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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 4 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Court Street Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Various - See Item 7 N/A not for publication

city, town Richland Center N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Richland code 103 zip code 53581

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the national Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

10/5/89

Signature of certifying official  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

*[Handwritten Signature]*

11/13/89

\_\_\_ 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]*  
Signature of Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade  
Government/Government Office,  
Post Office  
Social Hall/Meeting Hall

Commerce/Trade  
Government/Government Office,  
Post Office  
Social Hall/Meeting Hall

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate  
Romanesque  
Classical Revival

foundation brick  
walls brick  
stone  
roof asphalt  
other wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description

The Court Street Commercial Historic District comprises the early commercial area established in the mid-nineteenth century around the milling industry located on the banks of the Pine River. The commercial district is located several blocks east of the original mill site and settlement area. Presently only a dam remains in the area of the original mill site.

Buildings within the district are mostly two-story brick interspersed by several one and three-story brick buildings. The district is characterized further by one building of stone construction and one of concrete construction. Altered extensively and covered by modern siding, five wooden buildings are presently non-contributing buildings in the Court Street Commercial Historic District. Composed mainly of commercial buildings, the Court Street Commercial Historic District also is characterized by several governmental, industrial and social buildings.

The buildings in the commercial district have retained much of their original architectural character such as cornices and window ornament on their upper stories. Although most storefronts and interior spaces have been modified at various times over the years, many buildings in the district maintain a fair degree of integrity on their upper stories. Historic cast-iron storefront posts and lintels have remained on the Bailey Store and Opera House at 194 East Court Street, the Barnes and Toms Jewelry Store at 155 East Court Street, and the Union Block at 100-124 North Main Street.

Placed along Court Street, which runs in an east to west direction, the densely packed nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings create a definite historic environment in the commercial district (see district map). Although the commercial district extends variously one or two blocks on either side of Court Street as well as on the parallel Mill and Seminary Streets, Court Street, as the center of the district exerts the greatest visual impact on the area. Few intrusions detract from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century character created by buildings constructed within a period of 70 years. Of the total 72 properties located in the proposed Court Street Historic District, 20 buildings do not contribute to the overall historic architectural character of the district because their exterior has been covered by modern siding and/or the original architectural details have been removed. Others do not contribute because of their recent construction date.

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Although the buildings in the Court Street Historic District exhibit mainly a vernacular or functional emphasis, many show the influence of the architectural styles popular at the time. Italianate, Romanesque, Classical and early twentieth century historic styles were among the sources shaping the architectural environment of Richland Center's commercial district. Constructed during the period from the late 1860s through the early decades of the twentieth century, as well as in the present period, the historic structures in the district are representative of the development of commercial architecture in Richland Center.

Of the 72 properties located in the Court Street Historic District, 23 individual buildings are especially architecturally or historically significant. These buildings listed according to address are as follows:

1. UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, 213 North Central Avenue, 1935. Designed by Louis Simon in a simplified Georgian Revival interpretation typical of the late historic era, the one-story, hip-roofed post office exhibits plain brick surfaces ornamented by brick quoins, brick lintels with articulated keystones, dentil trim along the eaves and a wooden frontispiece in a classical design. White stone accents contrast with the red brick surfaces. This well-preserved post office features original interior tile and wood surfaces as well as a WPA wall mural entitled "The Post Unites America." The mural was executed in 1937 by artist Richard Brooks.
2. RICHLAND CENTER CITY HALL AND AUDITORIUM, 182 North Central, 1911-1912. Built in a "modernized" classical style, this red brick three-story municipal building features a rectangular plan with shallow projecting pavilions on each corner. The entablature is comprised of a projecting cornice and modillion ornament placed on applied brick pilasters with Ionic capitals. A rusticated basement story and segmental arched windows in the recessed bays of the facade further characterize the building. Designed by Bajari and Bentley in 1911 and added to the NRHP in 1980, the city auditorium featuring a cantilevered curving balcony was rehabilitated in 1967.
3. MASONIC TEMPLE, 189 North Central Avenue, 1920-1921. Mainly characterized by a large classical entablature inscribed "Masonic Temple" that is supported by two-story stone Ionic columns flanking the recessed center bay and by capped end piers, this three-story brick building also features an ornamental arched window with moldings and carved keystone and stained glass associated with the Beaux Arts style. Exceptionally well preserved, this lodge building has been altered on the exterior by the replacement entrance door. Designed by Edward Tough in 1920, this \$50,000 building was dedicated on July 20, 1922.
4. PARK HOTEL, 213 South Central Avenue, 1873, 1899, 1926, 1930. Built as a frame building in 1873, which was brick veneered in 1900, this brick three-story building's facade is flanked by a square tower on the north end and an octagonal tower with mansard roof on the south end and features a projecting entrance bay

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with round arched window. Placed on an elevated stone foundation, this hotel is further characterized by stone lintels and wooden balustraded veranda that extends almost the full length of the facade. Recently renovated and restored as residential apartments, the hotel received large brick additions in 1926 and 1930.

5. EDWARDS BLOCK, 101 South Church Street, 1912-1913. Displaying the influence of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Commercial style, this brick, three-story building is divided evenly by the vertical piers and horizontal spandrels that rise from a base and are terminated by a projecting cornice. It is further characterized by raised white geometric decorative panels on the window spandrels and raised piers. The present storefront has altered the historic character of the building. Built by the Judevine Construction Company, the Edwards Block initially was used as a clothing store and the McNitt Business School.

6. TOMS FUNERAL PARLOR, 172 South Church Street, 1920. Built as an addition to the south side of the 1860s frame Toms furniture store and shop, this brick vernacular Commercial styled building exhibits vertical piers and horizontal spandrel construction, as well as historic elements such as a pediment above the roof line and arched entrance. Although part of a historically significant Toms Building, this 1920s building is not architecturally significant because of the alteration of the brick work on the facade.

7. LE HEW FILLING STATION, 208 South Church Street, 1927. Characterized by a red tile roof and multiple gables, this white brick Tudor Revival/Mediterranean styled gas station has several original multi-paned windows remaining on the building. The large service door and main store front window have been replaced. The best preserved gas station still operating in the city, the Le Hew Filling Station was constructed by Dell Beaty in 1927.

8. FIRST NATIONAL BANK, 108 East Court Street, 1920, 1976. Constructed of Bedford stone in the Neo-classical style according to a design by specialist in bank design and construction, A. Moorman and Company, this two-story bank building exhibits a colossal portico featuring two-story Ionic stone columns in antis and end piers or anta with Corinthian capitals. Applied capped pilasters are placed at regular intervals flanking the window bays and on the west elevation. A frontispiece in a classical design with dentil trim and raised wreath ornament on the frieze are classical architectural details further characterizing the building. Well preserved, this bank building received a stone addition in a simple modern design on the east side in 1976.

9. BARNES AND TOMS JEWELRY STORE, 155<sup>1/2</sup> East Court Street, 1895. Ornamented by a small cornice featuring a row of dentil trim and corbeled brick, this one-story commercial vernacular brick building is further characterized by a wooden storefront with double leafed entrance door and transom window that is flanked by cast iron columns. Known as the Toms Jewelry Store until 1945, this building was used as a jewelry store for three more years, at which time it was incorporated into the space used by the Meadows Furniture Store.

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10. A.A. BULARD JEWELRY STORE, 155(b) East Court Street, 1883. Dominated by a large projecting, bracketed metal cornice with a rectangular shaped pediment, this brick (now painted) two-story Italianate influenced building exhibits flat triangular pediment shaped stone window heads with incised decoration. An addition was built at the rear in 1916 and the interior space was combined with the adjacent building on the east side also in the early twentieth century. Used briefly as a jewelry store, the building was sold to Pratt Brothers to house their furniture store in 1906. The original storefront has been greatly altered.
11. A.A. BULARD BUILDING, 155(a) East Court Street, Between 1885 and 1892. Characterized by a projecting metal cornice with a rectangular pediment, this brick (now painted) two-story Italianate influenced building is further ornamented by ornamental iron pilasters with Corinthian capitals flanking the four long narrow windows in recessed panels on the upper story of the facade. The original storefront has been greatly altered by the addition of a deeply recessed entrance on the west side of the facade. The interior space was combined with the adjacent building on the west in the early twentieth century and used as a furniture store.
12. O.J. BURNHAM BUILDING, 159 East Court Street, 1889. Dominated by the large projecting metal cornice ornamented by brackets, modillions, and a rectangular shaped pediment, this brick (now painted) Italianate influenced former produce store is further characterized by ornamented iron pilasters flanking the four long windows in the recessed panel of the upper facade. Although altered by the addition of replacement window sashes, the ornamentation on the upper facade has been well preserved. This building has been further altered by the addition of an enclosed storefront constructed in 1988. Used as a produce store until the 1970s, this building featured a creamery at the rear, which was recently demolished.
13. D.G. JAMES BUILDING, 172 East Court Street, 1889. Featuring an ornate projecting metal cornice with ornamental brackets and modillion blocks, this eight bay, Italianate influenced two-story building also exhibits raised triangular pediment-shaped stone window heads. The historic appearance of this building has been altered by the replacement windows on the second story and by the completely altered and closed-up storefront. Initially used to house James' harness shop and a bank, the building has been used to house a newspaper office for many years.
14. BURNHAM AND BURNHAM DRUG STORE, 182 East Court Street, 1889, 1892. Ornamented by a large projecting metal cornice characterized by a triangular pediment and bracket trim, this two-story Italianate styled brick building is further ornamented by triangular pediment shaped window heads and a small cornice extending across the storefront. An addition located at the rear was constructed in 1892. Iron columns flank the entrance of the otherwise completely remodeled storefront. Although the architectural character of the building has been compromised by the second story replacement windows, this building used as a drugstore until 1962 continues to exhibit a strong Italianate character.

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15. H.T. BAILEY STORE AND OPERA HOUSE, 194 East Court Street, 1883. Constructed of red brick from the local Hyatt Brick Yard, this two-story highly ornamental Italianate building features a large metal cornice with brackets and triangular shaped pediment, a large segmental brick arch in the second-story center bay with white keystone inscribed "1883" and white stone window lintels incised in abstract floral pattern. White stone belt courses and window hoods, corbeled brick ornament and dentil trim further articulate the brick surfaces of this well preserved building. Designed by David Jones in 1883, this well-preserved building has housed various mercantile companies continuously since its construction. A gabled wooden enclosed entrance porch and exterior stairway extends from the east facade.

16. HARTZ BUILDING-MEHAFFEY'S SALOON, 131 West Court Street, late 1880s. Exhibiting the cornice and decorative window treatment associated with the Italianate style, this two-story vernacular brick building is ornamented mainly by the contrasting patterns created by the red brick outlined structural parts such as the arched windows, frieze area, and corbelled cornice on the cream brick facade. The storefront has been altered in a contemporary manner. Purchased by George Mehaffey in 1892 to house his "upper class" saloon, this well-preserved building has been a clothing store for many years.

17. D.E. PEASE STORE, 172 West Court Street, 1899. Featuring Romanesque Revival influenced round arched windows with brick voussoirs and moldings, this brick two-story building is further characterized by a wide projecting brick cornice ornamented by a blind arcade as well as ornamental brick work. Although historically significant, this building is not architecturally significant because of the extensive alteration of the storefront and the removal of the arcaded parapet and leaded windows. Historically significant for its association with the Pease store originally established on the site in the 1850s, the building continues to serve as a general merchandise store.

18. W.H. PIER BUILDING, 195 West Court Street, 1911. Built of dark brown brick and reinforced concrete, this two-story Classical Revival influenced building exhibits a denticulated projecting cornice, plain brick parapet, large segmental arched tripartite window openings on the upper story, strap-like ornament, and a rusticated lower story. Although historically significant, this building is not architecturally significant because of significant alteration of its original architectural character, including extensive alteration of the storefront and enclosure of the display windows and the second-story windows. Initially used by the United States Post Office, the building's interior was remodeled as a bank in 1921. A one-story addition on the east side was constructed in 1975.

19. UNION BLOCK, 100-124 North Main Street, 1892, 1911. Exhibiting a rather eclectic manner, this two-story Classical Revival influenced vernacular brick block features a plain projecting brick cornice and parapet resting on applied brick pilasters, which vertically divide the brick surfaces of the upper story. Window cornices, raised brick moldings, a wooden balcony over the corner entrance and a

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frontispiece in a classical design further characterize the building. Capped brick pilasters and cast iron columns remain on the storefront. An addition built in a style similar to the original building was constructed on the north end in 1911. Built as rental property for W.H. Pier and Laura McCarthy, the Union Block has housed several long-term businesses.

20. PIER BUILDING AND OPERA HOUSE, 100(a) South Main Street, 1892. A rather eclectic vernacular design, this two-story brick building is characterized by Classical influenced details such as a cornice resting on applied pilasters, and triangular pediment-shaped window moldings. A large three-story annex built in the early twentieth century vernacular Commercial style, was constructed on the south side at 100(b) South Main Street in 1921. Although historically significant, this building is not architecturally significant because of the alteration of second-story windows and the remodelling of the storefront. Used from 1892 to 1928 by the historic Coffland Brothers Mercantile Company, the building was built by W.H. Pier as investment property.

21. KLINZING AND BANKER PLUMBING SHOP, 130 South Main Street, 1928. Constructed of brown brick, this small two-story vernacularized Commercial styled building is characterized by a recessed facade. A storefront featuring a full-length transom window with refractive glass, a recessed central entrance, brick apron and plate glass is placed in the recess. Originally built to house a plumbing business, this building continues to house a plumbing business at the present time.

22. RICHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 179(a) West Seminary Street, 1889, 1953, 1981, 1983. Designed by J.D. Allen in the Romanesque Revival style, this red brick, two-story courthouse is ornamented by white stone accents including lintel courses, massive arched window hoods, recessed open entrance porch with short Romanesque style columns decorated with capitals of carved acanthus leaves and an elevated stone foundation. The main facade is flanked by a square clock tower on the north, and a round tower on the south has a projecting hip roofed entrance bay and second story inset porch (now enclosed). Although historically significant, this building is not architecturally significant because of the removal of the original hip and gable roof and the conical towers roofs in 1953, in an attempt to modernize the building. These elements were partially restored in 1983. A modern addition designed by Fenton Peters was constructed at the rear of the courthouse in 1981.

23. RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL, 179(b) West Seminary Street, 1904, 1981. Designed by Andrew Lew Porter in the Romanesque Revival style, this red brick hip roofed rectangular building is characterized by twin round two-story towers with conical roofs, small round frieze windows and Tudor arched windows that flank the facade. Corbeled brick white stone lentils and sills, a white stone elevated foundation, and a triple arched entrance further characterize this well preserved building. The window panes as well as the original tile roof and entrance door have been replaced. A modern addition designed by Fenton Peters connecting the jail with the courthouse was constructed at the rear in 1981.



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### Notes On Sources

Dates of construction were determined by analyzing a combination of resources including tax records, abstract of properties, newspaper articles, historic photographs, Sanborn Insurance Maps and local histories. Additional information on the historic names and uses were researched in the state business directories and through oral histories. Research of the properties in the proposed Court Street Commercial Historic District was gathered during the 1987 Intensive Survey of Richland Center. Further information about these properties and the remainder of the resources included in the Richland Center Survey can be found on the Intensive Survey Form completed on each property.

