OMB No. 10024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

1. Name of Property

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

other names/site nu	mber N/A		trict					
	ilibei 14/A							
2. Location								
street & number	101 North Ma Road and 107		-	30 South Main Street, 101 Avenue	Green Bay	N/A	not for p	ublication
city or town state Wisconsin	Thiensville code	WI	county	Ozaukee	code	N/A 089	vicinity zip code	53092
			004110					
3. State/Federal	Agency Cert	ificat	ion					<u> </u>
								the property
statewide <u>X</u> locally. (See continuation		er criteria.	I recommend that this pro		idered si		
statewideX locally. (See continuation		er criteria.	I recommend that this proonal comments.)	perty be consi	idered si	ignificant_na	
Signature of certifying State or Federal agence In my opinion, the prop	See continuation g official/Title by and bureau perty_meets_do	n sheet	er criteria. for additi	I recommend that this proonal comments.)	perty be consi	idered si	ignificant_na	
Signature of certifying State or Federal agence	See continuation g official/Title ey and bureau perty_meets_do et for additional of	es not i	er criteria. for additi	I recommend that this profonal comments.) SHPU	perty be consi	idered si	ignificant_na	

Main Street Historic District		Ozaukee	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and S	tate
4. National Park Service Cert	ification	1.1	
I hereby certify that the property is: See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. see continuation sheet. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	Edsi I av	on Beall	11/26/04
	Signature of the	ne Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification			
	by the structure site object		rces within Property eviously listed resources noncontributing buildings sites structures objects 0 total
Name of related multiple property list (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a relating. N/A		Number of contril is previously listed	outing resources I in the National Register
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling GOVERNMENT/city hall COMMERCE/general store		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwell VACANT COMMERCE	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from ins	structions)
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne Late 19 TH & Early 20 TH CENTURY AMERIC	CAN MOVEMENTS	walls brick weatherboard	
		roof asphalt other wood	

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

Name of Property

County and State

8. State	nent of Signi	ificance				

(Mar	icable National Register Criteria k "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria fying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)					
<u>X</u> A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Commerce					
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.						
_C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction	Period of Significance					
	or represents the work of a master, or possesses	1895-1954					
	high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.						
_D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates					
		N/A					
	ria Considerations x "x" in all the boxes that apply.)						
Prope	rty is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)					
_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A					
_ B	removed from its original location.	IVA					
_ C	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation					
_ D	a cemetery.	N/A					
_ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.						
_ F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder					
_ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved	unknown					

significance within the past 50 years.

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

Main Street Historic District	Ozaukee County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National

Register

- previously determined eligible by
 - the National Register
- designated a National Historic

landmark

city or town

- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Menomonee Falls

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- _ Local government
- University

Other

Name of repository:

10.	Geogra	phical Data					
Acre	age of Pr	operty <u>2.75 ac</u>	res			·	
J TN	I Referen	ices (Place addition	onal UTM references on a co	ontinuation sl	eet.)		
1	16	420108	4786634	3			
1	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2		G	3	4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone See Con	Easting ntinuation Sh	Northing eet
erb	al Bound	lary Description	(Describe the boundaries of	the property	on a conti	nuation sheet)	
oun	idary Jus	tification (Explai	n why the boundaries were	selected on a	continuati	on sheet)	
1. 1	Form P	repared By					
nan	ne/title	Traci F	Schnell/Architectural Histor	rian Brian I	Faltinson/	Project Historia	n
	anization		Research, Ltd.	, 15111111111111111111111111111111		date	May 2003

WI

zip code

53051

state

Main Street	Historic	District
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Ozaukee County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name/title

various

organization street&number city or town date telephone

state

WI

zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1	Main Street Historic District
	Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Main Street Historic District exists within the commercial center of the Village of Thiensville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Consisting of nine parcels possessing ten contributing buildings, the district is centered on the prominent intersection of Main Street, Green Bay Road and W. Buntrock Avenue. The streetscape consists of a combination of commercial and residential structures that are separated from the roadway only by sidewalk. No significant vegetation is present. The buildings were constructed between 1895 and 1927 and consist of the Craftsman, Queen Anne, Twentieth-Century Commercial, as well as vernacular interpretations of popular styles. Ten buildings are located within the district, all are considered to be contributing.

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS

116-122 S. Main Street Maas-Bublitz Residence 1898

This two-and-one-half story, Queen Anne style residence rises from a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed with clapboard. The house has a rectangular, hipped-roof core and features projecting gabled wings and roof dormers; the peaks are sheathed with decorative wooden shinglework. A wraparound porch stretches across both the west and south facades, as well as partially wraps around to the north. It consists of turned wooden supports, a spindled balustrade, as well as a spindled frieze. An additional spindled balustrade lines the second level. Windows throughout the home are one-over-one-light sashes and are generally arranged singly; however, a tripartite grouping is situated within the primary west gabled peak. A pair of brick chimneys rises from the hip-roofed core. Since 1907, the interior has been divided for multiple-family use; the home currently has four apartments units.

