

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 9 1986
date entered 8-13-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Mathias Mitchell Public Square—Main Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number Main Street, Second Street, Strongs Avenue not for publication

city, town Stevens Point vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Portage code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various (See Inventory, Item 7)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County-City Building, Register of Deeds

street & number 1516 Church Street

city, town Stevens Point state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

A. Downtown Redevelopment Historic Survey
 title B. Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 A. April, 1983
 date B. October, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	date <u>See Text</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

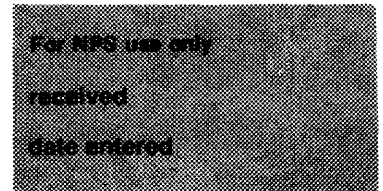
The proposed Mathias Mitchell Public Square-Main Street Historic District is located in downtown Stevens Point. It is a part of the area which functions as the main commercial hub of the City. Central Wisconsin's largest and finest collection of commercial historic buildings is located within the District. The Historic District begins about 650 feet from the Wisconsin River and the "point" of land where Stevens Point was established in 1839. It extends eastward along Main Street approximately 1600 feet. Main Street is a relatively narrow street, 69 feet from storefront to storefront. The street is characterized by continuous two-story storefronts facing each other across the street. This creates a sense of human scale and enclosure. A one-and-one-half acre Public Square, named for Mathias Mitchell who deeded the land to the public in 1847, anchors the west end of the District. The Mathias Mitchell Square measures approximately 200 feet by 350 feet or approximately 1 1/2 acres. It became an early day gathering place for loggers, farmers, and others. The Farmer's Market has continued to the present time.

Seventy structures are located within the District. Sixty are considered contributing. Only 10 are classified as non-contributing. Most of the structures in the District were erected between 1864 and 1921. The majority of contributing structures were constructed between 1870 and 1896. Among the early structures (1864-1877) is a significant collection of eight stone buildings. All are native sandstone quarried at the Avery Stone Quarry on the west bank of the Wisconsin River. Building styles in the District generally are Italianate or Romanesque influenced. However, other styles including Classical Revival, Art Deco, and Second Empire are represented. Materials used include wood (earliest construction), locally quarried stones (middle period) and locally-produced red brick (latest construction). Some later buildings include metal cornice work and imported materials. Some of the original materials, especially on the first story, have been covered by newer, applied materials. Most of the original materials are still intact and visible on the second story. Buildings fronting the Square are generally two stories. Most of the buildings project a larger massing of solid walls which helps to maintain a sense of scale. Two areas of the Square "wall" are vacant due to the condemnation of one structure and removal of another structure through the Cities urban renewal program.

The boundaries of the District encompass Mitchell Square and the buildings facing onto it, and the buildings along Main Street extending approximately three blocks east of the Mitchell Square. Also included are blocks of buildings along Third Street and Strongs Avenue extending south from Main Street. Areas adjacent to the District are distinguished by newer non-descript construction and non-commercial use. Buildings in these areas are not contiguous as are buildings in the district, but are interrupted by large parking lots and driveways.

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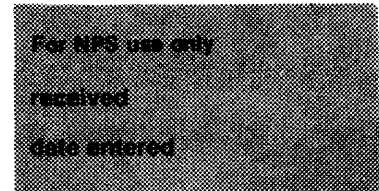
The relative levels of architectural significance of the structures are as follows:

LEVEL

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Contributing | Structures felt to meet one or more of the criteria of eligibility for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or structures that are of significance when found in groups or are contributors to the significance of the District. |
| Non-contributing | Structures of no particular architectural significance but are supportive as background within the District. These structures may be of no significance due to recent dates of construction, inappropriate scale, use of incompatible buildings materials or severe modifications to the structure. |

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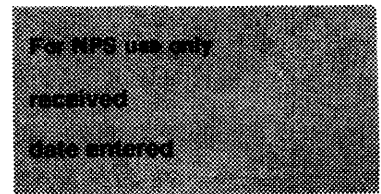
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INVENTORY

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BLDG. NAME</u> Orig/Current	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
1	820-24 Main St.	J.O. Johnsen/ U.S. Recruiting Off.	C
2	823 Main St.	C. Krembs & Brother Hardware Co./ Vacant	C
3	827 Main St.	Mioskowski & Nigbur Furs/ Weltman's Store	C
4	831 Main St.	Unknown/Joe's Bar	NC
5	835 Main St.	Skowronski & King Grocers/ Grin and Beer It	C
6	840-44 Main St.	August Zinda Saloon & Edward Razners Men Furnishings/ Square Bar & Town Clown	C
7	900-04 Main St.	J. Czaplewski Bldg./ Kostka Ins.	C
8	913-25 Main St.	Kuhl's Block/ Gwidt's Drug Store & Hat City	C
9	916-24 Main St.	Ossowski-Glinski Bldg./ Point Surplus-Dutch's Tailor	C
10	929 Main St.	W.W. Spraggon Block/ Spurgeon's	C
11	937 Main St.	Park Block/Shippy Shoes	C
12	944 Main St.	Schwebach Block/ Hostel Shoppe	C
13	949 Main St.	W.J. Clifford Bldg./ Shippy Stores	C
14	956 Main St.	M. Clifford's Block/ Bruiser's	C

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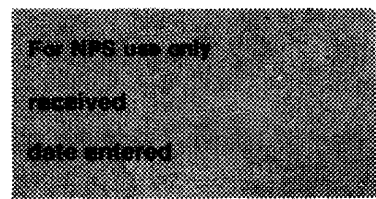


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15	960-64 Main St.	H.D. McCulloch's Block/ Bean Eddy & Gepetto's	C
16	968 Main St.	Bank of Stevens Point/ Grubba Jewelers	C
17	1000 Main St.	W.E. Ule Building/ Parkinson's Mens Wear	C
18	1003 Main St.	A.R. White Building (West half)- Kuhl Brothers (Entire Bldg. with 1902 front)/ Tent Corner	C
19	1008 Main St.	Walker's Block/ Home Furniture	C
20	1015 Main St.	Ben Brill Dry Goods/Vacant	C
21	1019 Main St.	Shafton Block/Vacant	C
22	1024 Main St.	Kingsbury Bldg./Sport Shop	C
23	1028 Main St.	Iverson Bldg./Ben's Jewelers	C
24	1031 Main St.	Gross & Jacobs Hardware/ Brills Gifts	C
25	1035 Main St.	F.W. Woolworth's & Co./Vacant	C
26	1036 Main St.	Iverson Bldg./Hardly Ever	C
27	1040 Main St.	Krutza's Tailor Shop/Ideal Frame Shop	C
28	1043 Main St.	Rosenow Furniture & Undertaking/ Citizens Bank Annex	C
29	1044 Main St.	Unknown/Hallmark Card & Gift	NC
30	1045 Main St.	Citizens National Bank/ Citizens National Bank	C
31	1052 Main St.	ROSPAR/ROSPAR	NC

