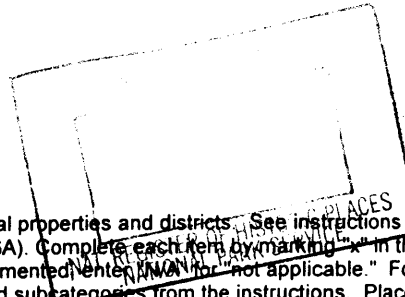


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1032

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Bedford Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 200-500 blocks Main Street, 500-600 blocks Court, 500 block Central N/A not for publication

city or town Bedford N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Taylor code 173 zip code 50833

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).

Ronald G. Latte August 2, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- 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]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 9/12/02

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	
43	3	buildings
<hr/>		
		sites
<hr/>		
4	0	structures
<hr/>		
		objects
<hr/>		
47	3	Total

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

Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- DOMESTIC/hotel
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
-
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
-
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
- LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS
- /Classical Revival
- /Mission

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE/Limestone
- walls BRICK
- roof ASPHALT
- other

Narrative Description

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

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1850s-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1]5 [3]5[4]5[6]4 [4]5[0]3[0]4[9]
Zone Easting Northing

2 [1]5 [3]5[4]5[6]4 [4]5[0]2[9]2[2]
Zone Easting Northing

3 [1]5 [3]5[4]9[5]5 [4]5[0]2[9]3[7]

4 [1]5 [3]5[4]9[5]5 [4]5[0]2[9]8[3]
 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 Leah D. Rogers and Lori Vermaas

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date March 27, 2002

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722

city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 see continuation sheet

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Materials continued

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD/weatherboard
METAL/cast iron

Narrative Description

The Bedford Commercial Historic District is situated in the town of Bedford, in Taylor County, Iowa. This community is in the southwestern quadrant of Iowa not far from the Missouri border. The commercial district is L-shaped having begun life as a commercial district oriented to the Taylor County Courthouse at the north end of Court Street; however, once the railroad arrived in Bedford, the commercial district began to develop along the east-west Main Street heading to the east and sloping gradually downhill to the railroad. The district encompasses those buildings fronting Main Street from one-half block west of the Main Street/Court Avenue intersection east to the State Avenue intersection to one-half block north and south of Main Street along Court, Central, and Dodge avenues. One of the notable features of this well-preserved commercial district, are the exposed brick-paved streets, which are considered contributing structures to the district. A total of 50 properties are included within the district boundaries. Of these 50 properties, there are 43 contributing buildings and four contributing structures (the brick streets), with three non-contributing buildings.

There are four commercial and public buildings in Bedford that have already been listed in the National Register including the Taylor County Courthouse, the Bedford Carnegie Public Library, the Bedford Oil Company Service Station, and the Hotel Garland. The courthouse, library, and service station are all located outside of the commercial district boundary but are in close proximity. The courthouse is at the north end of Court Avenue and is a strong visual point visible from the commercial district, particularly at the intersection of Main Street and Court Avenue. The library is not visible from the district but is situated less than two blocks northwest of the district boundary. The service station is at the west end of Main Street where it intersects with Highway 148 (Madison Avenue). The service station fronts the highway and is separated from the historic district by an empty lot and an alleyway but is visible from the west edge of the district. While the service station and the courthouse certainly contribute to the historic look of the historic district, both properties are separated by sufficient non-contributing space and buildings to warrant their exclusion from the district boundary.

The Hotel Garland, on the other hand, is located within the commercial district boundary at 306 Main Street and is considered a key building to the district. This large, three-story brick hotel dates from 1877, although part of the rear contain a portion of the original 1857 Bedford House hotel. It is a well-preserved example of a late nineteenth century hotel that still presents a strong sense of time and place.

COUNTING SYSTEM FOR BUILDINGS

The counting system for buildings within the district is based on the original construction of the building and its separation from adjacent buildings by structural walls and not by its internal store unit divisions. Therefore, a block building constructed as a structurally identifiable building separate and distinct from adjacent buildings but having any number of internal store unit divisions, would count as only one building even though it might have two or more storefronts or internal store units.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 2

PROPERTY TYPES

The property types follow those devised for the *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* Multiple Property submission to the National Register. The following is a brief listing and summary of each type, with more detailed descriptions summarized in the cover document for the MPS. Type I is the commercial district itself. Type II consists of the first generation of buildings, structures, sites and objects constructed along Main Street. Type III represents the second generation of construction along Main Street often tied to a building boom associated with prosperity and growth. Type VI consists of specialized buildings constructed for a specific purpose such as a courthouse, Carnegie public library, post office, grain elevator, or gas station. Type V represents properties that have undergone substantial modification reflecting the updating of commercial properties in the form of façade remodeling as well as buildings, structures, sites and objects that are late additions to the district but within the period of significance. Type VI consists of modern infill properties added to the district after the period of significance.

The Bedford Commercial Historic District as Property Type I meets the registration requirements set forth in the *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* MPS by retaining good integrity and by reflecting the settlement and development of the town of Bedford and by containing one of the best-preserved collections of late nineteenth century commercial architecture in small town Iowa.

INDIVIDUAL BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions discuss each of the buildings in the Bedford Commercial Historic District where known by inventory number, address, date of construction, historic name, descriptive comments, evaluation as either contributing or non-contributing to the district, and the known history of the property. Where possible, an Iowa Site Inventory number was assigned to each discrete building, not to each storefront or building part. Street-level renovations to commercial buildings complicated the discernment of where one building stops and the next starts. Storefronts inherently mislead; tenants and street addresses change far too often to be reliable guides. The use of fire insurance maps, historic and recent photographs, physical inspection in the field, and site forms from a 1989 survey helped to determine the footprint of each building. Interiors were not checked for each building. The 1989 survey was part of a three county study conducted by Western Historical Studies, Inc., for the Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation (Mehls & Mehls 1989).

The 1989 survey of the Bedford commercial area provided useful historical information; however, the organizational information proved to be very misleading because investigators separated properties based on storefronts. As a result, some buildings in this earlier survey have two or three site numbers. For simplicity's sake, properties that were previously divided into two or three site numbers, like those at 415 and 421 Main, now have only one site number and are counted as one building within the district. Given these changes and the different generations of surveys, Bedford's latest site numbering often does not proceed chronologically or in a logical direction.

Additional historical information was gleaned from local historical accounts and the Sanborn fire insurance maps. Assistance in gathering information was provided by Garland Fickess of the Bedford Area Economic Development office and members of the Bedford Main Street program. The *Bedford Times Press* also assisted by scanning copies of historic photographs for inclusion in this nomination. Lori Vermaas of Tallgrass Historians L.C. compiled the historical and building descriptive information, updated the photographs and inventory database, and contributed to the completion of the National Register nomination, along with Leah D. Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. Berry Bennett of the Community Programs Bureau of the State Historical Society of Iowa greatly assisted in the sorting and reassignment of inventory numbers. Repositories visited for this additional information included the Assessor's Office in Bedford, Iowa, the State Historical Society of Iowa Library in Iowa City, the Community Programs Bureau of the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines, and the Bedford Public Library.

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Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 3

#87-00485

Address: Spans full-length of Main Street, including nearly all of the blocks that flank Main to its north and south (specifically, Court Avenue, between Main/Jefferson and Main/Washington; Central Avenue, between Main/Jefferson and Main/Washington; and Dodge Street, between Main/Washington).

Date of Construction: c. 1910

Historic Name: Main Street, Court Avenue, Central Avenue, and Dodge Avenue

Property Type: III: Transportation/Road

Evaluation: Contributing structures (four)

Comments: Red brick paving; herringbone pattern evident at three Main Street intersections (Main and Court; Main and Central; Main and Dodge). Some concrete patching north of Main/Dodge intersection.

History: Bricklaying began in 1910. "Purington Pavers, earthy red bricks each 3½ inches thick," spanned the district's commercial area, linking Main Street's commercial area to residential neighborhoods a few years later (Taylor County Historical Society 1981a:44).

Significance: Displays impact of transportation technology on the District's development, particularly the influence of the automobile.

#87-00486

Address: 507 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1880s

Historic Name: Retail commercial

Property Type: II: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular false-front frame building has clapboard siding. One doorway on right, with single 1/1 double-hung window to left. Metal siding on sidewalls and gabled roof. Building is unused and is settling and in need of repair, but nevertheless retains sufficient integrity.

History: Original owner, J. C. Thomas.

Significance: Rare survival of false-front type frame commercial building in Bedford. Was on the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance's "Iowa's Most Endangered Historic Structures" list in 1998.

#87-00138

Address: 505 Main Street

Date of Construction: between 1885-1895

Historic Name: agricultural implements

Property Type: I: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular false-front frame commercial building has paired 1/1 double-hung windows on left and paneled wood door, with transom window, on right. Building retains cornice overhang and shed-roof drip hood over windows. Back addition of corrugated tin construction. Building slowly decaying and in need of repair, but retains high degree of integrity.

History: Original owner, John Kemery. Housed agricultural implements (1893), lunchroom (1898-c.1909), and plumber (1918) (Sanborn 1893-1918).

Significance: Rare survival of false-front type frame building in Bedford. Was on the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance's "Iowa's Most Endangered Historic Structures" list in 1998.

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Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

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#87-00137

Address: 503 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1880s

Historic Name: doctor's office

Property Type: III: Professional office

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story, single-unit brickfront building has interesting shaped parapet, brick corbelled pilasters, and decorative stone or cast concrete inserts. Storefront was remodeled in 1943 and has newer windows flanking the off center door. A metal awning is cantilevered over the storefront.

History: Original owner, C.E. Reinnigton. Doctor's office from c.1909-1918 (Sanborn 1909-1918). Currently apartments.

Significance: Maintains integrity and historic look of this block along Main Street. Interesting transition type of building similar in design to adjacent and earlier frame false front type of commercial buildings and the larger two-story brick buildings to the east that form the core of the commercial district.

#87-00305

Address: 602 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: 1856

Historic Name: Jeweler/Cigar Factory originally; Rhoads and Remington Drug Store (1893-1898)

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Two-story single-unit brick building has three single windows across second floor. Windows are reduced. Storefront has been updated but has some potential for reversibility. Was a three-story building originally, with third floor removed after 1933. Once had a staircase to upper floors on south side exterior.

History: Reportedly built in 1856 as a three-story building. It housed a cigar factory on the third floor and Caskey's jewelry store on the first floor. Later housed a furniture store (c.1886) and drugstore (c.1893-1933) on the first floor, with the Bell Telephone exchange on the second floor c.1909-c.1918 (Sanborn 1886-1933). The third-floor cigar factory was either the Hindman Bros. or Joseph & Sperry Cigar Factory (Centennial Book Committee 1953:17; Bruce E. Mahan files; Red Brick Street Walking Tour n.d.). The drugstore was known variously as the Rhoads and Remington and the Remington and Bailey drugstore and had a popular ice cream and soda shop.

Significance: Despite alterations, serves as important anchor building to corner of Court and Main Streets.

#87-00306

Address: 604-606 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: grocery store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular Italianate-influenced two-story brick block building has bracketed cornice overhang. Second floor has six windows across with prominent hood molds. Windows are reduced. Storefronts have been altered but may have some elements that can be reversed. South unit has a wood-shake awning, while north unit has a cantilevered metal awning. North unit also has recessed central entry.

History: Housed a grocery, drugs/photography, and photography/restaurant between 1886-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses Through the Years antiques store.

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Bedford Commercial Historic District
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Significance: Part of well-preserved block serving as “gateway” to County Courthouse and part of original commercial district development.