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LIST AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTIES IN THE COURT STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION DATE</u>
Postel Bldg.-Pratt Funeral Home	132 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	c.1890,c.1917
Levi Bancroft Law Office	157 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	1885, 1936
Dr. Gideon Benson Office	161 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	1916
Richland Center City Hall and Auditorium. (NRHP 8/18/80)	182 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	1911-1912
Masonic Temple	189 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	1920-1921
United States Post Office	213 N. Central Ave.	Contributing	1935
A.D. Speidel Building	130 S. Central Ave.	Contributing	c.1890
W.H. Pier Bank	142 S. Central Ave.	Contributing	1883
Central Barber Shop	165 S. Central Ave.	Contributing	Btwn. 1912-1920
Krouskop Dept. Store	168 S. Central Ave.	Non-Contributing	1948
Eskin Movie Theater	192 S. Central Ave.	Contributing	1937
Park Hotel	213 S. Central Ave.	Contributing	1873,1899,1926 and 1930
Edwards Block	101 S. Church St.	Contributing	1912-1913
Louis Trager Building	122-126 S. Church St.	Contributing	Early 1920s
T. Brenden Tailor Shop	125 S. Church St.	Contributing	c.1890
Toms Furniture Shop	172(b) S. Church St.	Non-Contributing	1860s
Toms Funeral Parlor	172(a) S. Church St.	Contributing	1920
Le Hew Filling Station	208 S. Church St.	Contributing	1927
McKee Building	101 E. Court St.	Contributing	1887
First National Bank	108 E. Court St.	Contributing	1920, 1976
Sherman Block	119-129 E. Court St.	Contributing	1892 and late 1890s
James Warehouse	142 E. Court St.	Contributing	1914
Barnes & Toms Jewelry Store	155 E. Court St.	Contributing	1895
A.A. Bulard Jewelry Store	155 E. Court St.	Contributing	1883
A.A. Bulard Building	155 E. Court St.	Contributing	Btwn.1885-1892
James Hardware	156 E. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1880, c.1979
D.G. James Building	172 E. Court St.	Contributing	1889
Robinson Building	179 E. Court St.	Contributing	1917
Burnham & Burnham Drug Store	182 E. Court St.	Contributing	1889,1892
Bowen and Lane Meat Market	185-198 E. Court St.	Contributing	Pre-1885
O.J. Burnham Building	159 E. Court St.	Contributing	1889
H.T. Bailey Store and Opera House	194 E. Court St.	Contributing	1883
Pier Garage	243 E. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1911,1913 and c.1939

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NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CLASSIFICATION	CONSTRUCTION
			DATE
Gund Building	100 W. Court St.	Contributing	1860s, 1900, 1913
F.A. Smith Building	101 W. Court St.	Contributing	c. 1890
J. McCollum General Store	116 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1870s
Mainwaring-King Bros. Bldg.	117 W. Court St.	Contributing	c. 1890, Btwn. 1912-1927
Householder Building- Huffman Grocery Store	122 W. Court St.	Contributing	1912
Commercial Building	130 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	pre-1885
Hartz Bldg.-Mehaffey Saloon	131 W. Court St.	Contributing	late 1880s
Commercial Building	134 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	pre-1885
George Mehaffey Bldg.	143 W. Court St.	Contributing	1921
Spiedel's Jewelry Store	145 W. Court St.	Contributing	1887
Sonetz Italian Deli	148 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1984
J.C. Penney Dept. Store	165 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1948
Strang Hardware	165 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1905
D.E. Pease Store	172(a) W. Court St.	Contributing	1899
Pease Building	172(b) W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1890
Schultz's Family Store	172(c) W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1982
F.O. Smith Drug Store	196 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1892, 1943
W.H. Pier Bldg.	195 W. Court St.	Contributing	1911-1912, 1975
Coffland Warehouse	255 W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1910
Keegan Feed Store	279(a) W. Court St.	Contributing	1930s
Keegan Feed Mill	279(b) W. Court St.	Non-Contributing	1948
Union Block, Dieter Bros. Drug Store	100-124 N. Main St.	Contributing	1892, 1911
Pease Block	131-151 N. Main St.	Contributing	1913
Robert Aken Building	150-152 N. Main St.	Non-Contributing	1959-1960
Breeden Grocery Store	156 N. Main St.	Non-Contributing	1959-1960
Pease Building	157 N. Main St.	Non-Contributing	late 1890s
McCollum Building	165 N. Main St.	Contributing	1938
Winterburn Saloon	168-170 N. Main St.	Non-Contributing	late 1890s, c. 1949
William Spickard Bldg.	174 N. Main St.	Contributing	1916
Ed. James Furniture Store	182 N. Main St.	Contributing	1913
Winn Creamery	194 N. Main St.	Non-Contributing	c. 1880s, 1925
Pier Bldg. and Opera House	100(a) S. Main St.	Contributing	1892
Coffland Annex	100(b) S. Main St.	Contributing	1921
Klinzing and Banker Plumbing Shop	130 S. Main St.	Contributing	1928
Schuerman Building	149 E. Mill St.	Contributing	1930s
Prouty Block	188 E. Mill St.	Contributing	1920
Brucken Red Arrow Garage	155-161 E. Seminary	Contributing	1926
Richland County Courthouse	179 <sup>a</sup> W. Seminary St.	Contributing	1889, 1953, 1981, 1983
Richland County Sheriff's Office and Jail	179 <sup>b</sup> W. Seminary St.	Contributing	1904, 1981

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  X  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  X A \_\_\_B  X C \_\_\_D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>1870s - 1938</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	_____	_____
<u>Politics/Government</u>	_____	_____
<u>Social History</u>	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u>N/A</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jones, David R.  
Allen, J.D.

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

The proposed Richland Center Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C because it is an assemblage of significant examples of structures and buildings that represent various periods of construction in Richland Center during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. These mostly commercial buildings were united by a common function to supply local industries as well as the growing agricultural and urban community. Characterized by historic nineteenth century and early modern twentieth century architectural styles, the physical environment visually suggests a specific historic time period extending from the 1870s to 1938. Few intrusions detract from the general nineteenth century character created by the 72 properties. Although the majority of the storefronts have been remodeled, many of the buildings still retain a significant amount of their original integrity and represent the largest concentration of architecturally significant commercial buildings in the city.

The Court Street Commercial District gains significance under National Register criterion A by representing Richland Center as a typical nineteenth and early twentieth century trading center. Because it is a common phenomenon across Wisconsin and because Richland Center served local rural communities in northern Richland County, the commercial district possesses local significance. The contexts in which it acquires this significance include: Commerce Theme: Goods and Services, Wholesale Trade, and Information Services Topics; Government Theme: County Government and Local Government Topics; and Social and Political Movements Theme: Temperance Movement, Woman's Suffrage, Women's Organizations, and Fraternal Organizations. The areas of significance which are justified by these themes and topics include COMMERCE, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, AND SOCIAL HISTORY. The period

X  See continuation sheet

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within which the district gains historical significance extends from the initial building stimulated by the erection of the railroad in 1874, encompasses the first period of expansion beginning in the late 1870s and ending in the 1890s, and ends with the cessation of the second period of heightened commercial activity in the Richland Center business community from 1910 into the 1920s.

A complete discussion of how the historic district properties specifically meet the National Register criteria listed above and how the district properties relate to Wisconsin's cultural resource management plan, will be given under each theme listed above, after a brief discussion of the district's historical background.

Historical Background

The initial agricultural settlement of Richland County began in earnest in the 1850s (American Independent, 1855 [3/32] [sic]; Butterfield, 1884:890). Quickly becoming commercial farmers, these settlers required services and outlets for their products providing the impetus for the founding of small trade centers in Richland County in the 1850s. Richland Center was platted by Ira Haseltine as a county seat in 1851 (Gregory, 1932:1289; Scott, 1972:39).

As the county seat, Richland Center fulfilled functions as a major trade and political center. They usually developed along well-traveled transportation routes and railroad lines providing a large number of economic services to a broad hinterland. Rural communities within a radius of four miles utilized the county seat's services much more frequently than those twelve to fifteen miles or a day's journey distant. The county seat also depended upon the services of closer, smaller communities. Businesses, crafts, commercial or wholesale enterprises, and at least several major industries, and a larger number of minor ones composed the typical economic services. In the initial stages of development, businesses, a large array of craftsmen, and several small industries such as the local mills and somewhat later small commercial enterprises who maintained small warehouses composed the core of the economy. Industrial and commercial enterprises processed and stored local, natural products for community use and shipment to major commercial centers. As the hinterlands grew, businesses proliferated, several large industries developed, and commercial enterprises extended the economic influence of the county seat beyond the travel radius of twelve to fifteen miles in part by establishing trade with outlying communities and shipping its goods to more commercial centers lying well beyond the county's boundaries (McKay, 1984, 1987; Atherton, 1954; Mason, 1984; Russo, 1974). Thus, Richland Center's economic importance focuses upon its function as an economic center, an attribute characteristic of county seats.

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Richland Center served an outlying agricultural hinterland whose size altered through time as the kind and number of economic and other social services offered by Richland Center changed. This hinterland is composed of a number of rural communities which formed almost if not all of the midwestern countryside. The inhabitants of the rural community, primarily farmers, maintained a symbiotic relationship with nearby, more densely populated central places, the villages and cities. These central places offered the rural community needed merchandise and markets, and the farmers of the rural communities consumed goods and provided necessary agricultural products and raw materials (Hine, 1980; McKay, 1984; 1987; Bogue, 1973). Farmers in Richland Center's surrounding rural communities, then, provided natural products for processing by its industries and storage by its commercial enterprises as well as supporting a large array of businesses and crafts. For this reason, the agricultural development of this hinterland largely influenced the direction of the community's economy.

Until the arrival of the railroad to Richland Center in the mid-1870s, it remained relatively isolated and markets for goods sold at Richland Center were primarily local. Also hindered by the depression of the late 1850s and early 1860s, economic growth was rather slow through the 1860s (Scott, 1972:15, 35; Nesbit, 1973:342; Gregory, 1932:1278, 1287, 1345, 1369). Haseltine erected a dam, sawmill, and gristmill by 1854 along the adjacent Pine River. By this date, the community had acquired a hotel, post office, three mercantile stores, a blacksmith, and eight dwellings. Additional, more specialized enterprises appeared between 1856-1858, for example a hardware store, wagon shop, cobbler, brick yard, baker, jewelry store, cabinet shop, and several tanneries and asheries. But, most of these early enterprises proved to be unstable (Gregory, 1932:1363-64; 1370; Scott, 1972:4, 10, 15). During the 1860s, as Richland Center also acquired centrality as the county seat, it gained a larger, more stable business and craft base. Such small county seats were common to the midwestern frontier (McKay, 1987; Mason, 1984; Atherton, 1954).

Transportation played an important role in the economic development of Richland Center as a trade center. Local roads did not emerge until after the mid-1840s. No identified state roads crossed the county until 1871. Poor roads limited daily travel to three or four miles and a day's journey to twelve to fifteen miles. With markets initially at Madison, Milwaukee, Mineral Point, and Platteville before the mid-1850s, regional markets were not easily accessible. However, the presence of the Milwaukee and Mississippi at Lone Rock, still a good day's journey away, did provide distant regional markets at Milwaukee and Chicago by 1856. Richland Center's growth expanded after the arrival of the branch line from Lone Rock in 1876. Growth did not gain momentum until the late 1870s. As in all rural communities, such long-distance transportation did not improve local movement. Poor road conditions remained static until the twentieth century when the use of the automobile demanded the improvement of the road system (Wyatt, 1986 [Transportation]:II, 1-1-2, 5-1, 8-1; McKay, 1984; Gregory, 1932:1297, 1318, 1384; Butterfield, 1884:189, 948, 1191; Anonymous [broadside], 1871; Scott, 1972:16, 31, 54, 83-84; Nesbit, 1973:18; 1985:145; Current, 1976:30).

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Since the majority of the farmers arrived with the intent of establishing commercial agriculture, rural communities generally developed adjacent to trade centers and road networks. From about 1855 to 1870, the outlying farms participated in commercial wheat production. As wheat production shifted west, a mixed cropping and livestock economy marked the transition from wheat farming to commercial dairying between 1870 and about 1890. Production diversity emphasizing feed crops, a variety of livestock, small grains, and an increasing amount of dairying altered from tentative experimentation to serious production from the late 1870s to 1890s. After 1890, most farmers engaged heavily in dairying, arranging their farming schedule and other products around this central focus. With the expansion of urban populations by the late 1880s, commercial poultry production often in combination with dairying boomed as well (Nesbit, 1973:101, 181-85, 273; 1985:7-15; Current, 1976:90; Gregory, 1932:1315; Wyatt, 1986 [Agriculture]:II, 2-1-3, 8-1, 11). With the expansion of the dairying industry, butter and cheese production moved from the farm to the factory. Richland Center's businesses first entered dairy production through the production of butter in the mid-1880s, of cheese after the turn of the century, and condensary products by the second decade of the century (Scott n.d. [Local History Room, Mss. 825]; Butterfield, 1884:1192). Dairying remained a predominate industry in Richland Center through the 1940s.

As indicated in the overview, Richland Center gained its primary economic importance as a trade center eventually serving much of the northern half of the county. However, from settlement to 1870, it experienced slow business growth and no commercial growth. Mercantile stores which existed at Richland Center during this period probably carried out necessary commercial functions such as buying of local goods, storage, and in some cases wholesaling goods to small communities. After the arrival of the railroad and the subsequent improvement of agricultural prices in the mid-1870s, the number of businesses doubled. Retail and service establishments continued to dominate the economy. The community shows its greatest rise in prosperity between 1879 and 1891 as it consolidated its newly gained transportation advantage. During this period, Richland Center's commercial enterprises became and remained separate from its businesses. Even so, the community continued to support a low level of commercial activity. As was the case in most trade centers, the business sector of its economy not only grew in numbers but also became more specialized as demand warranted it. And, as businesses and professions proliferated late in the century, they tended to be less stable and smaller in size. Through the depression of the 1890s and into the first decade of the twentieth century, the economy became static despite the general agricultural prosperity across the Midwest. It grew significantly between 1911 and 1921 perhaps reflecting a prosperous dairy economy. Beginning at about the turn of the century, retailers who purchased mass-produced goods from large commercial centers generally replaced craftsmen who declined in number. Craftsmen retained their position into the early years of the twentieth century in Richland Center. By the 1920s, chain stores became more common and replaced some local businesses. Business growth again halted as the agricultural economy showed increasing signs of the 1929 crash through the 1930s.

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During and slightly before its period of expansion from the late 1870s into the 1890s, Richland Center's commercial district acquired the services of three private, relatively stable banks in c. 1870, 1881, and 1891. It maintained its number of mercantile stores which in early years dominated the business and commercial enterprises through their multiple functions including retail, wholesale, purchasing, banking, and shipment. Additional, more specialized businesses included several hardware stores central to the needs of the agricultural hinterlands, three to four drugstores several of which were associated with the Burnham family, two jewelry stores, two stable furniture stores, two to three hotels essential to the more transient population of a county seat, probably six to eight lawyers, and a vacillating number of saloons. Growing in number and degree of specialization and declining in stability, the kinds of businesses did not alter radically in the second period of growth from about 1910 to the early 1920s. During this period, the most significant change involved the gradual reduction of services available in the mercantile store and their gradual replacement by the chain store.

