

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1654

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DEC - 8 1999

NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY

EDUCATION

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 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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Fourth Street between Mill Street and Main Street  not for publication N/A

city or town Cannon Falls  vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Goodhue code 049 zip code 55009

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/2/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Ian R. Stewart, Deputy SHPO  
Minnesota Historical Society  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

[Signature] 1-7-00  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 23           | 7               | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
| 1            |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| 24           | 7               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: financial institution,  
business, professional, organizational,  
specialty store, department store,  
restaurant

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: business, professional,  
organizational, specialty store,  
restaurant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

See Continuation Sheet

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick  
Limestone

roof Composition

other Tin  
Cast iron

**Narrative Description**

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

See Continuation Sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1856-1949

**Significant Dates**

1887

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Doner, A. (designer and builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Goodhue County Historical Society

Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Goodhue County, MN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approx. 3-1/2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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Zone Easting Northing

3 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
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|   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Susan Granger and Kay Grossman

organization Gemini Research date December 31, 1998

street & number 15 East 9th Street telephone 320-589-3846

city or town Morris state MN zip code 56267

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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.

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7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

Late Victorian: Italianate, Commercial Queen Anne

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Neo-classical Revival

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

MATERIALS, CONTINUED

Walls, continued: Ceramic Tile, Glass

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District is located in the center of Cannon Falls, a small community located in southeastern Minnesota's Goodhue County. The boundaries of the historic district encompass the core of the central business district, including parts of five city blocks. Two of the properties in the historic district, the Yale Building and the Ellsworth House Livery Stable, were listed on the National Register on February 12, 1980.

Cannon Falls was founded at the confluence of the Cannon and Little Cannon rivers, both of which flow near downtown. The Little Cannon flows from south to north about one block west of the historic district. It converges with the Cannon River about four blocks north of the district, and then the Cannon River continues to flow eastward out of the city. The Chicago and North Western Railroad enters northeastern Cannon Falls along the southern bank of the Cannon River, and travels on an east-west alignment about four blocks north of the district. Grain elevators, mills, and the railroad depot were historically located along the tracks. The railroad line crosses to the northern bank of the Cannon River north of downtown, and then travels northwestward out of the city. U.S. Highway 52 originally followed Fourth Street through the center of both the city

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and the historic district. The highway now bypasses downtown Cannon Falls as it skirts the western edge of the city.

The Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District includes 29 properties on which stand 29 commercial buildings, one storage building, and one set of fieldstone gate posts. (These 31 elements comprise 23 Contributing Buildings, 7 Non-contributing Buildings, and one Contributing Structure.) Twenty-one of the district's 29 commercial buildings face Fourth Street, Cannon Falls' main commercial street. The eight other buildings face downtown's two principle cross streets, Mill Street and Main Street. Concrete pedestrian sidewalks line the streets adjacent to the buildings' main facades.

The buildings in the historic district form a cohesive set of late 19th and early 20th century commercial structures that share many physical characteristics. The majority of the commercial buildings, or 19 of the 29, are two stories tall. (The rest are one story.) At least 21 buildings were built of local limestone, most of which was apparently quarried at Limestone Hill just east of town. A few of the buildings were apparently built of common brick. Both the limestone and common brick were generally faced with hard brick on the main facade (and, in the case of corner buildings, also faced with hard brick on a prominent side wall). Sixteen of the 29 buildings have relatively elaborate Italianate or Commercial Queen Anne style designs. Many of these buildings retain pressed metal cornices, decorative brickwork, and ornate limestone window hoods. Many of the buildings in the district are similar in age. Thirteen of the 29 buildings, for example, were constructed immediately after an 1887 fire destroyed most of downtown Cannon Falls. Approximately 22 of the 29 buildings were built during the 20-year period from circa 1880-1900.

The designers and builders of only two buildings in the historic district have been identified. Both the Van Campen Building at 100 4th St. N. and the adjacent Westman and Danielson Building at 106 4th St. N. were designed and built in 1884 by A. Doner, a Canadian-born contractor who had settled in Cannon Falls in 1855 (Bickman 1996:75). Doner was still working as a contractor in the city in 1888. Local historians have also identified the names of several early contractors who advertised in Cannon Falls newspapers. They include J. M. Lane (who advertised in 1876), Olaf Erickson (ad in 1885), Sam and Lester Bancroft (ad in 1885), G. H. Cross (ad in 1896), Alfred C. Flom (ad in 1928-1970), and Louis Spangenberg (ad in 1936). Stone masons who worked in Cannon Falls included Warren Clark, Lester Bancroft, Conrad Weaver, Gust Oberg, and G. P. "Stone" Johnson (Burch 1976 et al:41-42). It is possible that some of these builders and masons worked on the buildings in the historic district.

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Each of the district's 29 properties is briefly described below. The properties are identified by street address on the accompanying map.

**EAST SIDE OF FOURTH STREET**

1.

Historic Name: Bremer Brothers Building  
Current Name: Pine and Prints (north part)  
Address: 101 4th St. S.  
Built: Circa 1904  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The two story, Neo-classical Revival style Bremer Brothers Building is located at the southeastern corner of Fourth and Main streets. The principle facades of this brick building (western and northern) are faced with medium-brown, speckled brick. The brick is trimmed with smooth, tan limestone. Cream-colored common brick is exposed on the eastern and southern facades. At the top of the principle facades is an ornate metal cornice. The cornice was originally topped by a pediment that contained the name "Bremer." The size and placement of the building's rectangular window and door openings are unchanged, and two of the windows on the northern facade retain original 1/1 sash. The remaining openings have either been fitted with smaller windows and wood infill, or blocked with plywood. The main entrance is located at the northwestern corner of the building, which is canted. This entrance has been altered with a modern metal-framed door and the addition of brick plinths. The principle display window on the main facade was probably replaced in the early to mid-20th century. The transom above the display window is covered with plywood. A neon sign with faded lettering reading "Corner Cafe" hangs from the main facade. There is an original rear entrance at the eastern end of the northern facade that contains a single-leaf door. The rear of the building has a small, woodframe, bank drive-through facility that was probably added about 1960.

The Bremer Brothers Building was built circa 1904. The first story housed the Cannon Falls branch of the U.S. Post Office from 1905-1915. In 1915 the building became the home of the newly-established Peoples State Bank. In 1927 J. W. Black and Company of Minneapolis purchased Peoples State and merged it with Cannon Falls' Farmers and Merchants Bank to form the Security State Bank. (The new bank was housed in the Farmers and Merchants, see site #5.) In the 1930s the Bremer Brothers Building was occupied by a restaurant. By the early 1950s it had become the Corner Cafe. The restaurant also served as the Cannon Falls' bus depot for

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several years. The second story of the building was occupied for many years by a lodge hall and the offices of dentists, physicians, attorneys, and others.

2.

Historic Name: U.S. Post Office  
Current Name: Pine and Prints (south part)  
Address: 103 4th St. S.  
Built: Circa 1925  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This one story Commercial style building is the southernmost structure in the historic district. It is built of structural clay tile. The main facade is faced with dark, textured, reddish-brown brick. There is a decorative brick cornice at the top of the building and a simple metal cornice above the storefront. The largely-intact storefront has a central, recessed entrance. Its single-leaf door dates from the early 20th century and is topped by a glass transom. The transoms above the display windows are covered with plywood. The rear of the building has an exposed clay tile exterior wall and intact industrial sash windows. The interior of the store is connected to the interior of the building adjacent to the north.

This building housed the U.S. Post Office for more than 30 years, from circa 1925 to 1958.

3.

Historic Name: Tanner Millinery  
Current Name: Chamber of Commerce/Barber's Inn  
Address: 101-103 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1885  
Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building

The current exterior of this building encases a one story, woodframe building that dates from about 1885. It was originally covered with clapboard siding and had a simple false front and a wooden cornice. The building is now faced with tan brick and vinyl siding. It has modern metal-framed doors and windows on the main facade. The building is non-contributing to the historic district because of extensive exterior alterations.

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Tanner Millinery is one of six buildings in the historic district that are survivors of Cannon Falls' devastating downtown fire of 1887. In 1893 this building housed a jewelry store and a dwelling. From the 1890s through the early 20th century it was a millinery shop. Among the milliners who had shops here were Carrie Tanner and, in the late 1910s, Gertrude Fjerstad, proprietor of Fjerstad's Millinery. In 1921 this building housed a restaurant.

4.

Historic Name: N. C. Olson Building  
Current Name: Char's Twice but Nice/American Legion  
Address: 105 4th St. N.  
Built: 1883  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This two story brick building is built of limestone. It was originally Italianate in style, with an ornate metal cornice (topped by a ball finial) and decorative window hoods above segmental-arched windows. Both the cornice and window hoods have been removed, and the main facade is now faced with medium-brown brick that was applied circa 1920. The second story window openings are now rectangular, with smooth concrete sills and 1/1 sash. There is a panel of simple decorative brickwork above the second story windows. The current storefront, an alteration of the original storefront, retains a central recessed entrance and large display windows. The storefront door and windows have been replaced, and the transoms are covered with sheets of metal. The building's southern side wall is faced with corrugated metal siding. The rear facade, which is one story tall because the structure was built into a hill, has a limestone exterior covered with a thin veneer of concrete, a single-leaf door, and original or early 2/2 sash.

This building is one of only six buildings in the historic district that survived downtown's 1887 fire. The N. C. Olson Building was built in 1883 for N. C. Olson, who operated a saloon and liquor retail business on the first story. (He also opened a grocery store in a nearby building in 1892, see site #6.) Beginning in the early 20th century the N. C. Olson Building housed a succession of clothing stores. Around 1905, for example, this was the Regent Clothing House, operated by John A. Ohnstad. The Regent was described in 1910 as carrying "a full line of clothing" that "ranks with the best in the state" (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:1964). In 1919 the building housed O. E. Anderson and Company, "Clothing and Gent's Furnishings," owned by Oscar E. Anderson. Anderson moved his store to the Yale Building (site #11) in 1920. O. E. Anderson's tailor, Charles G. Wahlberg, later operated his own store in the N. C. Olson Building. The building later housed Bob's Bus Depot and Cafe, which was operated here by Bob and Mary

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Goodwin from 1953-1960. (They had previously run a cafe in the P. A. Peterson Building, site #16.) The second story of the building, now occupied by the American Legion club rooms, has apparently been continuously occupied by a meeting hall since the building was constructed.