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32	1055 Main St.	G.F. Andrae Block/ Coast to Coast Hardware	C
33	1059 Main St.	First National Bank/ Center Point Restaurant	C
34	1100 Main St.	McCain's/Vacant	NC
35	1101 Main St.	G.F. Andrae Bldg./Seifert's Fashions	NC
36	1105-13 Main St.	Oscos Drug/Oscos Drug	NC
37	1108 Main St.	Arcade Billiard Hall/ The Tea Shop	C
38	1121 Main St.	Unknown/The Closet Fashions	C
39	1124-28 Main St.	The Grand Opera House/ Fox Theater-Lee Ayers Jewelers	C
40	1125-29 Main St.	Unknown/Paco's Restaurant	NC
41	1136 Main St.	Curran & Weisner/Book World	C
42	1137 Main St.	E. Bandow Meat Market/Haase Jewelers	C
43	1140 Main St.	Martini Alhambra Saloon/ Unique Bar	C
44	1141-57 Main St.	D.E. Frost Block/ Chrysalis Women's Wear- Trade Winds Gifts- Sweet Briar Gifts	C
45	1148 Main St.	Commercial/Silver Spoke	NC
46	1201-17 Main St.	Atwell Block/ Graham Lane Music- Hein Enterprises	C
47	1205-09 Second St.	K. Chilla Bldg./ Home Furnishings- B.T. Vacuum Sales	C

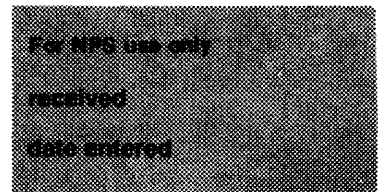
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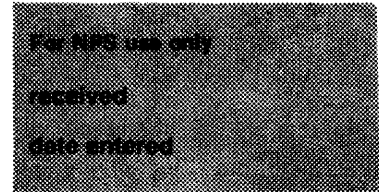
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48	1220-28A Second St.	Frank Bemowski/Video Exchange	C
49	1221 Second St.	Bogaczyk Harness Shop/ Creations Unlimited Crafts	NC
50	1225 Second St.	M. Scharwark/The Hair Company	C
51	1232 Second St.	Unknown/Shop of Cheese	C
52	1313-15 Second St.	Heil Grocery & Saloon/ Record Exchange	C
53	1317-19 Second St.	Harness Shop/Pete's Barber Shop- Integrity Tax Service	C
54	1321 Second St.	Unknown/Elbow Room Bar	C
55	1327 Second St.	Warehouse/The Jug Tavern	C
56	1331 Second St.	Wm. Spraggon Bakery & Alois Firkus Bldg./ Buffy's Tavern	C
57	1343 Second St.	Gusman Skowronski/Butter's Bar	C
58	1355 Second St.	Frank Glinski/Second St. Second Hand Store	C
59	1319 Strongs Ave.	Atwell Bldg./Printers Copy Service	C
60	1320-22 Strongs	Tack Block/C.J. Lanagan's Rest.	C
61	1323 Strongs Ave.	Theo. Johnson & Co./ B & R Hobbies	C
62	1325 Strongs	George A. Smith Bowling Alley/ Vacant	C
63	1327-31 Strongs	H. Lee Wing Laundry/ Antiquarian Shop	NC
64	1332 Strongs Ave.	James D. Giles Bakery/ Mom's Computers	C
65	1336 Strongs Ave.	Western Union Off./Sampler House	C

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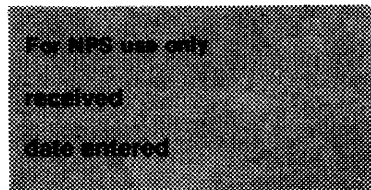
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66	1309 Third St.	Hoeffler & Hebal Dry Goods/ Tent Corner	C
67	1313 Third St.	David Kalisky Second Hand Goods/ Vacant	C
68	1314 Third St.	J. Phillip Rothman & Co./ LeAnn's Lingerie	C
69	1319 Third St.	Alexander Ringness Shoe Store/ Bill's Pizza Shop	C
70	1325 Third St.	C.F. Martin Photography/ Clark Electric	C
71	Intersection of Main St. & Second St.	Mathias Mitchell Public Square	C

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<u>Map #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORIG. BLDG. NAME</u>	<u>CURRENT BLDG. OCCUP.</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
1	820-24 Main St.	J.O. Johnsen Block	U.S. Recruiting	C

Constructed in 1896, the Johnsen building is an eclectic design, primarily Romanesque in inspiration. Given its location on the Public Square and its large scale, the Johnsen building is an important visual landmark within the district.

Brickwork becomes more complex toward the roofline of this two-story building. The first floor walls are smooth, broken only by stone arches which once capped fenestration. Second story windows are rectangular units dispersed at intervals and marked by pilasters. Stone sill and lintel courses serve as unifying elements. A number of the windows are capped by tympana filled with terra cotta ornament. The brick was supplied by the Langenberg Brick Co., Stevens Point. This is reported to be the first local building to be constructed entirely of Langenberg pressed brick.

Bands of corbelling and arcuated patterns enliven the cornice between staged pilasters. A heavy corner post marks the corner of the building and, with the sweeping parapet line, draws the eye upward. Originally, the roofline was further enlivened with pediments and minaret-like projections.

Although the building has been painted gray and the storefront has been altered, it remains an important design, primarily due to scale and variety of ornament.

2	823 Main St.	C. Krembs & Brother Hardware Co.	Vacant	C
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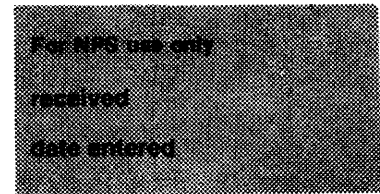
The Krembs Hardware Co. building was constructed in 1895 as the expanded home of an early local business. The Krembs business was founded by Charles and Alexander Krembs in 1863 at this site.

The Krembs building retains elaborate ornamentation including a miniature, blind arcade and corbelled brick work. The mass of the building and the elaborate cornice suggest Romanesque sources. In spite of alterations to the two-story structure, it contributes architecturally and historically to the district. It also is important in defining the Public Square.

5	835 Main St.	Skowronski & King Grocers	Grin & Beer It	C
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Constructed in 1897, this two-story commercial building is a free-standing structure, distinguished by an elaborate cornice. Corbelled brick supports the metal cornice which

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curves into a center pediment. Below this are three narrow windows capped by brick arches.