Richland Center remained primarily a retail center for the northern portion of the county. Prior to 1891, large retailers, general merchants and millers, often also engaged in commerce. They purchased local products, stored them, and sold and transported primarily agricultural and wood products extra-locally. But, by the turn of the century until 1927, the number rose to about seven from around two. Specific wholesale and purchasing activities included wholesale notions, cheese, groceries, fruits, tobacco, and lumber and dealing in produce, livestock, poultry, eggs, wool, and feed (McKay, 1985:209-210; 433-34; Current, 1976:14; Scott, 1972:58, 123, 182-33, 214; Hawes, 1863:200; M.T. Platt, 1873; Hoag, 1879:443; R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:900-02; 1901:948-50; 1911:1106-08; 1921:1126-28; 1927:892-94). Also, as a county seat, Richland Center supported a newspaper by 1855 shortly after its founding to act as the mouthpiece of the county government. Through numerous consolidations, this newspaper remains in business to the present (Scott, 1972:13, 31, 41-42, 58, 79, 100, 126, 187-88, 224, 299-300; Gregory, 1932:1337-39).

The industrial base of recently settled trade centers was often difficult to distinguish from their craft enterprises. Well into the late nineteenth century in southwestern Wisconsin, crafts far exceeded the manufacturers which were often derived from a craft base. They included services to the farmer and the processing of local natural products (Danhof, 1969:3; Wade, 1959:60; Rohrbough, 1978:348). Richland Center retained a diverse number of crafts into the twentieth century. Some of its early industries such as the asheries and tanneries paralleled a craft tradition. As late as 1900, Richland Center and its hinterlands supported 114 craftsmen as opposed to the approximately 48 in 1860 (U.S. Department of the Interior, Census 1860; 1870; 1880; 1900). Richland Center's relative isolation to 1876 may have prolonged their importance.



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Richland Center acquired additional importance as a county seat, a status which it gained in 1852. The 1857 placement of the courthouse in a separate square isolated from the business district, symbolically elevated its importance and emphasized the presence of the state government at the county level. It became not only a center of political life but also of other large public gatherings and rallies as well as community organizations. Its non-political functions diminished as public halls were erected (Butterfield, 1884:783; Gregory, 1932:1284, 1289, 1316; Republican Observer, 1898 [3/27]). The county replaced the courthouse donated in 1852 by several others built in 1857, 1860, and 1889. Erected in 1856, the jail was placed adjacent to the courthouse on the square in 1862 and replaced in 1867 and again in 1904 (Scott, 1972:18, 36-37, 40, 79; Butterfield, 1884:787, 790, 794; Republican Observer, 1989 [3/27]; 1904 [4/7, 5/19]).

Like the courthouse, the city's seat of government eventually became an important community center. Reflecting the commercial and population expansion, the settlement did not gain status as a city until 1887. Its status as a city established the necessary governmental authority to provide services needed by a growing community and to promote itself as a commercial center. Richland Center's efforts to first advertise its virtues during its early years of development and then later in the century to improve its physical and social well-being represent a booster ethnic prevalent during the second half of the nineteenth century (Moline, 1971:7-8; Nesbit, 1985:379). Richland Center experienced few substantial physical improvements beyond the control of public nuisances until the 1880s. After the acquisition of the city charter in 1887, the city granted licenses and regulated businesses, established building codes, and provided city lighting, fire protection, and a public water works prior to 1900. City improvements not only multiplied after the turn of the century, but also included social benefits. Its first city hall was erected between 1889 and 1905. The city gained improved streets, arc street lamps, a municipal power plant, a new post office, and a renovated dam. During an era of national reform movements, the city's social services included the Carnegie Library, a city hospital, a municipal auditorium, a new high school, and a public swimming pool (Keppler, 1984; Scott, 1972:176; Democrat, 1916 [3/5:1]; Gregory, 1932:1385).

Richland Center like many other small cities of the late nineteenth century found unity in a rapidly changing world through the increasing leadership of its newly formed city government rather than the informal cooperation of its citizens. Those behind these improvement movements remained the old, well-established families who had much invested in the community. The transitional period in the city's economy at the turn of the century from lumbering to dairy operations threatened their economic position. The attraction of new residents and businesses through improved physical and social surroundings held the promise of new economic stability which came in the second decade.

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Many of Richland Center's social movements were stimulated and guided by voluntary organizations. Becoming more prevalent after the Civil War, these organizations formed to carry out functions once performed informally by individual citizens. Each organization possessed specific goals, duties, values, and rules occasionally expressed in a constitution. These crosscutting organizations provided a basis of joint action in a mobile society and accomplished a wide range of community tasks (McKay, 1985; Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:5-1-2; Current, 1976:525-26, 535). Rather than maintaining their own meeting locations, they often met in local and county government buildings, public halls above commercial buildings in the commercial district, churches, and private residences.

Richland Center supported a large and diverse number of voluntary organizations including fraternal organizations, women's groups, temperance and suffrage groups, and those associated with health services from a comparatively early period.

Denied a voice in public, women found an avenue of expression and accomplished their goals through voluntary organizations. Women including those of Richland Center addressed such issues as slavery, temperance, suffrage, education, health, libraries, additional civic improvements, and other reforms (Wyatt [Social and Political Movement]:III, 4-19). The most visible but by no means the only women's group included the Women's Club, the Political Equality Club, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Federated Women's Club. Although addressing many other issues, these groups participated heavily in woman's suffrage, temperance, and civic improvements.

With their small size and intimacy, well-defined organization, and religious and moralistic overtones, fraternal lodges provided a sense of order which many midwestern communities lacked toward the end of the nineteenth century. They initially existed to offer companionship and occasionally welfare services. Such groups in Richland Center included the Masons, Good Templars, Odd Fellows, Knight of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors, the Loyal Temperance League, and the Grand Army of the Republic. By the 1890s, they became more service oriented and began to perform a large number of social, political, and economic functions for the community. The fraternal organizations' alteration in function paralleled its government's acquisition of greater responsibility in the maintenance of the community. They, like the women's organizations, became a social focal point of the community providing another avenue through which the community could act and sustain itself. These later forms included the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club, a civic improvement group, and to a large degree the American Legion. Richland Center's fraternal lodges met within the commercial district in their own lodge halls, in community halls above commercial buildings, and in public buildings as well as in churches (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 5-1-5; Nesbit, 1985:686; McKay, 1985; Rebhahn, 1981:18-20; Butterfield, 1884:1173-79; Scott, 1972:24, 33, 89, 112, 144, 185-86, 199, 201, 208; Miner, 1926:269; Richland County Historical Society, 1986:24, 36; Brewer, 1977; Feyer, 1987:27, 32).

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Temperance and women's suffrage organizations represented a significant group in Richland Center. Both groups first gained momentum at mid-century. Engaged in a broader social movement in the second half of the nineteenth century, those involved in these organizations often extended their energies to other social and economic reforms as well (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 2-1; Rebhahn, 1981:6).

The temperance movement linked the social ills of a rapidly changing society to the consumption of alcohol. The simple solution to much more complex issues became the prohibition of alcohol. In Richland Center, the first temperance organization met in 1856 and 1857 with the formation of the Good Templars. The issue became revived again after the Civil War as the question of licensing arose in 1866 and the Good Templars revived their activities. State legislation initiated the frequently changing licensing policy in Richland Center in 1877. The community policy toward the issue of licensing vacillated frequently until 1908 when the city government prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages. After initial confrontation in the mid-1870s, the issue remained alive through the century. By the twentieth century, local supporters of the temperance movement looked more actively beyond regulation in their own community to state and national temperance laws resulting in national prohibition in 1917. Active temperance organizations such as the churches, the Good Templars, the Ladies Temperance Society, the Sons of Temperance, the Richland Temple of Honor, Woman Christian Temperance Union formed in 1887, and the Anti-Saloon League established in 1897 sponsored lectures and meetings at private halls in the commercial district as well as the churches, other public buildings, and private homes. Thus, the operation of saloons in the commercial district tended to be rather sporadic and publicly identified saloons closed by 1908 (Rebhahn, 1981:16-24, 26-31; Scott, 1972:19-20, 32, 60, 107-08, 130, 162, 192; Butterfield, 1884:1174; Local History Room, Mss. 417; Wyatt [Social and Political Movements]:III, 2-3-6).

The changing role of the family within society and consequently the responsibilities of women in them stimulated the women's suffrage movement beginning in the 1850s and intensifying in the 1880s as women began to enter the work force. The changing position of women within the greater society focused the issue at the national and state levels in the 1890s (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 1-2-3; Nesbit, 1985:459, 463, 469; Keppler, 1984:32, 56). Formed in 1882, the Women's Club in Richland Center represented an early and active suffrage organization. Their club meetings occurred in private homes while their more public meetings gathered in community halls. Early participants such as Julia Bowen, Laura Briggs James, Georgianna James, and Belle Bailey sought the right to vote locally. The failure of the 1886 legislation allowing women to vote in school elections stalled the suffrage movement in Richland Center by the early 1890s. But by the 1890s, the focus of the movement changed from participation in the local election process to a movement of a state and national scope. Women strove for a more active advocacy and no longer attempted to maintain a low profile. Women such as Ada James and Grace Lincoln lead this new phase of the movement in Richland

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Center. With the advocacy of several national level suffrage organizations in which Ada James participated and with the role women played during World War I, these women achieved their goal with the passage of the suffrage amendment in 1919 (Keppler, 1984:1-8, 13, 18, 22-30, 37, 40-44, 48, 50-52, 56; Scott, 1972:90-92, 112-13, 167; Local History Room, Mss. 141; Clark, 1956; Hussong, 1924; Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 3-3-7).

At mid-century, families remained responsible for the care of the sick as well as many other services. It was one of the last welfare duties to leave the home beginning in the late nineteenth century. Patients received health care either in the home or in the office of a general practitioner. Thus, the majority of buildings representing this profession are dwellings or spaces in commercial buildings used as offices by the medical profession. Opening in 1901, the first hospital in Richland Center was located in a private residence. In 1924, Richland Center gained a new community hospital bringing an end to the performance of major medical procedures within the office (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]: III, 6-1-4; Scott, 1972:105, 160, 195-198, 224-26, 254, 282-83; 1981:159-62, 165-66; Local History Room, Mss. 60 and 268).

Thus, the commercial district of Richland Center remained a focal point for the community itself, the surrounding rural hinterlands, and politically for the county. As a trade center, it provided those businesses and crafts and a limited number of commercial services necessary for to fulfill its own needs and those of the surrounding farms. Its public buildings and halls provided meeting areas for voluntary organizations primarily with community-wide membership. And, its government buildings served both the City of Richland Center and the county. These buildings also provided spaces for public gatherings and the meetings of voluntary organizations.

### Architecture

Comprised of most of the significant commercial and governmental buildings and a few of the significant industrial buildings in Richland Center, the Court Street Commercial Historic District represents the architectural development of the city from its establishment as a trade center that developed in conjunction with the milling industry and the railway center through the early decades of the twentieth century until the last major historic building was constructed in 1938 (165 North Main Street).

A combination of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural influences characterize the visual environment of the Court Street Historic District. Almost half of the buildings were constructed in the 1880s and 1890s. Most of the remaining buildings were built in the first three decades of the twentieth century with the greatest construction activity occurring from 1910 to 1930. Building activity since the historic period has slowed considerably. Only six of the buildings were constructed since 1940. Although the buildings in

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Richland Center's commercial center were constructed generally with a functional emphasis, many exhibit at least some influence of the architectural styles popular at the time. Italianate, Romanesque, Classical and the Commercial styles are among the sources shaping the architectural environment of Richland Center. The more abstract compatibility of character exists because the buildings were constructed in a mostly vernacular interpretation of prevalent architectural styles with a conservative amount of ornament.

Distinguished by a uniformity of scale, the proposed Court Street Historic District is composed of two and three-story buildings except for several one-story mostly non-contributing buildings. Characterized by a predominance of wood buildings in the mid-nineteenth century, the city's commercial district was one-half brick construction by the turn of the century. Altered extensively and covered by modern siding, only five wooden buildings remain as non-contributing properties in the Court Street Historic District (Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1885-1927). One stone and one concrete building contribute to the variety of construction materials characterizing the commercial district.

Despite a variety of functions and the span of years, the historic buildings in the district maintain an acceptable degree of integrity of scale, materials and design. Removal of architectural details from individual buildings have altered somewhat the quality of the historic character of the district. According to the historic photographs housed in the history room of the Brewer Public Library in Richland Center, the buildings have lost window ornamentation, pediments, and cornices. Also the photographs provide a basis for comparison of the effect of unsympathetic remodeling after fires damaged the Smith Drug Store at 196 West Court Street and the Winn Creamery at 194 North Main Street. Unsympathetic remodeling also diminished the architectural significance of the Richland County Courthouse at 179 West Seminary (now partially restored), the facade of the James Warehouse and Hardware Store at 142 and 156 East Court Street, as well as several small buildings covered by stucco and modern siding. Filling-in and replacing the window shashes as well as altering the window opening has compromised the architectural integrity of notable buildings such as the Pier Building and Opera House at 100 South Main Street, the Pier Building at 195 West Court Street and the Smith Building at 101 West Court Street. Although alteration of the historic fabric of the district has taken place, the Court Street Historic District continues to exhibit a historic architectural character.

Several of the buildings are known to have been designed by architects who maintained offices in the larger cities nearby. The Bailey Store and Opera House at 194 East Court Street and the much altered Pier Bank at 142 South Central Avenue were designed by Madison architect David R. Jones in 1883 (Republican Observer, 17 May 1883). Jones, a Welsh immigrant, began his career as an apprentice to a Racine architect in 1845. While in Madison where he had an office from 1872 to 1885, Jones designed the Assembly Hall (1879), the Library Building (1879), and the Washburn Observatory (1882) for the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison (Rausch and McKay, 1988:220). Professional architects generally were employed to

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design the large public buildings. Madison architect, J.D. Allen designed the Romanesque styled Richland County Courthouse in 1889 and Andrew Lew Porter also created a Romanesque influenced design for the Richland County Sheriff's Office and Jail in 1904 (Scott, 1982:6-40; Republican Observer, 19 January 1904). A Madison, Wisconsin, architect, Andrew Lew Porter, formed a partnership with Allan Conover in 1843. Based in Madison until 1927, the firm of Conover and Porter designed many important structures throughout the state, including the U.W. Science Hall, 1888, the University of Wisconsin Armory and Gymnasium, 1844, the First Methodist Church in Chippewa Falls (1892), and the Christ Episcopal Church in Chippewa Falls, 1897 (Rausch and McKay, 1988:222).

