main Street
Date: C. 1883

The Little Falls and Dakota Railroad Company (later part of the Northern Pacific Railway system) acquired this site for a depot in 1881. The following year the company built its line through Sauk Centre and presumably completed the depot at that time; the building appears on the 1885 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre.⁵¹ Bordered on all sides by a concrete loading dock, the depot is a one-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame building with wide eaves supported by massive brackets. A picture window has been added to the west elevation.

This property consists of one contributing building.

73. **Historic Name:** Sauk Centre Water, Light and Power Commission Building
Address: 101 South Main Street
Date: C. 1916, remodeled 1949 and 1981

The earliest portions of this detached, one-story building may date from 1916, when the City of Sauk Centre purchased the site and erected a one-story, brick and concrete structure for use as a municipal pump house. In 1918, the city placed the management of its utilities under the newly created Sauk Centre Water, Light and Power Commission, which operated this building for many years as an emergency electric generating facility. By 1949, the building's original rectangular-plan had been enlarged with north and south rear wings, approximating its current configuration.⁵² In 1981, the commission thoroughly remodeled the building for office space, rebuilding the front elevation with a cantilevered cornice, tall narrow windows, and corrugated-metal exterior. This alteration destroyed the building's historic integrity.

This property consists of one non-contributing building, as the result of extensive remodeling after the district's Period of Significance.

⁵¹ Deed Book, 48, 625, in Stearns County Courthouse; "History of Sauk Centre Prepared from Old Records," Sauk Centre Herald, 7 June 1928.

⁵² Deed Book 155, 52, in Stearns County Courthouse; Hansmann, "Compilation"; Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre, 1916, 1929, and 1949; "Water, Light and Power Commission Is One of Sauk Centre's Greatest Institutions," Sauk Centre Herald, 7 June 1938; Sauk Centre Water Light and Power Commission, Data Sheet, 101 South Main Street.

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74. **Historic Name:** Sauk Centre American Legion Post No. 67
Address: 128 South Main Street
Date: 1959

According to municipal real-property records, this one-story, gable-roofed, concrete-block building was constructed in 1959. In 1977, it received a gable-roofed wing on its south elevation, creating a tee-shaped plan. The building features a stone-clad false front with a stepped parapet and recessed front (east) entry.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

75. **Historic Name:** Central Minnesota Power and Milling Company Flour Mill
Common Name: Old Mill Apartments
Address: 23 South Main Street
Date: C. 1892, remodeled 1952 and 1965

Situated on the south bank of the Sauk River, this detached, three-story brick building with stone foundation originally functioned as a flour mill. Erected between 1892 and 1894 on the site of a wood-frame flour mill destroyed by fire in the early 1890s, it displays a shallow-pitched gable roof, denticulated brickwork cornice, and three-bay facades articulated by pilasters. Originally owned and operated by the Central Minnesota Power and Milling Company, the mill utilized four waterpower turbines, as well as auxiliary steam power, to achieve daily flour production of 300 barrels. During the 1890s and early 1900s, it also furnished electrical power to city. The mill's turbines ran on waterpower derived from a timber dam immediately upstream, on the east side of the Sauk Centre Bridge. After the mill closed in the late 1920s, the building became a warehouse.⁵³

In 1952, Sauk Centre resident Ray Guelsow purchased the former mill and converted it into apartment and commercial space, remodeling the south and west elevations on the ground floor with plate-glass windows, brick veneer, and a metal awning. In 1965, Guelsow built a one-story, hipped-roofed, brick residence along the mill's north elevation on the site of the original headrace and wheelhouse, apparently removing all trace of these features.⁵⁴ Despite these various alterations, the building retains most of its original

⁵³ Robert M. Frame III, Millers to the World (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1977), 101; Minnesota State Drainage Commission, Report of the Water Resources Investigation of Minnesota, 1911-1912 (n.p.), 162-163; Sanborn Maps for Sauk Centre, 1929 and 1949.

⁵⁴ "Old Mill New Life," St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press, 19 June 1966.

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architectural detailing, and strongly evokes a sense of its original function.

This property consists of one contributing building.

76. **Historic Name:** City Park
Common Name: Sinclair Lewis Park
Location: West side of Main Street and south shore of Sauk Lake
Date: 1898

When the City of Sauk Centre acquired this site for a public park in 1898, the property was a "collection of unproductive sand dunes covered with thistles and burrs." The site previously had been occupied by a brewery, which had burned about 1890. To adapt it for public recreation, the city hired an unidentified landscape architect, who planted trees, grass, and flowers in soil dredged from Sauk Lake. In 1937, the city secured WPA funding to refurbish the park with shade trees, evergreen trees, and deciduous shrubs. Officially named Sauk Lake Park in 1954, the site was renamed Sinclair Lewis Park in 1958.⁵⁵ Retaining its historic character, the park is a predominantly grassy space with scattered deciduous and evergreen plantings. Set back from the Main Street sidewalk about 150 feet is an octagonal wood-frame gazebo on a concrete slab. Although a photograph from the 1930s indicates that the park once contained a similar feature, the present building appears to have been constructed during the 1980s.⁵⁶ In the southeast corner, near the intersection of Main Street and South First Street, there is a granite veteran's memorial with a flag pole, erected by Sauk Centre American Legion Post 67 in 1992.

The western district boundary, which proceeds north-south at a distance of 166 feet from the Main Street Right-of-Way, bisects the City Park property. Outside of the district are several park features, including a bandshell and fountain.

This property consists of one contributing site (park), one non-contributing structure (gazebo) and one non-contributing object (war memorial). The non-contributing features were built after the district's Period of Significance.

⁵⁵ "History of Sauk Centre Prepared from Old Records," Sauk Centre Herald, 7 June 1928; Historical Sketch of Sauk Centre (Sauk Centre: s.n., 1954), 11; Plan of Plantings for Sauk Centre City Park, Federal Road District No. 4, Minnesota, Federal Aid Project No. 393, 1937, in Sauk Centre City Hall; "Sauk Centre's Fine New Bridge," Sauk Centre Herald, 2 December 1937; City of Sauk Centre Ordinance Nos. 284 and 296, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

⁵⁶ Photograph MS6.9/Sk4/r1, dated c. 1930, in Minnesota Historical Society.

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77. **Historic Name:** Bridge No. 5428
Common Name: Sauk Centre Highway Bridge
Location: Main Street at Sauk Lake
Date: 1935, remodeled 1985

The Sauk Centre Highway Bridge carries Main Street across Sauk Lake. In 1935, the state highway authority replaced a two-span, metal, truss bridge at this site with a three-span, concrete-girder structure. In 1985, the state remodeled the bridge by placing a new steel-girder superstructure on the 1935 concrete substructure. This reconstruction effectively destroyed the historic integrity of the 1935 design.⁵⁷

This property consists of one non-contributing structure that was built after the district's Period of Significance.

78. **Historic Name:** Sauk Centre Dam
Location: Sauk River, east side of Main Street
Engineer: Sven Norling
Date: 1935

This structure is the fourth dam at this site. The first dam, erected in 1857, lasted only a winter before succumbing to spring floods. Although its replacement met the same fate in 1867, the third dam survived for more than half a century. In 1935, however, the state highway department dewatered the Sauk Centre mill pond to rebuild the adjacent Sauk Centre Bridge, and discovered that the dam's timbers were badly deteriorated. At that time, the dam's owner was the Sauk Centre Water, Power and Light Commission, which had purchased the property in 1929. After failing to secure federal funds for the structure's replacement, the commission decided to pay for the project itself. Plans were prepared by Sven Norling, a consulting engineer with the Minnesota Conservation Department. In the fall of 1935, the commission awarded a construction contract to Oakes Construction Company, which was already at the site in its capacity as contractor for the new highway bridge. Oakes completed the dam in December 1935.⁵⁸

Unlike the three previous dams at this location, the present structure was not designed for waterpower use. Its purpose is flood control and water-

⁵⁷ "Sauk Centre's Fine New Bridge," Sauk Centre Herald, 2 December 1925; Bridge 5428 File in Central Bridge Files, Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul.