#87-00477

Address: 608-612 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: variety store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular Italianate-influenced two-story brick block is three units wide but two of the units were combined into one storefront in early twentieth century. Has bracketed cornice overhang. Second floor windows are six across, with two over each unit. Windows have prominent hood molds of a different type from those on 604-606 Court Avenue and are covered over with wood panels. Iron/railing balcony on north unit second floor. Storefronts have been remodeled but retain recessed entryways and some potential for reversibility.

History: Housed a variety store, lunch, cigar shop/bakery, barber shop, and telephone office/meat shop between 1886-1933 (Sanborn 1886-1933). Telephone Company was in all three units with office in middle one. The meat shop was the Levine Meat Market. Currently, the Volkmar Building and Tribolet Financial Services.

Significance: Part of well-preserved block serving as “gateway” to County Courthouse and part of original commercial district development.

#87-00308

Address: 617 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: 1931

Historic Name: Masonic Temple (Taylor Lodge No. 156)

Property Type: IV Fraternal hall

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Three-story orange brick building has stepped parapet and concrete coping. The entryway is marked by a monumental stone appliqué including stylized pilasters and stylized classical decoration above the door and third-floor window. A stone plaque with “Masonic Temple” is centered over second floor window. The windows are multi-pane casement windows original to the design. The central double-door is flanked by two copper and glass light fixtures. A cornerstone stone plaque is at the southwest corner of the building.

History: Masonic Lodge formed in 1860 met in rented halls (likely on second floor of 309 Main [#87-00114], between 1893-1918) until one of its members, George L. Finn, died in 1929, naming the Lodge as a beneficiary. The inheritance funded the Temple’s construction in 1931.

Significance: Well-preserved example of 1930s architect-designed lodge hall and significant building addition to Bedford during the Great Depression. Also, reflects importance of “gateway” to Courthouse along this section of Court Avenue and marks the north edge of the commercial district.

#87-00136

Address: 421-423 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1879

Historic Name: James M. Thompson Mercantile

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

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Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

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Comments: Large two-story corner brick block building has cast iron storefront and exhibits Italianate stylistic influence overall. The bricks were fired locally. Second floor windows are 2/2 round-arched double-hungs with prominent hood molds. Some of the windows have been painted over, while others are shuttered. The top of the building is capped with a bracketed cornice overhang that wraps around the canted corner. The west side of the building has a corbelled brick cornice treatment. The cast iron storefront on the corner unit has wood panel inserts, while the east unit has a recessed door and plate-glass windows. Bubble awnings over the east unit somewhat obscure the historic storefront. Former basement business units (barbershop, handyman shop) are no longer apparent from street.

History: Original owner was James M. Thompson. This building housed "James Thompson Dry Goods," a general merchandise business until c.1918. Sources indicate that original structure was wood frame built in 1868 by James Monroe Thompson and Seth Richards. By 1875 Thompson was the sole owner and four years later, in 1879, he erected this brick building costing approximately \$12,000. The store was remodeled in 1910, 1953 and again in 1972 and 1982. Building was purchased by Turner in 1972. Housed the Willis Hardware and Furniture Store in the early twentieth century. Currently, Petal Pusher and Time & Again.

Significance: A critical link in the local evolution of Bedford's commerce and commercial architecture. This building is located at the corner where the commercial district began to develop east from Court Avenue towards the railroad. This building is an important corner anchor to this intersection.

#87-00135

Address: 419 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1880

Historic Name: general store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular Italianate-influenced two-story, single-unit brick building has an elaborate bracketed cornice overhang. Second floor windows consist of two pairs of arched round-arched windows with prominent hood molds. Windows have been reduced. The storefront has an unusual curving awning that is older but has been modernized. The storefront has a recessed central entry flanked by large plate-glass windows.

History: Original owner, M.A. Weaver. Housed a general store, clothing, and notions between 1886-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses Bedford Drug.

Significance: Good integrity helps maintain continuity of historic brick commercial construction along this block.

#87-00132

Address: 413-417 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: Pieringer's Jewelry Store/Maxwell's Grocery

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Italianate-influenced vernacular one-story, three-unit brick block building has corbelled and recessed brick panels above each storefront and elaborate bracketed cornice overhang along the top of the entire building. The cornice above 413 Main still retains a shaped pediment on top of the cornice. Storefronts have been altered to varying degrees, with 413 Main being more altered and having a rustic wood awning, while the 415-417 storefronts retaining recessed central entries, cast iron framing, older display windows, and roll-down canvas awnings.

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Continuation Sheet

Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

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History: Original owner, M. Mann. Pieringer's Jewelry/bank, bakery/Maxwell's Grocery, and a restaurant between 1886-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1933). Worley-Severs Hardware (1933), renamed Severs-Stacy Hardware (1946). Currently houses Spinning Wheel Treasurers Mall.

Significance: Important commercial block building fronting Main Street, contributes to historic look of Main Street.

#87-00470 and 87-00130

Address: 409-411 Main

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: meat market/grocery store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit brick block building has corbelled dentils and pilasters across second floor that demarcate store units, with two windows above 411 Main and three above 409 Main and a central stair in-between the two units. The second-floor windows are tall, rectangular 1/1 double-hungs on 409 Main, with the two windows on 411 Main having been reduced; all second floor windows retain prominent hood molds, with the top of the building capped by a bracketed metal cornice. The storefronts have metal beams above and some cast iron columns exposed on the 411 unit. The 409 storefront is more dramatically altered but may have some potential for reversibility. A bubble-type awning over 411 unit, with a wood-shingled awning over the 409 storefront from a 1979 remodel.

History: Built by 1886, this block building housed a meat market in the west unit from 1886 to at least 1918, with the east unit variously housing a grocery store (c.1886-c.1898) and a jewelry store (c.1909-c.1918) (Sanborn 1909-1918). The Blake Music Company was in the east unit of this building in the 1920s, with the second floor utilized as apartments from c.1939-1980. Original owner, J.D. Wilkin.

Significance: Contributes to well-preserved brick commercial block fronting Main Street.

#87-00128

Address: 407 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1908

Historic Name: Bedford National Bank

Property Type: III: Bank

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Two-story stone-veneered facade exhibits Neo-classical elements in the cornice overhang, entablature with small square vents, and the monumental pedimented entryway. The door has a decorative classical pediment and is flanked by two stylized and fluted Ionic columns. The windows on the ground floor are replacements, with those on the second floor appearing to be the original paired and quadrupled 1/1 double-hung windows. Lobby retains much of its original integrity of design, character, and function (1908 marble countertops and two-story vault). More modern addition to facade is the LCD time/temperature clock.

History: John Van Fleet and W.C. Crum built first bank structure of brick on this lot in 1876, known as the Crum and Fleet Banking House. In 1908, A.C. Edmundson built the extant building, named the Bedford National Bank. The building has had a variety of owners since 1908 and was most recently sold in 1986 to Thurman State Corporation. This location has always been a bank site. It is currently the Citizens' Bank.

Significance: This building reflects the trend in bank building design in general to update older buildings or replace older buildings with newer, more modern and stylish looking buildings. The desire was to maintain a good standing with customers and project a sense of solidity and vitality. This example, designed in the Neo-classical style, which was a nationally popular style of architecture in the early twentieth century, reflects this trend and was an important addition to

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Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 8

the Bedford commercial district as it evolved in the early twentieth century. It was probably also an architect-designed building on Main Street.

#87-00127

Address: 405 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1885-1895

Historic Name: drugstore

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, single-unit brick building shows Italianate stylistic influence in the elaborate metal cornice, and the round-arched and arcaded windows across the second floor. The second floor windows have been altered in more recent years but the arcaded fenestration is still present. The storefront is the original cast iron front and retains good integrity. A metal awning was added in the late twentieth century but the ribbon window above remains uncovered.

History: Original owner, F. Lewis. Structure is a two-story commercial building, which has housed a variety of retail establishments, including a drugstore and general offices (Sanborn 1886-1918). Subsequent businesses included investment offices, ladies wear, and second hand clothing. It currently houses Wilson's Home and Office.

Significance: Contributes to well-preserved brick commercial block fronting Main Street.

#87-00125

Address: 403 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: clothing store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, single-unit brick building was refaced c.1909 when adjoining building to the east was constructed to impart a more unified façade joining both buildings. However, 403 Main is an older building than that at 401 Main as suggested by the second-floor windows on 403 that do not line up with those on the second floor of 401 Main. In addition, a fire wall separates the two buildings, thus strongly suggesting its origins as an independent building that later was integrated into its immediate eastern neighbor. Storefront windows have been modernized and enlarged to plate glass. The ribbon window may be intact under cover-up. Metal awning over storefront is late twentieth century addition. The second floor windows are three across and have plain stone lintels and sills. The windows appear to be 1/1 double-hungs, with boards covering the topmost portion of each window.

History: Original owner, Levi Opdyler. Housed a clothing store, photography/confectionary/barber, restaurant, and gentleman's furnishings between 1886-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). It currently houses Modern Day Iron.

Significance: Important anchor building near intersection of Main and Central. The unification of the façade of this older building, with that of the newer (c.1909) building to the east, helped to transition the newer building into the commercial district and this older block of brick buildings.

#87-00487

Address: 401 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1909

Historic Name: Citizens' State Bank

Property Type: III: Bank

Evaluation: Contributing building

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Comments: Two-story brick corner building, the façade of which was unified with 403 Main by the refacing of the older building (i.e., at 401 Main) so that it matched the newer building. The building has a curved corner, with cut-away storefront. The second-floor of the curve has a door with three-light transom opening out onto a curved wrought iron balcony. The parapet above the curved corner has a shaped pediment and decorative stone or cast concrete tablet. The second floor consists of a series of alternating paired 1/1 double-hung windows with slight rounded bay windows, with a rounded bay window on the front second-floor façade. A simple stone or cast concrete lintel wraps-around the cornice of this building and the adjacent building (403 Main). The entire building was gutted by a fire in the late 1990s and remains open and exposed to the elements to the present day. The window glass is broken out, with plywood now covering the storefront windows. One large window on the east side of the building retains glass blocks. Overall, the style of this building was strongly influenced by the Mission style of architecture. Originally the building had a Classical Revival stone-veneered entry at the rounded corner, with the current door and balcony above a later alteration of the original corner window. The storefront appears to have been altered by the 1940s.

History: Bank from c.1909 through at least 1918. Ahrens Drugstore established here by 1931. Building was gutted by fire in the late 1990s and remains vacant and exposed to the elements.

Significance: Important anchor building at intersection of Main and Central. This building reflects the trend in bank building design in general to update older buildings or replace older buildings with newer, more modern and stylish looking buildings. The desire was to maintain a good standing with customers and project a sense of solidity and vitality. This particular example not only updated this corner lot, but also resulted in the updating of the façade of the older, adjacent building. As such, it was an important addition to the Bedford commercial district as it evolved in the early twentieth century. It is hoped that this important building can be salvaged and restored.

#87-00123

Address: 321 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: hardware store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story single-unit brick Italianate-influenced corner building. Second floor topped with bracketed cornice overhang and has three 2/2 double-hung windows with prominent hood molds. The storefront has a recessed entry, modern plate-glass windows, a covered ribbon window (probably reversible), and a metal awning added in the late twentieth century. The corner has a large paneled pilaster still exposed. Structure previously had Central Street basement access to shops. Windows on west side are largely covered over with plywood sheets. Once had an exterior staircase. Roof of building steps down towards rear. May have originally been built as a three-part block building joined with 319-317 Main to the east. All three units certainly share similar second floor design details.