In the early twentieth century, large public buildings were the principal recipients of the designs created by professional architects. A young avant-garde La Crosse architect Percy Bentley designed the City Hall and Auditorium at 182 North Central Avenue in 1911 in a "modernized classical style" (Republican Observer, 1 February 1911, 10 August 1911). After studying for short period of time at Chicago's Armour Institute in 1906 and 1909, Bentley returned home to LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Bentley formed a brief partnership with Bajari in 1910, at which time he hired his future partner, Otto Merman, as a draftsman. Locally significant for his Prairie School houses, Bentley left LaCrosse c. 1918. In the 1930s, Bentley became a noted designer of the Colonial Revival styled architecture in the state of Oregon. Bentley also reportedly designed the F.H. Pratt House at 314 North Central Avenue in Richland Center around 1919 (Rausch and McKay, 1988:222). A St. Paul based firm, A. Moorman and Co., specializing in bank design designed and built the Neo-classical First National Bank at 108 East Court Street in 1920 while Madison architect Edward Tough designed the Masonic Temple at 189 North Central Avenue in the same year in the Neo-classical style (Democrat, 14 April 1920; Republican Observer, 3 March 1920, 25 March 1920, 22 April 1920). Specializing as designers of elegant bank buildings throughout the upper Mid-west, the Moorman Company produced a finished product that included both interior planning and construction, as well as the exterior design and construction. Established c. 1905, the Moorman Company reportedly was constructing from 25 to 40 bank buildings a year in the 1920s in 17 midwestern states. Banks designed and constructed by this firm include the First National Bank in Platteville, Wisconsin (1925) and the Northwestern State Bank in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin (1925), as well as banks in places, such as Fayette, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; Centerville, South Dakota; St. Paul, Minnesota; Highland, Illinois and Louisiana, Missouri. (Journal, 18 February 1925). After serving as Wisconsin's state architect from 1910 to 1913, Tough established a private practice in Madison. Specializing in churches and schools, Tough's architectural designs include Dudgeon School and The Madison Business College building in Madison (Rausch and McKay, 1988:224). In addition, the United States Post Office was designed in a classically derived design, the Georgian Revival style, by the federal government architect Louis Simson in 1935 (Cornerstone; Democrat, 16 January 1935, 5 February 1936). However, the majority of buildings in the nineteenth as well as the twentieth centuries are largely the handiwork of local masons, carpenters, contractors and early architects whose work was recorded infrequently.

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Although the storefronts of many of the buildings in the district have been altered for contemporary use, the buildings within the boundaries of the district create a late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural environment. Vernacular buildings with almost no ornament suggestive of a particular style were built throughout the early commercial history of Richland Center. The vernacular building tradition also tempers most of the popular architectural influences. As a result, many buildings can only be referred to as being influenced by a particular style rather than as an example of a particular recognized architectural style. Among the earliest of the buildings in the Court Street District, the Bowen and Lane Meat Market, built before 1885 at 185-198 East Court Street, exhibits a simple corbeled brick cornice decorated with classical dentils and a paneled brick frieze. Architecturally significant because it is the best preserved of the small vernacular brick commercial buildings, the Barnes and Toms Jewelry Store built in 1895 at 155 East Court Street continues to exhibit a historic styled storefront featuring a double-leafed wooden door and transom window flanked by iron columns (Abstract of Property; Republican Observer, 30 January 1895). Simple vernacular brick buildings were built in Richland Center as late as the 1930s. Exhibiting corbeled brick cornices and paneled friezes similar to the nineteenth century vernacular buildings, twentieth century examples altered by the additions of modern storefronts are the 1917 Robinson Building at 179 East Court Street, the 1916 Spickard Building at 174 North Main Street and the James Furniture Store built in 1913 at 182 North Main Street (Tax Assessment Records). Slightly more elaborate brick work characterizes several vernacular brick buildings. Built in 1912 to replace the Cleveland Drug Store, the two-story Huffman Grocery Store and Residence building at 122 West Court Street features a row of dentils along the edge of the recessed window bays on the upper story in addition to the "rick-rack" brick trim on the cornice (Republican Observer, 21 November 1912, 27 May 1912).

Much of the commercial architecture in Richland Center in the nineteenth century reflected the Italianate fashion, generally popular from 1800 to 1880. Italianate design sources, the most popular commercial style in America, were used eclectically to create the commercial Italianate style. Featuring articulated decorative window treatment, the flat roofed, Italianate styled commercial building is crowned at the eaves by a projecting cornice with modillions or brackets. Cornices and classical motifs and architectural details are used for ornament.

Italianate design sources were used to create the designs for the earliest of the more fashionable commercial buildings in the district. The most elaborate and best preserved of the six architecturally significant Italianate influenced buildings in the district, the Bailey Store and Opera House built in 1883 at 194 East Court Street exhibits the decorative window treatment and compartmentalization of the facade characteristic of the Italianate style. Constructed of local brick, the H.T. Bailey Store also exhibits the contrasting coloration and textures typical of the Victorian period as well as the massive iron cornice. Built as one brick unit in 1889, the James Building at 172 East Court Street and the Burnham and

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Burnham Drug Store at 182 East Court Street not only share a massive iron Italianate cornice but also exhibit identical ornamental window treatment (Scott, 1981:56,70,210-211; Sanborn Maps, 1892; Abstract of Property). Identically styled galvanized iron cornices also ornament three architecturally significant adjacent Italianate styled brick buildings also built in the 1880s in the 100 block of East Court Street. The first of these, built in 1883, the Bulard Jewelry Store at 155 East Court Street also features stone window heads with incised decoration. Exhibiting almost identical designs, another Bulard Building constructed later around 1890 at 155 East Court Street and the O.J. Burnham building built in 1889 at 159 East Court Street display facades articulated by ornamental iron pilasters and dominated by large Italianate styled iron cornices. Stylistic characteristics of the fashionable Italianate style also were used by local builders to ornament vernacular building forms. Architecturally significant as the best preserved of the late nineteenth century vernacular brick buildings in the proposed district, the cream brick former Mehaffey Saloon at 131 West Court Street is ornamented by Italianate influenced red brick segmental arched windows with white keystones, and a brick cornice (Republican Observer, 11 October 1883; Abstract of Property; Sanborn Maps, 1885-1927).

Although the Italianate style had the greatest influence on the nineteenth century buildings in the proposed district, Romanesque and Classical Revivals also were among the sources which shaped the architectural environment of Richland Center. Revival of Romanesque architecture, a round arch medieval style, began in the 1840s in America. Used for all openings, the semicircular arch form also was repeated in miniature in the arcaded corbel tables under string courses and eaves, including the raking eaves of the gable. Built in 1889 during the Victorian era when building materials in contrasting colors were used to emphasize the structural parts, the Richland Center Courthouse at 179 West Seminary Street is among the most elaborate of the Romanesque Revival influenced buildings in the proposed district and in the city as well. Constructed of local red brick and ornamented by white stone lintel courses, window and door voussiors, elevated foundation and porch, the courthouse exhibits the round arches and flanking towers typical of the style. Although sympathetically restored in 1983, the courthouse's original architectural character was diminished when the roof, cross gables, and tower roofs were replaced in 1953 (Scott, 1982:6-40). In a simplified early twentieth century interpretation of the style, the better preserved Richland County Sheriff's Office and Jail, built in 1904 at 179 West Seminary Street, exhibits the large simple round arches, the corbeled brick and decorative rough cut-stone ornament associated with the Richardsonian influenced Romanesque style of the early twentieth century (Republican Observer, 19 January 1904, 2 February 1904, 4 May 1904).

Evidence of the late nineteenth century Classical Revival is displayed by the more or less vernacular brick structures built during the 1890s in the proposed commercial district. Classical architectural details including various cornices, a parapet, brick pilasters and classical frontispiece were used to ornament the Union



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Block built in 1892 at 100 North Main Street for W.H. Pier and Mrs. Laura McCarthy. Similar classically derived architectural details were used on another less well preserved building also erected for W.H. Pier in the same year, the Pier Building and Opera House at 100 South Main Street (Republican Observer, 21 April 1892, 6 October 1892).

The buildings constructed in the early twentieth century in the proposed Court Street Historic District reflect the conflicting trends of historic architecture and the new, modern styles that characterized the period. Classicism was the major design source for the more prominent early twentieth century historic styled public and commercial architecture in Richland Center. Frequently used by public institutions to symbolize stability and status in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the more refined Neo-classical Revival of the 1890s and early twentieth century was based more on the Greek orders than the Roman, employing linteled doorways and windows and pedimented porticos with Greek columns rather than Roman columns. This trend toward the use of classicism in architectural styles in the early twentieth century was propagated by American architects who were schooled in the French Ecole des Beaux-Arts tradition that was characterized by a mixture of Greek and Roman influences. In addition, the use of classical forms was displayed with overwhelming success at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, becoming the preferred style expressing corporate wealth for several decades thereafter. Five of the large governmental, social and commercial buildings constructed in Richland Center in the second and third decades of the twentieth century were designed using the classical architectural vocabulary. The earliest of the five Classical influenced buildings to be built during the early twentieth century "building boom" in the city and the least well preserved is the W.H. Pier Building used originally as the United States Post Office built at 195 West Court Street in 1911. Built of brick and reinforced concrete, the Pier Building characterized by a cornice and parapet, arched windows, and rusticated lower story was extensively remodeled on the interior as a bank in 1920 (Democrat, 13 September 1911, 16 November 1921). The best preserved and most elaborate example of the Classically derived Beaux-Arts influence in the proposed Court Street Historic District is the Masonic Temple built a decade later in 1920 at 189 North Central Avenue. Designed by Madison architect Edward Tough, the Masonic Temple exhibits colossal columns and pilasters, classic pedimented entablature, and arched window with articulated keystone (Republican Observer, 3 March 1920, 25 March 1920). During the same year, 1920, the most traditional example of the Neo-classic style in Richland Center, the architecturally significant First National at 108 East Court Street Bank was designed and built by the Moorman Company of St. Paul.

Constructed of Bedford stone, the First National Bank exhibits a colossal portico characterized by two-story Ionic columns, end piers with Corinthian capitals and a facade featuring a Classical frontispiece, entablature, applied pilasters and Classical ornament (Democrat, 14 April 1920). A less traditional, more stylized example of the Classical influence in the commercial district, the

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Richland Center City Hall and Auditorium was constructed a decade earlier at 182 North Central Avenue in 1911. Designed by a young architect, Percy Bentley, from La Crosse in a "modernized classical style," the City Hall and Auditorium exhibits the Classical entablature, Ionic columns, rusticated base and modillion trimmed cornice associated with the Neo-classical style (Republican Observer, 1 February 1911, 10 August 1911).

In the late stage of the Period Revival, designs from Classical sources continued to be used for important public buildings but in a less traditional manner. Clearly the best example of the Period Revival in the proposed historic district, the United States Post Office at 213 North Central Avenue was designed in 1935 by a government architect, Louis Simon, in the classically derived Georgian Revival style. Funded by a \$50,000 federal grant, this red brick post office building displays a symmetrical formal arrangement enriched with rather abstract Classical details in a restrained interpretation of the style typical of the late historic era (Cornerstone; Democrat, 16 January 1935, 5 February 1935).

The use of Classical influenced architectural details for small vernacular buildings generally began to decline in Richland Center in the early twentieth century. The Gideon Benson Medical Office Building constructed in 1916 at 161 North Central Avenue is ornamented only by a plane corbeled brick cornice in a manner typical of the early twentieth century vernacular commercial building in transition between non-ornamented early modern and traditional historic styles.

Historic styles other than the Classical Revival styles exerted minimal influence on the buildings of the proposed Court Street Historic District. The term "Period Revival" is often used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects borrowed during the first four decades of the twentieth century, but particularly during the 1920s. Many architects commonly advertised their expertise in a broad stylistic range during this period. During the era of the Period Revival, only the English Tudor Revival style was employed in addition to the Classical Revival style. Tudor Revival styles draw primarily upon English antecedents of the sixteenth century. Ornamental half-timbering applied over a conventional balloon frame structure and in-filled with stucco or brick is a hallmark of the Tudor Revival. The style is characterized by elaborate decorative chimneys, multi-gabled rooflines, and large window expanses subdivided by a multitude of mullions. Tudor Revival structures are irregular in plan. Although also used for the red tile roofed Brucken Garage at 155-161 East Seminary Street in 1926, the small multi-gabled Le Hew Filling Station at 208 South Church Street is the best preserved representative of the style in the proposed historic district.

The trend toward a new modern style fueled by a distaste for decorative and historic styles of the past was displayed in the early modern Commercial Style influenced buildings built in the proposed Court Street Historic District in the second and third decades of the twentieth century. The Commercial Style refers to the commercial and office form that developed in the late nineteenth century,

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primarily in response to the new technologies that permitted greater physical height and larger expanses of open floor space. Metal skeleton framing, first in cast and wrought iron, later in steel, was foremost among the new technological developments developing between 1895 and 1930. Typically five or more stories in height, the Commercial Style's character derives from its fenestration. Whereas load-bearing masonry walls admitted relatively few windows, the new structural skeleton permitted maximum light and ventilation. The fenestration pattern is usually regular with large divided rectangular windows. Displaying characteristics of the new Commercial style and of the Louis Sullivan tradition begun in the late nineteenth century, the three-story Edwards Block at 101 South Church Street is divided evenly between vertical piers and horizontal spandrels. However, the Edwards building also is organized in vertical bands by piers that rise unbroken through the greater part of the elevation and are terminated by a flat roof and a boldly projecting cornice in the manner of Louis Sullivan. Triple windows with raised geometric ornament on the spandrels recessed behind the face of the piers and supported by the internal steel frame construction gives this brick faced building a skeletal appearance (Republican Observer, 12 December 1912 and 14 August 1913).

Small early modern commercial buildings in the proposed commercial historic district also were constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century in a rather utilitarian manner employing simple red brick surfaces and simple windows without specific historic ornament. Generally built using modern steel construction methods, buildings such as the Toms Funeral Home addition built in 1920 at 172 South Church Street, the 1928 Klinzing and Banker Plumbing Shop at 130 South Main Street and 1920s Trager Building at 122-126 South Church Street exhibit the plain surfaces and window treatment of the early modern, vernacularized Commercial Style, as well as selected historic details such as cornices, pediments and pilasters.

By the mid-1930s, the remnants of the historic ornament found in the earlier decades of the twentieth century in Richland Center no longer ornamented the commercial buildings. Simple plain brick surfaces and plain rectangular windows characterize the Eskin Theater at 192 South Central Avenue designed by Joe Durant of Boscobel in 1937 (Scott, 1972:241).

The Court Street Commercial Historic District contains an architecturally significant concentration of historic commercial structures which together reflect the local architectural history of Richland Center from 1870 to 1937. The structures represent both high style architecture designed by professional architects, as well as vernacular interpretation of the prevailing architectural styles by local contractors and craftsmen and are representative of the range of styles and construction methods prevalent during the period. Together they form the highest concentration of commercial and civic architecture in the city.

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A majority of the properties in the Court Street Commercial District relate to the Goods and Services Topic of the Commerce Theme. This association reflects the emphasis of the district upon retail businesses. Business expansion in Richland Center experienced relatively slow growth in the years prior to 1875. As the economy recovered from the 1873 depression, the community was able to finance a branch railroad which provided access to large, regional markets. The community's prosperity grew rapidly from the late 1870s to the early 1890s. It experienced a second period of growth after its slow recovery from the depression of the 1890s from 1910 to the early 1920s as the farm economy gradually began to decline.