⁵⁸ "Brief History of Sauk River Dam," Sauk Centre Herald, 19 June 1960; Deed Book 184, 195; St. Paul District Corps of Engineers, "Sauk River Dam," National Dam Safety Program Inspection Report, July 1979, in Division of Waters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul.

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level regulation for recreational purposes. Measuring 18 feet in height and about 100 feet in length, the Sauk Centre Dam is a simple concrete, gravity structure consisting of a spillway between two abutments. The spillway is divided into six sections by concrete piers that also support a concrete walkway above the crest. The six spillway sections are manually controlled by stop logs.

This property consists of one contributing structure.

79. **Historic Name:** Sauk Lake
Location: Sauk River, immediately upstream from Sauk Centre Dam
Date: 1935

Sauk Lake is a widening in the Sauk River created by the Sauk Centre Dam for aesthetic and recreational purposes. Since its construction in 1935, the dam has customarily been operated to maintain the lake's summer water level at about two feet above the dam's spillway crest. The resulting pool extends upstream for about six miles and covers approximately 2,100 acres.⁵⁹

The western district boundary, which proceeds north-south at a distance of 166 feet from the Main Street Right-of-Way, includes only the eastern portion of Sauk Lake.

This property contains one contributing site.

80. **Historic Name:** City Park
Common Name: River Park/Conservation Club Park
Location: East side of Main Street and north shore of Sauk River
Date: 1929

This strip of riverfront land was acquired by the City of Sauk Centre in 1929, as part of its purchase of the Sauk Centre Dam. Formal landscaping probably did not occur until 1937, when the WPA prepared a plan for planting the area with shade trees and deciduous shrubs. In 1954, the city council designated the site as River Park.⁶⁰ The park's entrance is marked on Main Street by stone pillars supporting a wood sign with the painted inscription, "Conservation Club Park." This signage appears to have been constructed in the late 1980s or early 1990s, although there is no record that the name of

⁵⁹ St. Paul District Corps of Engineers, "Sauk River Dam," National Dam Safety Program Inspection Report, July 1979, in Division of Waters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul.

⁶⁰ Deed Book, 184, 195; Plan of Plantings for Sauk Centre City Park, Federal Road District No. 4, Minnesota, Federal Aid Project No. 393, 1937, in Sauk Centre City Hall; City of Sauk Centre Ordinance No. 284, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

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the park was ever officially changed. Pedestrians enter the park from Main Street by descending a concrete stairway that was probably constructed at the same time as the signage. The park itself is an open grassy area landscaped with shade trees, shrubs, a concrete walk, concrete picnic tables and benches, and faux cast-iron light standards with glass globes, which apparently are intended to create an "historic" ambiance. These minor structural intrusions do not seriously diminish the park's physical integrity.

This property consists of one contributing site (park), one non-contributing object (the stone sign), and one non-contributing structure (concrete stairway). The object and structure are non-contributing because they were constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

81. **Historic Name:** Clyde S. and Mabel Louise Thomas House
Address: 44 North Main Street
Date: 1940

In 1939, Clyde S. Thomas, and his wife Mabel Louise, purchased this lot for a residence, which was completed the following year. The Thomases occupied the premises until 1980. Set back from the Main Street sidewalk behind a grassy lawn, the dwelling is a rectangular-plan, two-story, side-gabled, wood-frame building with modest Colonial Revival detailing. The symmetrical facade contains a gabled, central entrance vestibule with eave returns; the building's front windows have 1/1 sash and shutters. In 1950, the Thomases added a one-story, flat-roofed sun porch to the south elevation. In 1981, the building was re-sided with horizontal metal siding, which does not significantly detract from its historic character.⁶¹ A two-story, front-gabled, wood-frame, two-car garage stands at the rear of the dwelling in the lot's southeast corner. Constructed in 1940, the garage has abbreviated gable ends characteristic of the Colonial Revival style.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

82. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 50 North Main Street
Date: C. 1920

Municipal real-property records assign this dwelling a construction date of 1920, which is consistent with its architectural character. The house is a 1-1/2-story, side-gabled, wood-frame bungalow with Craftsman details. Four

⁶¹ Deed Book 225, 415; Municipal real-property records in Sauk Centre City Hall; Alex Anderson, Jr., Data Sheet, 44 North Main Street.

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concrete steps with brick railings lead to a central front entrance in an enclosed porch supported by a brick base and flanked at each end of the facade by a battered brick pier. Wide overhanging eaves display exposed rafters. A central, front, gabled dormer rises from the roof. The upper story and dormer have been clad in horizontal aluminum siding, which presumably replaced original wood siding. The house overlooks a yard with a low concrete-block retaining wall at the front (west) property line. Access from the sidewalk on Main Street is by way of a short flight of concrete steps with brick railings.

This property consists of one contributing building.

83. **Historic Name:** Barbara Davidson Merriman House
Address: 45 North Main Street
Date: 1911

In 1911, Barbara Davidson Merriman moved from Milwaukee to Sauk Centre to run the Central Minnesota Power and Milling Company Flour Mill, which she owned in partnership with her brother Thomas Davidson, Jr., also of Milwaukee. Conveniently located about one block north of the family mill on Main Street, this 1-1/2-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled residence was built as a mill manager's residence for Merriman.⁶² Rising from a dressed concrete-block foundation, the building has a stuccoed first story and wood-shingled second story. Its symmetrical front (east) elevation contains a small porch with a hipped roof supported by round columns. Above the porch is a large gabled dormer with eave returns. At the rear of the house, just to the northwest, is a one-story, front-gabled, stuccoed garage, which appears to be contemporary with the dwelling. At the south end of the lot bordering Sauk Lake is a one-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame boathouse supported on metal-pipe piers. According to municipal real-property records, this building was constructed in 1924.

This property consists of three contributing buildings.

84. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 55 North Main Street
Date: 1966

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2-story, side-gabled, split-level residence a construction date of 1966, which is consistent with its architectural detailing. Designed in a Colonial Revival style, the building

⁶² Heather Maginniss, Interview with Mollie Parker, 23 February 1993; Parker is Merriman's granddaughter. Merriman and her brother had inherited the milling business from their father, Thomas Davidson, Sr., who had purchased the Sauk Centre flour mill in 1892; see Deed Book 72, 592.

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has a red-brick exterior with a central entrance accented by an open pediment and sidelights; the entrance is sheltered by an overhanging section of the main roof supported by slender square columns. The southeast corner of the front (west) elevation has a tuck-under garage.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

85. Historic Name: House
Address: 61 North Main Street
Date: C. 1890

This building is a large, 2-1/2-story Queen Anne dwelling. While the upper story retains its original weatherboard cladding, the lower two stories have been covered with stucco. The first story of the two-story front (east) porch has a projecting, bracketed, gabled entry with floral relief ornamentation on the tympanum. Supported by square columns on each story, the porch wraps around the southeast corner, sheltering on the ground level a raised concrete patio with concrete steps linking the dwelling's main entrance to a tree-shaded front yard. The front (east) elevation contains a picture window on the first story; there is also a front cross-gable containing small, diamond-paned windows and a small bracketed pediment. Municipal real-property records assign a construction date of 1875, but the building's architectural character is more consistent with the 1890s. At the rear of the lot is a 1-1/2-story garage-and-apartment building that was constructed in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Vinyl-clad on a concrete-block foundation, the gable-roofed design displays three gabled dormers on the north and south elevations and a barn-style cupola centered on the ridge of the roof.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (apartment and garage) that was erected after the district's Period of Significance.

86. Historic Name: House
Address: 104 North Main Street
Date: 1926

This two-story, side-gabled, stucco-clad dwelling combines Craftsman and Prairie-style detailing in its wide eaves and exposed roof rafters. Ornamented with a horizontal wood band between stories, the Main Street (west) elevation features an exterior, battered, brick chimney flanked by picture windows on the first story and 6/6 sash on the second story. The south elevation has a one-story, shed-roofed wing that appears to be contemporary with the dwelling. The north elevation has the main entrance,

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sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The residence is set back from the street behind a yard with a low, poured-concrete retaining wall at the front (west) property line. The wall is breached at mid-point by a short flight of concrete steps, providing access to the sidewalk on Main Street. According to municipal real-property records, the house was constructed in 1926; the building's architectural character is compatible with this date.

This property consists of one contributing building.