The storefront has been reworked with brick and ceramic tile, which detracts from the design of the building. However, the second story retains sufficient integrity to warrant designating the buildings as a contributing structure in the proposed Commercial district.

6	840-44 Main St.	August Zinda Saloon/ Razner Men's Furnishings	The Town Clown/ The Square Bar	C
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This is a free-standing brick structure which faces south onto the Public Square. The two storefronts occupying the first story of the building have been modernized. The upper level retains some of the original detailing. The facade is divided in two by a pilaster, the western segment contains two window openings, the other contains three. A row of arched forms decorates the cornice line of the building, carrying out the theme set by several other earlier brick buildings around the square.

This building is significant because it "defines" the public square on the north side. Without this building, the square loses its definition. In order to accommodate the downtown mall project, this building was moved 53 feet to the west. In its new location, it continues to define the northwest corner of the public square.

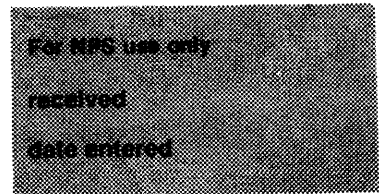
8	913-25 Main St.	Kuhl's Block	Gwidt's Drug Store/ Hat City	C
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Kuhl's Block was erected in 1885 on a prominent site facing Main Street at the east side of the Public Square. The two-story brick building now reads as two buildings, due to remodeling and painting of the Gwidt Drug Store (913 Main St.) portion of the building. Windows on this part of the building have been bricked in and painted. An arcature at the cornice remains, and flows into the other sections of the building (925 Main St. Manchurian Food and Gifts) The original red brick remains on the exterior of 925 Main St. Limestone lintels and voussoirs (in arches over date stone and lunette) accent the facade. The cornice arcature is interrupted on this portion of the building by stepped pediments probably corresponding to the original entrances on the first story.

Both storefronts have been substantially remodeled. The intact second story of 925 Main St. and the cornice work, belt course, and articulate chimney and panels of 913 Main St. continue to convey a Victorian character in spirit with the district.

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9 916-24 Main St. Ossowski (saloon) & Point Surplus/
Glinski (tailor) Bldg. Dutch's Tailor C

The Ossowski and Glinski building, built in 1890, is the best example of a Queen Anne commercial building in the district. The building is two stories in height and constructed of brick and stone with metal details. The exterior shell of the building is of secondary importance to the profusion of elements attached to it. The corner of the building is marked by a large bartizan which is capped by a bell-shaped roof. The building is located on a prominent site at the intersection of Main Street with the Public Square. The bartizan very effectively defines the corner, and originally, an entrance to the building. The building originally contained two stores, consequently another major entrance is marked at the roof line by a large cupola, supported by consoles. Additional finials, pediments and capitals enliven the roof line. A portion of the brick was supplied by Fisch Bros. Brick Co. of Stevens Point.

10 929 Main St. W.W. Spraggon Block Spurgeons C

This two-story brick building was constructed in 1885 after the fire. As with the majority of structures in Stevens Point dating from this period, the main decorative interest appears at the cornice, composed of corbelled brick. Beneath this, the second story is divided into three sections of pilasters. The central unit consists of a single segmentally arched window, which originally corresponded with a first floor stair entrance. The two remaining sections each contain three elongated windows capped by segmental arches accented with limestone keystones.

The decoration of windows and cornice is simple but is Italianate in spirit. The storefront has been substantially remodeled; the second story, however, retains sufficient integrity to convey a Victorian character in keeping with the district, and is historically significant.

11 937 Main St. Max Neuwald Notions Shippy Shoes
and Dry Goods C

This building was constructed at 1885-86 and continues the scale, and some of the detailing of the adjoining building, 919 Main. The red brick facade of the building is accented by stone details; lintels, sills and voussoirs, on the second story. The focal point of the design is the pair of window openings placed beneath a segmental arch. Rectangular windows covered by plain lintels appear on either side of this unit. Metal panels have replaced the glass in the windows.

12 944 Main St. Schwebach Block Hostel Shoppe C

Built in 1874, this two-story building was constructed of cut stone laid in regular

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courses. This stone building represents one of the finest examples of early Italianate commercial design in Stevens Point. Carved stone hood molds cover the three second story windows. A pressed metal cornice composed of pairs of brackets, decorated with acanthus patterns, and modillions completes the composition.

13 949 Main St. W.J. Clifford Bldg. Shippy Shoes C

The M. Clifford Block, constructed in 1877, is a fine Italianate commercial building. The building is composed of small blocks of stone regularly coursed. The original elongated windows remain on the second story of the building. On the facade, single windows flank a larger unit composed of a pair of windows set beneath a simple elliptical arch. Hood molds are smooth stone with carved keystones. Cable moldings form window surrounds.

A bracketed cornice divides the remodeled storefront from the upper level. A pedimental cornice with deep frieze accented by brackets, completes the building. A shake-covered mansard roof (above the pediment) and a remodeled storefront and over-sized sign are the major changes to the building.

14 956 Main St. M. Clifford's Block Bruiser's C

The Clifford Block, constructed in 1877, is a two-story stone structure which, at the time of construction, was faced with brick. In approximately 1930, the building was given a new facade of glazed tile and terra cotta. The resulting Art Deco design (which is actually quite eclectic, and incorporates classical swags and figures) is rare in Stevens Point. The second story retains integrity and provides a fine example of early twentieth century design.

The building is framed by pilasters, articulated with swags and finials at the roof line. Anchoring the composition is a recessed panel and a terra cotta figure, marked at the roof line by a shaped parapet. Panels, filled with dark green tile and rosette tiles flank the central figures and correspond with the window area. Windows consist of fixed panes, flanked by smaller sash.

The Clifford Block is the finest example of Art Deco-inspired design in Stevens Point and has been selected as a contributing building in the proposed historic district.

15 964 Main St. H.D. McCulloch Block Bean Eddy/
Gepetto's C

Built in 1873, the McCulloch Block is one of the fine local examples of the Italianate styles in Stevens Point. Due to the larger scale of the McCulloch Block, this also is

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a major focal point in this block of the proposed district. The building stands two stories in height and is composed of a variety of materials. The facade is brick (painted), the east elevation has been covered with pressed metal and the rear of the building is stone.

Stone quoins mark the corners of the McCulloch Block. Apparently this building shares a part wall with McCulloch's Commercial Bank, the line between the two structures becomes distinct beneath the pediment of the bank building.