History: Original owner, J.H. Baker. Building housed a hardware store (c.1886-1893), dry goods (c.1898-1909), and Shehan's general store (c.1918) (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently storage backroom used for production business (former Dawg Pound).

Significance: A significant example of a corner building that retains a clear association with an earlier period of Bedford's history and possesses enough integrity to convey the feeling of the late-nineteenth-century commercial district.

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#87-00122

Address: 319-317 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: general store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit brick block exhibiting Italianate stylistic details may have been part of an original three-unit block building joined with 321 Main to the west since all three units share similar second floor design details. Brick on 319-317 Main has been stuccoed and painted white. Storefront has a late twentieth century aluminum awning. Cast iron storefront intact on both units. Two recessed business entries flanking a center second-story entry. Ribbon window may be intact underneath cover-up. Second story windows reduced in more recent years but retain original hood molds similar to those on 321 Main Street. Second floor fenestration shows three windows above each unit. Cornice may have existed previously, but has since been removed.

History: Original owner, F.N. Lewis. Building has housed a general store (c.1886-1898) and a dry goods and millinery shop (c.1909) (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses Taylor County Neighborhood Center and Thrift Shop.

Significance: Contributes to well-preserved block of brick commercial buildings fronting Main Street.

#87-00467 and 87-00118

Address: 315-313 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1898

Historic Name: post office and jewelry store

Property Type: III: Post Office/Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular one-story brick block has corbelled brick parapet subdivided by brick pilasters and decorative brickwork. Western unit has vestiges of a cast iron front; display windows flank the main entry. Tile entry floor remains. Eastern unit retains some of the cast iron front with remnants of pilasters. Some modifications have been made with textured wood skirt replacing some of the windows. Ribbon windows covered on storefronts (may be reversible).

History: Built between 1893 and 1898, this building housed the post office and a jewelry store in the west unit, with a printing shop in the east unit c.1898, the post office and a newsstand c.1909, a grocery store and printing shop c.1918-1933. Currently houses The Home Store and the *Bedford Times-Press*. While the Bedford walking tour brochure states that the *Bedford Times-Press* portion of this block building had been constructed in 1890 and was connected to the old post office building, the Sanborn fire insurance maps clearly show both buildings for the first time on the 1898 map, with empty lots shown on the 1886 and 1893 maps.

Significance: This brick block contributes to a well-preserved row of brick commercial buildings fronting Main Street.

#87-00116

Address: 311 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: harness shop

Property Type: III: Transportation related

Evaluation: Contributing building

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Comments: Vernacular two-story, single-unit brick building exhibits Italianate stylistic details. Cast iron storefront with large display windows and side lights to main entry. Ribbon window above; aluminum awning added (potential for reversibility). The second floor has three single windows with prominent hood molds, with the windows partially boarded over. The top of the building is capped by a bracketed cornice.

History: Original owner, F.N. Lewis. Built by 1886 when it housed a harness shop, it later housed an agricultural implements store (c.1893) and a millinery (c.1898-1918) (Sanborn 1898-1918). Currently houses Photography Expressions.

Significance: Contributes to well-preserved block of commercial brick buildings fronting Main Street.

#87-00114

Address: 309 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1898

Historic Name: Lodge Hall/Furniture & Hardware store

Property Type: III: Fraternal hall/Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, double-wide but single-unit Italianate-influenced building had lodge hall on second floor. Remodeled storefront retains outline of old cast iron front. The ground floor covered by a corrugated tin awning added by 1909. Building capped by metal cornice, with brick corbelling and recessed panels below subdividing second floor into two units having three single double-hung windows each. The windows have prominent hood molds, and the windows have been reduced. Exposed wall on second floor replaced in 1950s after collapse.

History: Original owner, F.N. Lewis. This building was first shown on the 1898 fire insurance map as a furniture and hardware store, with a lodge hall on the second floor. It had replaced a one-story Artificial Stone Warehouse on this lot in the early 1890s. By 1909 it housed a grocery store, which remained in business through at least 1918 (Sanborn 1893-1918). Currently houses the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Significance: Interesting double-wide building contributes to well-preserved commercial brick block fronting Main Street.

#87-00112

Address: 307 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1886

Historic Name: Paint shop

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, single-unit brick building. Cast iron storefront infilled with brick veneer with upper part fitted with windows flanking main business entrance. The second-floor apartment entrance is on the left side and has a door and screen. Aluminum awning spans the front. No windows on the second story level.

History: Vacant in 1886-1893; paint shop in 1898; office in 1909-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses the Bedford Chamber of Commerce.

Significance: While altered in more recent years, it still retains sufficient integrity to be contributing to the district.

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#87-00471

Address: 303 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1918/remodeled 1955

Historic Name: Clark Theatre/Hardin Building

Property Type: V: Theater/Meeting Hall

Evaluation: Non-contributing building

Comments: Vernacular architecture; red brick facade, three dark blue mini awnings above square windows and one above doors. Canted corner entry faces intersection. "Hardin Building 1955" panel on center of facade; vertical L-shaped neon sign reads "Hardin Post 164" by front entry. Front of building is one-story in height and was rebuilt after a fire in the 1950s. The rear of the building, where the movie theater was housed, is two-stories in height.

History: The building was constructed as the Clark Theatre between 1909 and 1918. It operated as a movie theater into the mid-twentieth century when it suffered a fire. The current front façade and lobby area were completely remodeled or rebuilt in 1955 to current look. The building was located on a lot formerly occupied by the Clifton Hotel. Has housed the American Legion Hardin Post 164 meeting and bingo hall since 1955. The building also houses the Taylor County Abstract Company.

Significance: The remodeling/rebuilding of the front portion of this building in 1955 has resulted in a modern looking building that is considered non-contributing to the district.

#87-00107

Address: 211 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1880

Historic Name: Kinnison Livery Barn

Property Type: III: Transportation (livery stables)

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story brick building has a stuccoed façade, a gabled tin roof, and a shaped parapet exhibiting some influence from the Mission style representing an early twentieth century remodel of the original clapboard facade. Central front door and window to east are modern inserts, with two single windows to the west side now boarded over. Exaggerated hood molds above each window. Two small windows at attic level on front façade also boarded over and have exaggerated lintels.

History: Originally the Clark Kinnison's Livery Barn followed by the Miller & Kinnison Livery c.1898 and the Bonner Livery Stables. When originally built, the false-front facade was the same exact same shape but, the façade was a clapboard structure, with an entrance door and bay window on building's left front, a central square barn opening, and hay loft above and to the right of barn opening. On the arched roof pediment, it originally read "A.C. Kinnison's Barn" (Centennial Book Committee 1953). Furnished depot bus for the Bedford House, as well as hearses for undertakers. By the time it was owned by Bonner, the building had the existing masonry front, with a round-arched central entry, a pass door to left with transom above, a single 4/4 window to the left of the pass door and two 4/4 windows to the right of the central door. The building housed a livery through c.1909. It later housed auto storage c.1918 and a junk store c.1933. Currently houses the Main Street Tap.

Significance: Clearly associated with period when Bedford/southwestern Iowa principally relied on horse-drawn transportation; a notable example of livery station architecture.

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#87-00106

Address: 209 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1880s

Historic Name: Carpenter shop

Property Type: III: Manufactory/Industrial building

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Small one-story red brick building fronts Main Street at its east end, is labeled as a two-story building on the fire insurance map and may have had one floor reduced. It was originally a stand-alone building, with a space between it and the livery barn to the west. By 1909, the building had been expanded to the west abutting the livery barn as it now does. The façade is plain brick with a double window to west of entry door and single window to east.

History: Housed a carpenter shop and later a bakery. It was labeled as an office on the 1933 fire insurance map (Sanborn 1886-1933). Currently houses the Taylor County Farm Bureau.

Significance: Small commercial brick building helps mark the east end of the district.

#87-00108

Address: 212-214 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1885

Historic Name: Bedford Lumber Company

Property Type: III: Lumber Yard

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular one-story brick office building has canted corner door entry with transom window and a denticulated cornice overhang around parapet. Two 1/1 double-hung windows on north and west sides, with a third now boarded over. Attached to the brick office are long, enclosed, wood-sided lumber sheds to the east and south sides of the office building filling this corner lot.

History: Long history as a lumber yard: The Bedford Lumber Company (c.1886), Lewis Lumber Company (c.1893-1898), Nold & Taylor Lumber Company (c.1909), and Ideal Lumber Company (c.1918-1933) (Sanborn 1886-1933). Currently houses the D&D Resale Store.

Significance: A significant example of a lumberyard building that retains a clear association with an earlier period of Bedford's history and its connection to the railroad. Office building, in particular, retains good integrity.

#87-00490

Address: 216 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1918

Historic Name: Veterinarian's office

Property Type: II: Professional office

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story frame building has horizontal siding and a central garage bay with modern overhead door. East window boarded over. Pass door and fixed-pane window to west of garage door.

History: Built between 1909 and 1918, this building housed a veterinarian's office in 1918 (Sanborn 1909-1933).

Significance: Helps block retain continuity initiated by lumberyard. This block also helps to connect the main commercial district to the railroad to the east.

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#87-00491

Address: 218-222 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1909

Historic Name: Bedford Grain Company

Property Type: IV and V: Industrial (agricultural-related)

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story red brick building, with one garage bay on eastern side, central recessed doorway flanked by two large display windows with shutters and classical pediments. Building is banked into slope, and front entry is reached by a short flight of stairs. Connected to two-story rectangular structure on its east, which displays torn "Nutri-Feeds, Taylor Co. Agri-Center" sign. This structure has a low-pitched hip roof and metal siding on the upper level.

History: The two-story rectangular structure was shown on the 1909 fire insurance map as a sale building. By 1918 a coal shed and a coal and feed building had been added to the west, with a spur track in-between the two coal sheds. The business was labeled as the Bedford Grain Company in 1918. The one-story red brick building was added after 1933 uniting the formerly divided coal sheds and signaling the removal of the railroad spur track. The Bedford walking tour brochure noted that this was the home of the Vogt Seed Company where blue grass seed was purchased, threshed, cleaned and sold, with the tall structure used as the seed cleaner.

Significance: Reflects agricultural industry's influence on town into the early-twentieth century and helps maintain the continuity of this block. Also serves to connect the main commercial district to the railroad to the east.

#87-00111

Address: 306 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1857 (original portion)/1877 (portion fronting Main Street)

Historic Name: Bedford House

Property Type: III: Hotel

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Large, three-story brick hotel is capped with a bracketed metal cornice with grillwork detail on top. The lobby windows are plate-glass replacements of the original 4/2 double-hung windows related to a 1910 remodeling and expansion of the hotel. A 1940s-style porch with round columns is over the sidewalk. The front entry door is a double door with a sunburst fanlight and capped by a round-arched hood mold. Three windows to the west of the door are the original tall, narrow 2/2 double-hungs with hood molds matching those on the upper floors. Second and third stories are seven bays of 2/2 double-hung windows, except on second level where one of the windows is a door with transom window and opens out onto the balcony of the front porch. The windows are capped by exaggerated hood molds of a type repeated elsewhere in the district. Facade is capped by large bracketed cornice with centered nameplate that once read "Bedford House." A "Hotel Garland" sign now hangs on front porch over entryway.