87. Historic Name: House
Address: 110 North Main Street
Date: 1953

According to municipal real-property records, this one-story tee-plan dwelling was constructed in 1953, and its architectural character is compatible with that date. Designed in the Rambler style, the building has aluminum siding, a front picture window, and an attached, side-gabled garage on its north elevation.

This property consists of one non-contributing building that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

88. Historic Name: House
Address: 120 North Main Street
Date: 1946

According to municipal real-property records, this dwelling was constructed in 1946, and the date is confirmed by the property's present owner.⁶³ An early example for Sauk Centre of the Ranch style, the one-story, hipped-roofed building features a stone-veneered front with a bowed bay window consisting of six tall, narrow sections with horizontal mullions. In 1974, the building's other elevations were clad in horizontal aluminum siding, which presumably replaced original wood siding.

This property consists of one contributing building.

89. Historic Name: House
Address: 111 North Main Street
Date: C. 1925

Although the construction date of this 1-1/2-story, brick dwelling has not been determined, the building embodies historic revival detailing popular in Minnesota during the 1920s. Its governing style is English Cottage, evoked

⁶³ Jeffrey A. Hess, Interview with William Larson, 7 May 1993.

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by means of steeply pitched front-gabled massing that is echoed by an off-center, gabled entry vestibule with an arched doorway. The picturesque "cottage" motif is further emphasized by numerous cross-gables and an irregular plan. The dwelling has a front yard with shade trees. At the rear northwest corner of the lot is a one-story, gable-roofed, two-car garage constructed in 1975.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

90. Historic Name: House
Address: 117 North Main street
Date: C. 1920

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2-story, stucco-clad dwelling a construction date of 1920, which is compatible with its architectural character. The house is a front-gabled bungalow, with exposed roof rafters, a shed dormer on the south elevation, and an enclosed, screened front (east) porch. At the rear of the dwelling, just to the southwest, is a one-story, front-gabled, wood-frame garage that appears to be contemporary with the dwelling.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

91. Historic Name: Apartment Building and House
Address: 119 North Main Street
Date: C. 1965

The south front of the lot contains a one-story, front-gabled, prefabricated "Rollohome" dwelling that probably was erected during the 1970s. The north front of the lot contains a shallow-pitched, front-gabled, two-story apartment building that was probably constructed in the mid-1960s. The lower story is concrete-block; the upper-story is clad with aluminum siding. On the south elevation, an overhanging section of the second story rests on five square posts, providing shelter for five ground-floor entrances.

At this property, the western district boundary proceeds north-west at a distance of 131 feet from the Main Street right-of-way. Excluded from the district is a small trailer park, located at the rear of the lot along the shore of Sauk Lake, that contains several one-story, prefabricated dwellings.

This property consists of two non-contributing buildings that were built after the district's Period of Significance.

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92. Historic Name: House
Address: 204 North Main Street
Date: C. 1925

Judging from its architectural detailing, this 1-1/2-story, brick, front-gabled, Craftsman-style bungalow probably was built in the 1920s; municipal real-property records list its construction date as 1927. The building has an enclosed, projecting, gabled front (west) porch; wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters; a shed dormer on the south elevation; and 4/1 sash. A small, gabled, one-story wing at the rear southeast corner breaks the overall rectangular plan. The property has a small front yard with a single shade tree. At the rear of the lot is a gable-roofed, wood-frame, one-car garage with overhanging eaves supported by Craftsman-style brackets.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

93. Historic Name: House
Address: 210 North Main Street
Date: C. 1930

As municipal real-property records indicate, this wood-frame dwelling was probably constructed about 1930. The original structure appears to have been a 2-1/2-story, front-gabled building with 2-1/2-story cross-gables on the side (north and south) elevations. In the 1950s, the building received a one-story, stone-clad, front-gabled addition on its front (west) elevation. The shallow-pitched roof of this addition contrasts sharply with the moderately pitched profiles of the older section, just as the addition's prominent picture window contrasts with the original 1/1 sash. At an undetermined date, the building's exposed wood surfaces were clad in wide-lap aluminum siding. In 1983, a gable-roofed, two-car garage was constructed at the rear of the lot.

This property consists of two non-contributing buildings, as a result of significant remodeling (house) and construction (garage) after the district's Period of Significance.

94. Historic Name: Oscar Christianson House
Address: 216 North Main Street
Date: C. 1915

In the fall of 1915, Oscar Christianson, a resident of Todd County in northwestern Minnesota, purchased several lots in the 200 Block of North Main Street. By 1917, Christianson was living in Sauk Centre, apparently

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occupying this recently constructed 1-1/2-story, stucco-clad bungalow.⁶⁴ The side-gabled dwelling has a gabled dormer on the front (west) elevation, as well a shed-roofed, enclosed front porch. The building is set back from the property line behind a small yard with shade trees.

This property consists of one contributing building.

95. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 220 North Main Street
Date: C. 1949

The 1929 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre shows this property as an empty lot. At that time, the owner was Celia Sohle, who had purchased the land a year earlier for \$500. During the 1930s, Celia forfeited the property for back taxes, but Amanda Sohle (presumably Celia's relative) redeemed it in 1944. A year later, Amanda sold the lot for \$700 -- the low sale price suggesting that the parcel was still an empty lot.⁶⁵ Subsequent transactions involving this parcel do not indicate when a dwelling was erected or moved onto the site. However, the house currently at 220 North Main Street does appear on a Sanborn Map updated to 1949. The building's character is compatible with late 1940s construction. It is a small rectangular-plan, side-gabled dwelling with a central interior chimney, 3/1 sash, asbestos-shingle siding, and a gabled entry vestibule on the front (west) facade.

This property consists of one non-contributing building because its presence on Main Street cannot be authenticated for the district's Period of Significance.

96. **Historic Name:** Olaf O. Peterson House
Address: 228 North Main Street
Date: C. 1918

Sauk Centre resident Olaf O. Peterson purchased this lot for \$250 in the fall of 1917 and sold it for \$2,825 in the spring of 1922. The price differential strongly suggests that he constructed a house on the parcel during the

⁶⁴ Christianson's original purchase is recorded in Deed Book 132, 94. Christianson indicated that he was a Sauk Centre resident in a 1917 deed that finalized his sale of the lot at 228 North Main Street (Deed Book 157, 538). He received \$250 for this transaction, which was comparable to most of his other sales. However, when he sold the lot at 216 North Main in 1919, he received \$2,200, which strongly suggests that the parcel contained a new dwelling; see Deed Book 165, 310.

⁶⁵ Deed Book 215, 32; Deed Book 231, 80; Deed Book 255, 359; Deed Book 215, 106.

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intervening period.⁶⁶ The building is a rectangular-plan, 1-1/2-story, hipped-roofed, Craftsman-style bungalow with exposed roof rafters, a hipped dormer on the front (west) elevation, and an enclosed porch on the southwest corner. The property is set back from the Main Street sidewalk behind a small front yard. In 1982, the dwelling was covered with horizontal aluminum siding, and a two-car, side-gabled garage was erected at the rear of the lot.

This property consists of one contributing building (dwelling) and one non-contributing building (garage) constructed after the district's Period of Significance.

97. Historic Name: House
Address: 234 North Main Street
Date: C. 1915

Municipal real-property records assign this 1-1/2-story, wood-frame dwelling a construction date of 1916, which is compatible with its Craftsman bungalow character. The building has a hipped front (west) dormer on a hipped roof, which shelters an enclosed, full-width front porch displaying 1/1 sash windows topped by diamond-paned transoms. The property has a small front yard with shade trees. At the rear of the lot is a two-car, hipped-roofed garage with exposed rafters; it appears to be contemporary with the house. In the 1980s, the house and garage were clad in aluminum siding.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

98. Historic Name: House
Address: 238 North Main Street
Date: C. 1930

This 1-1/2-story, side-gabled "Cape Cod" dwelling does not appear on the 1929 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre. According to municipal real-property records, it was constructed in 1929, which is compatible with its architectural character. The symmetrical front (west) facade features twin gabled dormers and a central, projecting, gabled entry vestibule flanked by 6/6 sash windows with shutters. In 1975, the building was clad in horizontal aluminum siding, and a side-gabled garage was added to the south elevation. Occupying a corner lot, the dwelling has a combined front and side yard with shade trees.