16 968 Main St. Bank of Stevens Point Grubba Jewelers C

The Bank of Stevens Point, constructed in 1864, is a two-story stone building dominated by an elaborate metal cornice. The stone was laid in regular courses. The facade has, regrettably, been severely altered with a large tripart window inserted on the second floor and an aluminum and glass storefront on the first story. In addition, the stone has been painted. Windows on the east elevation which recall the original window treatment are sash windows set beneath shaped stone lintels. The heavy cornice consists of brackets with more massive consoles marking the center pediment and corners. The consoles are decorated with cable molding.

The Bank of Stevens Point building remains as an important reminder of the early development of Main Street. The building is particularly distinguished by fine stone work and impressive cornice, a reflection of the Italianate design of the building.

17 1000 Main St. Ule Block/Parkinsons C

The Ule building stands two stories in height and has an exterior composed of brown brick with sandstone accents. The stone forms the sill and lintel courses which unite the rectangular windows of the second story. Corbelled brickwork in a pointed arch pattern defines the cornice of the building. Protruding from the southwest corner of the second story is a corner tower or oriel clad in shingles and highlighted by swag patterns. This element contrasts with the more rectilinear body of the building. The original entrance was under this tower in the building corner.

18 1003 Main St. A.R. White Building Tent Corner C

The White building situated on the corner of Main Street and Water Street is a major focal point in the proposed district. The White building, originally constructed in 1873, retains details characteristic of the Italianate style. The west elevation (Third Street) is composed of cut sandstone, regularly coursed. Eight second story windows and boarded-over openings on the first floor, are capped by stone, stilted segmental arches. The storefront on this face includes cast iron columns exhibiting a reed

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pattern. A floral pattern occupies the frieze of the storefront. The facade, in contrast was constructed in 1902 and is more eclectic in nature. It is composed of red brick with stone accents provided by voussoirs in window arches. The seven second story windows are covered by these arches. The brick work at the cornice creates the effect of a small arcade, punctuated by pilaster strips which frame the pediment and mark the corners of the facade and the side entrance bay. Four small windows appear in the arcade beneath the pediment. The facade incorporates details which relate well to the nineteenth century buildings displaying Romanesque elements, but is more restrained with ornament contained in certain zones; in effect, the facade illustrates a gradual transition toward symmetrical classical designs. The storefront has been remodeled. However, cast iron columns remain in place.

21 1019 Main St. Shafton Block Vacant C

Built in 1915, the Shafton Block is a good example of the Art Deco style. The facade consists of white glazed tile highlighted by terra cotta details. These geometric details (green terra cotta) mark the corners of the buildings and the areas between window units. The second story central windows are arranged as a set of three, flanked by pairs of windows. White coping tile follows the slope of the facade gable end.

22 1024 Main St. Kingsbury Bldg. Sport Shop C

The Kingsbury Building, built in 1903, is a two-story structure, faced with red brick. Classically inspired details and symmetry distinguish the facade (on the second story). Pilasters capped by Ionic capitals, divide the second story into five sections, each containing a window. The three central windows are large round-headed units set beneath brick arches accented by pressed metal molding. The two remaining windows are smaller rectangular units capped by metal hood molds supported by consoles. These windows frame the composition of three larger windows creating a balanced facade.

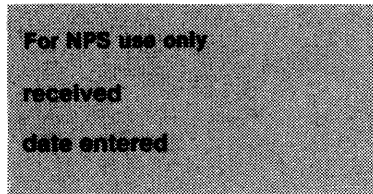
The facade originally culminated in a large pressed metal pediment. A small portion of the building pediment fell off during a windstorm in 1981 and the remainder was removed. The loss of the pediment, and remodeling of the storefront has resulted in a severe loss of integrity. Second story fenestration and three piers on the first story (which support a simple entablature) are the major remaining design elements. At the time of construction, however, the Kingsbury Building was probably one of the first Stevens Point commercial buildings to incorporate classically derived ornament.

30 1045 Main St. Citizen's National Bank C

The Citizen's National Bank built its first building on this site in 1893 and

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remodeled it on the same site in 1921. The bank has been on this site throughout its ninety-year history.

The Citizen's National Bank is the finest example of the Classical Revival style in the downtown district. This style of commercial architecture was not common in Stevens Point. Generally, if classical details were employed, they were handled and manipulated freely (1314 Water St. 4/9 illustrates this).

Although the building is the same scale as surrounding structures, the tetra style portico and elaborate tympanum ornament results in a monumental composition. The building is in fact the portico. The four Ionic columns support the name of the building, which terminates in the pediment. A three dimensional eagle sculpture fills the tympanum.

The entrance to the building is centered on the facade and marked by a heavy entablature supported by consoles. Narrow windows are located in areas between columns with fenestration appearing in three tiers. The facade is constructed of cast concrete.

32 1055 Main St. G.F. Andrae Block Coast to Coast C

The G.F. Andrae Block was constructed @ 1903-04⁷. The upper story retains details that^vItalianate in character.
are

Pilaster placement divides the facade of this building into three sections, each of which contains two pair of windows capped by flat arches with carved keystones. The keystones and other details are executed in sandstone which harmonizes with the warm tones of the brick. A sandstone entablature extends across the facade and is ornamented with modillions. Beneath this, at each pilaster, is a simple cartouche. The storefront has been entirely remodeled.

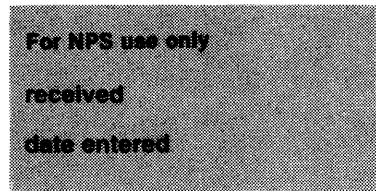
33 1059 Main St. First National Bank Center Point Restaurant C

Constructed in 1891, this building conveys a sense of massiveness despite its small scale. This is accomplished through the use of brownstone, repetition of semicircular arches and substantial cornice and pediment.

The First National Bank is a nicely detailed two-store building faced with Lake Superior brownstone. The first story has been remodeled and corner pilasters are deteriorating. However, above the iron lintel which separates the stories, a remarkable amount of detail remains. The second story contains three equally-spaced rectangular windows. The surrounds consist of engaged colonettes supporting a semicircular arch; and archivolt springs from pilasters which separate the window openings. The tympanum

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above each window is filled with foliated decoration. The central tympanum includes a bas relief eagle. Two pilaster strips, supported by carved corbels, rise to support a broken pediment which is centered on the building. The capitals of colonettes and pilasters are carved acanthus motifs. More stylized ornament decorates the cornice.

The building is best characterized as a Richardsonian Romanesque design. This is the only building in the commercial district constructed of this type of stone and displaying this very intricate delicate ornament.

39 1124 Main St. The Grand Opera House Fox Theater/
Lee Ayers Jewelers C

The Fox Theater's two-story pressed brick facade is an integral part of the contiguous row of 19th century commercial facades which characterize the street scape in the area. The theater's street elevation is distinguished by the unusual height and shape of its center third, and the scale and clarity of surface articulation, fenestration, and decoration.