History: The original hotel, built in 1857, was a stage coach depot until the railroad entered town in 1872. This early hotel also housed the town jail in a solid cement fruit cellar until 1880. It was the only brick building on Main Street until an 1875 fire prompted more brick building construction. The 1989 site inventory form states that the original hotel (Bedford House), constructed in 1857 by Willard G. Barrows, "stands behind the present building on Main Street." This may refer to the rearmost room connected by hallway to present streetfront building. The Sanborn maps indicate the original Bedford House remnant was converted into the kitchen by 1886. The present building, built in 1877 by Col. Green, is a brick structure whose covered entryway replaced the smaller original entryway sometime between 1898 and 1909 (Sanborn 1989-1909). The hotel was renamed the Hotel Garland in 1906, by new owner, John Clark, although some sources indicate 1910. The former date is more plausible, given that the name changes on the Sanborn maps between the

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years 1898 and 1909. Clark added a rear addition in 1909 (a two-story sample room section). Electric lights were installed around the turn-of-the-last-century.

Significance: This is an important, key contributing building in the commercial district. It was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in June 1977.

#87-00113 and 87-00115

Address: 308-310 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: millinery and boot and shoe store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit Italianate-influenced brick block building. Eastern unit has three segmental-arched windows across the second floor and an altered storefront. Former cast iron front has been removed. Western unit has the red brick painted white and gray and has three segmental-arched windows but windows are reduced, with the lower storefront altered with a plate-glass and glass block windows. Original cornice at top of building also removed. Hood molds over all six second-floor windows are similar to those on the adjacent Bedford House hotel and the building adjacent to the west (312 Main).

History: The east unit housed lodgings c.1886, millinery with lodgings on second floor c.1893, a flour and feed business c.1898-1918, and a bakery c.1933, while the west unit housed a boot and shoe store, gas office, vulcanizing store, and plumbing shop between 1886-1933 (Sanborn 1886-1933). Currently houses the Senior Citizens Center in the east unit, with the west unit now vacant but most recently housed a dental office.

Significance: Part of fairly well-preserved block fronting Main Street.

#87-00117

Address: 312 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1883

Historic Name: Restaurant

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story single-unit brick building has elaborate Italianate cornice overhang and yellow painted brick front. The storefront was remodeled post-World War II; however, the cast iron columns remain exposed. The storefront also retains a recessed central entry and may have portions that are reversible. The second floor has three segmental-arched 2/2 double-hung windows with hood molds similar to adjacent buildings to the west.

History: Housed a restaurant c.1886, followed by a dry goods store c.1893 and Rhodes Drug Store c.1898-1932. It currently houses the Iowa State University Extension Office.

Significance: Prominent building along fairly well-preserved block fronting Main Street.

#87-00120

Address: 314 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: piano/organ store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

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Comments: Two-story brick single-unit building has bracketed cornice overhang, brick corbelling below cornice, and three segmental-arched windows across the second floor, which have been reduced in more recent years. Storefront has been covered over by wood paneling and a central display window but may have some potential for reversibility.

History: Housed a piano/organ store c.1886, followed by a flour store c.1893, and a millinery c.1898-1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918).

Significance: Second-floor integrity contributes to fairly well-preserved block fronting Main Street.

#87-00119

Address: 318-316 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1907

Historic Name: barber shop and office

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular one-story, double-unit gray-brick building replaced older buildings on this lot. Storefront has wood panel infill and other non-sympathetic materials. Parapet has corbelled pilasters and other details.

History: Original owner, L. Carley. Building housed a barber shop and a printing office between 1909-1933 (Sanborn 1909-1933). It currently houses The Professor and Bonnie's Beauty Shop.

Significance: Part of fairly well-preserved block fronting Main Street; interesting early twentieth century addition to Main Street.

#87-00121

Address: 320 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1907

Historic Name: A.J. Sowers Block

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular one-story gray-brick building has modified storefront (wood paneling and aluminum-framed plate-glass windows); with some potential for reversibility. Stepped parapet has corbelled dentils and modest cornice details. A triangular pediment was removed from the parapet. Plaque on west side reads "A.J. Sowers Block/1907." Replaced older buildings on this lot. Rear part of building has red brick veneer and segmental-arched windows but repeats some of the details as the front of the building. The rear portion appears to be undergoing a remodeling project including some exterior brickwork.

History: One of several storefronts on Main Street once owned by A.J. Sowers. Building has a varied history of uses, including dry goods and hardware (Sanborn 1909-1918). It once housed the Fair Store. Currently houses the Bedford Café. Rear portion of the building originally housed buggies and implements and later was used as a furniture warehouse.

Significance: Interesting early twentieth century addition to commercial district reflects continued vitality of the town's commercial economy.

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#87-00249

Address: 505 Central Avenue

Date of Construction: by 1909

Historic Name: agricultural implements store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story brick building on side street has decorative polychrome brickwork patterns. The façade is marked by three garage openings, which have been partially infilled and modernized. Replaced older buildings on this lot.

History: This building housed an agricultural implements store and warehouse, followed by an automobile repair shop between 1909-1933 (Sanborn 1886-1933).

Significance: Notable "off-Main Street" type of business associated with agriculture and transportation support.

#87-00247

Address: 506 Central Avenue

Date of Construction: c.1909

Historic Name: Livery buggy house

Property Type: III: Transportation (livery-related)

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story brick building, with corbelled brick cornice and pilaster details. Central garage opening, with pass door to right.

History: It was built 1902 (Times Republican 5/29/1902). Functioned as a buggy house connected to livery adjacent to the south in 1909-1918, was auto repair shop by 1933 (Sanborn 1909-1933).

Significance: Interesting linkage between older and newer transportation-related service enterprises in Bedford.

#87-00248

Address: 508 Central Avenue

Date of Construction: c.1909

Historic Name: Bedford Battery Company

Property Type: III: Transportation (auto-related)

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular one-story Italianate-influenced masonry building; metal cornice with brackets; building wraps around corner into alley; three rectangular bays/openings: one central garage opening, flanked by two display windows, the top third covered, all three with plain lintels; upper half of door on canted corner entry covered.

History: Built c.1909, was labeled on the 1909 Sanborn map as "to be garage (from plans). It was shown as a 15 car capacity garage with shop and hardware warehouse to rear on 1918 Sanborn map. Bicycles were repaired in the shop as well. It had become a battery repair shop and hardware warehouse by 1933 (Sanborn 1909-1933).

Significance: Notable "off-Main Street" type of business associated with transportation services in the early twentieth century.

#87-00124

Address: 402 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1887

Historic Name: GAR Hall

Property Type: V: Meeting Hall

Evaluation: Non-contributing building

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Comments: One-story building was originally constructed as a two-story single-unit brick corner building. Remodeling in 1964 and again in 1978 resulted in reduction from two to one stories and alteration of storefront. The original configuration was an Italianate-influenced design capped with a cornice and triangular pediment, with the GAR Memorial nameplate below. Upper floor had three bays of paired windows, with lower floor displaying two bays of double windows flanking a central entrance. Original facade has been completely covered by wood, with wood planks around windows in herringbone pattern. Storefront made to look modern-rustic.

History: A.L. Bibbens was the original owner. Building was originally constructed by the GAR in 1887. The ground floor was a grocery store (Evans and then Swearingen Bros.), and the GAR Post used the second floor for a meeting hall (1890s-1930s). The first floor housed the post office between 1927 and 1964. Building was dramatically altered in 1978. Currently houses Travis & Bonnett Law Office.

Significance: Because of dramatic modern alterations, this building does not retain sufficient integrity and is non-contributing to the district as a result.

#87-00126

Address: 404 Main Street

Date of Construction: Between 1886-1893

Historic Name: Hardware store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story single-unit brick building has good second floor details including elaborate metal cornice and two paired windows flanking a single center window, with prominent hood molds. The windows are boarded up but probably reversible. First-floor storefront has been altered in more recent years, although some original components may be covered over.

History: Built between 1886-1893. Original owner, F. Lewis. Fire in 1910 initiated cycle of remodeling. Housed a hardware store followed by a furniture store (Sanborn 1893-1918). Building currently houses Lucas Clothing.

Significance: While storefront has been heavily altered, the upper floor retains sufficient historic detail and components for the building to be considered contributing.

#87-00476

Address: 406 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: Drugstore

Property Type: V: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Sanborn maps indicate that this building began life as the east unit of a two-unit block, with 408 Main Street being the other half. However, extensive remodeling beginning in the early twentieth century for this half and even later for the west half has divided these buildings into two separate properties both physically and visually. The 406 Main street property is two stories in height with a buff brick veneer and two large 1/1 double-hung windows with plain lintels that probably represent an early twentieth century façade update. Storefront completely altered in more recent years.

History: Housed a drugstore and cigar factory c.1886-1893, a drugstore, with pianos and organs on the second floor c.1898, and a drugstore and wallpaper store c.1909-c.1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). "Flick and Lucas, Lawyers" in original gold lettering retained on upper window indicates additional use of second floor for professional offices.

Significance: While altered, the second floor retains sufficient integrity as an early twentieth century remodeling to be considered contributing to the district.

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#87-00129

Address: 408 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: barber shop

Property Type: V: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Non-contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story masonry building has been substantially altered. Modernized ground-floor facade with display windows, recessed entry and entry pediment made of wood studs and particle board. Second floor has been faced with concrete blocks and painted white, with modern window inserts.

History: Original owner, A.L. Bibbins. Building has housed a barber shop, bank, and clothing store through the years (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses the Reusable Shoppe. From the Sanborn maps, it appears that this building was originally the west half of a two-unit block building, with the east half being 406 Main. However, more recent alterations have dramatically separated these into two separate buildings, both physically and visually.

Significance: Substantial alterations, particularly to the second floor, have adversely impacted original integrity. Building is considered non-contributing as a result.

#87-00131 and 87-00469

Address: 410-412 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1898

Historic Name: grocery store

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit brick block exhibiting Italianate stylistic influence. Storefronts retain cast iron storefronts. Both storefronts have recessed central entries, with the east unit retaining an older configuration than the west unit, which was updated in more recent years. Second-floor windows have prominent hood molds, with elaborate pressed metal cornice that has triangular pediments over each unit. Cornice also retains original finials. Windows on second floor consist of three single windows over each unit, with those on the west unit having been reduced in more recent years.

History: Original owner was F.N. Lewis. Built between 1893-1898, this building housed a restaurant and dry goods on the ground floor, with a lodge hall on the second floor of the east unit c.1898, followed by a millinery and clothing store c.1909, and the post office and a feed store c.1918. Currently houses Bats Candy Kitchen in the east unit and the Bedford Flower Shoppe in the west unit.

Significance: Integrity of second-floor, in particular, makes this block building contributing to this fairly well-preserved portion of Main Street commercial buildings.

#87-00468

Address: 414-416 Main Street

Date of Construction: c.1909

Historic Name: Bank and clothing store

Property Type: III: Bank and Retail Commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit orange-colored brick block exhibits some Italianate stylistic details on the second floor, including ornate bracketed cornice, and a Neo-classical bank front on the first floor of the east unit. The east unit storefront is a stone veneered classical temple-front design with Ionic columns and full entablature over entry. The west unit has a more modern storefront but has a recessed entry and some potential for reversibility. The second floor

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fenestration shows one single and a set of paired windows on the east unit, with three single 1/1 double-hung windows on the west unit. All of the second floor windows have prominent hood molds. The second floor is further demarcated by corbelled brick pilasters and dentils below the cornice.

History: Original owner, E.R. Hall. The 1909 fire insurance map showed this building "from plans" indicating that it was under construction or about to be constructed. It was not present on the 1898 Sanborn map. In 1918 it housed a bank and a clothing store (Sanborn 1918). Currently houses Bedford Electronics and the Stars and Stripes Arcade.

Significance: Neo-classical bank front reflects progressive building design typical to banks in general.