5.

Historic Name: Farmers and Merchants National Bank  
Current Name: Schaffer's Antiques  
Address: 111 4th St. N.  
Built: 1922  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building, 1 Non-contributing Building

The Neo-classical Revival style Farmers and Merchants National Bank was constructed in 1922 to replace the bank's previous building on this site. The exterior of the two story structure is faced with smooth, tan limestone. The facade is an example of what architectural historian Richard Longstreth calls a "vault" configuration, characterized by "a massive front penetrated by a single large opening in the center, sometimes with smaller openings on either side. . . . [The vault] became a popular composition for bank facades during the first three decades of the twentieth century" (Longstreth 1986:18). The bank's colossal, fluted columns support a simple entablature with the name "Farmers and Merchants National Bank" incised in the frieze. The centrally-located main entrance has a Classically-inspired surround and a modern metal-framed door. The facade's rectangular window openings are filled with triangular panes of leaded glass. On the southern side of the main facade is a single-leaf door that was installed in 1935. It originally lead to professional offices and, later, to the bank president's office. The rear facade of the building (which is low because the bank was built into a hillside) is faced with tan brick. It has a single-leaf door and rectangular window openings that have been filled with brick. Behind the bank is a small, circa 1955, concrete block building that was possibly built for storage. It has a flat roof, a single-leaf metal door, and no windows. It is non-contributing to the historic district because it does not date from the period of significance.

The Farmers and Merchants National Bank had been organized in 1903 in the previous building on this site. Bank officers in 1910 were T. L. Baiseker, president; J. L. Erickson, vice president; Henry Thompson, second vice president; Edward Mattson, cashier; M. N. Gergen, assistant cashier; and F. O. Freeberg, teller. In 1927 the Farmers and Merchants and the Peoples State Bank (see site #1) were purchased by the J. W. Black and Company of Minneapolis. Black and Company combined the two banks to form the Security State Bank. Security State, which

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remained in this building, was owned by local banker D. Fay Case from 1934-1976. During the Depression, in 1935, the interior was remodeled so that a portion could be rented to a dentist and a doctor. (In 1959 these spaces were returned to banking use.) The bank moved from the building in 1982. Security State eventually became Cannon Falls' Marquette Bank, which is still in operation.

6.

Historic Name: Lone Star Grocery  
Current Name: American Family Insurance/High Quality Bakery  
Address: 115-121 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

Coursed rubble limestone walls are exposed on three sides of this two story, Italianate style building. The main facade is faced with orangish-red brick. The two storefronts were remodeled circa 1950 with metal-framed windows and doors, brick facing the bulkhead, and a flat canopy topped by a large panel of plastic or metal. The storefronts retain recessed entrances and round cast iron support columns near the display windows. The building has closely-spaced segmental-arched window openings that have been filled with modern double-hung sash and wood infill. The window openings on the main facade have smooth sills and incised window hoods, both of tan limestone. The building retains its original metal cornice bearing the date "1887." There is an original rear entrance at the eastern end of the northern side wall that consists of a segmental-arched single-leaf door and an adjacent window. A small woodframe porch has been added to the rear facade. A narrow, asphalt-paved alley runs along the northern side of the building.

This building was constructed in 1887, immediately after the downtown fire of 1887 which destroyed the previous structure on this lot. Among the early occupants was the Lone Star Grocery, which opened in the northern store on May 6, 1892. The business was operated by N. C. Olson, who also owned a liquor business at 105 4th St. N. (see site #4). By 1930 Carl O. Olson was proprietor of the store. A bakery was eventually located in the northern store. The southern store was occupied by a saloon in both 1893 and 1899. In the late 1910s or early 1920s it became the Goudy Theater, owned by James Goudy. Goudy had established his motion picture theater in the Van Campen Building (site #12) in 1914. Goudy eventually renamed his business the Grand Theatre. A theater remained in the southern store of the Lone Star Grocery building until about 1940. The second floor of the building was used for small businesses, a meeting hall,

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and professional offices. In 1893, for example, a hand printing shop (possibly a newspaper office) was located on the second floor. In 1938 there was a meeting hall here.

7.

Historic Name:       Wentz Building  
Current Name:       Southwest Barber/Body Works/Hair on 4th  
Address:            127-131 4th St. N.  
Built:               1887  
Resources:          1 Contributing Building

This two story, Italianate style, limestone building has an asymmetrical facade that is eight bays wide. The main facade is faced with medium-brown brick and the southern side wall is faced with cream-colored common brick. A metal cornice with modillions, dentils, and the name "Wentz" rises above the southern five bays. (The rest of the building's cornice has been removed.) Beneath the metal cornice is a decorative brick cornice. The building's rectangular window openings have smooth limestone sills and ornate metal window hoods with rosettes. The windows are joined by a brick string course at the springing block level. Each of the three storefronts is topped by a simple metal cornice. The storefronts have been remodeled with brick facing the bulkheads, vinyl siding, smooth metal paneling, vertical wood, and new windows and doors. The northern and central storefronts retain recessed entrances. The building's coursed rubble limestone walls are exposed on the rear and northern walls. The rear and southern walls have segmental-arched window and door openings. There is a shallow concrete block addition across the southern five bays of the rear facade. A narrow, asphalt-paved alley runs along the southern side of the building.

The Wentz Building is one of six adjacent buildings that were constructed in 1887 during the mass rebuilding that followed the downtown fire of 1887. Its three stores were home to a variety of businesses. Perhaps the most long-lived was Frank Schurch's Harness Shop which occupied the southern store from 1887-1920. (The shop had been operating in the previous building on this site since 1881.) By 1921 the southern store was a barber shop. It was apparently operated by Al Halling for nearly 45 years. The northern and middle stores housed a general store in 1893. The northern store was a variety store in 1899, and the middle store was a drug and grocery store that year. One of the stores in this building was Falck Brothers grocery store, which had been established in 1894 by proprietors John E. and Ole E. Falck. (Falck Brothers may have been in this building from 1894-circa 1925.) The second floor of the southern five

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bays of the building was a hotel from at least 1921-1938. In 1928 the hotel was called the Hotel Cosy and John F. Koeller was proprietor.

8.

Historic Name: Lindquist Feed Store  
Current Name: Chicago Ed's  
Address: 133 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This building, like several in the historic district, was built in 1887 immediately after the downtown fire of that year. It is a one story limestone structure whose main facade is faced with medium-brown brick. It originally had an ornate metal cornice and was probably Italianate in style. The current main facade, which dates from circa 1915, has modest, Commercial style decorative brickwork at the cornice level and concrete coping. The storefront has been altered with brickwork and a metal-framed door and window. The rear facade is a coursed rubble limestone wall with a single-leaf door and rectangular window openings filled with concrete block.

This building housed a flour and feed store -- once known as the Lindquist Feed Store -- in 1893 and 1899. A later occupant, Chicago Ed's jewelry store, moved here in the 1950s. It was owned by Ed Pagel, who had attended the Chicago School of Watchmaking after World War II. Pagel's first shop was located in the Danielson Building (site #23). Ed Pagel's son Jim is now proprietor of Chicago Ed's, which is still at this location.

9.

Historic Name: Sill's Saloon  
Current Name: Sabin's Furniture Repair and Restoration  
Address: 135 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building

This building is one of six adjacent buildings that were erected in 1887 in the aftermath of the 1887 downtown fire. It has a limestone first story to which a structural clay tile second story was

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later added. The main facade was remodeled in 1934 with a brick-faced storefront. Stucco now covers the second story of the main facade, and the facade's windows and doors have been replaced. The clay tile walls are exposed on the second story of the northern and southern side walls. The rear facade is faced with two types of red brick. The building is non-contributing to the historic district because of extensive exterior alterations.

This building housed Sill's Saloon in the early 1900s. From 1930 through at least 1954 it was occupied by the Home Cafe, which was established in December of 1930 by Ben and Leola Gergen. The Gergens remodeled the main facade in 1934.

10.

Historic Name: Clifford Building  
Current Name: Dakota-Stanton Mutual Insurance  
Address: 137 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This one story limestone building originally had an Italianate style, brick-faced main facade with an ornate cornice. In 1934 the Kraft family commissioned a Moderne style, opaque structural glass facade for the building. The facade's simple design has a pink glass central section surrounded by a black glass frame that resembles a proscenium arch. Within the pink area is stylized black glass lettering that reads "Kraft's." The storefront has a metal-framed door and display windows that were probably installed circa 1960. The building's rear facade is a coursed rubble limestone wall with segmental-arched window and door openings.

The Clifford Building was built in 1887 after a fire that year destroyed most of the buildings on this block. In September of 1888 Henry Van Campen (son of Benjamin Van Campen, the original owner of site #12) and Leonard Rosing established a men's shoe store in the building. (The store eventually sold men's clothing as well.) In 1890 Rosing, who was Swedish and could therefore cater to the store's Swedish customers, hired Samuel Kraft, who spoke German, to serve the store's German-speaking customers (Burch et al 1976:75). Van Campen sold his interest in the business to Kraft in 1892 and it became Rosing and Kraft. Rosing sold his share to Kraft in the early 1900s, about the time that Rosing ran for Minnesota governor as the Democratic candidate (Bickman 1996:228). Seymour G. Kraft joined his father's business in 1918. In 1934 the Krafts remodeled the main facade.

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11.