The facade is organized in three vertical sections. The center section contains the entrance to the theater which is under a pair of oversized double-hung windows with stone transoms; above, is a pressed metal tympanum with Neo Greco decoration and a peaked parapet with decorative cast iron coping culminating a large finial. On either side of this center section are slightly narrower sections each having paneled pressed metal cornices over tall, thin brick machicolations which are flanked by oversized cast iron brackets at the outer edges of the building, and turrets at these sections juncture with the center portion. Below each machicolation is a pair of transom-covered oversized windows similar to the larger center units. Continuous lintels and sills are of contrasting stone. The ground floor level treatment is asymmetrical owing to the application of commercial store fronts over original details and structure. The center portion of the ground floor contains the entrance to the theater, consisting of two pair of double doors (recessed some 10 feet from the building line) together with poster display cases both facing and perpendicular to the street.

41 1136 Main St. Curran-Weise Block Book World C

Constructed between 1898-1904, this two-story commercial building has a facade composed of cut stone. The storefront level of the facade is painted black, the upper level is natural stone. The transom area has been covered with wood, however a metal beam and patera are partially visible. The second story consists of two pair of windows which are set beneath semicircular arches. The tympana and spandrel areas feature square block of stone which are distinguished from the remaining rectangular blocks on the facade. The pressed metal cornice which completes the composition follows a classical theme with swags decorating the frieze which rests beneath a band of dentils.

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Corresponding with this central window, above the cornice of the building, is a small dormer. The dormers are smaller versions of the central tower; framed by colonettes which support the entablature and bracketed eaves. The only variance is the use of small rectangular windows rather than glass. A simple ballustrade unites dormers with the tower corners of the building.

60 1320-22 Strongs Ave. Tack Block C.J. Lanagans C

At the time of construction in 1894, the Tack building was red Langenberg brick trimmed with Ohio sandstone, and containing two storefronts and a front stairway entrance on the first story. The roof line was originally marked by a more elaborate pediment and cornice. The building was designed by C.C. Buck, a Green Bay Architect.

The first story of this two-story commercial building has been substantially remodeled. The appearance of the second story has also been comprised by the addition of paint to the brick surface. The fenestration on the second story consists of six rectangular windows. The two central windows are set beneath rounded arches with tympana of angled brick. The flanking windows have plain jack arches. The cornice is composed of a variety of brick patterns, corbelling and recessed panels.

68 1314 Third St. J. Phillip Rothman LeeAnne's Lingerie C

This two-story structure was constructed at the turn of the century, 1900. The building design combines elements generally associated with two styles, the Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival. The Romanesque Revival was the dominant style in Stevens Point in the late nineteenth century. To this particular building, the blind arcature beneath the metal cornice, and repeated arch forms are reminiscent of Romanesque Revival buildings in Stevens Point. The overall design is more restrained and carefully ordered, suggesting a classical influence. In addition, specific details such as Ionic and Composite capitals are characteristic of the Classical Revival style. The building is veneered with pressed brick, with limestone and brick employed for details. The storefront, although modified, retains corner piers (with stone bases and Ionic capitals) which support a simple entablature. A sill course, accented with dentils, introduces another strong horizontal line across the facade. Six round-headed windows are above the sill, and are capped by brick arches which spring from pilasters featuring composite capitals. A belt course, arcade pattern and metal cornice complete the design.

71 Intersection of Mathias Mitchell Public Square
Main St./Second St.

On November 12, 1847, Mathias Mitchell filed the city's original plat. This plat

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designated Main St., Clarke St. (sic), and First and Second Streets, none of which were greater than four blocks long. In the middle of the plat, he left a vacant space marked "public square". The square is actually rectangular, 250 ft. by 300 ft. with 50 foot by 132 foot lots platted around it.

This newly-platted land was only two blocks from the Wisconsin River. But in 1847, Stevens Point was only a collection of buildings clinging to the rivers edge. When the Square was platted, it was described as being located on the "east end of the village and, at that time, of very little value as it was out in the woods".

The creation of a public square in Stevens Point is unique in Portage County. None of the other major cities in central Wisconsin currently have a public square.

In 1984, the City officially named the square the Mathias Mitchell Public Square after the man who donated the land to the people.

Currently, the Square functions as a parking area and as a farmer's market with a quarter of the area set aside as a park-like plaza area. The intent is for the Square to continue its function as a focal point for civic activities.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Ten of the 70 buildings in the District are designated non-contributing. The majority of these are modern infill structures. Seifert's (#35), constructed in 1892 by G.F. Andrae (also constructed Grand Opera House #39) Silver Spoke (#45) and The Antiquarian (#63), are the only buildings in the District that have had their facades completely covered. The condition of the original structures underneath is unknown.

Many of the non-contributing building facades are constructed of materials that do not relate well to the brick and stone of the contributing buildings. The Rospar Building (#31) which, built in 1979, displays a modern facade of exposed aggregate, and Osco Drug (#36) which reflects the sleek, mid-1960's look with shiny green panels covering the facade. McCain's (#34) is also a modern design with a glass, International style facade. While this building is attractive and well designed, its modern style contrasts radically with the nineteenth century contributing buildings of the District.

Scale was another factor in determining whether a building contributed to the District. Two buildings, Joe's Bar (#4) and Hallmark (#29) are squat, one-story structures obviously out of scale with the 2-story buildings around them.

Through the years, storefront alterations have affected the integrity of the District's buildings however many are reversible. The recent establishment of design standards and guidelines has helped curb further visually obtrusive alterations. In

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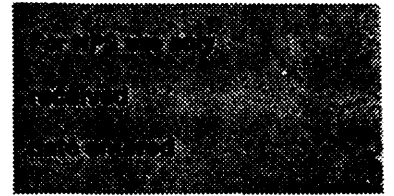
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addition, the current interest in improving the appearance of the downtown has prompted many property owners to engage in storefront renovation projects. While the degrees of commitment vary, the end results are overwhelmingly positive.

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FOOTNOTES

Description

¹Portage County Gazette, Jan. 22, 1896 p.1.