#87-00134

Address: 418-420 Main Street

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: meat market/harness shop

Property Type: III: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Vernacular two-story, two-unit brick block has bracketed cornice overhang. The second floor fenestration consists of two single 2/2 double-hung windows over the east unit, with three windows over the west unit that are boarded up or shuttered. The windows have modest hood molds. Cast iron storefronts still exposed, with both units having recessed entryways. The storefront windows have been partially covered over but appear to have good potential for reversibility. West side of building has been stuccoed since the removal of the adjacent corner building (422-424 Main Street).

History: Original owner, Armusby. Housed a meat market and harness shop (c.1886); a barber shop and boot-and-shoe store (c.1893-1898), with a harness shop to rear; a barber shop and a harness shop (c.1909); and a barber shop and an office c.1918 (Sanborn 1886-1918). Currently houses a barber shop and Jackson-Hanes Plumbing.

Significance: Contributes to well-preserved brick block buildings fronting Main Street.

#87-00304

Address: 516 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: by 1886

Historic Name: general store/post office

Property Type: V: Retail commercial

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: Gray concrete coating; 1960s metal awning; 1930s glass block windows and overall remodeling, with an Art Moderne stylistic influence. South unit has cast iron storefront exposed, while north unit has modern brick infill, door, and window inserts. This building was built as a brick block with bracketed cornice overhang and prominent hood molds over second-floor windows. Completely updated and remodeled in 1930s.

History: General store, post office/notions/2nd floor tailor; grocery/printing, food store, insurance office/harness, 2nd floor photography/junk (Sanborn 1886-1933). Bedford Building Supply located here since 1953.

Significance: In a district strongly distinguished by late-nineteenth-century architecture, this property presents a novel example of the Art Moderne influence. In addition, as an older masonry building updated in the 1930s, it reflects the continued vitality of the Bedford commercial economy and the desire to present a progressive look to potential customers.

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#87-00303

Address: 514 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: by 1909

Historic Name: commercial building

Property Type: III: Retail commercial/recreational

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story red brick single-unit building has shed roof awning. Storefront has large display window to right of entry door.

History: Shown as bowling alley on 1909-1918 fire insurance maps (Sanborn 1909-1918). Currently houses Farmer's Mutual Insurance.

Significance: Older building has seen some remodeling but maintains the block's continuity and overall historic appearance.

#87-00302

Address: 510 Court Avenue

Date of Construction: c.1922-25

Historic Name: Ford Motor Company dealership

Property Type: III: Auto Sales and Service

Evaluation: Contributing building

Comments: One-story brick building. Stepped parapet, with decorative corbelled brick patterns on parapet. Has later metal awning across front and a notable "Ford" neon sign on top of awning.

History: Built c.1922-25, it replaced an older garage that burned in 1921. This building has been a Ford Auto sales and service business to the present. Addition to building in 1948. Currently the Taylor County Motor Company.

Significance: Well-preserved 1920s auto dealership building reflects importance of automobile in this community in the twentieth century.

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Statement of Significance

The Bedford Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance and under Criterion A for its historical significance. It is being nominated under the *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* Multiple Property Documentation Form. The historical significance of the Bedford Commercial District lies in its representation of the central business district from the 1850s to the present and its reflection of the many varied commercial, industrial, public, social, cultural, and recreational enterprises that evolved in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries within this community. The architectural significance of the district lies in the retention and integrity of many of the historic buildings constructed between the 1850s and 1952, but primarily representing late nineteenth century commercial building construction. The Bedford Commercial Historic District is one of the best-preserved collections of brick commercial architecture dating primarily from the late nineteenth century and is a standout, in that regard, in comparison with similar communities in age and size in Iowa. The structural evolution of this district also dramatically reflects the two important developments in Bedford's town history: the securing of the county seat of government and the securing of a rail line. The early portion of the commercial district was oriented around the intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street, with the Taylor County Courthouse at the north end of Court Avenue being the focal point of the district in its early days. However, upon securing of the railroad, the district began to develop along Main Street to the east connecting the early commercial district to the railroad at the east end of Main Street. The period of significance for the district is from the 1850s, when the first commercial buildings were constructed around the corner of Court Avenue and Main Street, until 1952, the 50-year cut-off date for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. By 1952, the district was fully developed, with some building loss due to fire and demolitions since that time resulting in a few vacant lots, but no completely new construction added after that time.

Historical Significance of the Bedford Commercial Historic District

Bedford, a town of 1,620 residents, is located in the southern portion of Taylor County in southwestern Iowa. Settlement began after the Iowa legislature appointed three commissioners to choose the county seat's location in 1852 (Taylor County Historical Society 1981a:44). Although some sources note that its original name may have been Grove, Bedford preceded the railroad's arrival in southwestern Iowa and was the county's first town. Taylor County lacked a trading post, thus Bedford's status as the center of county government only strengthened its potential as the county's commercial focal point. Six other towns were formed in the county before 1860, and all of them, Bedford included, were in the southern portion of the county, or right at its midpoint (Taylor County Historical Society 1981b:13-14). Such a location enabled these early towns to benefit from the inflow of immigrants crossing over from Missouri into Iowa. Indeed, such new residents, perhaps motivated by anti-slavery views, outnumbered those from other states, like Ohio and Indiana, early in Bedford's settlement history (Mehls and Mehls 1989:8). Regardless of such foresight, only Bedford survived. The sale of lots occurred on July 4, 1853 (the town's incorporation coming 14 years later), with the town grid organized around a public square, whose southwest corner held the county's Old Stone Court House (non-extant). Green Street (now named Court), a north-south avenue that straddled the square's western side, was the town's first main street.

Bedford grew slowly during its first few decades: 409 residents in 1860, 720 in 1870, and 861 in 1875. The southern pasturelands of southcentral Iowa, ideal for cattle and hog-raising, gradually drew settlers. Perhaps hypnotized by the area's expansive individual farms and its strange mingling of diverse hills and valleys, travelers largely regarded the meat-producing region as "a place to be crossed, not necessarily a stopping point" (Mehls and Mehls 1989:16). Bedford thus easily qualified as a modest resting point for such travel outfits as the Western Stage Coach Company, which had well-established routes in the region by 1859. Only with the railroad's arrival and agriculture's evolution as a commercial

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market activity, both occurring in the 1870s, did Bedford experience a growth “explosion.” In 1872, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad finally established a rail line at the town’s eastern edge. Although only a feeder branch line off the southern mainline that stretched north of Bedford from eastern Iowa to Omaha, the link placed Bedford within a transportation network that connected the state to Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri. Such a connection not only aided fledgling businesses in a town reliant on regional and state distribution networks, the railroad’s presence significantly affected the town’s main street development. The original commercial artery that ran south from the public square (Green Street) made a sharp right turn toward the depot after the railroad’s arrival, thus ever afterward creating Bedford’s primary commercial district along Main Street.

Whether instigated by the district’s reorientation or not, sometime before 1875 the town expanded the public square half a block west. The courthouse maintained its southwest placement on the square until 1893, when the town constructed an elegant Richardsonian Romanesque style structure to its northwest. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Such a location made the new government edifice the impressive northern endpoint of Green Street, assuredly backgrounding Main Street as the primary business location. The subsequent development of the new business district reflected the shift, for commercial buildings emerged on, or soon migrated to, Main Street, filling in the four central blocks east of Green in no systematic direction. City service and other organizational buildings, like the Masonic Hall, eventually prevailed on Green/Court Street (Mehls and Mehls 1989:49).

The town endured many fires during the 1870s, conflagrations that affected the district’s use of construction materials. An 1875 blaze nearly razed one of the eastern blocks, destroying some of the town’s earliest main street commercial structures, which were primarily log or frame buildings. A prominent survivor of that fire included a stagecoach stop, the old Bedford House (1857), which boarded visitors until another fire severely damaged it two years later. Not to be defeated, its owner renovated the original building’s core, set it back from the street, and connected it to a new and larger streetfront brick addition. Residents soon thereafter came to regard the Bedford House as the “grandfather” of all of Taylor County’s hotels. The revered establishment retained the same name until around the turn of the century, when its owners constructed a rear side addition and rechristened the tripartite structure the Hotel Garland. Since the Steele Opera House’s demise in the 1990s, the hotel indisputably stands as the jewel of the town’s Main Street architecture, a strong, if deteriorating, example of Late Victorian architecture (Federal Grant Application, 1978; Taylor County Historical Society 1981b:9). It was listed in the National Register in 1977. The Steele Opera once stood next to the Bedford House, with the former site now a parking lot.

The extant and most significant of Bedford’s commercial structures date from 1870 to 1910. During this period, significant entrepreneurial activity was becoming well-established in the burgeoning county seat, undoubtedly aided by the railroad’s presence. By 1881, Bedford Flouring Mills, with building costs of \$23,000, was reputedly “one of the finest mills in the state,” with Goodsill Brothers operating one of the country’s largest lumber mills; Rochan & Company, a cigar manufactory in 1879, having established strong trade ties with three other regional states; and Steele’s Opera House (built in 1879) and J.W. Combs & Son (furniture factory established in 1881) up and running (Stiles 1881:564, 566, 644, 659). With visitors remarking that “nearly all its business houses are built of brick” (ibid.:566)—much of it inspired by Late Victorian Italianate architecture—Bedford had strongly overcome its humble log-cabin origins to establish itself as a noteworthy county trading point. Locally manufactured “Bedford brick” was in some demand by regional brick wholesalers, particularly Lenox & Conway and Creston & Hopkins, who relied on Bedford brick for such buildings as Lenox’s schoolhouse (Stiles 1881:548). At the same time, Bedford grain dealers boasted in 1881 of a yearly average shipment of 200 cars of corn, 60 of oats, 15 of flax, 9 of rye, and 10 of wheat (ibid.:548, 565, 566).

Bedford’s commercial district had become so well developed by the 1880s, with the town’s realty value at the beginning of the decade reaching \$198,029 for a town with a population around 1,000, that members of its original Benton Township requested its ousting, which was not accomplished. The town was quickly reaching its peak—with a population of 1,643 in 1890 that would continue to increase—and its prosperity seemed reliable enough that some

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observers wondered why Bedford businessmen were not exploiting more fruitfully other profitable markets endemic to the county. A historian suggested that proprietors establish a wagon and carriage manufactory, given the proximity of the Missouri timber region and the fact that "not less than 500 wagons and carriages were sold in the county in 1880" (Stiles 1881:564).

The final economic boom Bedford experienced was between 1900 and 1910, which inspired a minor architectural renaissance in the business district. Such prosperity led to street and building improvements, some new building construction, and upgrading and remodeling older buildings. With a population of 1,883 in 1910, the town ordered brick paving for Main Street. Today, the red brick streets, whose intersections display attractive herringbone patterns, remain uncovered along Main, Court, Central, and Dodge Street, with some minor areas of patching. Wholesaling businesses continued to sustain the commercial district, which now boasted of three banks, one whose construction costs soared over \$40,000 (which likely refers to the original Citizens' State Bank, the fire-damaged corner-lot structure at Main and Central). Although a major creamery burned in 1906, its owner, Frank Dunning (president of Citizens' Bank), quickly rebuilt for \$20,000 "on a switch leading to the Nold Taylor Lumber Company's yard." Three years later it produced 1.25 million pounds of butter yearly, its territory extending east as far as Parnell via the Great Western and Burlington branches (Crosson 1910:230).

Architectural Significance of the Bedford Commercial Historic District

Bedford's Main Street district did not establish architectural cohesion or its layout, whose configuration remains intact, until the latter part of the nineteenth century. New transportation links established during the Gilded Age inspired a reorientation of the original main street, while the agricultural industry's expansion attracted more residents and businesses, thus encouraging substantial commercial construction. The result is a four-block artery bounded by ambitious corner-lot properties (two of which are extant), dominated by late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century Italianate-influenced red brick buildings along an east-west strip. Two blocks on its easternmost and westernmost edges complete the district, but contain more scattered or free-standing buildings, some whose condition has seriously deteriorated.