Historic Name: Yale Building  
Current Name: Family Salon  
Address: 139 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building, listed on the National Register

The Yale Building is a two story, Italianate style brick building located at the southeastern corner of Fourth and Mill streets. The main facade is faced with medium-brown brick, while the other three exterior walls are cream-colored common brick. At the top of the main facade is an ornate metal cornice that bears the words "Yale" and "Hardware" and the date "1887." Across the top of the northern facade is a decorative brick cornice. There is also decorative brickwork at the top of the first story on the northern facade and at several positions on the main facade including beneath the metal cornice, above and between the second story windows, and at the top of the storefront. The current storefront design and materials appear to date from circa 1920. The storefront has thin slabs of white marble on the bulkhead, a central recessed entrance whose floor is tiled with square red ceramic tiles, a simple metal cornice, and large display windows (which have probably been replaced). The rectangular window openings on the second story of the main facade have smooth limestone sills and lintels and 1/1 sash. Above the lintels is a set of small, inset, stone or clay squares cast or carved with rosettes. (The squares have been painted gray.) The northern facade has tall, narrow, segmental-arched window openings with smooth limestone sills and brick window hoods. Three of the windows have original 2/2 sash. The eastern end of the northern facade has a rear entrance that consists of a double-leaf paneled door (possibly original) and a single-leaf door (a replacement). Both doors are within segmental-arched openings that are topped by brick hoods. The rear facade of the building has segmental-arched window and door openings with limestone sills.

The Yale Building is the northernmost of a group of six buildings that were built in 1887 following the fire of that year. Yale Hardware was established in 1875 by Darwin E. Yale in the previous brick building on this lot. Yale built the current building immediately after the fire. By the early 20th century the Yale Building housed Westman Groceries, which sold boots and shoes as well as groceries. The proprietor was Swedish-born C. J. Westman. In 1920 O. E. Anderson moved his men's clothing store from the N. C. Olson Building (site #4) to the Yale Building. Anderson remodeled the exterior of the storefront at the time of the move. O. E. Anderson was proprietor of the Gent's Clothing Store at this location until his death in 1948, after which his son

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Harlan Anderson became proprietor. The store became Wille Clothing in 1951 when Harlan Anderson sold the business to John Wille. Wille Clothing operated here until 1983. The second story of the building was used as a meeting hall for many years.

**WEST SIDE OF FOURTH STREET**

12.

Historic Name: Van Campen Building  
Current Name: Masonic Building/Cannon Realty  
Address: 100 4th St. N.  
Built: 1884  
Architect: A. Doner  
Builder: A. Doner  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The Van Campen Building is a two story, Italianate style building at the northeastern corner of Fourth and Main streets. It is built of limestone and faced with reddish-brown brick. Brick piers divide the building into halves, each of which contains three bays. (The building immediately to the north, which is three bays wide, is nearly identical to the Van Campen Building and was built the same year by the same builder. See site #13.) At the top of the Van Campen Building is a corbelled brick cornice that replaces the building's original, Italianate style, metal cornice. (The cornice matched the cornices on the two buildings adjacent to the north.) There is a second, brick cornice immediately above the second story windows. The second story windows are tall, narrow, segmental-arched openings with rockfaced limestone sills. Each window opening has a brick hood with a decorated limestone keystone and limestone springing blocks that are incised with an "x" motif. The openings are filled with 1/1 sash. A circa 1920s-1940s Masonic lodge sign hangs from the second story brickwork. The building originally had simple metal cornices above each storefront. The storefronts currently have circa 1965 metal-framed doors and display windows and tan brick facing the bulkheads. The entrance has been removed from the southern storefront, but the northern storefront retains a recessed entrance. The display windows' transom level is covered with wood paneling. The southern facade of this corner building has six second story windows that are similar to those on the main facade. Four of these windows are filled with glass block. The southern facade originally had a wooden stairway that served as the entrance to the building's second story meeting hall. The door was located in the third bay from the corner. (This opening has been closed with brick.) The southern facade also has decorative brickwork

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between the first and second story and at the cornice level. There is a smooth limestone water table at the base of the first story above the exposed limestone foundation. The rear facade has been covered with stucco and a recent wooden deck or porch has been added to it.

The Van Campen Building was built in 1884 for Benjamin Van Campen. Van Campen's previous woodframe building on this lot (built in 1866) burned in Cannon Falls' downtown fire of 1884, and Van Campen rebuilt the same year. Both halves of the new building were occupied by Van Campen's general store (operated by Benjamin Van Campen and sons Henry and George Van Campen), with dry goods and clothing sold in one portion and groceries, boots, and shoes in the other. In 1887 the Van Campen Building survived Cannon Falls' second (and larger) downtown fire. It is one of only six buildings in the historic district that are known to predate the fire of 1887.

By 1892 one or both of the stores in the building housed a dry goods business operated by the Carlson Family. By 1899 both halves housed a general store called T. [Thomas] R. Ohnstad and Company. The Ohnstad business had been established about 1896 (possibly in this location) as the Cannon Falls Mercantile Company. Kartes Department Store was a subsequent occupant.

The hall on the second story of the Van Campen Building was known as Van Campen's Hall. It was initially used for dances, roller skating, and as an opera house operated by the Van Campens. The *Cannon Falls Beacon* of 1886 states that "Nearly all public entertainments are held in this hall" (quoted in Bickman 1996:63). A motion picture theater called the Goudy Theater was established by James Goudy in this hall in 1914. Goudy eventually moved his theater to the Lone Star Grocery building (site #6).

The offices of one of the city's leading newspapers, the *Cannon Falls Beacon*, were located in the basement of the Van Campen Building for about 50 years prior to 1956. The *Beacon* was established by John A. Leonard in 1876. For many decades the newspaper was published by members of the Silas S. Lewis family. Prior to moving into this building, the *Beacon* offices were located above the Eckloff and Hawkins Harness Shop (site #26). A 1910 history of Goodhue County reports that the *Beacon* was, "the leader in the movement for railroad regulation in the state, and was recognized throughout the northwest as an authority on the railroad question. The result of this movement was radical reforms in transportation methods, and reductions in freight and passenger charges, saving millions every year to the business and farming interests of the state" (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:165).

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Cannon Falls' Masonic Order, the Oriental Lodge #34, purchased the Van Campen Building in 1927, after which the building was known as the Masonic Building. The large second story hall became the Masonic temple and was no longer used for public functions. The Masons bought the adjoining Westman and Danielson Building (site #13) in 1939 and remodeled its second story for use as a kitchen and dining room that adjoined the meeting hall.

13.

Historic Name: Westman and Danielson Building  
Current Name: Masonic Building/Trail Station Sports and Bicycle Works  
Address: 106 4th St. N.  
Built: 1884  
Architect: A. Doner  
Builder: A. Doner  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The Westman and Danielson Building is nearly identical to the adjacent Van Campen Building, which was also designed and built by A. Doner. Westman and Danielson is a two story, Italianate style, limestone building that is faced with reddish-brown brick. Brick piers frame the building's three bays. The building was originally topped by an ornate, Italianate style, metal cornice that matched the cornices on the Van Campen Building to the south and Scofield Brothers to the north. The Westman and Danielson Building retains a brick cornice above the second story windows. The second story windows are tall, narrow, segmental-arched openings with smooth limestone sills (unlike the rockfaced limestone sills of the Van Campen Building to the south). Each window opening has a brick hood with a decorated limestone keystone and limestone springing blocks that are incised with an "x" motif. The openings are filled with 1/1 sash. There was originally a simple metal cornice above the storefront. The storefront's current design and materials date from circa 1965. It has black opaque structural glass panels on the bulkhead and a metal-framed door and display window. The display window's transom level is covered with wood paneling. The recessed entrance contains single-leaf doors that lead to the retail store on the first story and to the Masonic kitchen and dining room on the second story. The rear facade has been covered with stucco and a recent wooden deck or porch has been added to both this building and the Van Campen Building.

The Westman and Danielson Building was built in 1884 after the fire of 1884 burned the previous building on the site. The original owners of the new building were Swedish immigrants

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Gustavus Westman and John Danielson who had been operating a general merchandise store in Cannon Falls since 1871. Westman and Danielson sold dry goods, boots, shoes, and groceries in the basement level and carpets and clothing on the main floor. The business was later known as J. Danielson and Son.

The local Masonic group, the Oriental Lodge #34, purchased this building in 1939 to expand their Masonic Lodge, which was located on the second floor of the Van Campen Building immediately to the south. The Masons remodeled the second story of Westman and Danielson for a kitchen and dining room, and created openings to link the two buildings at the second floor. The Westman and Danielson building is one of only six buildings in the historic district that predate the downtown fire of 1887.

14.

Historic Name:       Scofield Brothers  
Current Name:       Scofield Drug (south part)  
Address:            108 4th St. N.  
Built:               1878  
Resources:          1 Contributing Building

Scofield Brothers is a two story, Italianate style building that is similar in design to the two buildings adjacent to the south. It is built of limestone that was quarried at the Limekiln Hill Quarry, and the main facade is faced with reddish-brown brick. Brick piers frame the building's three bays. The building originally had an ornate, Italianate style, metal cornice that matched the cornices on the two buildings adjacent to the south. There is a brick cornice above the second story windows. The second story windows have segmental-arched openings, smooth limestone sills, simple brick window hoods, and 1/1 sash. The windows are joined by a brick string course at the springing block level. There was originally a simple metal cornice above the storefront. The storefront was remodeled in 1934 with black opaque structural glass panels covering the bulkhead. It was remodeled again circa 1975 with the current brown brickwork and a metal-framed entrance and display windows. The display windows' transom level is covered with wood paneling. A rigid canvas awning has been installed above the storefront. The second story of the northern side wall is covered with corrugated metal paneling. A narrow, one story addition has been added to the northern side of the building to link it to the one story brick building next door. (The brown brick facade of the addition dates from circa 1975.) The addition replaces an original woodframe staircase leading to the second story and a narrow service walk between

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buildings. The rear facade of Scofield Brothers is covered with stucco and has a one story addition (apparently built in 1964) and a recent wooden deck or porch. There are three glass-block-filled segmental-arched window openings on the rear facade.