This property consists of one contributing building.

⁶⁶ Deed Book 157, 538; Deed Book 176, 406. Municipal real-property records assign the house at 228 North Main a construction date of 1916.

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99. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 211 North Main Street
Date: C. 1915

The architectural character of this 1-1/2-story, side-gabled bungalow suggests that it was constructed about 1915. The weatherboard-clad dwelling has a front (east) shed-roofed dormer and an enclosed porch sheltered by the overhanging side-gabled roof. The building's front yard has been paved to serve as a parking lot. At the rear of the lot is a front-gabled, single-car garage that apparently was constructed after 1949, since it does not appear on a Sanborn Map of that date.

This property consists of one contributing building (house) and one non-contributing building (garage) that was constructed after the Period of Significance.

100. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 217 North Main Street
Date: C. 1885

This building is a two-story, brick Italianate dwelling with an ell-shaped plan. Municipal real-property records list a construction date of 1885, which is consistent with the building's architectural character. The asymmetrical front (east) elevation has a tall narrow entry topped by a rectangular transom. Like the rest of the building's fenestration, it is set in a hooded segmental-arched opening. The low-pitched hipped roof has wide eaves with paired brackets. The dwelling looks out on a raised concrete patio and spacious front yard with shade trees. In the rear southwest corner of the lot is a flat-roofed, one-story, brick carriage house, now serving as a garage, that appears to be contemporary with the dwelling. It features a segmental-arched window opening and denticulated, corbelled cornice. Just north of the carriage house is a one-story, gable-roofed wood shed with drop siding. According to city records, it was constructed about 1940.

This property consists of three contributing buildings.

101. **Historic Name:** House
Address: 221 North Main Street
Date: C. 1890

According to municipal real-property records, this 1-1/2-story, weatherboard-clad dwelling was constructed about 1890, which is consistent with its Stick-style detailing. Set on a fieldstone foundation, the building has an irregular plan with gabled wings and a gabled dormer. On the front (south) facade, a flat-roofed porch and a canted bay window share a bracketed cornice. The building's windows, some paired, are tall and narrow, with

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simple wooden surrounds. The dwelling is set back from the property line behind a front lawn with shade trees. To the rear of the house, just to the southwest, is a one-story, gable-front, wood-frame garage that appears to have been constructed in the 1920s.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

102. Historic Name: House
Address: 227 North Main Street
Date: C. 1880

This building is a cross-gabled, 1-1/2-story, weatherboard-clad dwelling with a one-story, shed-roofed section on the northwest corner and a one-story, flat-roofed wing on the south elevation. Designed in the Gothic Revival Style, the building probably was constructed about 1880. The symmetrical front (east) facade has a central entry between two 2/2 sash windows; above the entry, in a cross-gable, is a single 2/2 sash window. As is true for all fenestration on the building's main block, these windows are tall and narrow, set in wooden surrounds with bracketed sills. The building's steeply pitched gable roof has Gothic-inspired bargeboards. The front elevation displays a simple, flat-roofed front porch with ornamental columns; there is a similar side porch on the north elevation. The dwelling overlooks a small front yard with shade trees.

This property consists of one contributing building.

103. Historic Name: House
Address: 305 North Main Street
Date: C. 1925

As the 1929 Sanborn Map for Sauk Centre indicates, this one-story, hipped-roofed, clapboard-sided dwelling originally was rectangular in plan. At an undetermined date, it received a one-story, hipped-roofed wing at its southwest corner; the resulting ell-shaped configuration appears on a Sanborn Map updated to 1949. The building's front (east) facade has a small gabled entrance portico of Colonial Revival inspiration. To the west of the dwelling, facing Lake Street, is a one-story, hipped-roofed, clapboard-sided storage building, which also appears to have been constructed during the 1920s.

This property consists of two contributing buildings.

104. Historic Name: Main Street Right-of-Way
Location: Main Street, between South Eighth Street and North Third Street
Date: 1924

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In 1863, land speculator Alexander Moore platted the Original Townsite of Sauk Centre, laying out the community along a principal north-south axis known as Main Street.⁶⁷ The thoroughfare's dimensions substantiated its name. In contrast to the other streets, which measured no more than 66 feet across, Main Street extended 82-1/2 feet from east to west. All six blocks of the original Main Street right-of-way are in the historic district. In addition, the historic district contains four additional blocks of Main Street, two to the north of the Original Townsite, and two to the south. Platted between 1866 and 1905, these sections are as wide as the original right-of-way.⁶⁸

Initially, all of Main Street seems to have been open to vehicular traffic. By 1894, however, the city council had authorized at least one public sidewalk in the Main Street right-of-way, consisting of six-foot-wide planks "securely nailed to not less than three oak or pine stringers." The era of plank sidewalks apparently was short-lived, for in 1899 the council banned wood in favor of concrete sidewalks with granite curbs. By 1913, most of the Main Street right-of-way had been outfitted with at least one concrete sidewalk, measuring approximately 10 feet in width in the downtown district, eight feet in width in the depot and mill area, and five feet in width in the residential areas.⁶⁹

Perhaps the most significant construction in the Main Street right-of-way occurred in 1924-1925, when the city paved the roadway from South Eighth Street to the river. Following plans and specifications prepared by consulting engineer J. E. Bonner of St. Cloud, the paving consisted of a six-inch concrete base overlaid by a two-inch wearing surface of crushed granite and asphalt, sealed by a layer of pure asphalt.⁷⁰ In the downtown district,

⁶⁷ Plat of the Original Townsite of Sauk Centre, 10 August 1863, resurveyed 30 July 1874, in Stearns County Recorders office, Stearns County Courthouse.

⁶⁸ Plat of R. Moore's Addition, 30 November 1866; Plat of Robbins and Mendenhall's Addition, 16 October 1874; Plat of Barto's Subdivision of Lot 9 of R. Moore's Addition of Outlots, June 1906, in Stearns County Recorder's Office, Stearns County Courthouse.

⁶⁹ Sauk Centre City Council Minutes, 12 November, 1894; 2 May, 1 August, 12 September 1899; 2 April 1902; 3 May 1905; 4 August 1910; 11 August 1913, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

⁷⁰ J. E. Bonner, "Plans of Sauk Centre Minn. Paving," n.d., in Sauk Centre City Hall; on Bonner's involvement, see "Street Paving Is Now Sure Thing," Sauk Centre News, 29 May 1924. For details of the paving program, see the following articles in the Sauk Centre News: "Council Meetings; Paving Is Assured," 12 June 1924; "Paving Will Be Underway Soon," 24 July 1924; "Street Paving To Be Extended," 16 October 1924; "Paving Near Completion," 23 October 1924; "Pavement Opening," 30 October 1924.

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Bonner gave the new roadway a width of approximately 61 feet, with 11-foot-wide sidewalks on each side. These dimensions prevail to the present day.

Bonner's plans also had a profound impact on the three-block residential district immediately south of downtown. In this area, he flanked the roadway on each side with a tree-shaded, grassy boulevard about 10 feet wide and a concrete sidewalk about six feet wide. The roadway itself was landscaped with central grassy boulevards, dividing vehicular traffic into two eighteen-foot-wide lanes. These boulevards remained in place until 1956, when the roadway was consolidated into a single 50-foot-wide expanse.⁷¹ Apart from this alteration, Bonner's design retains its historic integrity. His work in the south residential district apparently served as a model for the paving of the Main Street right-of-way in the north residential district. Although the roadway in this area never contained a median strip, it otherwise displays essentially the same sidewalk and boulevard design as the south district. Paving of the north residential district probably was completed by 1926, when the City Council authorized tree planting along North Main Street.⁷²

This property consists of one contributing structure.