As the district developed, the majority of its extant buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1910, the period of the town's most significant entrepreneurial activity spurred by the presence of the railroad. The buildings constructed during this period were primarily two stories in height and included both single-unit and double-unit block buildings, with the building material predominated by locally-manufactured brick. Some face-brick and certainly the many cast iron storefronts were shipped in by rail from manufacturing points to the south. For example, it is known that a number of the cast iron storefronts came from St. Joseph, Missouri.

Because of this late-nineteenth-century building boom, much of Bedford's main street architecture retains marked consistency, which recent surveyors have discovered characterizes much of the architecture found in southwestern Iowa county seats: unified facades encompassing multiple lots (although there can be variations in each lot's street-to-rear-wall depth) and the prevalence of two-story buildings (there are, however, some notable one-story and free-standing structures). Bedford's corner-lot buildings impart a massive feel to the intersection points within the district (Mehls and Mehls 1989:53-54). One prime example is James M. Thompson's mercantile building built in 1878 at the northeast corner of Court Avenue and Main Street. The building remains, as a visitor noted in 1881, "a handsome 22' x 82' brick building" (Stiles 1881:659), the better-preserved of the two extant two-story corner-lot buildings. It also serves as the "turning point" in the district, where the original emphasis on Court Avenue and the courthouse square began to give way to the eastern emphasis towards the railroad. This was the intersection where the district began to turn east and develop more along Main Street.

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With repetitive if colorful brick facades lining the district's interior, its eastern end presents a striking exception. A Mission-style structure, the Bonner Livery Barn, serves as an architectural reference point in Bedford's commercial architectural development. Situated on the district's easternmost block, the livery barn is a reminder that the town's development began in the horse-drawn era.

The growing importance of automobile transportation in the early twentieth century was reflected in Bedford in the construction of several new gas and service stations (all located just outside of the district boundaries), auto repair garages, battery repair, and automobile dealerships, with several buildings of this type added to the district before 1952. One the few extant historic gas and service stations is the 1928 Bedford Oil Company Service Station at the corner of Madison Avenue and Main Street. It is situated just outside of the district boundaries, but was individually listed in the National Register in 1999.

The tendency to rely on regionally distributed storefront and building component plan books inspired architectural uniformity beyond just this part of Iowa. Some researchers have observed striking similarities as far away as the Rocky Mountains. A 1989 intensive survey of Bedford, Mt. Ayr, and Corning, Iowa, which incorporates the historic context of these communities' and their counties' agricultural, civic, and architectural development, notes the close resemblance between the building facades, cast iron work, and basic construction materials of Durango, Colorado, with that of Bedford (Mehls and Mehls 1989:60).

Although the southwestern Iowa town suffered multiple fires, particularly in the 1870s (made more potentially threatening by the fact that they lacked a fire department until sometime around the turn-of-the-last-century), it never suffered any devastating ones, thus marking this town as a primary and intact example of Late Victorian commercial architecture (*ibid.*:59). The community has perhaps struggled more recently with the devastating effects of fire than they did historically. A fire in the mid-1950s severely damaged the Clark Theater resulting in a rebuilt façade, while separate fires in the late 1990s claimed Steele's Opera House and gutted the Citizens' State Bank building, both major corner buildings at the intersections of Dodge and Main and Central and Main, respectively. While Steele's Opera House is non-extant, the Citizens' State Bank remains standing but is not yet stabilized. It is open to the elements and in danger of demolition. This, and several others, targeted by interested citizens and groups such as the Bedford Area Economic Development office as endangered because of structural deterioration, has prompted the current interest in the nomination of the commercial district to the National Register to inspire further interest in restoring and assist in the repairing of endangered buildings but also to maintain the historic integrity of the district.

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Table 1. List of Properties in District

Property Address	Inventory #	Property Type	Year Built	Status in District
full length	87-00485	Road	c. 1910	Contributing
507 Main Street	87-00486	Retail commercial	c. 1880s	Contributing building
505 Main Street	87-00138	Retail commercial	1885-1895	Contributing building
503 Main Street	87-00137	Professional Office	1880s	Contributing building
602 Court Avenue	87-00305	Retail commercial	1856	Contributing building
604-606 Court Avenue	87-00306	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
608-612 Court Avenue	87-00477	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
617 Court Avenue	87-00308	Fraternal hall	1931	Contributing building
421-423 Main Street	87-00136	Retail commercial	1879	Contributing building
419 Main Street	87-00135	Retail commercial	c. 1880	Contributing building
413-417 Main Street	87-00132	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
409-411 Main Street	87-00130/470	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
407 Main Street	87-00128	Bank	1908	Contributing building
405 Main Street	87-00127	Retail commercial	1885-1895	Contributing building
403 Main Street	87-00125	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
401 Main Street	87-00487	Bank	c. 1909	Contributing building
321 Main Street	87-00123	Retail Commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
317-319 Main Street	87-00122	Retail Commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
313-315 Main Street	87-00118/467	Post Office/Commerci	c. 1898	Contributing building
311 Main Street	87-00116	Transportation	by 1886	Contributing building
309 Main Street	87-00114	Fraternal hall/Commer	c. 1898	Contributing building
307 Main Street	87-00112	Retail commercial	c. 1886	Contributing building
303 Main Street	87-00471	Theater/Meeting hall	by 1918	Non-contributing building
211 Main Street	87-00107	Transportation	c 1880	Contributing building
209 Main Street	87-00106	Manufacturing/Industri	1880s	Contributing building
212-214 Main Street	87-00108	Lumber yard	c 1885	Contributing building
216 Main Street	87-00490	Professional Office	c. 1918	Contributing building
218-222 Main Street	87-00491	Industrial	c 1909	Contributing building
306 Main Street	87-00111	Hotel	1857 + 1877	Contributing building
308-310 Main Street	87-00113/115	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
312 Main Street	87-00117	Retail Commercial	1883	Contributing building
314 Main Street	87-00120	Retail Commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
316-318 Main Street	87-00119	Retail Commercial	1907	Contributing building
320 Main Street	87-00121	Retail Commercial	1907	Contributing building
505 Central Avenue	87-00249	Retail Commercial	by 1909	Contributing building
506 Central Avenue	87-00247	Transportation	c. 1909	Contributing building
508 Central Avenue	87-00248	Transportation	c. 1909	Contributing building
402 Main Street	87-00124	Meeting hall	1887	Non-contributing building
404 Main Street	87-00126	Retail commercial	1886-1893	Contributing building
406 Main Street	87-00476	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
408 Main Street	87-00129	Retail commercial	by 1886	Non-contributing building
410-412 Main Street	87-00131/469	Retail commercial	1898	Contributing building
414-416 Main Street	87-00468	Bank/Commercial	c. 1909	Contributing building
418-420 Main Street	87-00134	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
516 Court Avenue	87-00304	Retail commercial	by 1886	Contributing building
514 Court Avenue	87-00303	Retail commercial/Rec	by 1909	Contributing building
510 Court Avenue	87-00302	Auto Sales & Service	1922-25	Contributing building

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Geographical Data

UTM References (continued)

5 Zone 15 Easting 354,868 Northing 4,503,034

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Bedford Commercial Historic District is shown as the dashed line on the map entitled "Map of Bedford Commercial Historic District" (Page 30).

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses all the area historically associated with the commercial development of Bedford along Main Street and Court, Dodge, and Central avenues that maintains historic integrity.

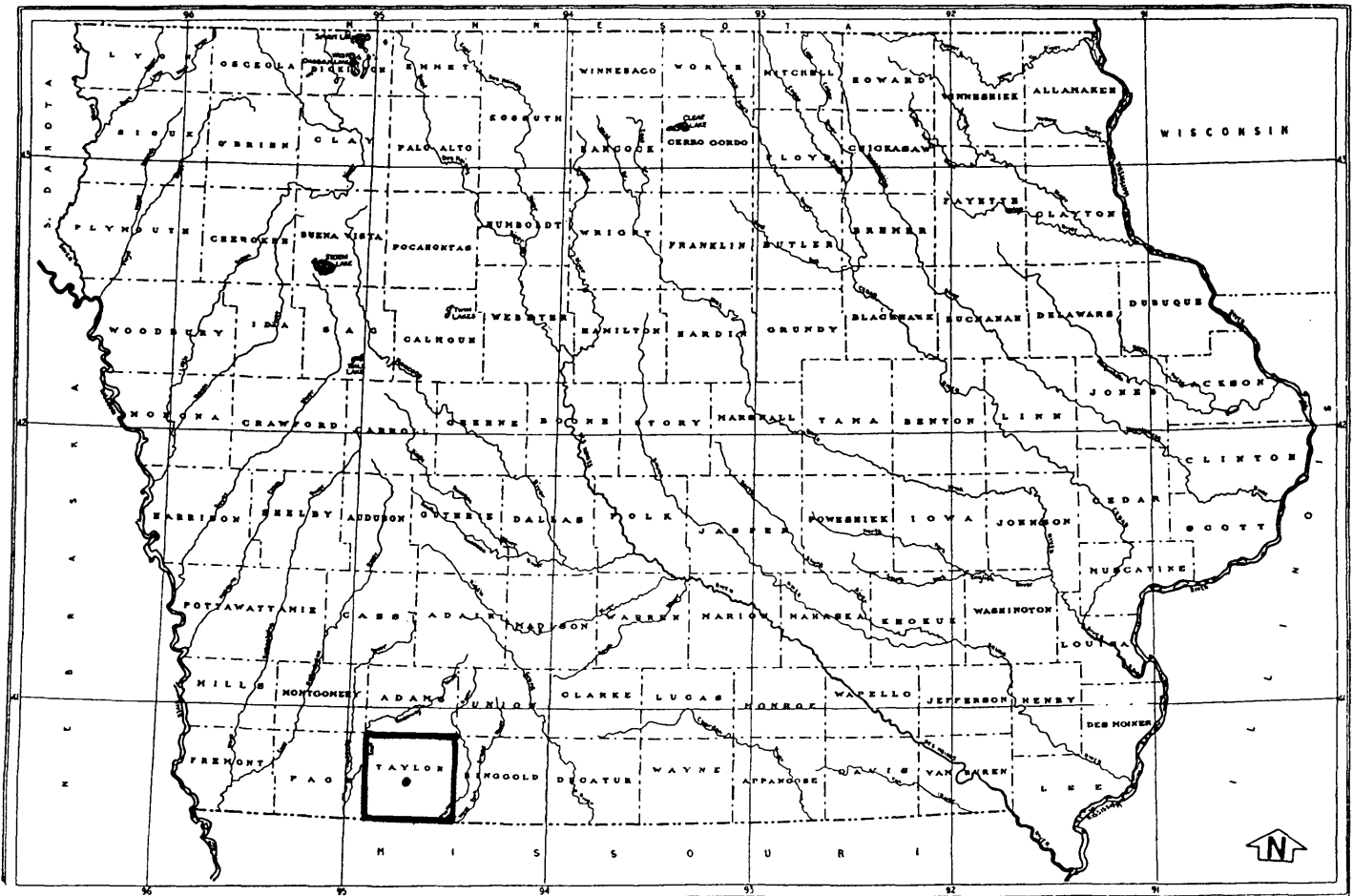
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General Location of Bedford, Iowa