The house was built in 1898 by August & Minnie Maas. Minnie Maas was the daughter of Ferdinand Duwe, who operated a wagon works in Thiensville as early as 1866. In 1907, the home was purchased by Otto Bublitz. Bublitz and his family occupied the first floor, while he rented out the upper level, which he had divided into at least two living quarters. For at least a time from at least 1910 to circa 1913, an upper unit was utilized as a home and residence of physician Dr. Kenney. The house remained in the Bublitz family until 1989, when it was purchased by the current owner Tom Montaine.¹

¹ "Duwe-Maas Family History," Typed manuscript by Harvey Maas, dated 1991, On file at the Mequon Historical Society, Mequon, WI; Bublitz Family, Geneaological and biographical information, In possession of Dawn Holyoke, great-granddaughter of Otto Bublitz, Thiensville, WI; Tax Rolls, Town of Mequon, 1849-1910, On file at the Mequon Historical Society, Mequon, WI; Historic postcard view (Maas-Bublitz Residence), dated 1913, In possession of Dawn Holyoke; 1910 census information, handwritten in minutes of the Village of Thiensville, On file at the Thiensville Municipal Center, Thiensville, WI; Tom Montaine, Current owner of 106-108 and 116-122 S. Main Street, Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, May 2003, Notes on file at Heritage Research Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Main Street Historic District Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

105 S. Main Street Commercial House Hotel 1895

This two-and-one-half story, Queen Anne style structure rises from a cut limestone foundation and is variously sheathed with aluminum, clapboard, as well as decorative shinglework. Oriented to the corner of S. Main Street and W. Buntrock Avenue, the building is dominated by a three-story tower, the pyramidal roof of which has since been removed. The first level of the tower is fitted with a modern door, while the second floor retains a series of four tall and narrow, rectangular, double-hung sash windows. The third level displays a series of four round-arched, double-hung windows, as well as carved wooden brackets along the roof's eave. The first level of the structure features a circa 1960s window alteration, as well as aluminum siding, while the second floor is sheathed with clapboard and consists of irregularly placed sash windows. A gabled roof dormer is located along both the east and north facades and displays a single, double-hung sash window near the peak, which is surrounded by decorative shinglework. A small pent is located above each peak window and is underscored by wooden trim and small, carved wooden brackets. A two-story addition extends from the main block to the west, is sheathed with clapboard and features only two sash windows along its north facade. A one-story, concrete block addition is located off of the southwest corner and appears to have served as a garage.

In 1895, Nic Wilson purchased this property from Mr. Ernst Alten and erected the subject structure, naming it the Commercial House Hotel. The opening took place on November 16th and 17th of that year, and it was said that it was a grand affair, with "the lagar (sic) flowing freely and a lunch served that was elegant." Wilson also ran the grain elevator that was located to the west, along the railroad line. Wilson sold the hotel to Alvin Riemer, who continued to run the establishment under the same name. Riemer then sold to William Heusler, who in turn, sold it to William Stevens. The building continuously served as a tavern into the 1970s, at which time it functioned as Moy's China Dragon Restaurant. After serving for a short time as a Mexican restaurant, the building is now serving Chinese food again, now under the name of Canton Garden.²

101 N. Main Street Oscar Bublitz Grocery Store 1920

This two-story, Craftsman-influenced building rises from a poured concrete foundation, features iron beam construction and is faced with brick. The hipped roof features wide, overhanging and slightly flared eaves, as well as a pair of hip-roofed dormers along the south façade. The structure's primary entrance is canted and is located at the southeast corner of N. Main Street and W. Buntrock Avenue. A modern glass door provides entry to the structure, while a carved wooden bracket accents the entry beneath the line of the second floor. A second,

² Newsbriefs (re: Commercial Hotel), Cedarburg News, 29 August, 6 and 20 November 1895; Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Chicago: RL. Polk & Co., 1895); Gretchen Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville (Cedarburg, WI: News Graphic, Inc., 1976), 11.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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				Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

this time recessed, entrance is located near the north end of the structure, along the east façade. Modern, plate-glass display windows are located between the two doorways, as well as along a portion of the south elevation. A wooden cornice divides the first floor from the second at the southeast corner. The remainder of the first level is comprised of randomly placed six-over-one light sashes with concrete sills. The second floor features a pair of bay window projections (one each to the south and east) that are sheathed with board siding; a pair of carved brackets accents the south projection. Windows along the second level are arranged singly and variously grouped and consist largely of eight-over-one-light sashes. An open porch with a carved, wooden balustrade is located at the southwest corner of the upper floor.

This building was built in 1920 as a grocery store for Oscar Bublitz, who was a leading businessman in Thiensville (see Section 8, Page 4 for a thorough discussion of Oscar Bublitz and the Bublitz family). The cost of the building was just over \$22,500 and it was built with what were considered modern techniques and conveniences including a poured concrete foundation, iron-beam construction, as well as a central vacuum system in the second floor quarters. Bublitz retired in 1955 and died the following year. Sometime thereafter, the structure was purchased by current owner, Schmit Ford-Mercury and is now used as anoffice and storage.³

107 W. Buntrock Avenue Ervin Reimer Residence 1915

Rising two stories, this American Foursquare home is completely sheathed with orange-tone brick and is topped with a steeply pitched, hipped roof. A single, hipped-roof dormer with wooden shingle sheathing rises from the north plane of the roof and carries a pair of three-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. Oriented to the north, the primary façade features an enclosed, hipped-roof porch with three-over-one-light windows and a central doorway that consists of sidelights and a solid wooden door with a pointed-arch window near the center. A semi-circular overhang (dating from a later remodeling) extends over the entrance. The second floor carries a tripartite window arrangement, as well as a single sash opening. The east elevation features a side entrance with a small overhang, as well as a nearly central bay projection that is also topped with a small overhang. Windows along this elevation are arranged in pairs, tripartite and quad groupings. A large, lighted sign hangs over the side entrance and reads, "The Leather Strop."