²Stevens Point Daily Journal, June 28, 1952

³Sanborn-Perris Maps 1912-1915;
City Directories 1912, 1915-16

⁴Stevens Point Daily Journal, Jan. 4, 1930

⁵Sanborn-Perris Maps 1904, 1912

⁶Architectural Survey and Historic Preservation Potential Analysis of Central Stevens Point, Wis.
Pfaller-Herbst Associates, Inc., Milwaukee - Oct. 1980, sec. 4, p. 26

⁷Portage County Gazette, Dec. 26, 1894

⁸Rosholt, Malcolm, Our Country Our Story, Portage County, Wis. - 1959, Stevens Point, p. 417

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates See Text **Builder/Architect** See Text

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Period of Significance: 1864-1931

The economic and social center of Stevens Point since the village was first platted in the mid-19th century, the Public Square-Main Street Historic District is a historically and architecturally significant group of buildings reflecting the community's rapid rise from wilderness supply point to Central Wisconsin's premier mercantile center. The District consists of 70 commercial buildings dating from 1864-1980. The majority of the contributing buildings were constructed between 1864-1931. It was during this period that the lumber, rail-road and paper industries were booming in Central Wisconsin and Stevens Point became "the largest town on the upper Wisconsin and the principal place of resort and trade".¹ Many of the City's most prominent citizens owned property or conducted business in the District and the buildings reflect prosperity and pride these citizens had in their community.

Despite a variety of functions and the span of years, the buildings in the district maintain a remarkable unity of scale, materials and design. Architectural styles in the District are generally of Italianate or Romanesque influence. However, other significant stylistic examples including Classical Revival, Art Deco, Second Empire and Queen Anne are also impressively represented. It is important to note that several of the buildings in the District are constructed from locally manufactured brick and quarried stone. Although the majority of the storefronts have been remodeled, most of the buildings still retain a significant amount of their original integrity and represent the largest concentration of architecturally significant commercial buildings in the city.

The District functioned as the commercial and entertainment hub of the community, forming a trade and mercantile center of regional importance. Buildings within the District served retail functions, housed social and entertainment events and provided lodging and refreshment for travelers. The Public Square, a rectangle of an acre and a half, was donated to the community in 1847 for use as a public marketplace. Since then, it has been utilized by area farmers to display and sell their goods. It remains one of the only formally defined public squares in Central Wisconsin. The District was also significant to the Polish heritage of Stevens Point. Several of the buildings are directly associated with prominent Polish citizens and business.

Today, the District continues in its role as the commercial and entertainment center of Stevens Point. Social events still take place within the District to honor the community's cultural heritage.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The District extends approximately 1600 feet along Main Street and is approximately 300 feet wide. The west end of the District is located approximately 600 feet from the confluence of the Wisconsin River and Mosey's Slough. This is the area originally settled by George Stevens in 1839. The land on which Steven's shanty was built formed a point between the two rivers. Thus, the area became known as Steven's Point. Stevens would ship supplies by land to his log shanty located on the point and transfer his supplies to dugout. From here, Stevens served his saw mill in Big Bull Falls (Wausau).

This point proved to be an ideal point from which to transfer goods from overland shipping to boat. Several overland shipping companies served the growing community and at least three steam boats plied the waters between Stevens Point and Big Bull Falls.

The quiet water immediately north of the point also proved to be a convenient stopping point for loggers who would float their rafts of pine to southerly markets, primarily St. Louis. These loggers would stop in Stevens Point for supplies, groceries, and liquor before continuing to do battle with the rapids further south.

With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870's, it became feasible to ship prepared and finished wood to market. Soon, saw mills grew in Stevens Point to serve the national market. The street along the Wisconsin River just to the west of the historic district was known as Sawdust Street because of the number of saw mills and the constant presence of saw dust.

By 1879, there were seven planing mills in addition to saw mills in Stevens Point. The planing mills branched into sash and door mills and related industries. These business' in turn spawned the development of other wood-related business' including furniture and paper mills. This diversification of industries created the need for craftsmen, technicians, and businessmen. During the peak years, Stevens Point was a center of lumbering and logging in the Wisconsin Pinery.

From Stevens Point's beginnings in the log shanty along the Wisconsin River, growth expanded north, south, and east. Saw mills located along the river to take advantage of the water power and to have ready access to the logs from upstream. Commercial growth expanded to the east. On November 12, 1847, Mathias Mitchell registered a plat laying out Main St., Clarke (sic) St., First St., and Second St. He left a square of land approximately 250 feet by 300 feet to be used as a "public square". Today, the Public Square is located at the west end of the current downtown. However, in 1847, Stevens Point was a little settlement clinging to the edge of the River. The Public Square is described in a 1908 Stevens Point news article as being "located on the east (emphasis added) of the village and at that time of very little value, as it was out in the woods". The Square soon developed as a market where farmers could bring

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hay and wood to sell to city dwellers.

The Community grew fast. In 1850, the population was reported to be 200 people. Three years later, in 1853, the population was reported to be 600. Just four years later, in 1857, the population was reported to be 2000. By 1880, the population was 4445. And by 1890, the population was 7896.² In 1868, the County seat was moved from the Village of Plover to Stevens Point.

During the period 1860-1890, Stevens Point grew and prospered. The downtown district reflected this in both its expanding area and the quality of buildings being constructed. Wood buildings were replaced by brick and stone buildings lending a more permanent and sophisticated appearance to the City.

Historically, fire has played an important role in the development of the district. It is said that every saw mill, planing mill, flour mill, and feed mill had a fire at least once. There were several major fires that destroyed many buildings at a time. Consequently, property owners began rebuilding with brick and stone, and in 1873, the Common Council passed the first ordinance establishing fire limits in the City. The ordinance had a significant impact on the visible appearance of the future downtown streetscape.

Increased activity within the district also prompted improvements to the dirt streets. The spring snowmelt, spring rains, and the accumulated winter manure, made the roads a quagmire. In the dry months, dust was an ever present problem. To address this problem, in 1873 the Council authorized the first wooden sidewalks to be constructed. In 1891, the Common Council had Main Street from First St. to Strongs Avenue (the core of the district) paved with cedar blocks. In 1896, Main Street was paved with macadem, later with paving bricks which were in turn covered with asphalt.

After the turn of the century, the lumber industry remained strong, however, the "boom" days were over. In general, the growth of the District slowed drastically after the turn of the century. The majority of the Main Street streetscape was in place, what remained now was the internal growth of the area as a main urban center. While development would never again reach the levels of the last decades of the 19th century, the early years of the 20th century did see a significant era of stability, maturation and small-scale development. In particular, the emergence of the paper industry as a thriving industry helped maintain the downtown area as a major regional retailing center. Visible signs of the continued growth can be found in the numerous 1900-1920 buildings completed or rebuilt during the era. Generally, by 1930, the District had attained the extent of its physical expansion, a built encapsulation of the city's growth before the Civil War until the Depression.

* The specific period of significance represents the historic period within which the District developed and achieved its greatest historical significance. The dates span the era from the completion of the first structure within the district

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to the last contributing property, the significant Art Deco M. Clifford's Block. The period includes both the prosperity of the late 19th century "boom era" and the early 20th century time period of slower growth and stability.