⁷¹ Sauk Centre taxpayers approved the boulevard scheme at a public meeting in August 1924. As the local press reported, public support for the boulevards was based on a mixture of aesthetics, civic pride, and economics: ". . . those who wanted the Parkway [i.e., boulevards] stated that the street was quite wide enough and would look good, that other streets in other towns of the same width had a parkway, that the cost of paving the whole stree[t] was too great a burden and the saving effected by putting in the parkway would be considerable;" "Mass Meeting on the Paving," Sauk Centre News, 7 August 1924. Bonner's original design called for center boulevards on three blocks: between South Fifth and South Sixth streets; between South Sixth and South Seventh streets; and between South Seventh Street and the Great North Railroad Bridge. However, an aerial photograph from 1938 indicates that only the first two boulevards were constructed. On the removal of the center boulevards in 1956, see "Final Scoping Report, S.P. No. 7319-25, TH 71 in Sauk Centre, R.P. 167.31 to 169.04, Stearns County, Minnesota," prepared by Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson and Associates, Inc. for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, 13 December 1990, 1.

⁷² Minutes, 23 April 1926, in Sauk Centre City Hall.

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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE⁷³

The Original Main Street Historic District in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Social History for its close association with Sinclair Lewis's novel Main Street, which introduced the profoundly influential concept of "main street" as a way of analyzing, visualizing, and symbolizing the American small town. Because of its persistent and pervasive identification with Lewis's novel, Sauk Centre's Main Street became the living embodiment -- the national symbol -- of the American village. The Period of Significance for the historic district is 1920-1947. The opening date marks the publication of Lewis's novel, which immediately placed Sauk Centre's Main Street in the national spotlight, lifting "its bigotries and bedroom secrets, its sturdy faiths and ridiculous foibles to the great world beyond." The closing date marks the publication of the Life Magazine article, "Main Street, 1947," which nationally certified Sauk Centre's Main Street as the symbol of the American heartland because it represented, in all meanings of the term, "the mind and matter of Main Street."⁷⁴

DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sinclair Lewis was not the first American writer to use the term "Main Street" as metaphor for, or symbol of, the small town. In 1917, only three years before the appearance of Lewis's novel, a popular poet of the period, Joyce Kilmer, published Main Street and Other Poems. In the title piece, Kilmer uses the image of a small-town main street to represent the general decency of village life:

There were only about a hundred teams on Main Street in a day,
And twenty or thirty people, I guess, and some children out to play.
And there wasn't a wagon or buggy, or a man or a girl or a boy
That Main Street didn't remember, and somehow seem to enjoy.

The truck and the motor and trolley car and the elevated train
They make the weary city street reverberate with pain:
But there is yet an echo left deep down within my heart
Of the music the Main Street cobblestones made beneath a butcher's cart.

⁷³ An earlier version of this statement appeared in Jeffrey A. Hess, "Historical Assessment of Sauk Centre's Main Street in the Context of Sinclair Lewis's Main Street," prepared by Hess, Roise and Company for Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson and Associates, Inc., July 1992, 3-17.

⁷⁴ Both quotations are from Henry Anatole Grunwald, "Main Street, 1947," Life Magazine (23 June 1947): 100-102, 104, 107-108, 110, 113-115.

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God be thanked for the Milky Way that runs across the sky
That's the path that my feet would tread whenever I have to die.
Some folks call it a Silver Sword, and some a Pearly Crown,
But the only thing I think it is, is Main Street, Heaventown.⁷⁵

In extolling the virtue and simplicity of the small town, Kilmer's "Main Street" voiced a standard cliché of American popular culture before the First World War. Since its technique was as hackneyed as its sentiment, it is not surprising that Kilmer's creation promptly dropped into oblivion, title and all. A far different reception awaited Lewis's Main Street, published in the fall of 1920. As Lewis's chief biographer, Mark Schorer, has noted, "Main Street was the most sensational event in twentieth-century American publishing history from the point of view both of sales and of public response. The printers could not keep up with the orders, and for a while the publishers had to ration out copies to booksellers." Within the first nine months, the book sold more than 180,000 copies. By the end of the decade, the figure exceeded 500,000, making Main Street the best-selling novel of the 1920s. Eventually millions of copies were sold in numerous editions.⁷⁶

A social satirist rather than a literary stylist, Lewis favored simple plots with broad characterization and bold conflicts. In Main Street, he takes a naive young woman of some cultural pretensions and marries her to a kind but dull country doctor hailing from a wind-swept farm town of 3,000, identified in the novel as Gopher Prairie, Minnesota. Considering herself an emissary of good taste and progressive ideas, the heroine attempts a cultural reformation of her new hometown, thereby incurring the wrath of the local citizenry. On arriving in Gopher Prairie, the heroine had hoped to find "that the American village remains the one sure abode of friendship [and] honesty." Instead, she encounters a boorish, gossiping community of smug, narrow-minded hypocrites: "A savorless people, gulping tasteless food, and sitting afterward, coatless and thoughtless, in rocking-chairs prickly with inane decorations, listening to mechanical music, saying mechanical things

⁷⁵ Joyce Kilmer, Main Street and Other Poems (New York: George H. Doran Company, 1917), 14-15. For a somewhat earlier use of the title, see Lucy M. Salmon, Main Street (Poughkeepsie, NY: Lansing and Broas, 1915); Salmon presents a more thoughtful, but equally nostalgic, view of village life.

⁷⁶ Mark Schorer, "Main Street," American Heritage 12 (October 1961): 28; Carl Van Doren, Sinclair Lewis, A Biographical Sketch (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran and Company, 1933), 101; "Calls Main Street Best Seller Since 1919," New York Times, 11 March 1928, sec. 2, p. 2:8.

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about the excellence of Ford automobiles, and viewing themselves as the greatest race in the world."⁷⁷

Contemporary reviewers recognized that Main Street's assault on the myth of the "friendship village" was actually "an indictment of the whole middle class of America, a cruel, glaring exposure."⁷⁸ "More thoroughly than any novel since Uncle Tom's Cabin," wrote the prominent critic Stuart P. Sherman in 1922, "it has shaken our complacency with regard to the average quality of our civilization."⁷⁹ When Lewis (in the words of novelist Edith Wharton) "hacked away the sentimental vegetation from the American small town and revealed Main Street as it is, with all its bareness in the midst of plenty," he helped prepare the soil for the great literary harvest of the 1920s, which saw the wholesale re-evaluation of American social and literary conventions in the work of such writers as John Dos Pasos, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, e.e. cummings, Jean Toomer, and Claude McKay.⁸⁰ It is for this reason that Schorer marks him as "the major figure, probably, in what is called the liberation of modern American literature."⁸¹ Lewis himself remained on center stage throughout the 1920s, excoriating American business culture in Babbitt (1922), medical ethics in Arrowsmith (1925), and religious hypocrisy in Elmer Gantry (1927). His celebrity achieved international stature in 1930, when he became the first American to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

In summarizing Lewis's contributions as a novelist, Schorer observes that he "created a gallery of characters who have independent life outside the novels, . . . characters that live now in the American historical tradition. A number of them have become gigantic, archetypal figures that embody the major traits of their class."⁸² These powerful archetypes include Main

⁷⁷ Sinclair Lewis, Main Street (New York: New American Library, 1961), 257-258.

⁷⁸ Beverley Nichols, review of Main Street, by Sinclair Lewis, in Saturday Review (London) 20 (21 August, 1921): 230.

⁷⁹ Stuart P. Sherman, The Significance of Sinclair Lewis (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1922), 10. See also George E. O'Dell, "The American Mind and Main Street," The Standard 9 (July 1922): 17.

⁸⁰ Edith Wharton, "The Great American Novel," Yale Review 16 (July 1927): 648.

⁸¹ Mark Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1961), 812.

⁸² Mark Schorer, Sinclair Lewis (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963), 43.

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Street itself, which, as the personification of Gopher Prairie, functions as a collective character in Lewis's novel. Intending Gopher Prairie to represent the American village in general, he explicitly gives universality to the novel's Main Street, informing the reader that "Main Street is the continuation of Main Streets everywhere."