Transportation heavily affected the commercial property of Richland Center. While the extension of the railroad to Richland Center in 1876 (Scott, 1972:54, 83-84) provided access to long distance travel, it did not improve local travel over poor roads from rural communities to trade centers. Local governments continued to construct and maintain roads until 1911 when the state finally allotted funding to transportation. The Good Roads Movements had begun as early as the 1880s as bicyclists wrestled with the poor condition of rural roads. The problem became more immediate as rural mail delivery began in the 1890s and the use of automobiles slowly increased after 1900 (Wyatt, 1986 [Transportation]:II, 8-1; Nesbit, 1985:145). The first automobile appeared in Richland Center in 1904. They became more common between 1911 and 1920, when city ordinances began to regulate their use (Scott, 1972:138, 155, 191; Gregory, 1932:1357).

The rapid rise of garages in the 1920s marked the growing importance of the automobile in the local area. The Brucken Red Arrow Garage was constructed at the sight of the Philip Smith livery stable in 1926 (155-161 E. Seminary). Partners John Brucken and Charles Kennedy replaced the livery with a fire-proof structure. They represented the Ford dealership (Scott, 1972:138-89, 186; Republican Observer, 1926 [11/11, 11/25, 12/2]; 1966 [12/15]; Local History Room, Mss. 1401). The Le Hew Garage or the Corner Service Station (208 S. Church) was erected by John Le Hew in the following year, 1927. By 1936, Felix Kreinz of Pier Auto leased the service station after Le Hew's death (Republican Observer, 1927 [6/6]; 1987 [4/23]; Democrat, 1936 [3/18]; 1952 [3/13]). The Pier Garage (243 E. Court) was constructed by Keith Pier in 1910 (Scott, 1972:116), and a car dealership representing the Ford Company was established in the Prouty Block (188 E. Mill St.) in 1920 (Republican Observer, 1920 [12/4]; Scott, 1972:186).

Thus, as witnessed by the presence of fuel stations and dealerships, the automobile became well established in Richland Center in the 1920s. Travel to and from Richland Center progressed from local and mass individualized or stage travel on poorly maintained roads, to a mass transit system which focused travel and trade upon local trading centers, back to an individualized mode of passenger and freight transportation upon gradually improved roads. These alterations were affected by and produced vast economic and social changes in the local community. In the long

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run, the adaptation of the automobile directed the individualized car and truck traffic away from Richland Center to larger commercial centers resulting in the economic instability enhanced by the 1930s depression.

Then, these garages contributed to the historical significance of the district by physically representing a period of business and industrial instability in the mid-1920s as Richland Center shifted its orientation away from mass transit and firmly concentrated upon the processing of dairy products.

Businesses established within the district from the late 1870s to the early 1890s were generally relatively long-lived, comparatively large enterprises. Some, particularly the mercantile stores, remained from the initial settlement period.

The presence of banks within the community provided a means for citizens to make long-term investments in large enterprises. Their presence thus suggest an expanding economy. Richland Center acquired its first bank, the Pine River Valley Bank, in 1856 (Butterfield, 1884:1156). It lacked the resources to withstand the 1857 panic and never opened its doors. Mercantile stores likely continued to offer short-term credit but they could not afford major investments (McKay, 1985; Butterfield, 1884:1156). A second private bank, the Krouskop Bank, did not form until the mid-1870s (Scott, 1972:69, 74).

Lucrative land investments allowed William H. Pier to establish a third private bank in 1881. In 1883, he located his business in a newly-erected, two-story brick building, now the House of Richard (142 South Central). W.H. Pier's bank acquired its current name, the Richland County Bank, in 1901 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1901:950; Local History Room, Mss. 333). Pier incorporated his bank under a state charter in 1903. The bank erected a new building in 1912 (195 West Court) into which the post office moved in that year. The building underwent extensive remodeling and gained a wing for the abstract office when the bank moved into it in 1920 (Republican Observer, 1883 [10/11, 17]; 1934 [4/34]; Democrat, 1934 [3/14]; Scott, 1972:69, 74, 92, 125, 176, 186, 215-217; Anonymous, Local History Room, Mss. 333 and 1361).

The Pease Brothers and Company Bank was established sometime prior to 1891 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:901). By 1892, it had become the State Bank of Richland Center and by 1893 until 1897 occupied the Richland Observer building (172-182 East Court) (Scott, 1972:96). It moved to a new building erected in 1897, and as the First National Bank by 1905, it erected a second building (108 East Court) replacing its 1897 structure. Closing in 1928, the bank was purchased by the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1935 (Republican Observer, 1920 [11/20]; 1934 [1/31]; Scott, 1972:96, 125, 184, 189, 214; Richland County Historical Society, 1986:377).

Mercantile businesses retained a central importance throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Late in the nineteenth century, specialized entrepreneurs gradually reduced their functions and eventually their numbers (Nesbit, 1985:212; McKay, 1985:209).

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Having established a general merchandise store in Rockbridge in 1855, Dexter E. and David Glasier Pease founded a similar enterprise in Richland Center in 1858. In 1858 to 1859, they erected a frame store at 164 Court Street. It became associated with the Dexter Pease through the nineteenth century. By 1873, the Pease store advertised as a wholesale and retail store selling "...Groceries, boots & shoes, hats, caps, ready-made clothing (Local History Room, Mss. 464 [Pease Scrapbooks, p. 73]). Dexter Pease expanded his operations adding a second building adjacent to and west of the first in 1890, the Pease Shoe Store or Men's Store (172 West Court). In 1899, he moved the 1858-1859 frame store to 157 West Mill Street and replaced it with a department store "one of the lightest and most convenient rooms in the city for a mercantile business" adjacent to 172 West Court (Democrat, 1911 [1/11] 1934 [8/19, 8/29]; Local History Room, Mss. 464 [Pease Scrapbook, p. 73; Republican Observer, 1983 [12/1]).

Beginning about 1869, H.T. Bailey became sole proprietor of his mercantile business bought in 1878 (Butterfield, 1884:1198; Scott, 1972:70). Bailey not only carried a large stock of general merchandise but purchased wool and pork. In 1883, Bailey erected a new building (194 East Court) placing his sales room on the first floor and storage and the opera hall on the second (Republican and Observer, 1883 [5/17]; Butterfield, 1884:1155; Sanborn Map Co., 1885-86; Scott, 1972:39, 70). Coffland & Bros., clothing located their men's clothing and furnishings store in Richland Center in 1887 (Scott, 1972:71; R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:900). They occupied the Pier Block soon after it was erected by W.H. Pier (245 W. Court) in 1892 (Scott, 1972:71; Republican Observer, 1892 [4/21, 10/6]). Pier and McCarthy erected the Union Block (100-124 N. Main) in 1892. By 1899, its business included an unidentified dry goods and clothing store in the south half (Scott, 1972:99, 188; Richland Observer, 1982 [4/21]; Burdock, 1964).

During the late nineteenth century, drugstores commonly sold not only prescribed and patented medicines but also oils, paints, perfumes, notions, jewelry, and fruits and groceries (Republican Observer, 1872 [8/22]). Founded in 1874, Burnham and Burnham remained in partnership in their new drugstore (182 E. Court) erected by H. T. Bailey west of his general store in 1892. In 1906, O.J. Burnham retired and John W and his son Robert ran the business. The drugstore closed in 1962 (Scott, 1972:56, 70, 150; 1981:210-11; Butterfield, 1884:1152; Richland Observer, 1883 [3/29]; Sanborn Map Co., 1885-86; 1892). About 1890, John W. Burnham also established a drugstore in the F.A. Smith Building erected prior to 1885 (101 W. Court) (Sanborn Map Co., 1885-86; 1892). The Empire Drugstore was founded after a fire in 1919 by Horace Burnham in the same building. The Empire Drugstore closed in 1983 (Scott, 1981:211; Scott, 1972:150; 159). He sold both the building and the business to Raymond Keegan in 1929 (Scott, 1972:99; 1981:211). Dieter Brothers began their drug business in the Bulard Building (155 E. Court) in 1892. In 1894, Dieter Bros. moved to the north third of the newly constructed Union Block (124 N. Main) owned by W.H. Pier and McCarthy (Republican Observer, 1911 [2/7, 10/26]; 1972 [11/30]; Richland County Abstract Company n.d. [W.D. 55-565]).

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Opening his business between 1873 and 1876, Charles Speidel erected his jewelry store at 145 West Court in 1887. At his death in 1909, his family continued the business which existed to 1985 (Scott, 1972:53, 75; Richland Observer, 1979 [11/22]; Murphy & Co., 1876:380; M.T. Platt, 1873:215). A.A. Bulard established his jewelry business in 1875. In 1883 he erected his building on Court Street (155 E. Court [west structure]). Bulard left Richland Center in ca. 1892 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:901; Scott, 1972:20; Richland Observer, 1877 [1/1:8]; 1883 [10/11]; 1906 [1/25:1]; 1925 [7/26]). Barnes began a third jewelry store between 1891 and 1895 and was joined by Henry P. Toms in 1895. Their jewelry business was located in the 1893 building erected by Henry Toms, Sr., which became the Tom's Jewelry Store (155 E. Court [eastern-most section]). Henry P. Toms gained the entire business and building in 1902 and remained in the jewelry business until about 1945 (Helen Toms, 1988 [Oral Interview]; Local History Room, Mss. 9; R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:900; 1895:990; 1901:948; 1903:1043; Republican, 1895 [1/26, 1/30]).

The two long-lived furniture businesses included Henry Toms and Pratt Bros. Arriving in Richland Center in 1857, Henry Toms, an English cabinet maker, began his furniture business and erected the first portion of his store, his cabinet shop, in 1865. He constructed wagons, furniture, and caskets. By 1880, his shop probably expanded to the north to include space for the sale of furniture (172 S. Church), (Toms, 1988 [Oral Interview]; Sanborn Map Co., 1885-86; Republican Observer, 1920 [3/16]; 1938 [7/21]; Scott, 1972:52, 186). Dove & Pratt Bros., (Edwin A. Dove, George H., Wallace E., and Fred H. Pratt) Furniture, Undertaking, and Paints and Oils, were established by 1891 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1891:900). By 1895, three Pratt brothers, Fred H., Wallace E., and Frank W., ran the business (R.L. Polk & Co., 1895:908). In 1892, Pratt Bros. had located in the A.A. Bulard building (155 E. Court). This structure included the original 1883 portion and a second section erected between 1885 and 1892. They purchased the building from Bulard in 1906 (Republican Observer, 1906 [1/25]:1; Sanborn Map Co., 1885; 1892; abstract of title owned by Meadows).

As the commercial and political center of the county, Richland Center supported at least two to three hotels from the mid-1850s. The most prominent hotel, the Park Hotel (213 S. Central), was partially erected in 1873 by the Odd Fellows as a commercial building and lodge hall. After it was destroyed by fire, D.O. Chandler and W. Ross repaired and enlarged the building. It received additions in 1899, 1926, 1930, and the 1930s (Republican Observer, 1940 [4/25]; Scott, 1972:57, 125, 154, 186, 221; Feyer, 1987:5, 10-11, 25). Adjacent to the courthouse and on the edge of the business district, the hotel served as a meeting place for voluntary associations and political meetings. It also provided a meeting place for many private gatherings (Feyer, 1987).

A criminal lawyer practicing by 1885, Levi Bancroft represents one of the most prominent members of the legal profession in Richland Center. He served as county judge, state assemblyman, the state attorney, circuit judge of the fifth judicial

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district, and the city's mayor. Bancroft gained national attention for his defense in Rose Zoldowsky's 1891 murder trial. By 1885, his office was located at 157 North Central (Bancroft, 1863-1956 [Mss.]; Brewer, 1977:290; Miner, 1906:103-104).

Richland Center supported saloons as early as 1857. In that year, the public objected to their presence in the community. The city contained as many as four up to the 1890s and eight in 1901 but none in some of the following years. The licensing of saloons produced such instability. After 1909, there were no open saloons until prohibition ended (Scott, 1972:107-108, 131-32, 162, 192, 228; Hawes, 1963; M.T. Platt, 1873; Hoag, 1979; R.L. Polk & Co., 1891; 1901). One example, George Mehaffey's saloon, occupied the Hartz-Mehaffey Building (131 W. Court Street) from its erection in 1890-1892 to 1909 when King's Brothers clothing store replaced it (Scott, 1972:107, 131; Richland County Abstract Company n.d. [W.D. 33-125]; City of Richland Center, tax assessor's records, 1925; 1929).

Richland Center experienced a second period of economic growth in the second decade of the twentieth century. Some long-lived businesses such as mercantile stores remained in the twentieth century although with altered functions. Those arising in the twentieth century tended to be more specialized and less stable. They were subjected to greater competition from businesses in other communities and mail order stores than their predecessors who were now subjected to the same influences (McKay, 1985).

The Farmers and Merchant Bank opened in 1913 in the former Gund Building (100 W. Court). It remained there until its move in 1935 to the former First National Bank building at 108 East Court Street which closed its doors in 1928 (108 E. Court) (Scott, 1972:112, 150, 215; Richland County Historical Society, 1986).

Mercantile stores suffered rapid decline by the early 1900s. Their stock was partially offered by other, more specialized businesses with lower prices or by catalogues. Unable to alter his mode of business from an exchange to a credit system, Bailey (194 E. Court) suffered bankruptcy in 1899. Clark and Elliot purchased the store in 1900. Edwards and Kelly bought the business in 1905 and acquired the store building in 1910. By 1910, they concentrated upon women's apparel (Scott, 1972:96, 124; Anonymous, Local History Room, Mss. 647; Republican Observer, 1900 [7/26]); Kelly, 1977:101). In 1931, the store was leased to Marachowski, Inc. and to Ben Franklin in 1936 (Republican Observer, 1931 [2/26]; Kelly, 1977:106-107).

Originally built with an opera house on the second floor, the Pier Block (100 S. Main) was remodeled by Coffland Brothers to contain their expanded operations as a department store in 1909 (Republican Observer, 1980 [3/13]; Scott, 1972:150). They added their Coffland Mercantile Company Annex in the early 1920 (Republican Observer, 1920/1926 [11/20]). The 1924 directory advertised Coffland Brothers Mercantile Co. as a "A General Department Store, Cloaks, Clothing, Carpets, Etc., Dry Goods, Furniture, Groceries, Shoes and Suits (R.L. Polk & Co., 1924:1177).



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Coffland Brothers dissolved in 1929 (Richland County Abstract Company n.d. [15 misc. 37]).

Edwards erected the three-story Edward's Building (101 S. Church) in 1912 and as the firm of Edwards, Kelly, and Campbell opened a men's store (Sanborn Map Co., 1912; Democrat, 1947 [11/20]; Republican Observer, 1913 [9/20]). Not a success, the store was taken over by Venard and Campbell between 1915 and 1917 and operated by Charles Venard as sole proprietor sometime between 1917 and 1919. He left the business by 1921 (Scott, 1972:150; R.L. Polk & Co., 1915:1003; 1917:1004; 1919:1085-86; 1921:1126). Richland Center gained an exclusive men's store in 1912 with the establishment of King Brothers clothing store in the 1890-1892 Mehaffey Building (131 W. Court). King Brothers remained in business until at least 1927 (Richland County Abstract Company n.d. [W.D. 33-125; Misc. 4-500]; R.L. Polk & Co., 1911; 1913; 1927; Scott, 1988 [Oral Interview]).