This house was built circa 1915 by Ervin Reimer. Reimer was the son of Alvin Reimer who had run the neighboring Commercial House Hotel at 105 S. Main Street by no later than 1919 to at least 1927. Ervin followed in his father's footsteps and, by no later than 1935, he purchased the tavern formerly known as the Thiensville Recreation Parlor, located at 128-130 S. Main Street. Reimer re-named the business Riemer's Recreation Tavern and Bowling Alleys. Returning to the subject structure, alterations were made to the interior of the Reimer home in 1949 for its conversion for funeral home use—then owned by Ervin Riemer and Peter

³ Bublitz Family, Geneaological and biographical information; Tax Rolls, Village of Thiensville, 1911-1965, On file at the Ozaukee County Courthouse, Port Washington, WI.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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			Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI		
Hatzinger, The	struct	ure continue	s to be used for commercial purposes and is	known as The Leather St	trop.4

128-130 S. Main Street Thiensville Recreation Parlor 1927

This one-story structure rises from a concrete foundation and is sheathed with common brick along three elevations, while the primary (west) façade features face brick. The central, recessed entrance is accessed via four concrete stairs and is covered by a large, rectilinear overhang with modest detailing. A single plate-glass window is located to either side of the entry and is accented by stone quoining and topped with a solid stone lintel. The space above each window displays a brickwork rectangle comprised of soldier brick and is accented at each corner by a square stone. The curvilinear shaped parapet is topped with stone coping; the central portion of which features an incised stone letter "G." The area immediately beneath features a circular stone inset incised with the date "1927." Windows along the remainder of the structure are variously grouped and consist of double-hung sashes.

As the incised datestone indicates, this building was constructed in 1927. Indeed, an announcement notes the bar and bowling alley's opening date as 14 May 1927. Paul Gruenwald was the owner/proprietor of what was then known as the Thiensville Recreation Parlor, while Elmer Hensel served as the manager. By no later than 1935, the business was purchased by Ervin Riemer. Although the structure has changed hands over the years, it continues to serve as a tavern today, known as Remington's River Inn.⁵

101 Green Bay Road Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Department 1914

Sheathed with cream city brick, the former Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Station is located at the northeast corner of N. Main Street and Green Bay Road. The structure is dominated by a 60-foot, brick hose tower that is topped with a wooden, open belfry; a single wooden door topped with a transom provides access on the first level. The primary (west) façade features a paneled, wood-and-glass, overhead door, while the second floor carries a central paired grouping and a single opening to either side. Windows are one-over-one-light sashes that are underscored by a concrete sill and topped with a double row of header brick set in a segmental arch. A stone inset trimmed with brick reads "THIENSVILLE VILLAGE HALL & F.D." is located directly beneath the stepped parapet roofline. Although currently vacant, the first floor consists of a garage area, a restroom, as well as a jail, while the upper level is divided into office spaces.

⁴ Tax assessor's records, Village of Thiensville, Available at the Thiensville Municipal Center; Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 11; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* [1919-1920], 1182; [1927-1928], 982; Newspaper clippings, Thiensville Memorabilia Album, Located at the Mequon Historical Society, Mequon, WI. ⁵Thiensville Memorabilia Album.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5 Main Street Historic District Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

The Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Department building was designed by Milwaukee architect Byron S. Scheiderer and erected by Cedarburg builder John Vollmar in 1914. In 1913, the Fire Engine Company donated land for a village hall and contributed \$1,000 to help with the cost of construction. By June 1914, excavations had begun; the cornerstone was laid in August. A number of card parties were held that fall by the Ladies Cinch Club, with proceeds going to the new fire station. The structure was noted as nearing completion in October and in January 1915 the fire bell was installed. That same month, the annual meeting of the Fire Engine Co. was held in the new fire station. The building was utilized until the completion of the new municipal center at 250 Elm Street in 1974.

106-108 S. Main Street Otto Bublitz Investment Property/L.F. Bartelt Co. 1913

This two-story, gabled, frame building rises from a concrete foundation and the walls are sheathed with clapboard. The primary (west) façade features a recessed entrance to the north, which consists of two wood-and-glass doors, each of which is topped with a transom. The remainder of the west elevation features display windows, all topped with prism glass transoms. The second floor carries a central pair of replacement, double-hung sashes that are flanked by a single sash to either side. Finally, the peak displays a Palladian window grouping. A pent entry overhang shelters the doorway along the north side of the building, while a new, two-story open porch runs along the south elevation. Sash windows are irregularly placed throughout the remainder of the structure. The interior consists of two commercial spaces on the first floor, while the upper level contains two apartments. A historic photograph indicates that this building originally featured a false parapet front; however, at some point it was removed.

Also included on the property is a five-stall garage structure that is sheathed with shiplap siding and topped with a gambrel roof. A single wooden door is situated at the north end of the west façade and a single window rests to the south, immediately adjacent to the five stalls. A wall dormer is located over stalls one and two and carries a sash window. A brick chimney rises from the roof. This structure was used to house the hearse for the funeral home. This structure is a contributing element in the district.