The American public claimed Lewis's symbol as their own. Barely six months after Main Street's publication, Vanity Fair nominated Lewis to its cultural "Hall of Fame," "because he has added a new word to the spoken language, Main Street now being the accepted term for the American hinterland." Lewis has "made America Main-Street conscious," declared The Bookman in 1922: "He rescued from that disconnected limbo of small towns which is America, a name by which America can call itself." Fifteen years later, the phrase was still on the nation's tongue. Writing in 1937, the critic Fred Lewis Pattee observed, "Not a day now but you hear the expression 'Main Street.'"⁸³

At first, the term "Main Street" was primarily a "withering word," "a label of hickdom," "a synonym for narrow provincialism."⁸⁴ But the phrase gradually lost its pejorative connotation, especially as American film makers and authors, Lewis included, returned to the glorification of village virtues during the 1930s and 1940s.⁸⁵ By 1940 Business Week Magazine could entitle an article, "Defense [Industry] Comes to Main Street" without suggesting in any way that the "solid country town" discussed in the piece was peopled by narrow-minded hypocrites.⁸⁶

Purged of its unpleasant associations, Main Street became a completely acceptable symbol for "Everytown, USA." After World War II, when thousands of small-town main streets fell victim to demolition and remodeling, Lewis's phrase increasingly (and ironically) became a nostalgic symbol of a vanished,

⁸³ "We Nominate for the Hall of Fame," Vanity Fair 16 (June 1921): 58; "The Literary Spotlight," The Bookman 56 (September 1922): 56; Fred Lewis Pattee, "The Nobel Lewis," Essays in Honor of A. Howry Espenshade (New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1937), 13.

⁸⁴ "Sinclair Lewis in His Own State," unidentified newspaper clipping, dated 10 August 1924, in Sinclair Lewis File, Minneapolis History Collection, Minneapolis Public Library; "No 'Main Street' for Evanston," New York Times 8 July 1923, sec. 7, p. 5:1; Carl Van Doren, The American Novel (New York: Macmillan Co., 1940), 306.

⁸⁵ Anthony Channell Hilfer, The Revolt from the Village, 1915-1930 (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), 224; Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, American Life, 517; Alfred Kazin, On Native Grounds: An Interpretation of American Prose Literature (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1942), 225-226.

⁸⁶ "Defense Comes to Main Street," Business Week (November 2, 1940): 20-27.

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more virtuous way of life -- a fact fully appreciated by Walt Disney when he made a re-creation of "Main Street, USA" the centerpiece of Disneyland in 1954.⁸⁷ Throughout its semantic evolution, Main Street remained faithful to its original usage in one important respect: it continued to be an indelible symbol of the American small town. Its changes in connotation merely registered changes in public opinion toward the underlying geographical reality.

Although Lewis coined "Main Street" as a universal symbol for American village life, the term developed a special affinity for one small town in particular -- Lewis's hometown of Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Born the son of a country doctor in Sauk Centre in 1885, Harry Sinclair Lewis reportedly spent an unhappy childhood in the shadow of an older brother who, in the eyes of the town, was everything he was not: "sensible, steady, well-organized, gregarious, good-looking and well-built, gifted at sports"⁸⁸ Following the paternal pattern, the brother went on to medical school and a life as a small-town doctor. Lewis, on the other hand, attended Yale University as an aspiring writer.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in 1908, Lewis tried his hand at odd jobs around the country, adopting a peregrine life style that persisted throughout his career as a novelist. When in the vicinity of Sauk Centre, he visited his family. On one such occasion in the summer of 1916, he introduced his new wife, Grace Hegger, to his boyhood home. Lewis at this time was a moderately successful writer of light fiction. Although he had shown flashes of satire, his work contained only the subtlest clues that he might soon shatter American's most cherished images. According to Hegger, their trip to Sauk Centre helped put him on the road to Main Street: "Aside from my meeting of his parents, the visit had been valuable because he had been seeing the place through my eyes as well as his, and he found himself angry with all this romanticizing of the small town, this clinging to the log-cabin tradition" ⁸⁹

⁸⁷ On Disney's use of the Main Street theme, see Richard V. Francaviglia, "Main Street USA: The Creation of a Popular Image," Landscape 21 (Spring-Summer, 1977), 18-22.

⁸⁸ Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life, 20.

⁸⁹ Grace Hegger Lewis, With Love from Gracie (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1955), 97.

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Lewis never directly stated in print that Sauk Centre was the model for Gopher Prairie in Main Street.⁹⁰ In the novel itself, he divorced the two towns by having a Gopher Prairie resident allude to a hoped-for event "down in Sauk Centre."⁹¹ Lewis's hometown, however, had no difficulty discerning its unflattering portrait in the book. Schorer reports that "at a Minneapolis reunion of former Sauk Centre residents in 1921, resentment against Lewis was still so high that one 'sensitive housewife remarked that he would probably be lynched' if he returned to visit Sauk Centre."⁹²

The Sauk Centre Herald expressed its displeasure by waiting six months before acknowledging that a native son was responsible for the nation's most talked-about novel. In March 1921, it finally broke its silence with a brief review: "A perusal of the book makes it possible for one to picture in his mind's eye local characters having been injected bodily into the story."⁹³ A month later, the Herald reported that Lewis had recently admitted to a Detroit audience that "Sauk Centre to a large extent played a part in his inspiration for Main Street." Lewis, however, issued a denial:

It has come to my attention that a certain number of people in Sauk Centre believe that my novel Main Street portrays real people and real scenes in Sauk Centre May I say that this is totally erroneous? Practically all of the characters and scenes in Main Street are either composites, combinations of the things and persons I have noted in the

⁹⁰ In 1924, Montgomery Belgion reported that Lewis had prepared for writing Main Street and Babbitt by compiling detailed dossiers for the "imaginary places" in both novels: "Such places have to be invented in great detail. For each book Mr. Lewis made a long series of maps and plans. I have seen those for Babbitt;" "How Sinclair Lewis Works," The Bookman 65 (January 1924): 195. The Main Street dossier might shed a good deal of light on Lewis's use of Sauk Centre sources; unfortunately, it has not been located. The Babbitt material is in the Dorothy Thompson Papers of the George Arents Research Library, Syracuse University; see Helen Batchelor, "A Sinclair Lewis Portfolio of Maps, Zenith to Winnemac," Modern Language Quarterly 32 (December 1971): 401-402. The closest Lewis himself came to identifying Sauk Centre with Gopher Prairie was in a posthumously published autobiographical sketch composed in 1927: "He was born son and grandson of country doctors, in the sort of shambling prairie village which he has described in Main Street; a village of low wooden shops, of cottages each set in its little garden, of rather fine trees, with the wheat a golden sea for miles about"; see "Self-Portrait," The Man from Main Street, eds. Harry E. Maule and Melville H. Cane (New York: Random House, 1953), 49.

⁹¹ Lewis, 181.

⁹² Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life, 270.

⁹³ As quoted in Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life, 272.

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scores of American towns I have seen in all parts of the country, or else they are totally imaginary.⁹⁴

Lewis's statement apparently failed to convince a good many Sauk Centre residents, including his own father. The day before his father's death in August 1926, Lewis reportedly told a friend, "My father has never forgiven me for 'Main Street' He felt that I should have served an honored profession by becoming a doctor myself, instead of . . . libeling my own birthplace. 'Main Street' condemned me in his eyes as a traitor to my heritage" ⁹⁵

If Main Street had been less of a sensation, the American public probably would have lost interest in both Lewis's relationship with his hometown, and the town's relationship with the novel. But Lewis's novel was as much a sociological as a literary event. As one reviewer put it, "There are some books which arouse a nation's fury, and Main Street is such a book."⁹⁶ Sinclair Lewis was national news, and his feud with Sauk Centre made wonderful copy, especially since his battle with the hometown Philistines seemed to recapitulate the novel's basic plot. Like Lewis himself, Sauk Centre achieved celebrity status. Schorer notes: "The name of the old home town itself, Sauk Centre, became archetypal in jokes about small towns told across the country." Lewis further cemented the identification of Sauk Centre with Gopher Prairie in 1924. In the summer of that year, he visited Sauk Centre and discovered newly laid black top on the town's Main Street. Shortly afterwards, he published an interview with the fictional residents of Gopher Prairie entitled "Main Street's Been Paved!"⁹⁷

By the 1930s, it was widely held by popular and scholarly writers alike that Lewis had caricatured Sauk Centre in Main Street. When the national press covered Lewis, it commonly observed, as the New York Times did in January 1939, "Mr. Lewis is a native of Sauk Centre, Minn., generally accepted as the main street of his novel by that name." Biographical sketches invariably opened with some statement to the effect that "Sinclair Lewis was born February 7, 1885, in Sauk Centre, Minnesota -- a farming town of about three thousand inhabitants, the Gopher Prairie of Main Street." A popular

⁹⁴ Both the Herald's statement and Lewis's denial are quoted in Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life, 273.