MAP OF IOWA



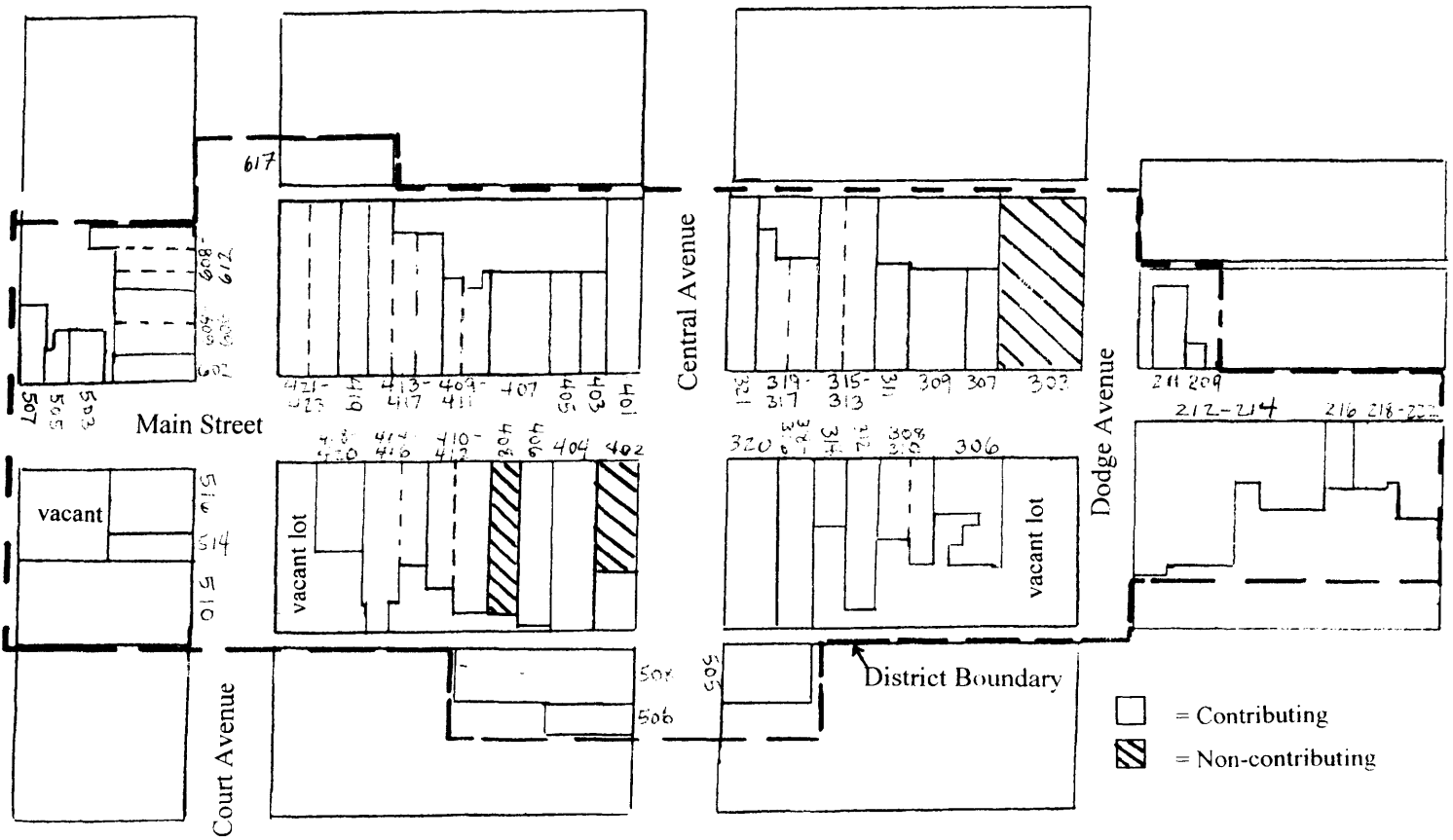
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Bedford Commercial Historic District
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Map of the Bedford Commercial Historic District



- = Contributing
- = Non-contributing

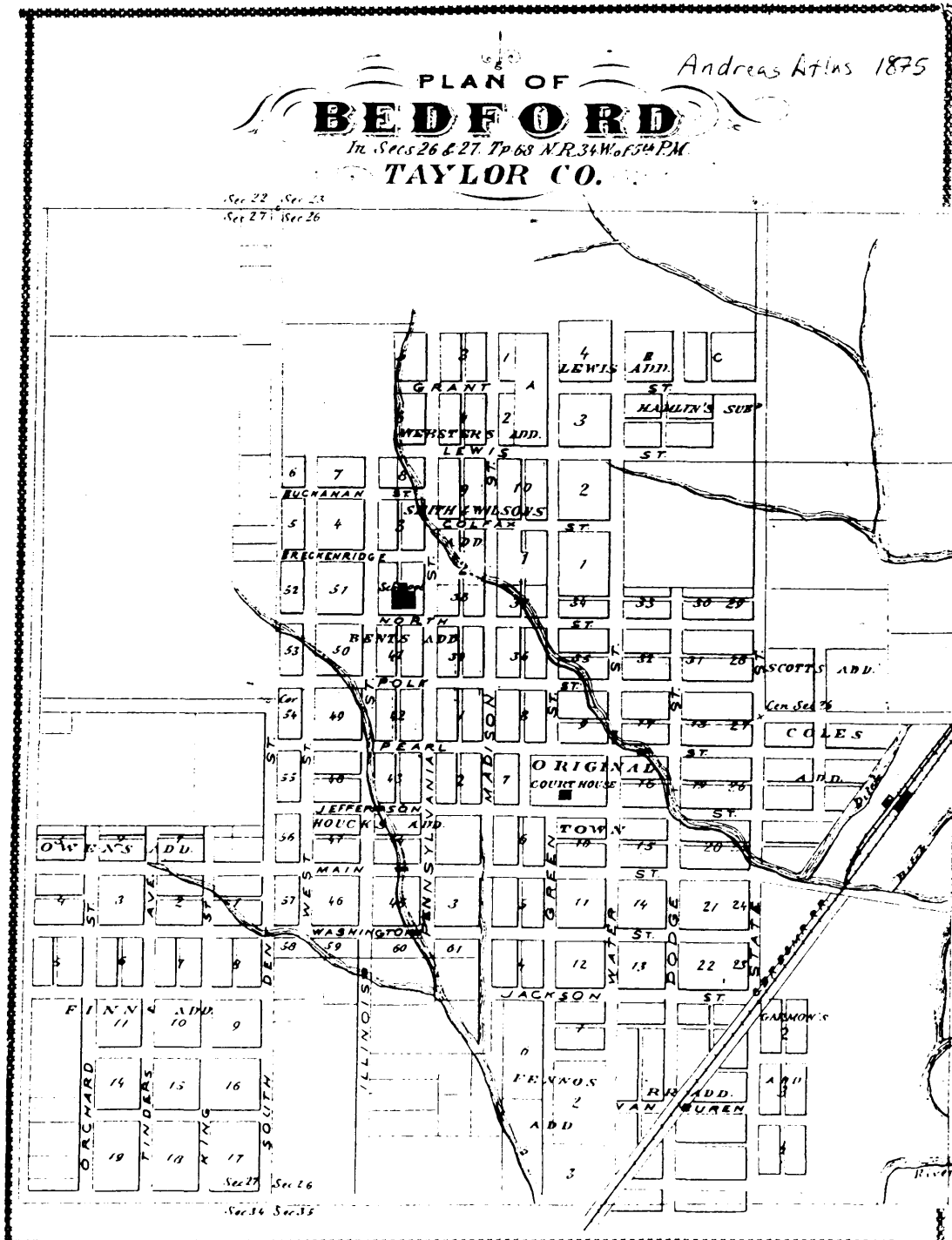
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Historic Plat Map of Bedford
(Source: Andreas Atlas 1875)



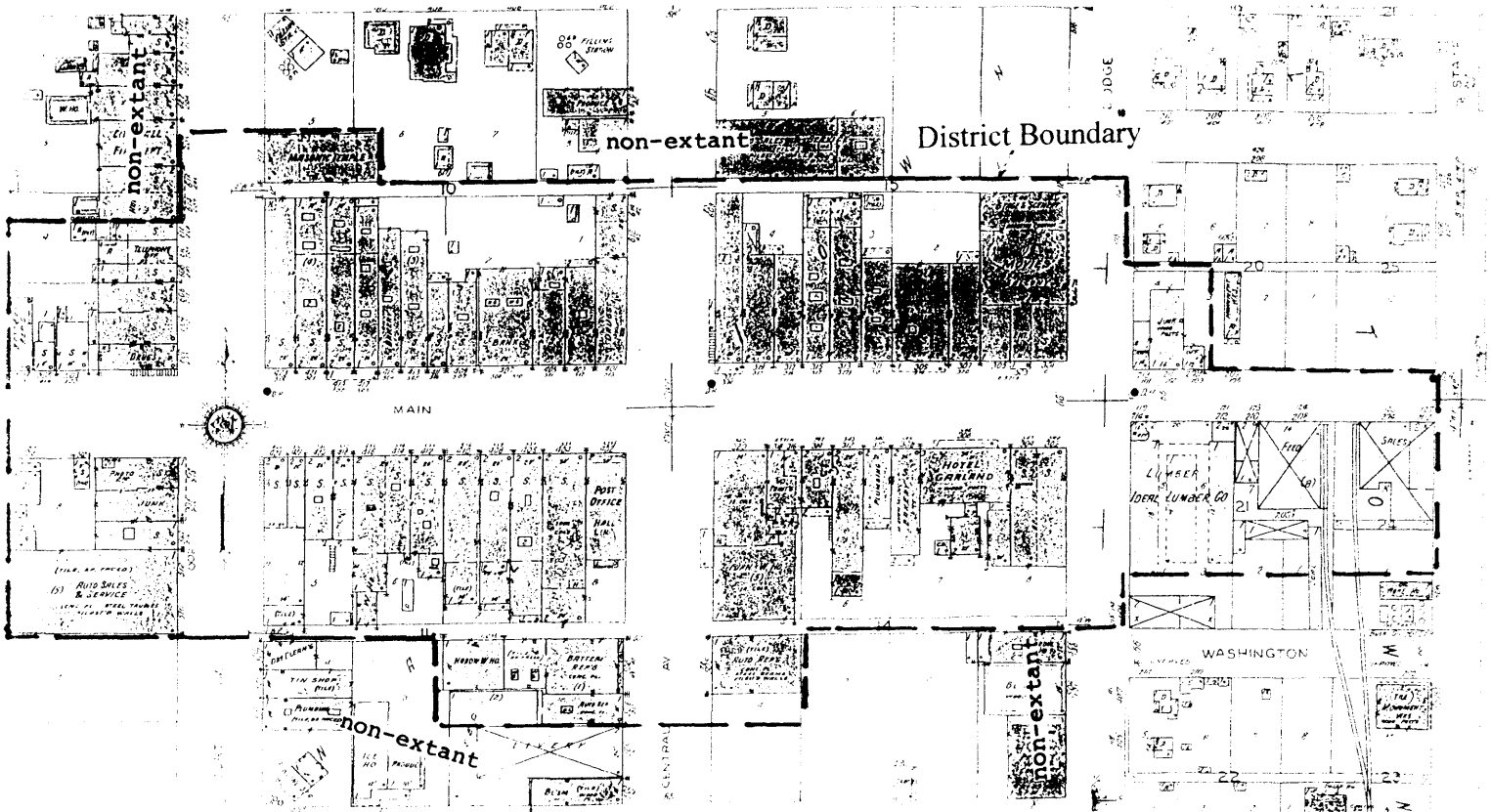
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1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of District



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Early 1900s Photograph of Court Avenue. View to the North with Courthouse at far end.
(Photograph is taken just south of the intersection with Main Street;
Building on left is 516 Court Avenue prior to remodeling)



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1920s-30s Photograph of Main Street. View to the East along the 300 block
(Bedford House is the second building from the left on the right-hand side of the photograph)



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Citizens State Bank in 1911 Showing Original Front Entry Treatment



A.J. Sowers Block (320 Main Street), c.1907



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Late 19th Century Photograph of Bedford House



Front of The Bedford House (now Garland Hotel).