The subject structure was built as an investment property by Otto Bublitz in 1913. The building's first tenant was the L.F. Bartelt Co., a furniture and undertaking business. Otto's brother Walter joined Bartelt and his then partner Walter Kirmsse. That partnership eventually dissolved and Bartelt joined a funeral business in Milwaukee and the firm name was changed to Walter A. Bublitz, Inc. Walter remained in the funeral home business until retirement in circa 1941, when he turned the business over to his son-in-law Peter Hatzinger. The funeral home business eventually moved to 107 W. Buntrock in 1949, however, the subject building remained

⁶ Cedarburg News (re: fire station/village hall construction), 24 June, 12 August, 2 September, 7 October, 14 October, 28 October 1914 and 7 January 1915; Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 56.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	_/_ Pag	ge <u>6</u>	M	lain Sti	reet H	istoric Dis	tric	t							
			T	<u>hiensv</u>	ille, O	zaukee Co	oun	ty, WI							
in Otto	Bublitz's	possession	until	1955	(See	Section	8,	Page 4	for	a	thorough	discussion	of th	ne]	Bublitz
Family).	.7							_			_				

121-123 S. Main Street John Bublitz & Son General Store 1896

This two-and-one-half story, front-gabled building rises from a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed with narrow wood siding, except for the gabled peak which features decorative shinglework. Oriented to the east, the first floor features a recessed entrance flanked by storefront windows, while a secondary entrance is situated at the north end of the east façade. A cloth awning shelters the entry. The second floor carries two windows consisting of four, multiple-light casement openings each. An historic photograph of this building indicates that the two original window openings featured a larger central window (possibly with a stained- or leaded-glass upper pane) and flanking sashes. The peak of the primary elevation carries a rectangular Palladian motif window consisting of multiple-light panes. The primary feature along the south façade is a projecting, second-story, gabled wall dormer with carved wooden bracket detailing. The replacement windows throughout the remainder of the building are arranged singly and in pairs and consist of multiple-light panes. A gabled garage addition extends from the rear of the structure.

This building was constructed as a grocery store by local carpenter Fred Linden for John Bublitz in 1896 (see Section 8, Page 4 for a thorough discussion of John Bublitz and the Bublitz Family). The store operated as J. Bublitz & Son, General Store until circa 1910 when John retired and his two sons Oscar and Otto renamed the concern Bublitz Bros., General Merchants. Four years after Oscar purchased Otto's interest in the store in 1916, Oscar built a new grocery store at 101 N. Main Street and the subject structure was sold to Harry Mollier, who maintained the building as a grocery store for many years.⁸

127 S. Main Street Walter Bublitz Residence 1920

This simple, two-story, Craftsman-influenced residence rises from a rusticated concrete block foundation and is sheathed with asbestos shingle (or slate) siding. The primary, clipped-gable elevation faces east and the first floor features a series of four sash windows, as well as an entrance—all of which is trimmed with board-and-batten siding. The small, open and gabled porch features flared supports and a closed railing, both of which are

⁷ The subject building is noted as "from plans" on a 1913 fire insurance map, Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps—Thiensville, Wis. (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913); Thiensville Memorabilia Album; Ruth Hatzinger, Longtime Thiensville Resident and daughter of Walter Bublitz, Convesation with Traci E. Schnell, 2 June 2003.
⁸ Mohr, ed., History of Theinsville, 4-5; Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory [1909-1910], 1237; [1919-1920], 1182; Bublitz Family, Geneological and biographical information, In possession of Dawn Holyoke, great-granddaughter of Otto Bublitz, Thiensville, WI.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Dags 7	Main Charact III at a de Distante
Section 7 Page 7	Main Street Historic District
	Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

covered with board-and-batten sheathing. The upper level carries a paired grouping of one-over-one-light sashes at the center while a single square opening is located to either side. The north elevation features a rectangular bay projection with a shed roof and a tripartite grouping of windows. A pair of sashes are located to the west of the bay, while a pair of smaller openings rest within the clipped-gable wall dormer along the second floor.

This residence was erected by Walter Bublitz in 1920 (see Section 8, Page 4 for a thorough discussion of Walter Bublitz and the Bublitz Family). In 1920, Walter and his wife Josephine (Steffen) and daughter Ruth moved into the subject residence. After just three years, they sold the house to the L.F. Bartelt and then moved into the quarters above the funeral home located at 106-108 S. Main Street.⁹

BUILDING INVENTORY

	•		Date of	
<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Style</u>	Construction	<u>Status</u>
107 W. Buntrock Avenue	Ervin Reimer Residence	American Foursquare	1915 ¹⁰	С
101 Green Bay Road	Thiensville Village Hall and	20 th C Commercial	1914 ¹¹	C
·	Fire Department			
101 N. Main Street	Oscar Bublitz Grocery Store	Craftsman		C
105 S. Main Street	Commercial House Hotel	Queen Anne	1895 ¹³	С
101 Green Bay Road101 N. Main Street	Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Department Oscar Bublitz Grocery Store	20 th C Commercial Craftsman		C C C

⁹ Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 4-5; Newsbrief (re: firm name change) *Cedarburg News*, 18 January 1928; Bublitz family, Geneological and biographical information; Abstract of title for 127 S. Main Street, In possession of current owner Madaline Reddy, Thiensville, WI; Ruth Hatzinger, Daughter of Walter Bublitz, Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, 2 June 2003.

¹⁰ Tax assessor's records.

¹¹ Newsbrief (re: fire station/village hall construction), 24 June 1914, 28 October 1914.

¹² Tax Rolls, Village of Thiensville, 1911-1965.

¹³ Newsbrief (re: Commercial House Hotel), 29 August, 6 and 20 November 1895.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 8	Main Street Historic Dis	strict		
	Thiensville, Ozaukee C	ounty, WI		
106-108 S. Main Street	Otto Bublitz Investment Property	Queen Anne Commercial	1913 ¹⁴	C
	Garage/Carriage House	Astylistic Utilitarian	Ca. 1915 15	С
116-122 S. Main Street	Maas-Bublitz Residence	Queen Anne	1898 ¹⁶	C
121-123 S. Main Street	John Bublitz & Son General Store	Queen Anne Commercial	1896 ¹⁷	С
127 S. Main Street	Walter Bublitz Residence	Craftsman vernacular	1920 ¹⁸	C
128-130 S. Main Street	Thiensville Recreation Parlor	20 th C. commercial	1927 ¹⁹	С

¹⁴ Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps—Thiensville, Wis.
15 Ibid.; Observation.
16 "Duwe-Maas Family History."
17 Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 4.
18 Abstract of Title for 127 S. Main Street.
19 Thiensville Memorabilia Album; Datestone on building reads "1927."