⁹⁵ Charles Breasted, "The Sauk-Centricities of Sinclair Lewis," Saturday Review 37 (14 August 1954): 8, 33.

⁹⁶ Nichols, review of Main Street, 230.

⁹⁷ Schorer, Sinclair Lewis, An American Life, 270, 400; Sinclair Lewis, "Main Street's Been Paved!" Nation 119 (10 September 1924): 255-260.

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interpretation saw Lewis's novel as an act of revenge on Sauk Centre for an unhappy childhood. To quote Christian Gauss, writing in The Saturday Evening Post in 1931: "He began by disliking his birthplace and vowed to get even, as he eventually did in Main Street." Or the more scholarly Harry Hartwick in The Foreground of American Fiction (1934): "As a youth, he was considered by the neighbors to be a trifle 'queer,' and in Main Street he has taken ample revenge upon his birthplace for its ugly, insular habits of mind."⁹⁸

In true Main Street fashion, Sauk Centre itself became an active promoter of its own place in the Lewis legend. Within a few years of the novel's publication, a "Gopher Prairie Inn" opened its doors on the city's Main Street, while one of the town's newspapers declared on its masthead: "PUBLISHED ON THE MOST FAMOUS 'MAIN STREET' OF AMERICA." The Sauk Centre High School named its student newspaper "Main Street" and its sports teams the "Main Streeters." Sauk Centre youngsters attended the "Gopher Prairie Chapter" of the 4-H.⁹⁹ In 1927, the Sauk Centre City Council officially endorsed the town's identification with Lewis's novel by erecting on the outskirts of the city a sheet metal sign, 34-feet long and 10-feet high, with the following legend: "This is the Original Main St. (Sinclair Lewis) Sauk Centre."¹⁰⁰ The American public enjoyed the spectacle. "Main Street," said Scholastic Magazine, "now recognizes itself as Main Street (and cashes in on it)."¹⁰¹

⁹⁸ "Home Legislature Lectured by Lewis," New York Times, 18 January 1939, 15:4; Vernon Loggins, I Hear America (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1937), 240; Christian Gauss, "Sinclair Lewis vs. His Education," Saturday Evening Post 204 (26 December 1931): 20; Harry Hartwick, The Foreground of American Fiction (New York: American Book Company, 1934), 250.

⁹⁹ An advertisement for the Gopher Prairie Inn appears in Sauk Centre News, 23 October 1924, p. 5; see also "Gopher Prairie Inn Modernized," Sauk Centre Herald, 27 August 1931, p. 1. For an example of the masthead declaration, see News, 29 November 1923. When the paper moved its offices to Third Street, it changed its masthead notice to: "Published in Gopher Prairie"; News, 26 May 1926. Concerning the high school newspaper, sports teams, and 4-H, see "School Paper Preparing for Big Issue in April," News, 3 February 1927, p. 1; "Sauk Centre Wins Golf Tourney at St. Cloud," News, 16 June 1927, p. 1; "Gopher Prairie 4-H Club Clever Hosts," Sauk Centre Herald, 12 November 1931, p. 1.

¹⁰⁰ "Buy Big Sign to Advertise City," Sauk Centre Herald, 10 February 1927, p. 1; "Striking Sign Will Attract Tourists to 'Main Street,'" Sauk Centre Herald, 3 March 1927, p. 1.

¹⁰¹ Ernestine Kealoha Taggard, "Sinclair Lewis, The Man Who Knew Main Street," Scholastic (September 21, 1935): 5. Sauk Centre's advertising of itself is also noted in Harlan Hatcher, Creating the Modern American Novel (New York: Farrar and Rinehart, 1935), 114.

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During the 1940s, the association between Sauk Centre's Main Street and its fictional counterpart became even closer. In 1945, World Publishing Company of Cleveland hired Carl Van Doren, formerly a professor of literature at Columbia University, to edit a new series of illustrated classics known as "the Living Library." Twenty-five years before, Van Doren had written one of the first laudatory reviews of Main Street, and he now selected Lewis's novel to head the reprint list.¹⁰² The original edition of Main Street had no illustrations, except for a dust-jacket graphic showing a streetscape of modest, mostly wood-frame, commercial buildings. Half flippantly, Lewis had requested his publisher to depict "a stupid village street, of the straight, harsh, Midwestern kind," and he was "wildly enthusiastic" about the outcome.¹⁰³ Van Doren, however, saw no need for anonymous street scenes for the new edition when Lewis's original hometown seemed more than willing to sit for its picture. He therefore sent New York illustrator Margaret Lowengrund to Sauk Centre to record the actual face of Main Street. When the Living Library edition of Main Street appeared in October 1946 with Lowengrund's drawings of Lewis's old home town, the visual identities of Main Street, Sauk Centre and Main Street, Gopher Prairie permanently fused for posterity.

Although Sauk Centre's association with Main Street initially had engendered ridicule, it eventually conferred a special dignity. As the incarnation of Gopher Prairie's Main Street, Sauk Centre's Main Street became the living symbol of the American small town. Whether the town fully realized it or not, this apotheosis made its Main Street the guardian of a powerful archetypal image that offered Americans an opportunity to see who they were. Pilgrims came for just that purpose, including a reporter for Life Magazine in 1947. Illustrating his article with photographs of Sauk Centre's Main Street, he wrote a lengthy tribute to the "mind and matter of Main Street" that effectively enshrined the town's symbolic stature:

One of the most important places in the world of 1947 is a Minnesota wheat-prairie town situated in the heartland of America. Offhand its claims to importance seem tenuous. The town has 3,000 inhabitants, a grain elevator which just reached a million-dollar yearly turnover, a state institution for wayward girls and a mayor who writes poetry. But

¹⁰² Kathleen McGowan, "World Publishing Company," Dictionary of Literary Biography. Volume 46: American Literary Publishing Houses, 19100-1908: Trade and Paperback, ed. Peter Dzwonkoski (New York: Brucoli Book/Gale Research Company, 1986), 388; "World Will Issue first Volumes In Living Library in October," Publishers' Weekly 150 (20 July 1946): 282-283; "World Titles for Fall Promotion," Publishers' Weekly 150 (5 October 1946): 1878-1879; Carl Van Doren, "Contemporary American Novelists" Nation 113 (12 October 1921): 410-412.

¹⁰³ Harrison Smith, ed. From Main Street to Stockholm: Letters of Sinclair Lewis, 1919-1930 (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1952), 29-31.

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it also had a novel written about itself by old Dr. Lewis' son
In the book the town was called Gopher Prairie, but its indignant home-
town readers were not fooled. It was this novel which lifted Sauk
Centre, Minn. from among the other 1,422 American towns of approximately
its own size, and carried its bigotries and bedroom secrets, its sturdy
faiths and ridiculous foibles to the great world beyond Sauk
Centre has finally, if dimly, realized that the world is watching and
that it has a right to watch.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Henry Anatole Grunwald, "Main Street 1947" Life 22 (23 June 1947): 100.

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Plat of Original Townsite of Sauk Centre, 10 August 1863. Stearns County Courthouse.