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ARCHITECTURE

Mathias Mitchell Public Square—Main St. Historic District encompasses the finest assemblage of late 19th and early 20th Century commercial architecture in the City. The majority of the contributing buildings in the District were constructed between 1864-1896. The District consists of a contiguous grouping of commercial buildings that represent a variety of architectural styles. Most of the buildings reflect Italianate or Romanesque influence. However, there are fine examples of the Second Empire, Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles. While some of the buildings were designed by prominent architects, many reveal the masterful skill of local brick layers and stone masons. Much of the brick was produced in the Langenberg of Stevens Point Fisch Bros. brick yards, both local companies. Most of the sandstone was also locally quarried on the west bank of the Wisconsin River (Avery Stone Quarry).

Arched windows and brick corbelling at cornice level appear throughout the District. The brickwork is particularly fine in a number of Romanesque Revival buildings constructed around the turn of the century. Generally, the decoration is graduated, culminating in nicely articulated arcature bands at the cornice. The arcade and brick corbelling motifs persisted into the 20th Century but were increasingly combined with classical motifs.

As the City of Stevens Point grew, the character of its buildings changed. Originally, the buildings were constructed of wood, an inexpensive and readily available local material. However, as the City became more prosperous, some buildings were made of stone. In 1864, the first stone building, the Bank of Stevens Point (#16) was built. The Wisconsin Pinery newspaper heralded the announcement of the structure by proclaiming "Stevens Point is a City!" The paper goes on to state that "some daring ones have before this ventured to suggest the propriety of erecting buildings of stone only to be laughed at as visionaries. We are glad to see that we have people here at least who don't fear being laughed at... they know they are right... and who have faith in something else than pine..."

Two fires are of particular importance to the development of the downtown. On December 28, 1873, a fire started in a building located in the northeast quadrant of the Public Square. The fire burned out approximately one acre of buildings and was stopped only by the stone wall of the McCulloch building (#15). The Common Council responded to this disaster by passing the first ordinance establishing fire limits in the City. The ordinance provided that all buildings shall have an exterior of stone or brick except for privies and wood sheds. Several new and important buildings were constructed in the area where this fire had destroyed the original wood buildings. Among them are the M. Clifford Block (#14), the Schwebach Block (#12), Ossowski-Glinski Building (#9) and the Chilla Block (#47).

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Fire came to play a major role again in downtown Stevens Point on March 25, 1885. This fire originated in the rear of a saloon buildings located in the southeast quadrant of the Public Square. The fire rapidly spread, burning nine buildings until stopped again by the stone wall of an adjoining building, this time the W.J. Clifford Block (#13). On April 29th, only one month after the fire, the Gazette, reported work had begun on three new stone structures, the Kuhl Block (#8), the Park Block (#11), and the Spraggon Block (#10). All three of these structures survive today and are considered contributing to the District.

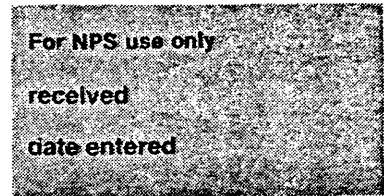
After the turn of the century, growth in the lumber industry leveled off. This was reflected in the slow down of construction of new buildings within the District. Building construction did not stop entirely however, rather development switched to smaller scaled buildings and significant numbers of infill structures which impressively included the construction of the significant M. Clifford Block (#14), the 1902 A.R. White Building (#18), the Citizen's National Bank (#30), and the 1915 Shafton Block (#21).

With the downtown streetscape fairly complete by 1930, little post-Depression construction was initiated directly in the downtown area. Since that time, there have been relatively few major changes to the physical appearance of the district. One of the most obvious changes has been the remodeling of the storefront areas that has occurred through the years. There were also a few fires that left vacant lots which were then filled with modern buildings (#34 and #36). Recently, there has been momentum by property owners to replace earlier storefront renovations with materials that are more compatible with the original building and aim to unify the entire building facade.

The significance of the architecture in the District is manifest in the consistency of scale, use of local materials and variety in which the eclectic moods of the late 19th Century were expressed. The predominant two-story storefronts facing each other across Main St. create a streetscape that is unified, somewhat compact and human in scale. The repeated use of local materials also lends unity. The buildings present a unique collection of popular period styles embellished by local craftsmen. The complementary juxtaposition of styles throughout the District lends interest and diversity — strengthening the relationship of the buildings to each other. To date, many of the buildings have retained sufficient detail and integrity to convey the 19th Century character of the District.

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<u>MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BLDG. NAME - ORIG./CURRENT</u>
1	820-24 Main St.	J.O. Johnsen Store/ U.S. Recruiting Office

The J.O. Johnsen building anchors the western corner of the Public Square, and together with the Kremb Hardware building, forms a gateway to the Public Square. This building is reported to be the first local building to be constructed entirely of Langenberg brick.

Johnsen's Hall was formerly located just west of this site. The building on this site was destroyed by fire, moved, and rebuilt. Johnsen retained architect C.C. Buck, of Green Bay, to design the new structure. A news account states that Mr. Johnsen "concluded to replace it (the building) with something more costly, more attractive, and in keeping with the demands of a progressive, growing city".

Mr. Johnsen was born in Hanover, Germany (Russia) on October 19, 1831. He came to America in 1845 migrating to Stevens Point in 1857. At the age of 40, he enlisted in the army and served in the Civil War. He was mustered out in 1865 as a captain. He served as City Marshall, Alderman, and Mayor of Stevens Point.

5	835 Main St.	Skowronski & King Grocers/ Grin & Beer It
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This two-story commercial building is a freestanding structure, distinguished by an elaborate cornice. Corbelled brick supports the metal cornice which curves into a center pediment. Below this are three narrow windows capped by brick arches.

The storefront has been reworked with brick and ceramic tile, which detracts from the design of the building. However, the second story retains sufficient integrity to warrant designating the building as a contributing structure in the proposed Commercial district.

6	840-44 Main St.	August Zinda Saloon- Razner Men's Furnishings/ The Town Clown & Square Bar
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This is a freestanding brick structure which faces south onto the Public Square. The two storefronts occupying the first story of the building have been modernized. The upper level retains some of the original detailing. The facade is divided in two by a pilaster, the western segment contains two window openings, the other contains three. A row of arched forms decorates the cornice line of the building, carrying out the theme set by several other earlier brick buildings around the square. This building

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and bartizan completes the design.