As profits gained from local general merchandising declined in the late nineteenth century, the chain store offered a similar, more restricted line of goods. H.H. Chandler established an early example of one of a series of seven or eight chain stores in Richland Center in the 1880s (Scott, 1972:94). Later examples included Marachowski, Inc., which leased space from Kelly in the Bailey Building (194 E. Court) in 1931 (Republican Observer, 1931 [2/26]; Scott, 1972:222). Kelly leased the same store building to Ben Franklin Variety in 1936 (Kelly, 1977:106-10). Louis Shapiro opened the Boston Store by 1917. He advertised the "Biggest and Busiest Department Store, Cloaks, Suits, Clothing, Dry Goods, Groceries, and Shoes" (R.L. Polk & Co., 1924:1177). It closed in 1926 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1917:1004; Richland Observer, 1986 [5/29]). Penneys appeared in Richland Center by 1924 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1924:1178; 1927:894). In 1948, it acquired its own building at 165 West Court (Richland Observer, 1948 [1/26]). Thus, chain stores began to replace the merchandise store by the second decade of the nineteenth century.

In business since the nineteenth century, the two established hardwares expanded in the twentieth century. James erected his warehouse in 1914 (142 E. Court) (building inscription; Sanborn Map Co., 1927). After David James' death in 1921, Oscar B. James ran it as a hardware until at least 1927 (Scott, 1972:209; R.L. Polk & Co., 1924:1178; 1927:893; Olson, 1988 [Oral Interview]).

Tom's Furniture Store remained from 1865 and expanded at 172 South Church. After Henry Toms' death in 1914, A.C. and O.M. Toms continued the company, advertising it as a furniture and undertaking establishment (R.L. Polk & Co., 1915:1103). In 1919-1920, H. Tom & Co. added space to the south for the undertaking business which included a funeral chapel. Continuing the furniture and undertaking business, Lunenschloss and Weeden purchased the building in 1923 (Republican Observer, 1920 [3/16]; 1938 [7/21]; Richland Observer, 1987 [4/16]; Scott, 1972:52, 186).

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Additional businesses which erected buildings along the Court Street Commercial District between 1910 and the 1920s included the Central Barber Shop which appeared between 1912 and 1920 (165 S. Central Avenue), the Householder Building which was erected in 1912-1925 and contained the Hoffman Grocery (122 W. Court Street); and the Klinzing and Banker Plumbing Shop erected in 1928 (130 S. Main Street).

Thus, during this second period of commercial development, businesses altered owners or new ones began but there was little room for new buildings along the Court Street Commercial District. Much of the expansion took place in other areas of the city.

Richland Center remained primarily a retail center for the northern portion of the county through the nineteenth and well into the twentieth century, never developing a substantial commercial base. Prior to 1891, Richland Center's large retailers, primarily general merchants and millers, engaged in commerce. Prior to 1891, those specializing in commerce did not exceed three and after 1900 to 1927 their number rose to about seven. They purchased local products, stored them, and sold them extra-locally. Wholesale and purchasing activities represented by the commercial district is limited to produce, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruit, and feed (Hawes, 1863; M.T. Platt, 1873; Hoag, 1879; R.L. Polk & Co., 1891; 1901; 1911; 1921; 1927).

Several large commercial enterprises purchased produce, eggs, and poultry as well as butter and cream for local and extra-local resale. Scott joined Burnham to form Burnham and Scott between 1889 and 1892, became a full partner in 1903, and gained ownership in 1913. Burnham erected his produce store, the Burnham Building (159 E. Court), in 1889 to store his produce and eggs. He used his original building on Church Street for poultry. They retailed and wholesaled eggs and produce. By the late nineteenth century, the business shipped poultry to Chicago and New York. It was sold to Orla Campbell in 1919 who retained it until 1931 when it was purchased by the Brucken Brothers (Scott n.d. [Local History Room, Mss. 825]; Scott, 1972:97-98, 157, 224; Richland County Historical Society, 1986:356).

By at least the early 1870s as livestock production gained importance, flour mills began to engage in the grinding, storage, and sale of feed. Munson and Keegan, which later became Keegan Brothers in ca. 1920, erected their feed store (279 W. Court) in the 1930s and replaced their feed mill which they had originally purchased in 1919 in 1948 (279 W. Court) (Scott, 1972:253; Local History Room. Mss. 364).

Information Services achieved a significant role in the county seat. Richland Center supported a newspaper shortly after its founding to act as the mouthpiece of the county government. Israel Sanderson founded the Richland County Observer, a Republican paper, in 1855. This paper became the Richland County Republican in 1867 and in 1881 the Richland County Republican and Observer. Wilson G. Barry

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began the Richland Democrat in 1892 in the rear of the McKee building (101 E. Court). It became a prominent paper in southwest Wisconsin. The Republican Observer and Richland Democrat combined in 1962 to become the Richland Observer. The office remained in the Democrat office (172 E. Court) (Scott, 1972:13, 31, 41-42, 58, 79, 100, 126, 187-88, 224, 299-300; Gregory, 1932:1337-39).

At mid-century, families remained responsible for the care of the sick, as well as many other services. Most communities received health services in private homes or in the office of a general practitioner in the nineteenth century. Thus, the majority of buildings representing this profession are dwellings and office spaces in commercial buildings (Scott, 1972: 105). The commercial district contained several such offices. Specializing in children's diseases, Dr. Archibald Campbell began his practice in Richland Center in 1899. By 1920, he located his office in the First National Bank Building (108 East Court). He remained in practice until 1939 (Scott, 1972:129, 184; Local History Room, Mss. 882). Dr. Charles Bowen maintained his office in the Edwards Building (101 S. Church) by 1915 (Scott, 1972:161). Doctors also maintained offices in the Park Hotel (213 S. Central). These doctors practiced in Richland Center on a regular schedule and established temporary offices in its basement. Frequent occupants included Dr. C.A. Hoag who practiced for 25 years in Richland Center ending his career in 1893 (Feyer, 1987:16-19).

Medical treatment in Richland Center follows a typical development from the care through private general practitioners and specialists in private offices to the founding of a small private hospital by 1901 and finally the establishment of a hospital in 1924 initially within a residence.

Thus, Richland Center's Court Street Commercial Historic District reflects the major economic role which a county seat played in commercial history. The district contains the highest concentration of historic commercial buildings in the city of Richland Center and is a reflection of the commercial growth and prosperity of the community from 1870 to 1937. The businesses represented by the present day buildings covered the wide range of commercial activities necessary to support the economy of a small agricultural service center and county seat such as Richland Center and includes banks, a hotel, newspaper, mercantile, furniture, hardware, drug, and jewelry stores, and gas stations. The evolution of the buildings over time mirrors the changing economic environment of the community.

Politics/Government

Richland Center became the county seat in 1852. The courthouse and associated jail were located on a separate square between the business and residential districts by 1857 to 1862. This separation symbolically emphasized the presence of

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the state government through its county-level representative (Wyatt, 1986 [Government]:II, 8-3-4; Butterfield, 1884:783-85; Gregory, 1932:1284, 1289, 1316; Republican Observer, 1898 [3/27]). Preceded by structures erected by 1852 and in 1857 and 1860, the current courthouse was erected in 1889 (179 W. Seminary). It not only gains importance as the seat of government but also as a public center for the community. However, this function was more important during early years of settlement prior to 1889 when large buildings for public meetings were not available (Richland County Historical Society, 1986:24; Richland Observer, 1980 [12/18]; Republican Observer, 1898 [3/27]).

Replacing edifices erected in 1856 and 1867, the Richland County Jail (179 W. Seminary) was completed in 1905. When erected, the new jail appeared as an imposing, modern building to Richland Center citizens. It provided an adequate symbol of justice in the county. Although soon reported as inadequate as standards for penal institutions altered, the jail remained in use as such until 1980. This early twentieth century building reflects late nineteenth century attitudes toward this institution: the paternal attitudes toward inmates, and multiple functions not only as jails but as places for the homeless, poverty-stricken, orphaned, and insane (Local History Room, Mss. 179; Scott, 1986:5; 1972:101, 136; Republican Observer, 1904 [4/7, 5/19]; Richland Observer, 1982 [6/26]).

Thus, the county buildings reflect attitudes and functions of the nineteenth century courthouses and jails which are no longer current.

Richland Center incorporated as a city in 1887 (Gregory, 1932:1385). As it gained more population and attempted to promote its virtues as a place to live and conduct business, the city increased its social services. The Richland Center's efforts to first advertise its assets during its early years of development and then later in the century to improve its physical and social well-being represents a booster ethic prevalent during the second half of the nineteenth century (Berthoff, 1971). This spirit commonly appeared when the community first emerged and when it feared that change threatened its current position, usually when it began to lose commercial importance to other centers. Its respected citizens attempted to make the community a physically larger and more populous place in relation to its nearby rivals. They strove to make the community the center of economic, political, and social activities and to involve large areas of the community's hinterlands in this development (Doyle, 1978:62-63; Moline, 1971:7-8; Nesbit, 1985:379).

By the late nineteenth century, Richland Center, like many other small cities, found unity in a fast-changing world through the increasing activity of its newly-formed city government rather than the informal association of its citizens which had previously contributed to community solidarity. The citizens behind these movements remained the old, well-established families who had much invested in the community. The transitional period in the city's economy at the turn of the century from lumbering to the dairy operations threatened their economic position.

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The attraction of new residents and businesses through improved physical and social surroundings held the promise of new economic stability.

Richland Center developed from an unincorporated village with a few improvements provided by the cooperation of individual citizens or community organizations to a village status in 1866. As the community became more prosperous in the 1870s, its citizens joined to attract the railroad and with village leadership began physical improvements and acquired some measure of fire protection. The level of community improvements rose rapidly as the community incorporated as a city in 1887 during one of its most prosperous eras. Such improvements included greater control over businesses through licensing, building codes, the lighting of the city, public water works, and the improvement of fire protection (Scott, 1972:73, 77-79, 83; Gregory, 1932:1388, 1390).

By the twentieth century, local government also moved into the provision of social services as well as the promotion of physical improvements. It erected its first city hall at the southeast corner of Church and Mill between 1899 and 1905 (Sanborn Map Co., 1899; 1905). The poor condition of city streets finally became resolved with the laying of asphalt cement on main business streets in 1916. The city installed arc street lamps in that year (Scott, 1972:176; Democrat, 1916 [3/5:1]). Founded in 1898, the Federation of Women's Clubs rallied for many city improvements through the first forty years of the twentieth century. Improvements went beyond the enhancement of Richland Center's physical environment to the institution of social services during an era of national reform movements. It stimulated the founding of the Carnegie City Library, a city hospital, one of the state's first municipal auditoriums (182 N. Central) a new high school, and the public swimming pool (Keppler, 1984). Municipal electric utilities, a separate post office building (213 N. Central) and a new dam also emerged during these years.

Some of the buildings associated with these new city services are retained within the Court Street Commercial District. The Women's Federated Club gained sufficient support from the city fathers in 1898 for the establishment of a free city library in a room of the Bancroft law office (157 N. Central). By 1904, the library had outgrown its space. The Women's Club applied for and received for the city a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the erection of a new library building completed in 1905 (Scott, 1972:114, 136-37).

The Federation of Women's Clubs became the force behind the erection of the Richland Center City Hall and Auditorium (182 N. Central). By 1910, the city lacked adequate space for its offices and the public required a new meeting place. The last privately-owned hall, the Pier Opera House, had been converted into an addition to the Coffland Store (100 S. Main). The city council directed a special committee to develop plans and specifications for the building which were secured from Bajari and Bently of La Crosse in 1911 (City of Richland Center, 1910-1911 [Council Proceedings, 8/19, 1/25]). The notion of providing such a social center

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for a municipality was not completely novel, but gained favor in the following decades (Doudna n.d.). The auditorium contained Richland Center's city offices on the main floor, a meeting room for the Federation of Women's Clubs in the basement, a recreation room for the public on the third floor, and the auditorium with its stage, dressing rooms, and seating capacity of nearly 1000 (Scott, 1972:171; Richland Rustic, 1917; Local History Room, Mss. 116).

A separately-appointed committee of three individuals managed the operation of the auditorium from 1913 (Richland Center, City of, 1913 [Council Proceedings, 2/1]; Doudna n.d.). Pre-World War I use of the auditorium included movies, the annual city lecture courses with choirs, quartets, orchestras, and humorists, political speeches by noted politicians, benefits offered by community organizations and churches, high school graduation, home talent shows, vaudeville, recitals, minstrel shows, and productions. Community organizations also used rooms in the auditorium (Scott, 1972:172-174; Brewer, 1977:216-27; Richland County Historical Society, 1986:5; Local History Room, Mss. 116; Richland Rustic, 1917).

Until the erection of a separate building in 1935, the Richland Center Post Office, a federal institution significant as a service at the city level, was located as most post offices in association with private businesses. By 1915, the post office had located in the W.H. Pier Building (195 W. Court), and it later moved to the First National Bank Building (108 E. Court) (Scott, 1972:152, 176). Richland Center received a federal grant to erect a new post office building (213 N. Central) in 1934. The building opened in 1936 at 213 N. Central (Democrat, 1936 [2/5]; Scott, 1972:221).

The Court Street Commercial Historic District contains a significant concentration of structures which reflect the governmental history of Richland Center. The City Hall and Auditorium, County Courthouse and Sheriff's Office and Jail all reflect, through their size, stature and architectural design, the major political role which the district served as focus of both city and a county government. The county buildings reflect the attitudes and functions of county governments present at the time of their construction. The city hall and auditorium represents the increasing role of the city government in providing local community services and social programs at the turn of the century.

### Social History

Becoming more prevalent after the Civil War, voluntary organizations provided a means to unite a diverse community into joint action to accomplish common tasks. Richland Center supported a large and diverse number from a comparatively early period. The public buildings and the halls above businesses served as meeting places for large groups.

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Like other communities, Richland Center supported a large number of women's organizations. Three active organizations, the Women's Club, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Federation of Women's Clubs held their more public meetings in buildings within the commercial district.

The Women's Club was organized in 1882. Through it, members pursued social, intellectual, industrial, educational, and philanthropic concerns. Primarily held in the home of members, their meetings included lectures, readings, and discussions often focusing upon the role of women in their society (Scott, 972:112-13; Butterfield, 1884:1176; Keppler, 1984). Their public meetings often occurred in relation to the suffrage movement in public halls as noted below.

Richland Center women founded a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in 1887. Formed in Ohio in 1874, the WCTU focused primarily upon temperance but also addressed suffrage and other reform issues (Rebhahn, 1981:23). According to their constitution dated May 13, 1902, these women considered the use of intoxicating liquor as an impetus to crime, pauperism, and degradation and because "...women have a special duty and interest in the promotion of purity and good morals..." dedicated themselves to spreading their philosophy of total abstinence (Local History Room, Mss. 395 [Constitution of the Richland Center WCTU]). In the 1890s, they met over Pier's Bank (142 S. Central) and held public meetings in the churches (Scott, 1972:108; Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 2-4; Nesbit, 1985:413).