Scofield Brothers was built in 1878 for Wilbur H. and James L. Scofield to replace their previous woodframe building which stood on this lot. The New York-born brothers had established their drug store in Cannon Falls ten years earlier, in 1868. (In 1910 it was the oldest drug store in Goodhue County (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:164).) The current limestone and brick building survived both the downtown fire of 1884, which started in the woodframe building next door to the south, and the downtown fire of 1887, which destroyed most of the business district. (Scofield's is one of only six buildings in the historic district that predate the 1887 fire.) When Wilbur Scofield died in 1894, his son Fred (who had become a pharmacist) became co-owner of the business. Casper E. Wohlfahrt, a watchmaker and optometrist, had a shop within Scofield's store in the 1920s. When James Scofield died in 1922, Fred Scofield became sole owner. The drug store is still operated by members of the Scofield family today. It is the only business in downtown Cannon Falls that has been located in the same building since the 19th century.

In addition to being a popular drug store, Scofield's was a center for communications in early Cannon Falls. For more than 30 years prior to 1956, the siren that served as Cannon Falls' fire alarm and emergency alert was located on the roof of the building (Burch et al 1976:158). Cannon Falls' post office was located in the drug store for 16 years, from 1869-1887, during the time Wilbur Scofield was postmaster. The city's first telephone exchange was located on the second floor beginning in 1900, when James, Fred, and Charles L. Scofield and another partner, Harrison Slocum, established the first telephone system. The Scofields were sole owners of the Cannon Falls Telephone Company from 1904-1944. In addition to operating the service, the Scofield brothers also erected the telephone poles, strung the lines, and installed the equipment. In 1910 the system had 1,200 rural and in-town subscribers. The telephone office was moved to another location in 1944.

The second story of Scofield Brothers housed professional offices such as those of physicians Marland R. Williams and Alva A. Conley, attorney Merle S. Olson, and dentist R. R. Polak.

15.

Historic Name: Kowitz Saloon  
Current Name: Scofield Drug (north part)

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Address: Circa 114 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1890  
Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building

Kowitz Saloon is a one story, Italianate style, limestone building with a brick-faced main facade, now painted. The building was originally topped by an ornate brick cornice with a central pedimented projection. (The cornice had been removed by 1921.) There was a simple metal cornice at the top of the storefront. The current storefront design and materials apparently date from the 1910s or 1920s. Since then the storefront has been further altered with brick facing the bulkhead, brickwork that blocks the main entrance, wood paneling at the transom level, and a rigid awning that links this building with the Scofield Brothers building to the south. The upper portion of the southern side wall has been covered with stucco, and the rear facade has a one story, stucco-covered addition and a recent wooden deck or porch. (Sanborn fire insurance maps show that a small concrete block rear addition was built sometime between 1905 and 1921.) The building is non-contributing to the historic district because of extensive exterior alterations.

The Kowitz Saloon building was constructed about 1890 (possibly immediately after the 1887 fire). The building was owned by a German-born brewer, Ferdinand Kowitz. By 1910 it was occupied by Bremer Brothers Meat Market, which had been established in Cannon Falls in 1892 by George and Fred Bremer.

16.  
Historic Name: P. A. Peterson Building  
Current Name: Flom Building (Insurance etc.)  
Address: 118 4th St. N.  
Built: 1889  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The P. A. Peterson Building is a two story, Italianate style, limestone building whose main facade is faced with tan brick. At the top is an ornate, Italianate style, metal cornice bearing the name "P. A. Peterson" and the date "1889." (There was originally a ball finial at the peak of the cornice.) Beneath the metal cornice is a decorative brick cornice. The second story has three rectangular window openings with rockfaced red sandstone trim that forms lintels, a string course at the springing block level, and a continuous sill. The window openings are filled with plywood paneling and modern 1/1 sash. There was originally a simple metal cornice above the storefront.

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The current storefront design and materials date from circa 1965 and include porcelain enamel panels surrounding metal-framed doors and display windows, and a large panel of corrugated metal across the top of the storefront. The rear facade has a limestone exterior (thinly covered with stucco) and three segmental-arched window openings. There is also a one story concrete block addition on the rear.

This building was constructed in 1889 for Peter A. Peterson, a Swedish immigrant who operated a drug store here. Peterson had established his business in 1880 with partner J. H. Sandberg under the name Sandberg and Peterson, but Peterson eventually became sole owner. He was Cannon Falls' postmaster for 25 years, from 1889-1914, and the post office was located in the drug store from 1889-1904. A drug store in this building was later operated by George F. Williams. By circa 1911 the store was called Swedenburg and Haglund Drug and Jewelry, operated by Charles J. Swedenburg and Oscar E. Haglund. In 1927 Swedenburg and Haglund's store was sold to Arthur Zerahn who called it Zerahn Pharmacy. The Sweet Shop, a cafe that was operated by Art and Irene Olson beginning in 1932, was located here from at least 1932-1950. Oscar "Fat" Olson began operating a bowling alley in the basement in 1939. Bob and Mary Goodwin ran the Sweet Shop from 1940-1945 before operating a cafe in the N. C. Olson Building (site #4). Hjalmer and Morris Olson were running the Sweet Shop in 1950. The second story of the Peterson Building housed offices.

17.

Historic Name: Kulker's Restaurant/Homme Variety  
Current Name: Sharon's Video Lines/Fred's Audio Video/F-M Center  
Address: 124 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1888  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This two story, Italianate style building is built of limestone. The main facade is faced with medium-brown brick. The building's ornate metal cornice has been removed and recent brickwork has been used to repair the cornice level. A brick cornice remains above the second story windows. The building's six, tall, narrow rectangular openings are arranged in two groups of three. The openings have smooth limestone sills and limestone window hoods (painted white) that are decorated with raised rosettes. The openings have been filled with wood paneling and modern 1/1 sash. The building has a single storefront with small blue and white glazed tiles, a single recessed entrance, and metal-framed doors and display windows. (These circa 1965

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alterations replace an original pair of storefronts with simple metal cornices.) A corrugated metal panel now covers the transom level. The limestone walls of the building's northern and rear facades have been covered with stucco. Both northern and rear walls have rectangular window and door openings.

This building was probably built immediately after the 1887 fire. The southern store was apparently occupied by Kulker's Restaurant from the 1890s to at least 1933. Henry J. Kulker was proprietor. The northern store housed Homme Variety in the 1890s and was home to Harry Freeman's Clothing in circa 1928.

18.

Historic Name: Hawkins Building  
Current Name: Althoff Hardware (south part)  
Address: 128 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1888  
Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building

This one story, limestone building was originally Italianate in style. It had a brick facade with an ornate cornice with finials and sections of balustrade. The building originally housed four small stores that were entered via two recessed entrances. By the early 20th century the four small stores had been combined into two larger stores. Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate a one story smoke house at the rear of the lot from at least 1893-1905 (but not in 1921), and again in 1938. The main facade is currently covered with stucco, mock half-timbering, a wood-shingle-covered false Mansard roof, and modern display windows and doors. The rear facade has an exposed limestone wall with segmental-arched window and door openings. All of the windows are filled with either concrete block, glass block, or wood. The building is non-contributing to the historic district because of extensive exterior alterations.

The original owner of this structure was O. J. Hawkins, proprietor of a confectionery and harness shop here. He had established a harness business in Cannon Falls in 1877, and started a confectionery circa 1885. The building was probably built soon after the fire of 1887. An 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates a harness shop here (southernmost store), an unidentified store, a candy and fruit store (second from the north), and a boot and shoe store (northernmost). In the late 19th or early 20th century, Dibble Brothers, a meat market operated by Richard and Daniel S. Dibble, was located here. Both men had been selling meat in Cannon Falls since the

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1880s. In circa 1909 Louis Peterson's saloon was located in the building. In the late 1920s and 1930s, it was home to W. E. Johnson and Company, a meat market and grocery store. About 1970 Althoff Hardware expanded into the building from their building next door to the north.

19.

Historic Name: C. B. Johnson Hardware  
Current Name: Althoff Hardware (north part)  
Address: Circa 132 4th St. N.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

This building is a two story, Italianate style, limestone structure whose main facade is faced with medium-brown brick. The building's ornate metal cornice (which originally had finials and a name pressed into it) has been removed, but it retains a second brick cornice. The second story window openings are rectangular and filled with plywood. They have smooth limestone sills and limestone window hoods (painted orange) with raised rosette detailing. A brick string course links the window sills. The first story retains an intact circa 1935 storefront with black opaque structural glass surrounding metal-framed display windows and a central, recessed entrance. The transom windows are filled with glass block. The rear facade is covered with a thin layer of stucco and has segmental-arched window openings. A one story concrete block addition was built onto the rear, possibly in 1947.

The C. B. Johnson Hardware building has apparently housed a hardware store continuously throughout its history. The original owner of the building was apparently C. B. Johnson, who had been operating a hardware store in a previous building near this site (as a tenant) since 1883. The previous building burned in the fire of 1887 and Johnson built this structure and continued to sell hardware. Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate that a separate warehouse structure stood behind the building from at least 1893-1938. About 1907 John H. Carlson bought the Johnson building and it became John H. Carlson Hardware Company. Carlson sold the business and building to W. F. Althoff in 1933. W. F. Althoff was proprietor until 1957 when his son Oliver Althoff became owner. In 1996 the building was still owned by the Althoff family, with fourth-generation family members working in the store.

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20.

Historic Name: Meyer and Johns Dry Goods  
Current Name: Hjermstad's Hardware  
Address: 138 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

Meyer and Johns Dry Goods is a large, two story, brick building located on the southwestern corner of Fourth and Mill streets. It is Commercial Queen Anne in style. The principle facades (eastern and northern) are faced with tan brick. The building originally had an ornate metal cornice on the eastern facade that had a weathervane, finials, and a name pressed into it. A corbelled brick cornice remains along the top of the principle facades. The main facade's second story windows are rectangular. They have rockfaced red sandstone sills, springing blocks, and continuous lintels. All second story windows are filled with wood paneling. The ghost of painted lettering on the main facade above the storefronts reads "Clothing. Meyer and Company. Dry Goods." The storefronts have circa 1965 porcelain enamel paneling and metal-framed doors and display windows. Metal panels cover the transom level. The storefronts retain recessed entrances.