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	8	Page	1	Main Street Historic District	
				Thiensville, Ozaukee County, W.	

SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Street Historic District is nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce. Regarding Criterion A, this grouping of buildings stands as the principal commercial center of the Village of Thiensville. The buildings date from 1895 to 1927. The district is representative of small commercial districts throughout the state with its combination of business and residential buildings. The period of significance begins with the construction of the first building in the district in 1895 and ends in 1954, the end of the historic period. The district is nominated at the local level.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Village of Thiensville is situated in the historic Town of Mequon in southern Ozaukee County. The community primarily is on the west bank of the Milwaukee River, a region that was historically filled with oak, maple, beechwood and birch forests, and was transformed over time into a rich agricultural area.²⁰

The first inhabitants of what would become the Village of Thiensville were Indians who had a small village at the confluence of the Milwaukee River and Pigeon Creek. The area was inhabited by the Sac, Fox, Pottawatomie, and Menomonee tribes, who were drawn to the area's rich sources of game and fish, as well as the close proximity of Lake Michigan. In 1831, the first of a series of treaties began to turn the area over to white settlement and the process was completed in 1838 when the Indians had completely turned over their land rights.²¹

Beginning in 1832, the federal government surveyed the Green Bay Road from Milwaukee to Fort Howard (Green Bay) and it was completed through the Town of Mequon between 1836 and 1839. Within the town, the crude trail primarily ran along the Milwaukee River. Also during this period, the federal government surveyed the Town of Mequon. Between 1834 and 1836, the area was surveyed by John Weston and a Mr. Brink and Mr. Follett. The first known settlement occurred in the mid 1830s when a small group of settlers set up a cluster of shanties where Pigeon Creek joined the Milwaukee River. Soon thereafter, John Weston purchased the quarter section of land that would eventually become the Village of Thiensville. By 1840, Weston was the area's postmaster and operated out of his log cabin.²²

During this period, Peter Turck set up a sawmill along the Milwaukee River; however, it was a later mill that

²⁰Walter D. Corrigan, Sr., *History of the Town of Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin* (Cedarburg, WI: Cedarburg News Print, n.d.), 7.

²¹Corrigan, Sr., History of the Town of Mequon, 7.

²²Corrigan, Sr., History of the Town of Mequon, 8; Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 2.

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served as the catalyst for the formation of the Village of Thiensville. In 1842, John Henry Thien purchased Weston's land. Thien had emigrated from the Saxony region of Germany to Milwaukee the previous year. Soon after purchasing Weston's property, Thien constructed a substantial two-and-half-story, stone flour mill to provide for the township's growing farming population. The settlement that emerged took the name of Thiensville although the local post office was known as Mequon River for many years.²³

In 1871, the Wisconsin Central Railway completed a line to Thiensville and the community continued its evolution as an agricultural support center that supported the farmers of the Town of Mequon. Farmers utilized the rail line to ship wheat, flour and other farm produce. Economic life continued to revolve around Thien's mill, which was replaced in 1876 with a five-story, stone structure after a fire destroyed the original facility in 1874. By 1879, the settlement had a population of 150 and was served by a three general stores, a pair of hotels, saloons and shoemakers. Other businesses included Thien's flour mill, an agricultural implement maker, brewer, harnessmaker, physician, blacksmith, tinsmith, as well as a lumberyard. Many of these businesses emerged at locations along Main Street and Green Bay Avenue and formed the community's commercial center.²⁴

At the turn of the century, Thiensville remained a tight-knit cluster of residences and businesses located near the Milwaukee River. During this period, the community's population hovered between 250 and 300 people and the economy had diversified since the 1870s. In addition to the previously mentioned enterprises, Thiensville had become home to several meat markets, carpentry shops and wagonmakers. A barber, real estate agent and undertaker had also opened up business. And finally, local farmers benefited from the opening of a grain elevator. In 1907, The Milwaukee Northern Railway completed an electric interurban line from Milwaukee to Port Washington through Thiensville. This would later become a line within The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company system. The initial stages of suburbanization were the result as Milwaukee commuters began to take up residence in Thiensville, as well as the surrounding Town of Mequon. However, in the early days of the interurban, the line brought many weekend vacationers from Milwaukee to Thiensville to enjoy recreational activities offered by the Milwaukee River and surrounding tracts of woods. Many of these vacationers stayed at Thiensville's local hotels or constructed summer cottages.

By 1910, the local economy had evolved to a point that a bank was needed. As a result, John F. Nieman, Otto Bublitz and D.M. Rosenheimer founded the Thiensville State Bank, which soon after opening had deposits in

²³Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 14, 16-18, 54.

²⁴History of the Town of Mequon, 23; Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1879 (Milwaukee: William Hogg, 1879), 485.

²⁵Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 4-9, 36, 134; Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory [1895-1896], 1023; [1903-1904], 1150; Joseph M. Canfield, TM: The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company (Chicago: Gregg-Moore Lithographic Company, 1972), 294-300.