Organized in 1896, the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs counted 133 affiliates by 1900 and ranged widely in purpose from literary enrichment to the support of women's suffrage (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movement]:III, 4-3-4). Richland Center women founded their Federated Women's Club in 1898. Charter organizations included the Shakespeare Club, Women's Relief Corps, WCTU, and Women's Club. Initially, it met four to five times per year at homes and churches. They eventually had rooms in the Carnegie Library and the Richland Center City Hall and Auditorium (182 N. Central). Particularly before the building of the auditorium, they held special events in the Park Hotel. It was mainly a civic improvement organization spearheading such projects as the creation of a public library, first placed in Bancroft's law office (157 N. Central); the building of the Carnegie Library in 1904, the auditorium in 1911, the city hospital dedicated in 1924, and city swimming pool opening in 1928; the founding of a museum in the basement of the courthouse (179 W. Seminary) and the sponsoring of public health projects (Scott, 1972:113, 136, 145, 166-67, 195; Local History Room, [P.L. Lincoln papers]; Keppler, 1984:50-51).

Women's organizations flourished in Richland Center. They provided an avenue of feminine expression and were the shakers and movers behind many if not most of the civic projects in the city. As importantly, they represented an important sector of the community and provided companionship in a rapidly changing society in which the old informal forms often no longer worked (McKay, 1985; Keppler, 1984).

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Reaching their peak activity after the Civil War to 1910, the fraternal organization was one of the first and most popular types of voluntary organizations. Its small size and intimacy and religious and moralistic overtones gave a needed sense of community order and cohesion. Common after the Civil War, early forms met primarily for companionship and a later type which became more prevalent at the turn of the century were more service-oriented (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movement]:III, 5-1-5; Nesbit, 1985:686; McKay, 1985). Several such groups met within the commercial district.

The Free Masons maintained a highly-structured organization, conducting their meetings with much ceremony and ritual. Its hierarchy and rules offered a sense of order, community status, and prestige (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political movements]:III, 5-2-4). The Richland Lodge, No. 66 F. & A.M. was organized in 1856. They began the construction of their Masonic Temple (189 N. Central) in 1920 (Scott, 1972:24, 33, 144, 185-86; Butterfield, 1884:1179; Local History Room, Mss. 498; Masonic Temple, 1956).

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows originally provided members sickness and death benefits. Later, it formed more for interpersonal association emphasizing good moral conduct and considerable ritual in the meetings (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 5-4; Graebner, 1927:131; Whalen, 1966:124). Richland Lodge No. 118 formed in 1861, and they organized the Rebekkah degree in 1882. In 1873, the Odd Fellows attempted to erect a lodge hall and commercial structure, but it was partially destroyed and became the Park Hotel (213 S. Central) in 1874 (Feyer, 1987).

Founded in 1883 and popular mainly in the Midwest, the Modern Woodmen of America were primarily an insurance society. They also required good moral character for entrance and practice some religious ceremony. The Modern Woodmen and their women's auxiliary formed in Richland Center about the turn of the century and maintained their hall in the Bailey Building (194 E. Court) (Local History Room, Mss. 1476; Scott, 1972:144).

In 1894, 24 original members organized the Knights of Pythias, a secret fraternal organization founded in 1864. They initially held their meetings in a hall above Burnham and Burnham's Drugstore (182 E. Court), moved to the H.B. Allen Store by the turn of the century, and becoming active again by 1921 equipped a pool hall and club room in the basement of the Edwards Block (101 S. Church) (Scott, 1972:112, 144; Democrat 1921 [4/14]).

Organized originally for the Union soldiers and sailors of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic also patterned itself after secret fraternal organizations. It provided mutual assistance and aid for its members and participated in the rituals of a secret society. The W.H. Bennet Post formed in 1882 and the Women's Relief Corps was founded in 1888. In 1894, it dedicated its hall in the



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recently built Union Block (100-124 N. Main) (Scott, 1972:89, 112; Miner, 1906:269; Butterfield, 1884:1179; Richland County Historical Society, 1986:36).

More a service organization, the Bayard Debout Post 13 of the American Legion organized in 1919 and the auxiliary formed in 1922. Its primary aim was to employ veterans within the community. It initially met in the basement of the courthouse (179 W. Seminary), moved in the late 1920s to the second floor of the auditorium (182 N. Central), and then to its clubhouse on the west side of the city. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored many home talent shows, minstrel shows, and movies in the auditorium (Richland County Historical Society, 1986:24).

Several businessmen's associations organized during the twentieth century to promote Richland Center as a trade center. Formed in 1921, the Kiwanis sponsored a number of civic programs. During the 1930s and 1940s, they met in the Park Hotel (213 S. Central) (Feyer, 1987:27, 32; Brewer, 1977; Scott, 1972:199, 201, 208). Meeting occasionally at the auditorium (182 N. Central) and the Park Hotel, the Commercial Club organized in 1910 but proved fairly inactive. It later grew into the Chamber of Commerce in the mid-1930s. Promoting the welfare of the community, it sponsored promotions to attract industries to the city and heighten sales (Scott, 1972:156-57, 222-223; Doudna n.d.:2).

Thus, numerous fraternal organizations appeared in Richland Center, particularly during the second half of the nineteenth century. They formed for specific purposes to accomplish many civic goals, to acquire companionship, to promote proper decorum within the community, and to further business interests. They accomplished what neither single individuals nor at that period the government could achieve.

Richland Center's citizens became heavily involved in both the temperance and women's suffrage movements of the second half of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century. The first temperance organization, a women's sewing circle, appeared in Richland Center in 1856. The temperance movement gained greater momentum during the 1870s as more temperance organizations emerged. Founded in 1874, the WCTU became its principal champion as well as an advocate of several other social causes. It espoused the social philosophy of the period linking the social ills of a rapidly changing society to the consumption of alcohol. The simple solution became its prohibition (Nesbit, 1985:459; Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 2-4; McKay, 1985).

Local temperance organizations and churches increased their activity by the mid-1870s and 1880s. The 1885 state licensing law allowed the municipality to determine whether or not to have licenses and the level of the fee (Nesbit, 1985:350-52). Since licenses provided considerable revenue to the municipality, many villages and cities incorporated soon after 1885. After its incorporation in 1886, city elections in Richland Center clearly opposed the pro-licensing against the no-licensing forces. No license meant reduced city revenues. However,

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licenses were still abolished in some of the ensuing years. The WCTU also formed locally in 1887 and the Anti-Saloon League organized in 1897 during a decade when Richland Center granted licenses in all but one year. The WCTU met in the homes of members and in a meeting room over Pier's Bank (195 W. Court). Despite the efforts of these organizations, the city supported eight saloons many of which were located near Pine River in what was identified as a rougher area of the community. A saloon such as Mehaffey's (131 W. Court) which was situated on Court Street was considered a more elite establishment (Rebhahn, 1981:22-24; Scott, 1972:107-08).

The temperance issue remained alive in Richland Center through 1911 when voting on the issue ended until 1934. Local temperance organizations remained active as they held a temperance conference in the courthouse (179 W. Seminary) in 1909 (Scott, 1972:162, 192; Rebhahn, 1981:26-31). Through the nineteenth and in the twentieth century, voluntary organizations and the churches remained the temperance advocates. Their zeal reflected the contemporary social reformer's ethic that crime, pauperism, and other social maladies had a limited number of causes which, if isolated and dealt with legally, would ensure an ordered society. The pietistical Protestant denominations supported this notion that proper behavior could be legislated into existence. This reform ethic declined during the third decade of the century as a new generation of reformers looked more realistically at the interwoven network of causes behind poverty, crime, and other social ills and instituted reform legislation toward that end by the early 1930s. Yet despite their simplistic outlook, the pietistical churches, WCTU, and other temperance organizations drew attention to these problems, the need for their examination, and through the failure of their solutions, the kinds of necessary social changes which couldn't be instituted at the private level through voluntary organizations and churches were addressed by an increasingly bureaucratic government. The new programs of the 1930s reflected this new attitude toward social reform (McKay, 1985:434-39).

The women's suffrage movement grew from the early reform movements of the 1830s from which the temperance movement had emerged. From the mid-1850s into the 1870s, a few in Wisconsin showed concern for their society's view of women's position as unequal and inferior to the male household head (Keppler, 1984:45).

The women's suffrage movement in Richland Center experienced two phases. The first generation formed the Women's Club in 1882. They represented middle to upper class women and wives of the business and political leaders in the community. Many of them saw the woman as a central individual in the household seeking the right to affect those issues which impinged upon that status. For this reason, these women sought primarily a voice in local affairs. Although the parlor meetings provided their major forum, they held public meetings in churches and public halls. At the turn of the century, the second generation of suffragists viewed the women as a separate entity from the household. They demanded the franchise as individuals, not as members of a family. More divorced from tradition, they advocated a more public and militant means of persuasion. Women in Richland Center represented both

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groups and contributed significantly to the cause of women's suffrage not only at the local but at the state level.

Richland Center women organized one of the first local suffrage organizations, the Women's Club, in 1882. They originally gathered to address multiple areas of reform, to promote

philanthropic interests, to the end that we have better homes, better health, better charities, better laws, and better service for Humanity and God (quoted from Keppler, 1984:4-5).

As they moved into the 1890s, the group's focus became almost entirely the suffrage issue. Weekly meetings occurred at members' houses while they held their first annual meeting in the Baptist Church. By the early 1890s, they met in churches and private halls such as the one over the D.G. James Building (172 E. Court) and in the Union Block (100-124 N. Main). Susan B. Anthony spoke to the city in 1886 at Bailey's Opera House (194 E. Court) (Keppler, 1984:1-8, 13, 18, 22, 27, 30, 44, 48, 50; Scott, 1972:90-92, 112-113; Local History Room, Mss. 141; Hussong, 1924). The Women's Club was instrumental in the revitalization of the state suffrage organization, the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association. They attended its initial organizational meeting in Madison in 1882. They also held the first convention of the WWSA at Bailey's Opera House in 1884 (194 E. Court) (Keppler, 1984:27, 31, 38; Scott, 1972:90; Local History Room, Mss. 141).

For the time, the thrust of this suffrage remained the acquisition of the right to vote locally, especially in school elections. Assemblyman Norman James introduced the school suffrage bill which gave women the right to vote in elections involving education. Although the legislature passed the bill in 1886, judicial interpretation in the late 1880s left it an ineffective instrument for women's suffrage. As such failures mounted, the suffrage movement in Richland Center began to stall by the early 1890s (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]III, 3-3; Keppler, 1984:33,37,40; Nesbit, 1985:464-68).

By the 1890s, the direction of the suffrage movement in Wisconsin and Richland Center began to alter. They sought rights beyond household decisions in the broader society. A younger generation of women came to the fore at the turn of the century at the state and national level as well as in Richland Center. Women had become increasingly engaged in affairs related to but definitely beyond the household's traditional sphere (Keppler, 1984:43, 52; Local History Room, Mss. 60 and 141; Nesbit, 1985:469; Clark, 1956:8). They strove for a more active advocacy and their movement became a highly organized network reliant upon support at the local level but geared toward national level suffrage. The newer members of the Women's Club such as Ada James and Grace Lincoln, the second generation of women, operated from this position (Clark, 1956:8-9; Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:VIII, 3-4; Scott, 1972:167; Keppler, 1984:56).

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With the advocacy of several national level suffrage organizations and the role women played during World War I, a national suffrage bill began to gain support toward the war's end. Ada James participated as a leader of the Congressional Union at the state level. The suffrage amendment passed in 1919, and Wisconsin became the second state to ratify it (Wyatt, 1986 [Social and Political Movements]:III, 5-6-7; Clark, 1956:17-19; Scott, 1972:167).

The Court Street Commercial Historic District was the historic focal point for many social groups in the community, such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women's Club, Federated Women's Club, Free Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias, Grand Army of the Republic, Kiwanis, and Commercial Club. These groups played a significant role in the social history of the community through their advocacy of community betterment projects, provisions for the care of their members and role in important community social issues, such as the temperance and suffrage movements. Their contribution to local history is embodied in the numerous extant meeting places of these groups, such as the City Hall and Auditorium, Park Hotel, Masonic Temple, and many second-floor meeting halls.

#### Archaeological Potential

No systematic archaeological work has been done to date in the present commercial district of Richland Center. Because the Court Street Commercial Historic District has been developed since the 1860s, it is possible that significant archaeological resources survive, buried and undisturbed.

#### Preservation Activity

An awareness of the value of the city's historical significance and architectural character by the city government as well as the community has always existed in Richland Center as evidenced by the establishment of an extensive local history room at the local Brewer Public Library. As part of the movement by the community toward active historic preservation, an intensive architectural and history survey was commissioned by the City of Richland Center in 1987. Other preservation activity in the district includes the rehabilitation of the City Auditorium located in the Richland Center City Hall at 182 North Central Avenue in 1967 and the replacement of the hip roof and tower roof on the Richland County Courthouse in keeping with its original architectural character in 1983.