The second story of the northern facade has segmental-arched window openings with rockfaced tan limestone sills. The first story has two small segmental-arched windows with similar sills and fixed sash. At the western end of the northern facade is an intact rear store entrance that originally had a double-leaf door and now has a single-leaf door and wood infill. In the fourth bay of the second story is an original second story entrance with a paneled double-leaf door and an intact transom light. An intact cast iron stairway that is attached to the northern facade and supported by ornate brackets leads to this entrance. The ghost of painted lettering on the northern facade reads "Meyer and Johns. Clothing, Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, and Trunks." (An historic photo taken about 1921 shows this lettering reading "Meyer and Company" (Bickman 1996:211).)

The southern side wall and rear facade are faced with cream-colored common brick. The rear facade has segmental-arched window and door openings with rockfaced and smooth limestone sills. The central opening on the second story is a door opening filled with an original paneled door and a plywood-covered transom.

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The Meyer and Johns Dry Goods building was apparently constructed immediately after the fire of 1887. The building originally housed Meyer and Johns Dry Goods, which in 1910 had been in business in Cannon Falls "for nearly twenty years" (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:164). (By 1919 the business was called Meyer and Company and was owned by Fred W. Meyer.) In 1905 the second story housed a printing shop or newspaper office. In 1934 K. L. Hildebrandt opened a Gamble-Skogmo store in one of the building's two stores. The shop sold Gambles hardware on the main floor and Skogmo dry goods and clothing on the balcony level. Siem Hardware was located in the other half of the building. A bowling alley once operated in the basement. After several changes in ownership, Arnold and Virginia Hjermstad rented the building in 1959. In 1970 the first floor's interior partition was removed and the building again housed one large store. In 1996 the third generation of family members were operating Hjermstad's Hardware.

21.

Historic Name: Ellsworth House Livery Stable  
Current name: CVG Marketing  
Address: 210 4th St. N.  
Built: Circa 1856  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building, listed on the National Register

The Ellsworth House Livery Stable is the northernmost structure in the historic district. It is a one and one-half story, gable-roofed building constructed of coursed rubble limestone, which is exposed on the exterior walls. It measures 26' by 30'. The main facade, which faces east, has a large first story horse and wagon entrance that was originally segmental-arched. The opening, now rectangular, is still the building's main entrance. It now contains a single-leaf door and sidelights. Above the main entrance is a hayloft opening that was originally segmental-arched but is now rectangular. The southern side wall has two segmental-arched window openings filled with modern 1/1 sash. The northern side wall has a similar window opening that is filled with wood, and smaller square window openings (possibly added) that have been filled with concrete. The rear (western) wall has a segmental-arched wood-filled haymow opening and a one story shed-roofed woodframe addition. The roof of the building was originally wood-shingled and is now covered with sheet metal.

The livery stable is one of the oldest buildings standing in Cannon Falls. It was apparently built circa 1856 as a barn or stable for Eli Ellsworth, who, in 1856, built a commercial building and a large house immediately southwest of the stable. (Ellsworth is known as Cannon Falls' first

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merchant because of a store he opened in 1855 (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:159-160.) About 1871 the house became a hotel called the Ellsworth House, and the barn became the hotel's livery stable. In 1876 F. J. Taber was proprietor of the Ellsworth House, and in 1881 it was operated by F. S. Field. The Ellsworth House was destroyed in the fire of 1887, ending the limestone building's service as a hotel stable. The limestone building was gutted by the fire and lost its roof, but survived. (It is one of six buildings in this historic district that predate the fire.)

In the late 1880s the building was used as a stable for the Cannon Falls race track. In 1899 and 1905 it was used by an agricultural implement dealer, according to Sanborn fire insurance maps. It subsequently housed many businesses including a blacksmith shop, Al Remme's plumbing shop, offices for Zimmerman Transfer and a local veterinarian, Woodward's dry cleaning shop, an audio-video repair shop, a furniture warehouse, and an art gallery, among others. The building is currently vacant.

**NORTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET**

22.

Historic Name:  
Current Name: Dave's TV  
Address: 320 Main St. W.  
Built: Circa 1890  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

Dave's TV is a small, one story, woodframe building located on the northern side of Main Street. Although the building may have been built as early as 1890, its current exterior appearance probably dates from the 1920s. It has a gabled roof, a limestone foundation, and is covered with clapboard siding. The window openings are rectangular with modern 1/1 sash. The entrance is recessed on the main facade and consists of an early, paneled single-leaf door. At the rear is a one story, flat-roofed, rockfaced concrete block addition. The rear wall of the addition has a rectangular window and a single-leaf door. The window has 2/2 sash.

Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate that in 1893 this site contained a woodframe building (presumably this building) that housed a stone mason's shop. From at least 1899-1905 the building housed a sample room. A 1938 Sanborn map indicates simply that this was a store.

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**NORTH SIDE OF MILL STREET**

23.

Historic Name: Danielson Building  
Current Name: Dudley's Pizza/Cannon Valley Video/Buster's Corner  
Address: 320-326 Mill St. W.  
Built: 1896  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The Danielson Building stands at the northeastern corner of Mill and Fourth streets. The western portion of the building is two stories, while the eastern part is a single story. The main (southern) facade is faced with tan brick, while coursed rubble limestone is exposed on the other three sides of the building. The building has a Commercial Queen Anne-influenced design with segmental-arched window openings. Most are filled with either 2/2 sash, 1/1 sash, or glass block. At the top of the main facade is a brick cornice. The western storefront has been altered with vertical wood paneling, a metal-framed door and display windows, and a modern single-leaf door leading to the second floor. The eastern storefronts have been altered with stucco, simulated stone, and metal-framed windows and doors. The eastern stores have recessed entrances. A stucco-covered garage has been added to the rear.

The Danielson Building was built in 1896. It was originally a one story building. (The first story of the western portion of the building is the original structure.) The original owner was John Danielson who operated Danielson Furniture Company here. Like most furniture dealers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Danielson also made coffins and provided undertaking services, as well as selling carpets, drapes, pianos, organs, sewing machines, and picture frames. The store was managed by Charles Danielson, John's son, who eventually became the owner. By 1910 the Danielsons had doubled the size of the structure by adding a one story addition on the eastern side, and also had branch stores in the nearby towns of Goodhue and Zumbrota. In 1912 the combined structure was housing Danielson Furniture, Robert Yale's jewelry store, and the "Dan-a-lo Factory" in the basement. In 1912 a fire gutted the building and the western half was rebuilt as a two story structure. (The cornice and bay treatment of the rebuilt structure matched that of the original building.) The new second story housed offices in the front and furniture storage in the rear, served by a freight elevator. The offices included those of attorney Theodore R. Johnson (city attorney from 1909-1923) and physician C. W. Bjorgo. Johnson later had his office in the Citizens State Bank (site #24).

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Between 1914 and 1937 the furniture store and funeral home was operated by various owners and managers. In 1937 it became Lundberg's Furniture and Funeral Service operated by Clinton and Ruth Lundberg. The Lundbergs also operated the city's ambulance service until 1968. The rear portion of the eastern part of the building was remodeled by the Lundbergs into a funeral chapel, office, and reception room, while the front half of the eastern part continued to house two small stores. (One store was the first home of Chicago Ed's jewelry store, established in the late 1940s. The store moved to its current location (site #8) in the 1950s.) In 1973 the Lundbergs' business was sold to the Mattix family.

24.

Historic Name: Citizens State Bank  
Current Name: Timothy K. Dillon, Attorney at Law  
Address: 400 Mill St. W.  
Built: 1887  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The two story Citizens State Bank is located on the northwestern corner of Mill and Fourth streets. The main facade of this brick-veneered limestone building faces south, and the southeastern corner of the building is canted. The current Neo-classical Revival design of the bank is the result of a 1910 remodeling. The original Commercial Queen Anne style design had light-colored brick trimmed with dark, rockfaced, red or brown sandstone. The main entrance (located on the canted corner) was originally rounded-arched, the windows were topped with stone segmental arches and wide, flat stone lintels, and there was an ornate metal cornice across the southern and eastern facades. The eastern facade was only three bays wide, making the original bank more shallow than the current building.

As a result of the 1910 remodeling and expansion, the southern and eastern facades are now faced with speckled orangish brick. The corners have colossal pilasters of gray glazed brick. The pilasters have terra cotta pilasters with decorated capitals. The pilasters support an entablature with a pediment over the southern facade, decorated consoles, and dentils. As part of the 1910 remodeling, the main entrance was shifted to the western bay of the southern facade where it was topped by a bracketed limestone cornice with egg and dart molding. (The original entrance on the canted southeastern corner became a window and, in 1914, a large rectangular clock was installed to the right of the new window. The clock was removed about 1963.) From circa 1910-1933 there was a long, horizontal sign on the eastern facade between the first and

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second stories that read "Citizens State Bank." At the northern end of the eastern facade is a rear entrance. It has a modern metal-framed single-leaf door and a plywood-filled transom. The building's rectangular window openings are currently filled with fixed sash on the first story (where the sills are brick) and 1/1 sash on the second story (where the sills are limestone). The first story windows on both the southern and eastern facades were reduced in size in 1963 and the lower portion of the original window openings was filled with brick. (The first story's window transoms have since been filled with wood and plaster.) In 1963 the main entrance was moved from the southern facade back to the canted southeastern corner of the building. This entrance now contains a modern metal-framed single-leaf door. The transom has been filled with stucco-covered wood. The rear (northern) facade is faced with brown brick and has a concrete block stairwell addition. The ghost of white painted lettering on the rear facade reads "Citizens State Bank."