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List of Photographs

Name of Photographer: Lori Vermaas
Date of Photographs: Fall 2001
Location of Original Negative: State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

- #1 Northwest corner of District, View to the West from intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street
- #2 Southwest corner of District, View to the SW from intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street
- #3 Northwest corner of District, View to the NW from intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street
- #4 Detail of Masonic Temple at 617 Court Avenue, View to the NE
- #5 Northeast corner of intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street, View to the NNE
- #6 North side of Main Street between Court and Central Avenue, View to the ENE
- #7 Detail of Bank (401 Main) at Northwest corner of Central Avenue and Main Street, View to the NW
- #8 Detail of 321 Main at Northeast corner of Central Avenue and Main Street, View to the NNE
- #9 North side of Main Street between Central Avenue and Dodge Street, View to the NE
- #10 Northeast corner of District, View to the ENE from intersection of Dodge Avenue and Main Street
- #11 Southeast corner of District, View to the ESE from intersection of Dodge Avenue and Main Street
- #12 South side of Main Street between Central and Dodge Avenue, View to the SE
- #13 Southeast corner of intersection of Central Avenue and Main Street, View to the SE
- #14 South side of Main Street between Court and Central Avenues, View to the ESE

This project has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society, Community Programs Bureau through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of Iowa, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of Iowa.

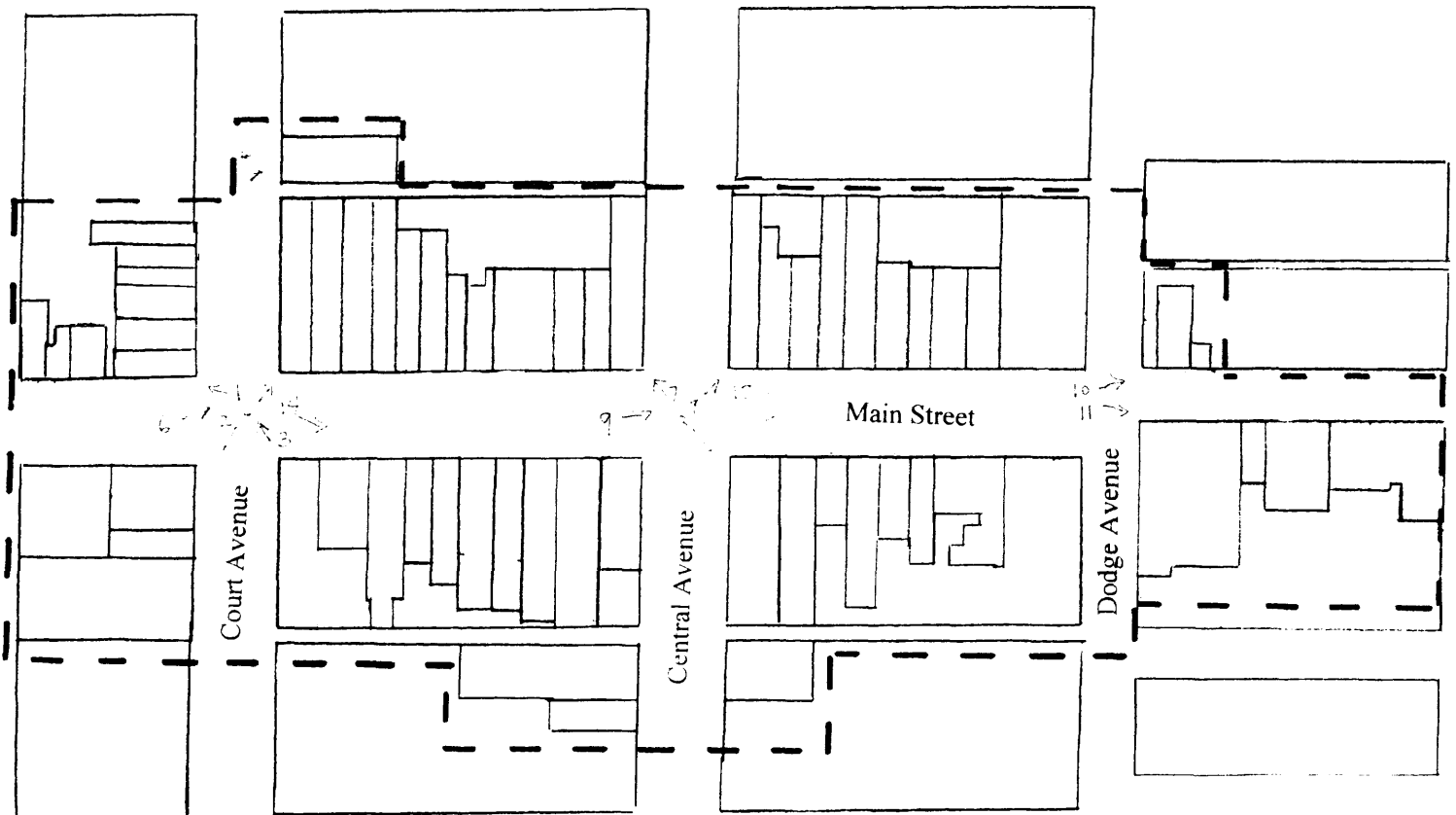
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Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa

Map Showing Direction of Photographs



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National Park Service**

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**Bedford Commercial Historic District
Taylor County, Iowa**

List of Property Owners

Property Address full length	Inventory #	Owners Name	Address	City State Zip
	87-00485	City of Bedford		Bedford, IA 50833
507 Main Street	87-00486	Mark & Patricia Weese	2219 Tennessee Avenue	Bedford, IA 50833
505 Main Street	87-00138	" "	" "	" "
503 Main Street	87-00137	Jesse & Eva Everhart, Jr.	2586 Highland Ave	Bedford, IA 50833
602 Court Avenue	87-00305	Randy & Stacey Perdeu	P.O. Box 97	Gravity, IA 50848
604 Court Avenue	87-00306	David & Teresa Hawkins	22109 38th Ave W.	Mt. Lake Terrace, WA 98043
606 Court Avenue		Randy & Stacy Perdeu	P.O. Box 97	Gravity, IA 50848
608 Court Avenue	87-00477	Anna Mae Volkmer	1107 Dodge	Bedford, IA 50833
610 Court Avenue		William & Alice Johnston	1103 Dodge	Bedford, IA 50833
612 Court Avenue		Cynthia Tribolet	2479 State Hwy 148	Bedford, IA 50833
617 Court Avenue	87-00308	Taylor Lodge #156 AF AM c/o JB French	2111 Rockwood Ave	Bedford, IA 50833
421-423 Main Street	87-00136	Scott & Helen Stutzman	1822 308th Way	Bedford, IA 50833
419 Main Street	87-00135	Bedford Drug Co. c/o Jerry Schweitzer	P.O. Box 66	Bedford, IA 50833
413-417 Main Street	87-00132	Randy & Stacy Perdeu	P.O. Box 97	Bedford, IA 50833
415 Main Street		Robert & Dorothy Perdeu	413 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
413 Main Street		" "	" "	" "
409 Main Street	87-00130/4	Scott & Deloris Stutzman	1822 308th Way	Bedford, IA 50833
411 Main Street		Rick & Louann Ewart	409 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
407 Main Street	87-00128	Citizen's Bank	407 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
405 Main Street	87-00127	Robert & Sandra Wilson	405 1/2 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
403 Main Street	87-00125	Roy French	903 Dodge St.	Bedford, IA 50833
401 Main Street	87-00487	City of Bedford	621 Court St.	Bedford, IA 50833
321 Main Street	87-00123	Wayne & Cindy Lee	608 West St.	Bedford, IA 50833
317-319 Main Street	87-00122	Randal & Janice Simmons	502 King St	Bedford, IA 50833
315 Main Street	87-00118/4	Charles Hale & Ames Polston	315 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
313 Main Street		Taylor County Publishing	313 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
311 Main Street	87-00116	Michael & Diana Fisher	503 Jackson	Bedford, IA 50833
309 Main Street	87-00114	Nancy Hawn & Larry Menschi	309 1/2 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
307 Main Street	87-00112	Nancy Hawn & Larry Menschi	309 1/2 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
303 Main Street	87-00471	Bedford American Legion Pos	301 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
213 Main Street	87-00489	Michael & Diane Ware	1104 Dodge	Bedford, IA 50833
211 Main Street	87-00107	Diana Lee Paxson Kern	200 State	Bedford, IA 50833
209 Main Street	87-00106	Taylor County Farm Bureau	209 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
212-214 Main Street	87-00108	David Poore and Diana Kern	200 State	Bedford, IA 50833
216 Main Street	87-00490	" "	" "	" "
218-222 Main Street	87-00491	Bedford American Legion Pos LR Vogt Seed Co. c/o Lanny De Mott	301 Main 2438 State Hwy 148	Bedford, IA 50833
300-302 Main	87-00110	Ruth Whitaker	803 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
306 Main Street	87-00111	" "	" "	" "
308 Main Street	87-00113	Senior Citizen's Center	1212 Central Ave	Bedford, IA 50833
310 Main Street	87-00115	Norma Jean Gold Trust	State Hwy 2	Bedford, IA 50833
312 Main Street	87-00117	Madge Alexander & Jack Golc	State Hwy 2	Bedford, IA 50833
314 Main Street	87-00120	William & Margaret Cross	314 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
316-318 Main Street	87-00119	" "	" "	" "
320 Main Street	87-00121	Sarah Hamilton	1770 State Hwy 2	Bedford, IA 50833
505 Central Avenue	87-00249	Michael E. Smith	203 South Walnut	Bedford, IA 50833
506 Central Avenue	87-00247	Kay Goodridge	405 Court St	Bedford, IA 50833
508 Central Avenue	87-00248	Michael Rosa	1884 300th Street	Bedford, IA 50833
402 Main Street	87-00124	Travis and Bonnett	402 Main Street	Bedford, IA 50833
404 Main Street	87-00126	James & Mildred Lucas	1405 Bent	Bedford, IA 50833
406 Main Street	87-00476	" "	" "	" "
408 Main Street	87-00129	Lloyd & Donna Hansen	408 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
410 Main Street	87-00131	Gary Sams	411 1/2 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
412 Main Street	87-00469	Delmar & Doris Fuller	412 1/2 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
414-416 Main Street	87-00468	Christy Taylor	212 Pearl St.	Bedford, IA 50833
418 Main Street	87-00134	Ames & Bonnie Polston	315 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
420 Main Street		Ernest & Barbara Jackson	2830 Maryland Ave	Bedford, IA 50833
422-424 Main Street	87-00103	Bedford National Bank	422 Main	Bedford, IA 50833
424 Main Street		City of Bedford	621 Court	Bedford, IA 50833
516 Court Avenue	87-00304	Mark & Patricia Weese	2219 Tennessee Ave.	Bedford, IA 50833
514 Court Avenue	87-00303	Farmers Mutual Ins. Co.	514 Court St.	Bedford, IA 50833
510 Court Avenue	87-00302	Richard Guillatt	2036 265th Street	Bedford, IA 50833