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7. Description (continued)

Architectural Classification (continued)

- Tudor Revival
- Commercial Style
- Other: Commercial Vernacular

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Architect/Builder (continued)

- Bajari & Bentley
- Tough, Edward
- Simon, Louis
- Porter Andrew Lew

10. Geographical Data (continued)

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

then west to the rear of 194 North Main, then south along the rear property lines of 194 through 100-124 North Main Street, across West Court Street to the north lot line of 100 South Main, then west on Court Street to the southwest corner of Court and Jefferson Streets, then south on Jefferson to the rear of 279 West Court, continuing east along the rear lot lines of 279 to 255 West Court Streets, then south along the rear of 130 South Main, then east along the south lot line of 130 South Main, continuing east across South Main Street to the west lot line of 195 West Court Street, then south to the rear of 195 West Court, then east along the rear of the lot lines of 195 and 165 West Court, then south in a straight line, continuing across West Seminary Street to the south side of West Seminary Street, then west to the southeast corner of Seminary and South Main Streets, then south on Main Street to the northeast corner of Main and Haseltine Streets, then east along the north side of West Haseltine Street to the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Haseltine, then north along the west side of Central Avenue for one-half block, then east across Central Avenue, continuing east along the south lot line of 213 South Central Avenue, continuing east along the rear lot lines of 151-161 East Seminary Street and the south lot line of 208 South Church to the west side of South Church, then north to the southwest corner of West Seminary and South Church Streets, then west along south side of East Seminary Street to the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Seminary Streets, then north across Seminary, continuing north along the west side of South Central Avenue one-half block, then east across Central Avenue to the south lot line of 165 South Central Avenue, continuing east to the rear lot line of 172 South Church, then south in a straight line to the north side of East Seminary Street, then east to the northwest corner of South Church and East Seminary Streets, then north along west side of South Church Street

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for two-thirds of the block, then east across South Church Street to the rear lot line of 243 East Court, continuing east to the east lot line of said building, then north to the south side of East Court, then west to the southwest corner of Church and Court Streets, then north across East Court Street, continuing north to the rear of 194 East Court, then west along the rear lot lines of 194 through 142 East Court Street, then north along the rear lot lines of 157-161 North Central Avenue to the rear of 149 East Mill, then east along the rear of said building, then north along the east lot line of said building, continuing north across East Mill to the north side of Mill Street and to the south lot line of 188 East Mill, then east to the northwest corner of North Church and East Mill, then north along the east lot line of 188 East Mill, then west along the rear lot line of said building, then south along the north half of the west lot line of said building, then west along the north lot line of 213 North Central Avenue, then south along the east side of North Central Avenue to the southeast corner of North Central Avenue and Mill Street, continuing west on the south side of Mill Street to the rear of 182 North Central Avenue, then south along the rear of said building, continuing west in a straight line along the north lot line of 165 North Main, continuing west across North Main Street to the west side of said street, then north to the southwest corner of North Main and Mill Streets to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (continued)

as well as the greatest number of significant buildings in the commercial district. In addition, the boundaries include the area that has been the commercial center of Richland Center since the first store was built on the corner of Court and Main Street. The district is clearly bounded by residential properties on the east and on the north. A few commercial buildings altered by the addition of siding and other unsympathetic remodeling as well as some new construction abut the district along the north and south boundaries of the west end of the district, creating a less clear boundary than the east and north boundaries. The district's west boundary has been drawn to largely exclude those altered and modern buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

X See continuation sheet

NA preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

1 previously listed in the National Register

N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register

N/A designated a National Historic Landmark

N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic preservation office

\_\_\_\_ Other State Agency

\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 11.2 Acres

UTM References

A 1/5 7/1/1/8/6/0 4/8/0/1/2/9/0 B 1/5 7/1/2/0/9/0 4/8/0/1/2/9/0  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1/5 7/1/2/0/9/0 4/8/0/1/1/1/0 D 1/5 7/1/1/8/0/0 4/8/0/1/1/9/0

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed Court Street Commercial Historic District in the City of Richland Center begins at the southwest corner west of Mill and North Main Streets, continuing

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Court Street Historic District boundaries encompass the best preserved

X See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Rausch, Architectural Historian/Joyce McKay, Historian  
organization Architectural Researches, Inc. date August 29, 1988  
street & number 2540 Sherwood Drive telephone (608)788-5932  
city or town La Crosse state Wisconsin zip code 54601

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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COURT STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin  
Photographs by Joan Rausch  
1988 April  
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

The above information applies to all of the following photographs:

Photo #1 of 40

100 Block of East Court Street (north side), right to left, View from southeast.

- 194 East Court Street, Bailey Store and Opera House
- 182 East Court Street, Burnham and Burnham
- 172 East Court Street, D.G. James Building
- 156 East Court Street, James Hardware
- 142 East Court Street, James Warehouse
- 108 East Court Street, First National Bank

Photo #2 of 40

100 Block of East Court Street (north side), right to left, View from southwest.

- 194 East Court Street, Bailey Store and Opera House
- 182 East Court Street, Burnham and Burnham
- 172 East Court Street, D.G. James Building
- 156 East Court Street, James Hardware
- 142 East Court Street, James Warehouse
- 108 East Court Street, First National Bank

Photo #3 of 40

100 Block of West Court Street (north side), right to left, View from southeast.

- 100 West Court Street, Gund Building
- 116 West Court Street, McCollum General Store
- 122 West Court Street, Householder Building-Huffman Store
- 130 West Court Street, Commercial Building
- 134 West Court Street, Commercial Building
- 148 West Court Street, Sonetz Deli
- 172 West Court Street, Pease Building
- 196 West Court Street, F.O. Smith Drug Store

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Continuation Sheet

Section number          Photos          Page   2  

Court Street Commercial Historic District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #4 of 40

100 Block of West Court Street (north side) right to left, View from southwest.

- 108 East Court Street, First National Bank
- 100 West Court Street, Gund Building
- 116 West Court Street, McCollum General Store
- 122 West Court Street, Householder Building-Huffman Store   ???
- 130 West Court Street
- 134 West Court Street
- 148 West Court Street, Sonetz Deli
- 172 West Court Street, Pease Building
- 196 West Court Street, F.O. Smith Drug Store

Photo #5 of 40

100 Block of East Court Street (south side) right to left, View from northeast.

- 101 East Court Street, McKee Building
- 119-129 East Court Street, Sherman Building
- 155 East Court Street, Barnes and Toms Store
- 155 East Court Street, Bulard Building
- 155 East Court Street, Bulard Building
- 159 East Court Street, O.J. Burnham Building
- 179 East Court Street, Robinson Building
- 185-198 East Court Street, Bowen and Lane Market

Photo #6 of 40

100 Block of West Court Street (south side) right to left, View from northwest.

- 195 West Court Street, W.H. Pier Building
- 165 West Court Street, Strang Hardware
- 165 West Court Street, J.C. Penney Store
- 145 West Court Street, Spiedel's Store
- 143 West Court Street, Mehaffey Building
- 131 West Court Street, Hartz Building-Mehaffey Saloon
- 117 West Court Street, Mainwaring-King Bros. Building
- 101 West Court Street, Smith Building

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Court Street Commercial Historic District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #7 of 40

100 Block of West Court Street (south side) right to left, View from northeast.

100 South Main Street, Pier Building and Opera House  
195 West Court Street, W.H. Pier Building  
165 West Court Street, Strang Hardware  
165 West Court Street, J.C. Penney Store  
145 West Court Street, Spiedel's Store  
143 West Court Street, Mehaffey Building  
131 West Court Street, Hartz Building-Mehaffey Saloon  
117 West Court Street, Mainwaring-King Bros. Building  
101 West Court Street, Smith Building

Photo #8 of 40

200 Block of West Court Street (south side) right to left, View from northeast.

279 West Court Street, Keegan Feed Mill  
279 West Court Street, Keegan Store  
255 West Court Street, Coffland Warehouse  
100 South Main Street, Pier Building and Opera House

Photo #9 of 40

100 Block of East Mill Street (north side) right to left, View from southwest.

188 East Mill Street, Prouty Block  
213 North Central Street, United States Post Office

Photo #10 of 40

100 Block of East Mill Street (south side) right to left, View from northwest.

189 North Central Avenue, Masonic Temple  
149 East Mill Street, Schuerman Building

Photo #11 of 40

100 Block of East Seminary Street (south side) right to left, View from northeast.

213 South Central Avenue, Park Hotel  
155-161 East Seminary Street, Brucken Garage  
208 South Church Street, Le Hew Filling Station



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Court Street Historic District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #12 of 40

100 Block of West Seminary Street right to left, View from northeast.

179 West Seminary Street, Richland County Sheriff's Office and Jail

179 West Seminary Street, Richland County Courthouse

Photo #13 of 40

100 Block of South Church Street (east side) right to left, View from northwest.

243 East Court Street, Pier Garage

125 South Church Street, Brenden Shop

101 South Church Street, Edwards Block

Photo #14 of 40

100 Block of South Church Street (west side) right to left, View from southeast.

122-126 South Church Street, Trager Building

172 South Church Street, Toms Shop and Funeral Parlor

Photo #15 of 40

100 Block of North Central Avenue (east side) right to left, View from northwest.

101 East Court Street, McKee Building

108 East Court Street, First National Bank

157 North Central Avenue, Bancroft Office

161 North Central Avenue, Dr. Benson Office

189 North Central Avenue, Masonic Temple

Photo #16 of 40

100 Block of North Central Avenue (west side) right to left, View from northeast.

182 North Central Avenue, City Hall and Auditorium

132 North Central Avenue, Postel Building

100 West Court Street, Gund Building

Photo #17 of 40

100 Block of South Central Avenue (east side) right to left, View from northwest.

101 East Court Street, McKee Building

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Court Street Commercial Historic District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #18 of 40

100 Block of South Central Avenue (west side) right to left, View from northeast.

- 101 West Court Street, Smith Building
- 130 South Central Avenue, Speidel Building
- 142 South Central Avenue, Pier Bank
- 168 South Central Avenue, Krouskop Store
- 192 South Central Avenue, Eskin Theater
- 179 West Seminary Street, Richland County Courthouse

Photo #19 of 40

100 Block of North Main Street (east side) right to left, View from northwest.

- 195 West Court Street, Pier Building
- 196 West Court Street, Smith Drug Store
- 131-151 North Main Street, Pease Block
- 157 North Main Street, Pease Building
- 165 North Main Street, McCollum Building
- North Main Street, Cheese Hut (outside district)

Photo #20 of 40

100 Block of North Main Street (west side) right to left, View from southeast.

- 194 North Main Street, Winn Creamery
- 182 North Main Street, James Store
- 174 North Main Street, Spickard Building
- 168-170 North Main Street, Winterburn Saloon
- 156 North Main Street, Breeden Store
- 150-152 North Main Street, Aken Building
- 100-124 North Main Street, Union Block

Photo #21 of 40

100 Block of North Main Street (west side) right to left, View from northeast.

- 194 North Main Street, Winn Creamery
- 182 North Main Street, James Store
- 174 North Main Street, Spickard Building
- 168-170 North Main Street, Winterburn Saloon
- 156 North Main Street, Breeden Store
- 150-152 North Main Street, Aken Building
- 100-124 North Main Street, Union Block

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Court Street Commercial District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #22 of 40

100 Block of South Main Street (west side) right to left, View from northeast.

100(a) South Main Street, Pier Building and Opera House

100(b) South Main Street, Coffland Annex

130 South Main Street, Klinzing and Banker Shop

Photo #23 of 40

View from north.

155(c) East Court Street, Barnes and Toms Store

Photo #24 of 40

View from north.

155(b) East Court Street, A.A. Bulard Jewelry Store

Photo #25 of 40

Interior ceiling.

155(b) East Court Street, A.A. Bulard Jewelry Store

Photo #26 of 40

View from north.

155(c) East Court Street, Bulard Building

Photo #27 of 40

View from north.

159 East Court Street, Burnham Building

Photo #28 of 40

Right to left, View from south.

182 East Court Street, Burnham and Burnham Drug Store

172 East Court Street, James Building

Photo #29 of 40

View from south.

194 East Court Street, Bailey Store and Opera House

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Court Street Commercial Historic District  
Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #30 of 40  
View from north.

131 East Court Street, Hartz Building-Mehaffey Saloon

Photo #31 of 40  
View from west.

213 North Central Avenue, Park Hotel

Photo #32 of 40  
View from east.

179 West Seminary Street, Detail, Richland County Courthouse

Photo #33 of 40  
View from northwest.

179 West Seminary Street, Richland County Jail

Photo #34 of 40  
View from northwest.

101 South Church Street, Edwards Block

Photo #35 of 40  
View from southwest.

108 East Court Street, First National Bank

Photo #36 of 40  
View from south.

108 East Court Street, Interior, First National Bank

Photo #37 of 40  
View from west.

189 East Court Street, Masonic Temple

Photo #38 of 40  
View from east.

208 South Church Street, Le Hew Filling Station

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Richland Center, Richland County, WI

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Photo #39 of 40  
View from west.

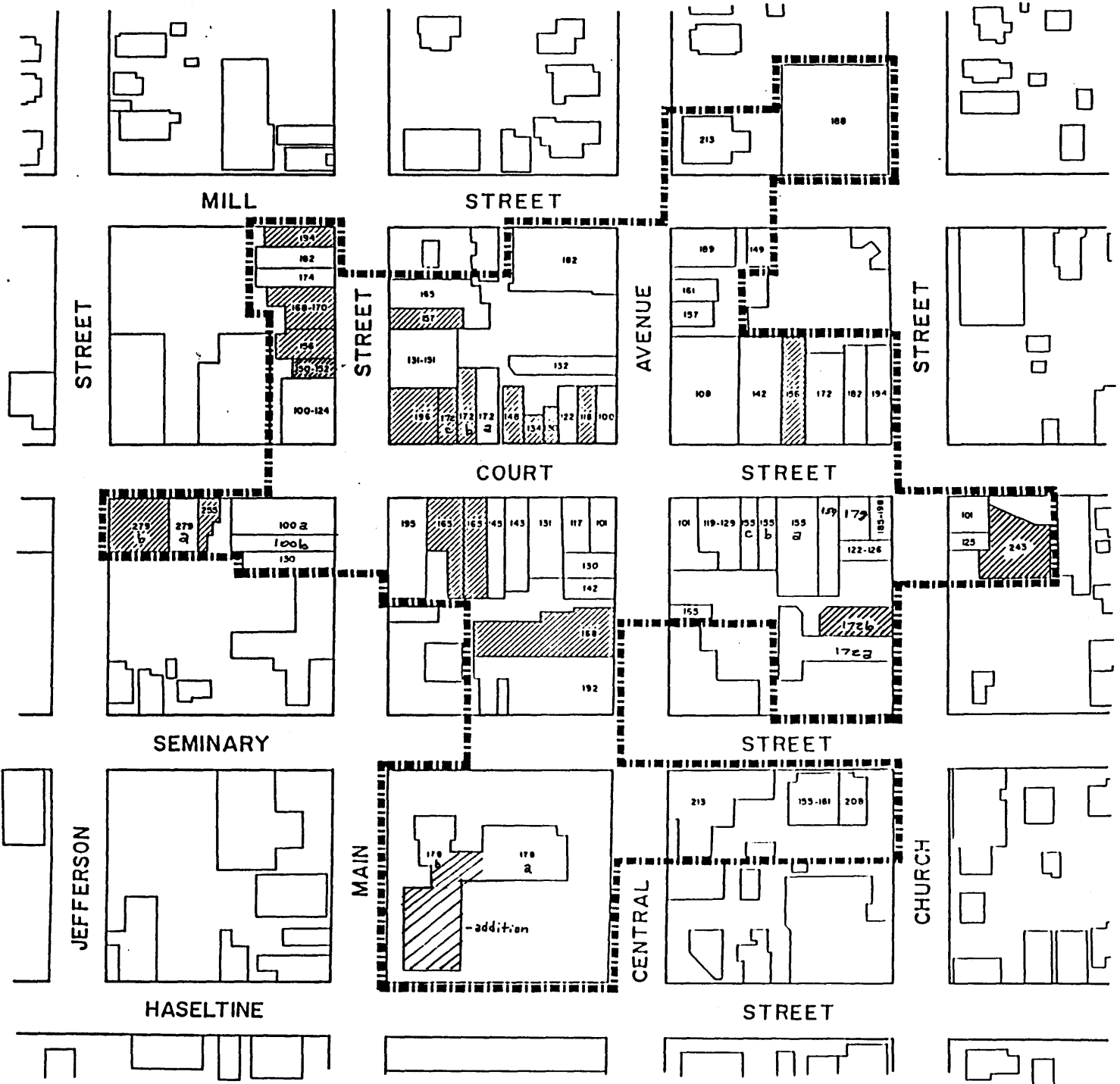
213 North Central Avenue, United States Post Office

Photo #40 of 40  
View from north.



213 North Central Avenue, Interior-WPA Mural, United States Post Office



# COURT STREET Commercial Historic District

RICHLAND CENTER, RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
1987



### LEGEND

 District Boundary  
 Address Number

 Contributing  
 Non-Contributing

N  
  
 Not to Scale