The First National Bank was established in 1878 and located in a woodframe building on this site. In 1886 Hiram A. Scriver purchased the bank, and the Scriver family owned it for the next 75 years. C. T. Norton, Scriver's mother, was originally president and Scriver was cashier. A short time after the Scriver's purchase, in May of 1887, the bank burned to the ground, leaving only the large bank vault standing. A new bank, the current building, opened in November of 1887. The second story of the building was used for offices. In 1905 the First National Bank was reorganized as the Citizens' State Bank. In 1910 the building was remodeled. Arthur Scriver became vice president in 1922 when Hiram Scriver died, and Cliff W. Gress became president. In June of 1933 the bank reorganized as the First National Bank of Cannon Falls. Arthur Scriver became president in 1936 and in 1961 the family sold the bank. The first telephone in Cannon Falls hung in the lobby of the First National Bank in the 1890s.

25.

Historic Name: Peters Block  
Current Name: Welt's Paints/Quilts by the Falls  
Address: 402 Mill St. W.  
Built: 1899  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The Peters Block is a two story Commercial Queen Anne style limestone building whose main facade is faced with medium-brown brick. The building is stylistically identical to, and was built simultaneously with, the building adjacent to the west (site #26). The Peters Block has brick

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piers that divide the eight second story windows into groups of four, three, and one. (The westernmost, single window lights the stairwell.) The window openings are segmental-arched and have 1/1 sash and a continuous rockfaced tan limestone sill. There is a corbelled brick cornice across the top of the building and similar decorative brickwork above the second story windows and between the windows at the springing block level. There is a limestone date block reading "1899" beneath the cornice. The first story of the building was originally one large store with iron columns down the center (a configuration that it retains today). In the early 20th century there was a freight elevator in the northwestern corner. The storefronts were remodeled circa 1960 with porcelain enamel panels and metal-framed display windows and entrances. (The transom level is covered with corrugated metal.) The two storefronts retain central, recessed entrances. The limestone walls of the eastern and northern (rear) facades are covered a thin coat of cement. The eastern side wall has a segmental-arched rear entrance that retains a paneled single-leaf door. (The transom is filled with wood.) The rear facade has several segmental-arched window openings (filled with wood) and a segmental-arched entrance.

The original owner of this building was O. F. Peters, proprietor of O. F. Peters Hardware, also called Peters Hardware Company. Peters' business was apparently established about 1885. In 1910 he carried a "full line of builders' hardware, cutlery, stoves, household utensils, agricultural implements and vehicles" (Curtiss-Wedge 1910:165). Leigh Peters also worked in the store. In the 1950s or 1960s this building housed the National Food Store.

26.

Historic Name: Eckloff and Hawkins Harness Shop  
Current Name: Mill Street Books  
Address: 406 Mill St. W.  
Built: 1899  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

The main facade of this two story, Commercial Queen Anne style, limestone building is faced with medium-brown brick. The building is stylistically identical to, and was built simultaneously with, the building adjacent to the east (site #25). The second story has three segmental-arched window openings with 1/1 sash and a continuous rockfaced tan limestone sill. There is a corbelled brick cornice across the top of the building and a date block reading "1899" beneath the cornice. There is similar decorative brickwork above the second story windows and between the windows at the springing block level. The storefront is one of the most intact early storefronts in

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downtown Cannon Falls. It has a central recessed entrance, display windows framed with cast iron columns, and an original or very early double-leaf paneled door. (The transom level is covered with wood.) The entrance to the second floor (located in the western bay of the first story) now has a modern single-leaf door and plywood covering the transom. The western and northern (rear) facades of the building have exposed limestone walls. The rear has a one story concrete block addition on the first story, and a segmental-arched rear entrance (filled with wood) and two segmental-arched window openings with modern 1/1 sash on the second story.

This building may have originally been owned by O. F. Peters, who owned the building adjacent to the east. The first occupant of the store, however, was Eckloff and Hawkins Harness Shop, operated by August Eckloff and John Hawkins. The partners' previous shop had been located on Fourth Street, possibly in the Hawkins Building (site #18). In circa 1905 Eckloff became sole owner. The shop was soon thereafter owned by Oscar Lindahl (son-in-law of Eckloff) and Hjalmer Olson. Lindahl and Olson operated in this location until circa 1959 when it moved to another location. Gordon Lindahl (Oscar's son) began working in the store in 1936, purchased Olson's share in 1946, became sole owner in 1956, and moved the business circa 1959. The store originally made, sold, and repaired harnesses and tack. John Maroushek was the store's harnessmaker in 1924. Automobile tires were sold, repaired, and vulcanized when they came into use, and the store eventually specialized in tires and automobile batteries under the name Lindahl Tire and Battery Service. Lindahl Tire was still in business in Cannon Falls in 1996.

Around the turn of the century the second story of the building was the office of *the Cannon Falls Beacon* newspaper. The *Beacon* had been established by John A. Leonard in 1876. For many decades the newspaper was published by members of the Silas S. Lewis family. The Beacon offices moved to the Van Campen Building (site #12) around 1905.

27.

Historic Name: C. O. Lundquist Grocery/Lars Quale Cafe  
Current Name: Under renovation  
Address: Circa 408 Mill St. W.  
Built: Circa 1899  
Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building

The Lundquist Grocery/Quale Cafe building is a one story limestone structure that is faced with medium-brown brick on the main facade. The coursed limestone rubble walls are exposed on the

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western and northern (rear) facades. The building has a Commercial Queen Anne-influenced design. The eastern one-third is essentially intact, but the main facade of the western two-thirds is hidden behind a screen of corrugated metal. (It is possible that the hidden portion is fairly intact behind the screen.) The hidden portions of the main facade were originally identical to the eastern third. Across the top of the eastern third is an ornate metal cornice with ball finials. Beneath the metal cornice is a row of brick corbelling, and there is additional decorative brickwork above the storefront. The eastern third is currently under renovation. It has one of the most intact early storefronts in downtown Cannon Falls. The storefront retains a cast iron lintel and columns, large display windows, and a central recessed entrance. The transom level glass is being replaced above the display windows and entrance, creating the only turn of the century storefront in the historic district that retains a full set of open transom lights. (The eastern store also has a pressed metal ceiling inside.) The rear facade of the eastern store has an exposed limestone wall with segmental-arched window and door openings. These openings have recently been filled with a new door and 1/1 sash. A more recent single-leaf door in a rectangular opening has been added to the basement level of the eastern store. A corrugated metal-covered garage addition has been added to the rear of the western two-thirds of the building. Despite the good integrity of the eastern one-third of the building, the building is non-contributing to the historic district because of the exterior alteration of the western two-thirds of the structure.

This building was probably erected in the mid-to-late 1890s. (The lot was vacant in 1893.) In the early 20th century the central store was C. O. Lundquist Grocery, owned by Charles O. Lundquist. By the 1940s this store was the Cannon Falls Hatchery, which sold chicks and supplies to local farmers as well as buying butter, milk, and eggs. The eastern store was the Lars Quale Cafe from at least 1910-1924. The eastern store still housed a restaurant in 1938. The western store was a creamery in 1938.

**SOUTH SIDE OF MILL STREET**

28.

Historic Name:

Current Name: White Rock Plumbing

Address: 331 Mill St. W.

Built: Circa 1908

Resources: 1 Non-contributing Building, 1 Contributing Structure (gate posts)

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White Rock Plumbing stands on the southern side of Mill Street east of Fourth Street. It is a one story building constructed of rockfaced concrete block. Light brown brick was applied to the top of the main facade circa 1960. The storefront retains an exposed cast iron lintel. The remainder of the storefront has been altered with vertical wood paneling and a modern door and display window. A narrow service walk separates White Rock Plumbing from the rear of the Yale Building (site #11). On the opposite (eastern) side of the building, a set of circa 1920 fieldstone gateposts provides an entrance to the building's narrow side yard. The rear facade has a garage door opening with a modern garage door and a pedestrian entrance with a single-leaf door. The building is non-contributing to the district because of extensive exterior alterations.

This building does not appear on a 1905 Sanborn fire insurance map, but was probably built soon thereafter. Modern Cleaners and Tailors was a recent occupant.

29.

Historic Name: Kruse Garage  
Current Name: Lee Chevrolet  
Address: 421 Mill St. W.  
Built: Circa 1918  
Resources: 1 Contributing Building

Kruse Garage is located on the southern side of Mill Street west of Fourth Street. It is a large, two story concrete block building. The main facade is faced with textured brown brick. It has decorative brickwork above the first story, above the second story windows, and at the cornice level. (The four decorative brick rectangles above the second story windows were later filled with stucco.) The main facade has rectangular window and door openings with brick sills. The openings have been filled with wood on the second story (replacing the original 1/1 sash) and with circa 1950 fixed sash windows and replacement doors on the first story. Hanging from the main facade is a vertical neon-lit blue sign (circa 1945) that reads "Lee Chevrolet. Used Cars-Trucks. Authorized Dealer." Directly beneath the blue sign is a bright yellow neon-lit sign (circa 1945-1955) reading "GM. Oldsmobile." Hanging from the northwestern corner of the building is a yellow, blue, and red sign (circa 1955) reading "OK. Used Cars."

The western side wall has rectangular window openings. Those on the first story are filled with glass block and those on the second story are blocked with wood. The eastern side wall has similar windows, most of which are blocked with wood. The rear of the building includes a large

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two story wing. The second story of the rear facade is covered with corrugated metal. An early one story, rockfaced concrete block garage has been added to the rear, and a wooden deck has recently been built on the roof of the garage addition.

Kruse Garage was originally owned by Clem Kruse. In 1919 Kruse sold Oldsmobile, Maxwell, and Chalmers-Velie vehicles. The second story housed a large meeting hall, known as Kruse's Hall, that was used for dances, plays, graduation exercises, roller skating, and many other community events. Before an adequate high school gymnasium was built in Cannon Falls, the hall was used for high school basketball games. Cannon Falls residents remember that the players dressed at a nearby barber shop and ran down the snow-packed alley in their uniforms to the hall. During the winter the wood burning stoves that heated the hall sometimes interfered with play on the court (Bickman 1996:243).