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Stearns County, Minnesota

Verbal Boundary Description:¹⁰⁵

The boundary of the Original Main Street Historic District commences at a point on the southern boundary of the North Third Street right-of-way 166 feet east of the southeastern corner of the intersection of North Third Street and North Main Street, and proceeds south in a straight line for a distance of 475 feet to the northern boundary of the North Second Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of North Second Street for a distance of 1 foot; thence continues south in a straight line, crossing the North Second Street right-of-way, for a distance of 198 feet; thence continues west in a straight line for a distance of 5 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 198 feet, crossing the North First Street right-of-way, to the southern boundary of the North First Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line along the southern boundary of the North First Street right-of-way for a distance of 6 feet; thence continues south in a straight line to the northern shoreline of the Sauk River; thence continues in a south-westerly direction along the northern shoreline of the Sauk River to the eastern boundary of the Main Street right-of-way; thence continues south in a straight line along the eastern boundary of the Main Street right-of-way to the southern shoreline of the Sauk River; thence continues in a south-easterly direction along the southern shoreline of the Sauk River to a point 166 feet east of the eastern boundary of the Main Street right-of-way; thence continues south in a straight line, crossing the South First Street and South Second Street right-of-ways, to the northern boundary of the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way for a distance of 69.57 feet; thence continues south in a straight line, crossing the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way, for a distance of 132 feet; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 53.57 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 66 feet; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 8 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 264 feet, crossing the South Fourth Street right-of-way, to the southern boundary of the South Fourth Street right-of-way; thence continues east along the southern boundary of the South Fourth Street right-of-way for a distance of 8 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 396 feet to the northern boundary of the South Fifth Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of the South Fifth Street right-of-way for a distance of 6 feet; thence continues south in a straight line, crossing the South Fifth Street and South Sixth Street right-of-ways, to a point 77 feet north of the

¹⁰⁵The measurements in the Verbal Boundary Description are derived from a scaled planning map entitled "City of Sauk Centre, Minnesota," revised 27 November 1990, in the Sauk Centre City Hall, and from property lot descriptions given in the municipal real-property files.

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northern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line for a distance of 48 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 77 feet to the northern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way for a distance of 42 feet; thence continues south in a straight line, crossing the South Seventh Street right-of-way, to a point 90 feet south of the southern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 10 feet; thence continues south in a straight line for a distance of 50 feet; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 80 feet; thence continues south in a straight line to the northern boundary of the South Eighth Street right-of-way; then continues north-westerly in a straight line along the northern boundary of the South Eighth Street right-of-way to the eastern boundary of the South Main Street right-of-way; thence continues south in a straight line along the eastern boundary of the South Main Street right-of-way to the southern boundary of the Burlington-Northern Railway trackage right-of-way; thence continues north-westerly in a straight line along the southern boundary of the Burlington-Northern Railway trackage right-of-way to the western boundary of the South Main Street right-of-way; thence continues north in a straight line along the western boundary of the South Main Street right-of-way to the northern boundary of the Burlington-Northern Railway trackage right-of-way; thence continues north-westerly in a straight line along the northern boundary of the Burlington-Northern Railway trackage right-of-way to a point 140 feet west of the western boundary of the South Main Street right-of-way; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the South Seventh Street right-of-way, to the northern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of the South Seventh Street right-of-way for a distance of 35 feet; thence continues north in a straight line for a distance of 400 feet to the southern boundary of the South Sixth Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line along the southern boundary of the South Sixth Street right-of-way for a distance of 15 feet; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the South Sixth Street and South Fifth Street right-of-ways, to the northern boundary of the South Fifth Street right-of-way; thence continues west along the northern boundary of the South Fifth Street right-of-way for a distance of 6 feet; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the South Fourth Street right-of-way, to a point 66 feet south of the southern boundary of the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 72 feet; thence continues north in a straight line for a distance of 66 feet to the southern boundary of the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line along the southern boundary of the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way for a distance of 44 feet; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the Sinclair Lewis Avenue right-of-way, for a distance of 284 feet; thence continues west in a straight line for a distance of 116 feet; thence

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Stearns County, Minnesota

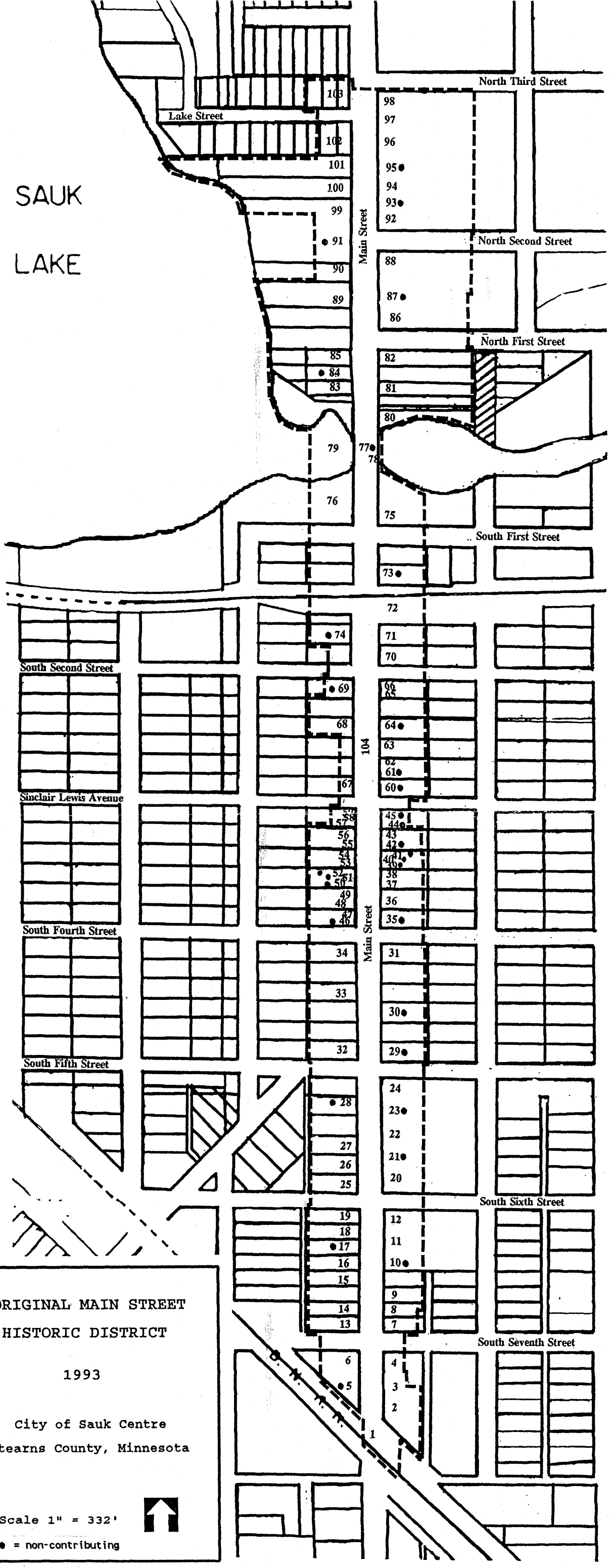
continues north in a straight line for a distance of 112 feet; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 66 feet; thence continues north in a straight line for a distance of 66 feet to the southern boundary of the South Second Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line along the southern boundary of the South Second Street right-of-way for a distance of 17 feet; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the South Second Street right-of-way, for a distance of 132 feet; thence continues west in a straight line for a distance of 83 feet; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the South First Street right-of-way, City Park, and Sauk Lake, to the northern shoreline of Sauk Lake; thence continues westerly and then north-westerly along the eastern shoreline of Sauk Lake to a point 612.5 feet south of the southern boundary of the Lake Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line to a point 131 feet west of the western boundary of the North Main Street right-of-way; thence continues north in a straight line for a distance of 303 feet; thence continues west in a straight line to the eastern shoreline of Sauk Lake; thence continues north-westerly along the eastern shoreline of Sauk Lake to a point 108.5 feet south of the southern boundary of the Lake Street right-of-way; thence continues east in a straight line to a point 100 feet west of the western boundary of the North Main Street right-of-way; thence continues north in a straight line, crossing the Lake Street right-of-way, for a distance of 159.5 feet to the northern boundary of the Lake Street right-of-way; thence continues west in a straight line along the northern boundary of the Lake Street right-of-way for 50 feet; thence continues north in a straight line for a distance of 108.5 feet; thence continues east in a straight line for a distance of 150 feet to the western boundary of the North Main Street right-of-way; thence continues south in a straight line along the western boundary of the North Main Street right-of-way for a distance of 68 feet; thence continues east in a straight line, crossing the North Main Street right-of-way, for a distance of 82.5 feet to the point of origin.

The boundaries of the Original Main Street Historic District are shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Original Main Street Historic District, 1993."

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries enclose all significant surviving properties that formed the streetscape of Main Street in Sauk Centre during the Period of Significance.

SAUK
LAKE



ORIGINAL MAIN STREET
HISTORIC DISTRICT

1993

City of Sauk Centre
Stearns County, Minnesota

Scale 1" = 332'

● = non-contributing