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excess of \$12,000. Other businesses in the community reflected the village's role as a thriving agricultural support center and included five saloons, four hotels, blacksmiths and general stores, three agricultural implement dealers, meat markets and carpenters as well as a pair of harness makers and physicians. Thiensville also enjoyed the services of the Thiensville Flour Mill, a lumberyard, shoemaker, hardware store, wagonmaker and barber. 26

On 23 July 1910, five local citizens--Reinhold Gerlach, Louis Kieker, Otto Bublitz, P.J. Kroehnke, and John E. Mueller--filed a petition for incorporating Thiensville as a village. The proposed incorporation boundary included 599 acres and 289 people. On 11 October 1910, the election was held at Holnagel's Hall and the residents voted 48 to 28 in favor of incorporation. The election of officials occurred on 29 November and John F. Gierach was elected as the village's first president. In 1913, the Thiensville Fire Department donated \$1,000 and a plot of land at the prominent corner of Green Bay Road and Main Street for the construction of a village hall and fire building. In 1920, Thiensville's population was recorded at 334.²⁷

After World War I, the village experience one of its fastest periods of growth by growing nearly 35 percent in a seven-year period. In 1927, Thiensville's population numbered 405. The community's business climate had changed somewhat with the addition of an automobile garage, concrete company and ice cream parlor. Also, due to Prohibition, two soft drink merchants replaced the several saloons that had once operated. Other significant events in Thiensville during the 1920s were the creation of its first park when the Thiensville Athletic Association purchased a fourteen-acre tract adjacent to the Milwaukee River. The other major occurrence was the emergence of the village's largest industry--the Gilbert Shoe Company--which operated out of a former school building between 1926 and 1978. ²⁸

After World War II, suburbanization of Thiensville escalated rapidly after the village installed sanitary sewer lines and a sewage treatment plant in 1946. The immediate result was the platting of a number of subdivisions in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Also during this time, the surrounding Town of Mequon experienced tremendous suburbanization and incorporated as a city in 1957, an action that permanently fixed Thiensville's municipal boundaries. As a result of suburbanization, Thiensville gradually lost many of its farm-related businesses. In fact, the historic flour mill complex was torn down in 1956. In 1970, the village's population had reached 3,182, while the City of Mequon numbered over 12,000. In order to meet the demands of this growing population, many municipal services were initiated or expanded and a new village hall was constructed in 1974. During this entire period, Thiensville has evolved from a quiet village focused on supporting local

²⁶Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 82; Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory [1909-1910], 1237.

²⁷Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 72-74; *State of Wisconsin Bluebook*, 1929 (Madison, WI: State of Wisconsin, 1929), 634.

²⁸Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory [1927-1928], 982; Mohr, ed., History of Thiensville, 100-06.

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agriculture to a thriving, rapidly growing suburban community.²⁹

Bublitz Family

Between the mid-1890s and the 1920s, the Bublitz family was instrumental in bolstering the commercial growth of the village. The patriarch of the family was John Bublitz. Born in 1851, Bublitz was the son of Carl and Louise (Voelz) Bublitz. In 1875, John married Juliana Bruss and together they had seven children. John first worked at the family-owned, steam-powered sawmill, as well as ran a farm where he bred fine cattle. In 1896, he opened a grocery store along with his son Otto and it was known as J. Bublitz & Son, General Store, located at 121-123 S. Main Street. In circa 1910, John retired and son Oscar joined the business with brother Otto and the venture was known as Bublitz Bros., General Merchants. Four years after Oscar purchased Otto's interest in the store in 1916, Oscar built a new grocery store at 101 N. Main Street.

John and Juliana's eldest son Otto was born in 1876. Otto reportedly left the family farm at the age of seventeen and went to work at Thiermann's Store in Thiensville. After attending Milwaukee Business College, Otto came back to Thiensville and, in 1896, when into the grocery business with his father at 121-123 S. Main Street. In 1900, Otto married Helen (Ella) Kieker and together they had two children, Roy and Mabel. After Helen died, Otto married Ida Fishback. In 1907, Otto purchased the Queen Anne style residence at 116-122 S. Main Street from the August Maas family, the house of which remained in the Bublitz family until 1989. Otto was one of the three men that were instrumental in the 1910 establishment of the Thiensville State Bank and he was on its board of directors for forty-six years. Also in 1910, he was one of five men to petition for the incorporation of the Village of Thiensville and was the census enumerator that year. In 1913, Otto built the commercial structure at 106-108 S. Main Street as an investment property; he retained ownership of the building until circa 1955. In 1916, Otto sold his interest in the firm of Bublitz Bros., General Merchants, to his brother Oscar. Otto was also involved in real estate and was one of the investors of the Thiensville Realty Company. The business purchased the Ellenbecker, Alten and Kopp farms and either sold off the empty parcels or built homes it and then subsequently sold the land. At one point, Otto also served as the Supervisor of the Village Board, the treasurer of the School Board, as well as the first engineer of the Thiensville Fire Department. The supervisor of the Village Board, the treasurer of the School Board, as well as the first engineer of the Thiensville Fire Department.

Oscar Bublitz was born in 1882, the fourth child of John and Juliana (Bruss) Bublitz. Initially, Oscar worked in the family's general store--Bublitz & Son--on 121-123 S. Main Street; however, he went on to attend Concordia College and then worked at Stienmeyer's, a large dry goods store in Milwaukee. After his father retired in circa 1910, Oscar joined his brother Otto in the grocery business and it was renamed Bublitz Bros., General Merchants. In 1916, Oscar purchased brother Otto's interest in the store and built a new grocery store structure

²⁹Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 22, 77-81; *State of Wisconsin Bluebook*, 1971 (Madison, WI: State of Wisconsin, 1971), 218.