By 1933 this building had become the Roell Chevrolet Company owned by Ed Roell. (Around 1926 Roell had been in business as Roell and Nyquist, probably also in this building.) In 1943 Lee Chevrolet and Oldsmobile Company purchased the building. Lee Chevrolet had been established by W. H. Lee that year. Bob Lee, the son of W. H. Lee, became manager about 1958. The company is still in business at this location.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, significance to the broad patterns of our history, in the area of Commerce. The district is an excellent example of its property type, i.e., the historic central business district of a small Midwestern agricultural service community. The district is significant as the historic center for Cannon Falls' retail, service, and banking industries, and as a group of buildings that have historically served as the social and political focal point of the community. The district is significant within the statewide historic context entitled "Railroads and Agricultural Development 1870-1940."

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The vicinity of Cannon Falls, located at the confluence of the Cannon and Little Cannon rivers, was settled by Euro-Americans in 1854-1855 after a long history of Native American habitation. Euro-Americans called the spot "Cannon Junction," but eventually named the settlement Cannon Falls after the rivers' rapids. Cannon Falls was established along one of Minnesota Territory's first government roads, the St. Paul to Dubuque [Iowa] Road, which had been surveyed in 1853. A stagecoach line began to travel the road in 1854 and Cannon Falls' first hotel was established in part to serve this line. Another important stage line, the Red Wing to Faribault line, also passed through the settlement. In 1855 Cannon Falls was platted and a saw mill was built. By October of 1855, Cannon Falls had approximately 300 residents. Land speculation helped the city burgeon to roughly 1,200 residents by 1857, but success proved fragile and the town collapsed back to 300 people after the financial panic of 1857 wiped out investments, ruined businesses, and caused legal tangles over land ownership. (One of the buildings in the historic district, the Ellsworth House Livery Stable (built circa 1856), dates from this early settlement period in Cannon Falls' history.)

After a period of dormancy in the 1860s, Cannon Falls began to grow again in the early 1870s. Most of the 29 commercial buildings in the historic district date from 1880-1915, an expansionary period in Minnesota history fueled by the widespread settlement of the Midwest's agricultural lands and the exploitation of the region's other natural resources including lumber and iron ore. During this period, in 1882, Cannon Falls joined the nation's rail network when two railroad companies -- the Minnesota Central and the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul -- both built lines through the city. Rail service greatly simplified the shipment of inventory to Cannon Falls' stores, just as it efficiently exported the region's farm products. Cannon Falls

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began to flourish as an agricultural trade center that served the small grain and livestock farmers of the surrounding townships. The city's central business district, most of which is included in the historic district, was the focus of much of this economic activity. In 1885, Cannon Falls had a population of about 1,200 people, about 500 of whom were foreign-born. (Nearly 400 of the 500 foreign-born were Swedish, but other western Europeans and Canadians were also represented.) The population of the city hovered between about 1,250 and 1,350 people from the 1880s through at least 1930.

Cannon Falls' first generation of downtown commercial buildings were woodframe structures that had been built beginning in the mid-1850s. While inexpensive and expedient to construct, they had a serious shortcoming that was demonstrated during in the 1880s when two large fires swept the downtown. The first, on May 20, 1884, consumed woodframe buildings on the western side of Fourth Street at the southern end of the historic district. The fire burned northward from the corner of Main and Fourth streets and stopped at Scofield Brothers at 108 4th St. N., which had been built in 1878 as one of downtown's first limestone buildings. Scofield Brothers is credited with saving the rest of the downtown from destruction (*Cannon Falls Beacon*, May 23, 1884).

The second fire, which was the largest fire in Cannon Falls' history, occurred three years later (almost to the day) on May 21, 1887, and essentially destroyed downtown Cannon Falls. The fire started in a woodframe building slightly north of Scofield Brothers. It burned all of the structures on the western side of Fourth Street in Block 36 except Scofield Brothers and its two neighbors to the south, jumped across the street to burn all of the buildings on the eastern side of Fourth Street in Block 35 except the two southern buildings on the block (101-103 and 105 4th St. N.), and jumped from Block 36 north across Mill Street to burn buildings on the northwestern corner of Fourth and Mill streets. The *Cannon Falls Beacon* wrote:

The fire was discovered at about 10:30 o'clock, and at 12 o'clock 30 buildings -- all but three or four business houses -- were a smoldering heap of ruins, and \$125,000 worth of property was a smoking heap of debris. The long drouth had left everything like kindling wood. It was all so sudden, and so soon over that few could realize for hours that our prosperous little village had met disaster which in proportion to its size was as great as the Chicago fire" (*Cannon Falls Beacon*, May 27, 1887).

Six of the buildings in the historic district are survivors of the 1887 fire. Three stand near the southwestern corner of the district (Van Campen Building, Westman and Danielson Building, and Scofield Brothers), two stand near the southeastern corner of the district (Tanner Millinery

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and the N. C. Olson Building), and one stands at the northern end of the district (the Ellsworth House Livery Stable).

The 1887 fire ended the construction of woodframe buildings downtown. It hit Cannon Falls during a vigorous period in its commercial history, however, and launched a mass rebuilding of limestone and brick structures during the summer of 1887. Thirteen of the 29 commercial buildings in the historic district, listed below, were constructed in the immediate aftermath of the 1887 fire. Several were built for merchants whose previous buildings had been destroyed in the fire.

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kowitz Saloon                     | ca. 114 4th St. N. |
| Lone Star Grocery                 | 115-121 4th St. N. |
| P. A. Peterson Building           | 118 4th St. N.     |
| Kulker's Restaurant/Homme Variety | 124 4th St. N.     |
| Wentz Building                    | 127-131 4th St. N. |
| Hawkins Building                  | 128 4th St. N.     |
| C. B. Johnson Hardware            | ca. 132 4th St. N. |
| Lindquist Feed Store              | 133 4th St. N.     |
| Sill's Saloon                     | 135 4th St. N.     |
| Clifford Building                 | 137 4th St. N.     |
| Meyer and Johns Dry Goods         | 138 4th St. N.     |
| Yale Building                     | 139 4th St. N.     |
| Citizens State Bank               | 400 Mill St. W.    |

**COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY TYPE**

The Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District is a well-preserved example of the type of business districts that were built in the heart of nearly all small Midwestern communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The district is an example of a "linear" central business district -- probably the most common type in Minnesota -- in which most commercial structures line a single major commercial street (or sometimes two parallel streets), rather than being arranged around a public square or in some other configuration (Francaviglia 1996:xx). (Note: Cannon Falls' downtown layout has changed somewhat since its original plat, however. Mill and Main streets were originally more prominent commercially because these two east-west streets led to bridges over the Little Cannon River just west of downtown. Fourth Street, on the other hand, did not continue northward over the river(s) into "North" Cannon Falls until 1928 when Highway 52 and its bridges were built. The original plat's east-west orientation is reflected in the fact that not all of the buildings in the historic district are accessed by rear alleys.)

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At the time that most of the buildings in the historic district were constructed, Cannon Falls' streets were unpaved. The downtown streets were lined with wooden plank sidewalks until 1894 when the first concrete sidewalks were installed. (By 1910 most of the wooden sidewalks had been replaced.) Some of the gravel streets had crosswalks that were paved with flagstone and, later, concrete. Hitching posts were banned from Fourth Street downtown in 1916 after the Cannon Falls Civic Improvement Club petitioned the city council for their removal for aesthetic and health reasons. In 1925 an eight-block-long section of Fourth Street downtown was finally paved. Downtown's first street lights were installed circa 1896. They consisted of two 2,000-candle arc lights that were suspended over the intersections of Fourth and Main streets and Fourth and Mill streets. The city installed a "white way" of 26 electric street lamps along Fourth Street in 1925.

Most of the historic district's 29 buildings, which date from circa 1856 to circa 1925, are excellent examples of typical commercial architecture of the period. Most are two story structures built of limestone and/or brick. (Limestone was quarried at "Limekiln Hill," which was located a short distance from town. The city also had its own brick factory.) The buildings are densely packed onto narrow city lots. Many are Italianate or Commercial Queen Anne, styles that were in vogue nationally during the mid- to late-19th century. Most were designed with ornate facades that presented a progressive, prosperous image to the public street. Most of the facades were veneered with hard face brick and embellished with stone window hoods, decorative brickwork, and elaborate pressed metal cornices. The cornices often had projecting finials and pediments and were often cast with the name of the owner and the year of the building's construction. (Seven of the buildings in the district retain their metal cornices, and many more retain brick cornices.) The ostentatious main facades stand in marked contrast to the modest side and rear walls on which the structural limestone or common brick was usually left exposed, and doors and windows received little decorative treatment. Several buildings in the district that were built in the early 20th century (many years after the Italianate and Commercial Queen Anne structures) are excellent and intact examples of later commercial styles and property types. They include the auto dealership and repair shop called Kruse Garage (circa 1918) and the Neo-classical Revival Farmers and Merchants National Bank (1922).

In style and type the buildings in downtown Cannon Falls resemble those in hundreds of other main streets in the U.S. Historian Richard Francaviglia explains that there was often little regional variation in the commercial architecture of American small towns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and that, instead, commercial architecture of the type seen in Cannon Falls was often rather conformist. This standardization was a result of the proliferation of building plans, mass-produced and mass-marketed building parts and materials, and business owners'

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desire to project an image of urban prosperity that varied little from city to city (Francaviglia 1996:35-36).

Nearly all of the 29 commercial buildings in the district display a typical distinction in function and design between the ground level and the upper story. In most cases, the brick-faced upper stories housed the owners' dwellings, meeting halls, offices, or -- in at least one case (the Wentz Building) -- hotel rooms. The second floor rooms are lighted by evenly-spaced double-hung windows and are generally accessed from interior stairways that are entered from single-leaf doors on the main facades. Exterior stairways were originally built on the side walls of some buildings. The Meyer and Johns Dry Goods Building at 138 4th St. N., for example, retains a rare cast iron exterior stairway to the second story that is supported by ornate brackets. (Other buildings in the district, such as the Van Campen Building and Scofield Brothers, also had exterior stairways on their side walls that have been removed.)