³⁰ Mohr, ed., *History of Theinsville*, 4-5; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* [1909-1910], 1237; [1919-1920], 1182; Bublitz Family, Geneaological and biographical information.

³¹ Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 4-5, 72, 82; Bublitz family, genealogical and biographical information.

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in 1920 at 101 N. Main Street. In addition to his business concerns, Oscar also held the position of Village Treasurer at one point. He retired in 1955 and died the following year.

Finally, John and Juliana's youngest son Walter was born in 1889. He attended grade school in Thiensville and high school in Cedarburg. After attending Marquette's School of Engineering, and becoming a licensed electrical engineer, Walter worked for the Filter Manufacturing Plant in Milwaukee. While laid off from the job, he learned the barber trade. He then bought into the local furniture and undertaking business which was run by L.F. Bartelt & Walter Kirmsse and operated out of his brother Otto's investment property at 106-108 S. Main Street. He then learned the furniture business and became a licensed embalmer and funeral director. In 1920, Walter and his wife Josephine (Steffen) and daughter Ruth moved into a residence at 127 S. Main Street. After just three years, they sold the house to the Bartelts and then moved into the quarters above the funeral home at 106-108 S. Main Street. In January 1928, Bartelt left the firm and joined a funeral business in Milwaukee and the firm name was changed to Walter A. Bublitz, Inc. Walter and his family remained in the upper quarters of the funeral home until building a home on Riverview Drive, also in Thiensville, in 1940. Bublitz died just three years later.³²

ARCHITECTURE

The district's buildings exhibit a variety of architectural styles, as well as vernacular structures that retain a fair degree of integrity. The earliest buildings in the Main Street Historic District, those which date prior to 1900, are either representatives of, or show characteristics of, the Queen Anne style of architecture. The Queen Anne style was popular (in Wisconsin) from 1880 to 1910. Queen Anne was a late-Victorian era building style that is characterized by an irregular plan which is often evident through asymmetrical walls. A combination of various building materials ranging from shingles, clapboard and brick may be used on one structure, while typical details (on residential buildings) include large porches or verandas, turrets, bay windows and decorative patterns such as fish-scale and diamond shingles. Leaded or stained glass windows are often present.

The best example of a Queen Anne residence in the Village of Thiensville is the 1898 Maas-Bublitz home at 116-122 S. Main Street. This house features original clapboard siding, decorative shinglework, cutaway corners, carved wooden brackets and a significantly large, wraparound porch with turned post supports and a spindlework frieze. A commercial example of the Queen Anne style is the Commercial House Hotel, which was built in 1895 and is located at 105 S. Main Street. The structure's corner tower, shinglework, as well as partial clapboard siding still evoke the building's original styling despite the alterations to the first floor windows ands sheathing, as well as the loss of the corner tower's roof.

Also influenced by the Queen Anne style are two similar commercial buildings. The first is the John Bublitz & Son General Store at 121-123 S. Main Street. Built in 1896 by local carpenter Fred Linden, the subject store

³² Mohr, ed., *History of Thiensville*, 4-5; Newsbrief (re: firm name change) *Cedarburg News*, 18 January 1928; Bublitz family, Geneaological and biographical information; Abstract of title for 127 S. Main Street, Hatzinger, Conversation with Schnell.

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features decorative shinglework within its upper half-story. The two-story building at 106-108 S. Main Street is a simple front-gabled building with a typical commercial storefront built in 1913 as an investment property. A Palladian window in the peak adds a degree of stylistic interest to the structure. Of note, however, is that the structure's original false parapet (or Boomtown) front has removed within the previous decade.

A pair of Craftsman-influenced buildings is located at 107 W. Buntrock Avenue and 101 N. Main Street which were built in 1915 and 1920, respectively. The Craftsman style of architecture was popular (in Wisconsin) from 1900 to 1920. The style derived from the English Arts & Crafts movement of the nineteenth century; the tenet of which was to counter the era of industrialization and to concentrate on the tradition of craftsmanship. Typical elements of the Craftsman style included broad gable or hipped roofs, dormers, decorative brackets or exposed rafters/rafter tails and prominent chimneys. The brick Ervin Riemer Residence, located at 107 W. Buntrock Avenue features a broad hipped roof, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, as well as a front-facing roof dormer. A second, commercial example of the style is the Oscar Bublitz General Store, which is situated across the street from the Riemer home. Also sheathed with brick, this structure also exhibits a broad, hipped roof, a pair of hipped roof dormers, wooden bracket trim, as well as slightly flared and overhanging eaves. In addition, the Walter Bublitz Residence which was built in 1920 and is located at 127 S. Main Street features flared porch supports and a clipped gable roof—element of which are associated with the Craftsman style; however, the modern siding has likely covered any of the home's additional, original detailing.

An excellent example of an intact, twentieth century commercial building is the former Thiensville Recreation Parlor that is sited at 128-130 S. Main Street. The primary façade features a recessed entrance that is flanked to either side by a plate-glass display window. Each window is trimmed with stone (or cast concrete) blocks, while the entrance is sheltered by a flat, rectangular awning with Art Deco-inspired trim. The structure is topped with a shaped parapet that displays the initial of the building's first owner.

The most prominent and intact building of the historic district is the 1914 Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Department building at 101 Green Bay Road. Constructed of cream brick, this building is a utilitarian structure that is dominated by its 60-foot hose tower which has Prairie style tendencies in its design. Windows are simple sashes set within unadorned segmental-arch openings.