The ground level of nearly all of the commercial buildings in the district, like those on most small-town main streets, originally housed retail stores. (Some of the buildings in the district also housed businesses such as newspaper offices, barber shops, and bowling alleys at the basement level.) The storefronts almost always consisted of large, cast iron-framed, plate glass windows for maximal display of merchandise; recessed entrances (which were thought to "draw" passing pedestrians into the store from the sidewalk); single-leaf doors with large windows; and clear or textured glass transoms above the display windows and doors. Historic photographs of downtown Cannon Falls show that most of the buildings originally had colorful canvas awnings that shielded the display windows from the sun. Two buildings in the historic district, Eckloff and Hawkins Harness Shop at 406 Mill St. W. and C. O. Lundquist Grocery/Lars Quale Cafe at circa 408 Mill St. W., have particularly intact early storefronts. (The storefront at circa 408 Mill St. W. has just been rehabilitated.)

In addition to being excellent examples of 1850s-1920s commercial design, the buildings in the historic district illustrate typical changes that were made to commercial storefronts through time. Because storefronts were designed to advertise and promote the inventory sold within, they were sometimes modernized periodically in part as a marketing technique. Most storefronts in downtown Cannon Falls were remodeled at least once. New technology in the 1930s and 1940s influenced art and design, and spawned architectural styles such as the Streamline Moderne. Within the historic district the Clifford Building, later Kraft's Shoes, is an excellent example of a facade that was redesigned in the mid-1930s using contemporary styling and materials. The Kraft facade is faced with black and pink opaque structural glass, a material that was promoted in the 1930s for its modern look, bold color combinations, and low maintenance. Many other

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storefronts in the historic district were modernized in the 1940s and later with materials such as glass block, glazed bricks and tiles, aluminum and steel display window frames, and, later, colored porcelain enamel panels. While these storefront changes are alterations of the buildings' original designs, some, like the Kraft facade, have achieved design significance in their own right.

**ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

In addition to representing very typical late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture, the buildings in the district are historically significant to the economic and social history of Cannon Falls. These buildings were the center of Cannon Falls' retail business, its banking industry, its service businesses, health care, and legal services. Small businesses ranging from photographers to hardware stores were located in the historic district's numerous stores. Most of the businesses catered to farm families who typically visited Cannon Falls once per week to sell cream, eggs, and grain; to buy lumber, hardware, and groceries; and to seek the services of doctors, dentists, blacksmiths, bankers, and undertakers. Many of the buildings were owned and occupied by merchants who had been among Cannon Falls' earliest settlers. Many of the merchants are associated with more than one building in the district as businesses moved from building to building and as partnerships formed and dissolved through the years. One of the district's current occupants, Scofield Drugs, has been in continuous operation in downtown Cannon Falls since 1868 and has been located in its current building since 1878.

Buildings in the historic district also housed cafes, saloons, movie theaters, auditoriums, meeting rooms, lodge halls, and newspaper offices that collectively made downtown the social and cultural center for the city. Small auditoriums like Van Campen's Hall (above the Van Campen Building) and Kruse's Hall (above Kruse Garage) were the site of important public and private social activities including dances, graduation exercises, and high school basketball games. The first telephone in Cannon Falls hung in the lobby of the Citizens State Bank (which at the time was called the First National Bank). From 1900-1944 the city's first telephone office was located above Scofield's drugstore after members of the Scofield family and another partner established the first telephone system. Cannon Falls' newspapers were also headquartered in downtown buildings. The most prominent and long-lived among them was the *Cannon Falls Beacon*, which was located above the Eckloff and Hawkins Harness Shop at 406 Mill St. W. around the turn of the century, and then in the basement of the Van Campen Building for about 50 years prior to 1956.

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The historic district also encompasses a portion of Cannon Falls that has considerable symbolic importance as the focal point, or heart, of the city. The downtown area was the first part of Cannon Falls to receive paved streets, for example, and downtown was the area most frequently depicted on postcards of Cannon Falls. Fourth, Main, and Mill streets were chosen as the major route for public parades, political rallies, demonstrations, and celebrations. The central business district was also the site of most public buildings. (Cannon Falls' current city hall and its post office are both located in modern buildings just outside of the boundaries of the the historic district.)

Many of the men and women who worked in the buildings within the historic district were also Cannon Falls' civic leaders. For example, James Scofield, co-owner of the Scofield Brothers drugstore, served two terms in the state legislature in the 1890s. Leonard Rosing, owner of Rosing and Kraft shoe store in the Clifford Building, ran for governor in the early 20th century and was then elected to the legislature. Many business owners served as town mayors including Eli Ellsworth (1878-1880), Gustave Westman (1882-1883), D. E. Yale (1885, 1889), William H. Scofield (1891), S. S. Lewis (1895), John Danielson (1899), O. E. Falck (1904-1908), Dr. Alva A. Conley (1925-1927), and Edward A. Dibble (1935-1938). An even larger number of downtown merchants served as city aldermen. Theodore R. Johnson, who was city attorney for 23 years from 1909-1923, had his office in the Danielson Building and, later, in the Citizens State Bank. Merle S. Olson, whose office was above Scofield Brothers drugstore at 108 4th St. N., was city attorney from 1932-1955, also a term of 23 years.

In conclusion, the Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District is historically significant as a cohesive and well-preserved collection of buildings that represent the center of economic activity in Cannon Falls from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

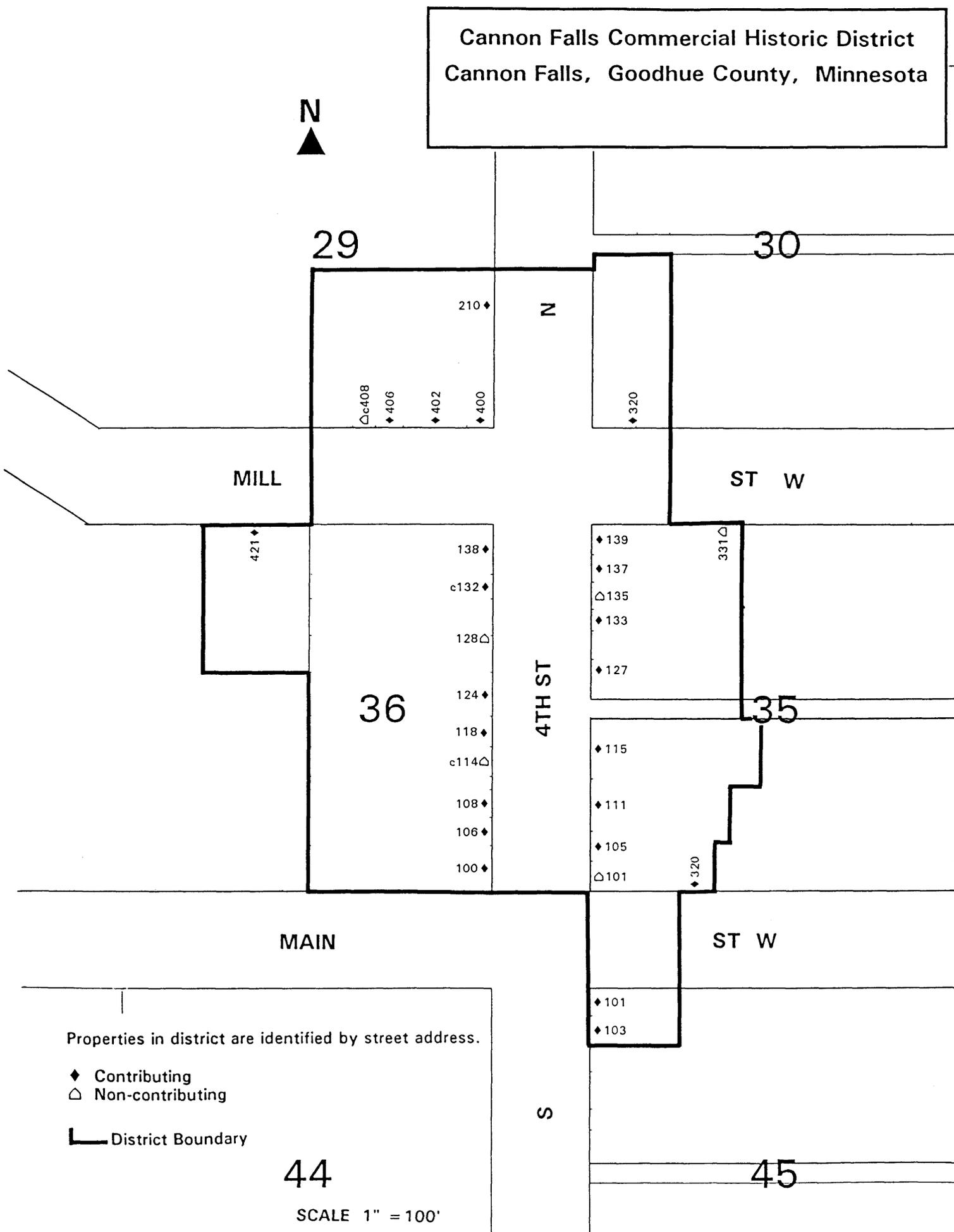
Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by the solid black line on the accompanying map entitled "Cannon Falls Commercial Historic District, Cannon Falls, Goodhue County, Minnesota."

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the district encompasses a cluster of adjacent commercial buildings in the central business district of Cannon Falls that date from circa 1856 through circa 1925 and retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Buildings outside of the boundary of the district were excluded from the district because they either do not date from the period of significance, do not retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the district, or were not built for commercial purposes.

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Properties in district are identified by street address.

- ◆ Contributing
- △ Non-contributing

└─ District Boundary

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SCALE 1" = 100'