CONCLUSION:

The Main Street Historic District is nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce. This grouping of buildings stands as the principal commercial center of the Village of Thiensville with resources constructed between 1895 to 1927. This district represents the most intact collection of historic commercial buildings within the village of Thiensville. In the historic period these buildings housed local businesses, including stores, a hotel and a recreation parlor. The district also contains the historic village hall and fire station and several residential properties. Because of its proximity to the commercial core, one of the residences (at 107 W. Buntrock) was converted to use as a funeral parlor within the historic period.

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Preservation Activities:	The community sponsored a professional survey and have acted on the finding	s b
listing this district on the	National Register of Historic Places.	-

Archaeological Potential: There is no visible evidence of either historic or prehistoric sites nor are there any reports on file with the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, these is no known systematic or detailed study of the district and therefore it is possible there were archaeological remains.

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Main Street Historic District is as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of 101 N. Main Street (Point A), the line travels south along the west lot line of 101 N. Main Street (B), then turns east along the curb line corresponding to the property's southern lot line (C), then turns south and crosses W. Buntrock Avenue to join the west lot line of 107 W. Buntrock Avenue (D), then travels west along the north lot line of 121-123 S. Main Street (E), then moves south along the west lot lines of 121-123 and 127 S. Main Street (F), then extends east along the south lot line of 127 Main and across S. Main Street (G), then turns south along the west property line of 128-130 S. Main Street (H), then turns south and coincides with the south lot line of 128-130 S. Main Street (I), then travels northerly along the east lot lines of 128-130, 116-122 and 106-108 S. Main Street before extending across Green Bay Road (J), then moves northeast along the curb line corresponding to the southeast lot line of 101 Green Bay Road (K), then turns west along the north lot line of 101 Green Bay Road before extending across N. Main Street (L), then travels north along the curb line corresponding to the east lot line of 101 N. Main Street (M), then turns west along the north property line of 101 N. Main Street to the point of beginning (A).

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to enclose the best concentration of historic residential and commercial architecture in the village's historic commercial core that make up the historic streetscapes with the fewest intrusions and non-contributing elements. The boundary was drawn in all directions to exclude altered, non-contributing buildings.

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MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, Thiensville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Photos by Traci E. Schnell, June 2003. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

View of the intersection of Main Street and Green Bay Road Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to West Photo #1 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

View of the intersection of Main Street and Green Bay Road Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to North Photo #2 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Oscar Bublitz General Store/101 N. Main Street (right) and Commercial House Hotel/105 S. Main Street (left) Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to Northwest Photo #3 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Thiensville Village Hall and Fire Department Building/101 Green Bay Road Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to East Northeast Photo #4 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Otto Bublitz Investment Property/L.F. Bartelt Furniture and Undertaking/106-108 S. Main Street (left) and Maas-Bublitz Residence/116-122 S. Main Street (right)
Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI
View to Southeast
Photo #5 of 9

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MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Garage at rear of the Otto Bublitz Investment Property/L.F. Bartelt Furniture and Undertaking/106-108 S. Main Street

Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

View to East

Photo #6 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Walter Bublitz Residence/127 S. Main Street (left) and John Bublitz & Son General Store/121-123 S. Main Street (right)

Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI

View to West

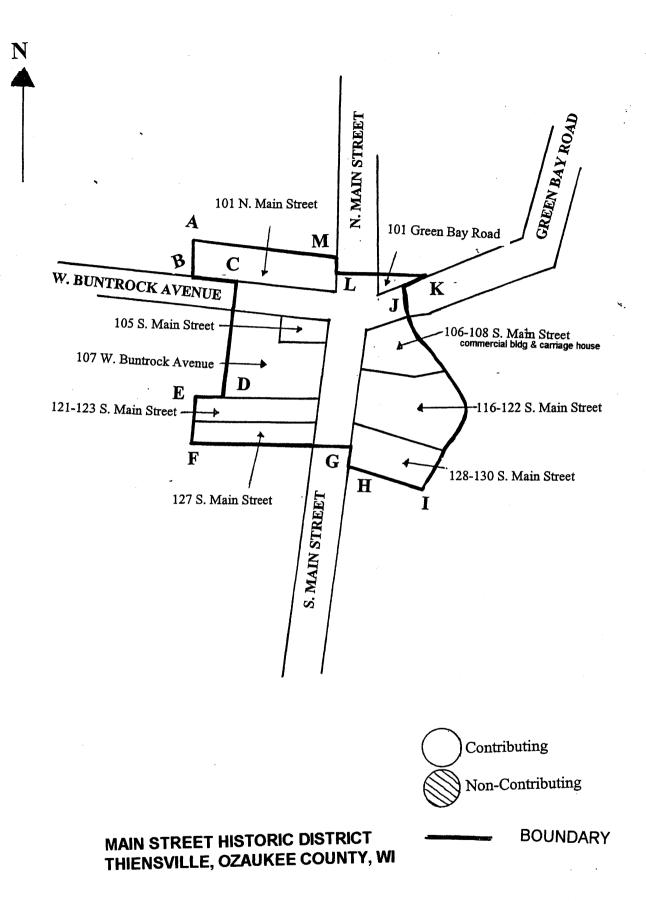
Photo #7 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Thiensville Recreation Parlor/128-130 S. Main Street Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to West Photo #8 of 9

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Ervin Reimer Residence/107 W. Buntrock Avenue Thiensville, Ozaukee County, WI View to West Photo #9 of 9



Main Street Historic District: District Boundary Map (not to scale)