The building was designed by Bernard Kolpacki, a Milwaukee architect. Kolpacki, a German immigrant, arrived in Milwaukee in 1873 and began learning the building trades. Beginning in approximately 1887, he began designing buildings and was responsible for both residential and commercial structures in Milwaukee and other cities.³

10 929 Main St. W.W. Spraggon Block/Spurgeons

This two-story brick building was constructed in 1885 after the fire. As with the majority of structures in Stevens Point dating from this period, the main decorative interest appears at the cornice, composed of corbelled brick. Beneath this, the second story is divided into three sections by pilasters. The central unit consists of a single segmentally arched window, which originally corresponded with a first floor stair entrance. The two remaining sections each contain three elongated windows capped by segmental arches accented with limestone keystones.

The decoration of windows and cornice is simple but Italianate in spirit. The storefront has been substantially remodeled; the second story, however, retains sufficient integrity to convey a Victorian character in keeping with the district.

12 944 Main St. Schwebach Block/Hostel Shoppe

Built in 1874, this two-story building was constructed of cut stone laid in regular courses. This stone building represents one of the finest examples of early Italianate commercial design in Stevens Point. Carved stone hood molds cover the three second story windows. A pressed metal cornice composed of pairs of brackets, decorated with acanthus patterns, and modillions completes the composition.

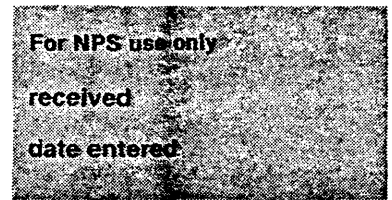
This building has a long and varied history. A wooden structure occupied the site and was destroyed in the fire of Dec. 1873. The Stevens Point Journal carries an article announcing the construction of the new Schwebach building on April 11, 1874.

13 949 Main St. W.J. Clifford Building/Shippy Shoes

The W. J. Clifford Block architecturally significant as a representative example of a period of construction, is a fine Italianate commercial building. The Clifford Block retains a high degree of integrity, and is distinguished by the high quality of stonework and Italianate details. Constructed in 1877, this building is one of the fine stone buildings erected in Stevens Point. The building is composed of small blocks of stone regularly coursed. The original elongated windows remain on the second story of the building. On the facade, single windows flank a larger unit composed of a pair of windows set beneath a

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sime elliptical arch. Hood molds are smooth stone with carved keystones. Cable moldings form window surrounds.

A bracketted cornice divides the remodeled storefront from the upper level. A pedimental cornice with deep frieze accented by brackets completes the building. A shake-covered mansard roof (above the pediment) and a remodeled storefront and oversized sign are the major changes to the building.

14

956 Main St.

M. Clifford's Block/Bruiser's

The M. Clifford Block, constructed in 1877, is a two-story stone structure which at the time of construction was faced with brick. In approximately 1930, the building was given a new facade of glazed tile and terra cotta.⁴ The resulting Art Deco design (which is actually quite eclectic incorporating classical swags and figures) is rare in Stevens Point.

The building is framed by pilasters, articulated with swags and finials at the roof line. Anchoring the composition is a recessed panel with a terra cotta figure, marked at the roof line by a shaped parapet. Panels, filled with dark green tile and rosette tiles, flank the central figure and correspond with the window areas. Windows consist of fixed panels, flanked by smaller sash. The M. Clifford Block is the finest example of Art Deco-inspired design in Stevens Point. The stone for the walls is from the local Avery quarry.

16

968 Main St.

Bank of Stevens Point /Grubba Jewelers

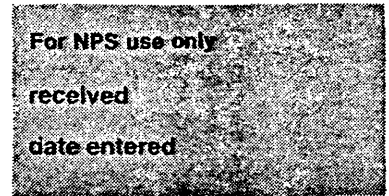
The Bank of Stevens Point building, constructed in 1864, remains as an important reminder of the early development of Main Street. The building is particularly distinguished by fine stone work and impressive cornice, a reflection of the Italianate design of the building.

At the time of construction, this building was heralded as a major step in the development of Stevens Point. As the first stone building erected on the Main Street, the bank building was a shift from wood to masonry structures and it was seen as inaugurating a new style of architecture.

The Bank of Stevens Point is a two-story stone building dominated by an elaborate metal cornice. The stone was laid in regular courses. The facade has, regrettably, been severely altered with a large tripart window inserted on the second floor and an aluminum and glass storefront on the first story. In addition, the stone has been painted. Windows on the east elevation which recall the original window treatment, are sash windows set beneath shaped stone lintels. The heavy cornice consists of brackets with more massive consoles

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marking the center pediment and corners. The consoles are decorated with cable molding.

18 1003 Main St. A.R. White Building/Vacant

The White Building, situated on the corner of Main Street and Third Street, is a major focal point in the proposed district. The White Building, originally constructed in 1873 retains details characteristic of the Italianate style. The west elevation (Third Street) is composed of cut sandstone, regularly coursed. Eight second story windows and boarded-over openings on the first floor, are capped by stone, stilted segmental arches. The storefront on this face includes cast iron columns exhibiting a reed pattern. A floral pattern occupies the frieze of the storefront. The facade, in contrast was constructed in 1902 and is more eclectic in nature. It is composed of red brick with stone accents provided by voussoirs in window arches. The brick work at the cornice creates the effect of a small arcade, punctuated by pilaster strips which frame the pediment and mark the corners of the facade and the side entrance bay. Four small windows appear in the arcade beneath the pediment. The facade incorporates details which relate well to the nineteenth century buildings displaying Romanesque elements, but is more restrained with ornament contained in certain zones; in effect, the facade illustrates a gradual transition toward symmetrical classical designs. The storefront has been remodeled. However, cast iron columns remain in place. The original portion of this building was constructed in 1873 by A.R. White for a hardware and tinware store. In 1902, the Kuhl Brothers bought the building and doubled the size by adding to the east and rebuilt the entire facade to disguise the addition.

21 1019 Main St. Shafton Block/Vacant

Built in 1915, the Shafton Block is a good example of the Art Deco style. The facade consists of white glazed brick highlighted by terra cotta details. These geometric details (green terra cotta) mark the corners of the buildings and the areas between window units. The second story central windows are arranged as a set of three, flanked by pairs of windows. White coping tile follows the slope of the facade gable end.

22 1024 Main St. Kingsbury Building/Sport Shop

Constructed in 1903, the Kingsbury Building is a two-story structure faced with red brick. Classically-inspired details and symmetry distinguish the facade (on the second story). Pilasters, capped by Ionic capitals, divide the second story into five sections, each containing a window. The three central windows are large round-headed units set beneath brick arches accented by pressed metal molding. The two remaining

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33 1059 Main St. First National Bank/Center Point Restaurant

Constructed in 1891, the First National Bank is a nicely detailed two-story building faced with brownstone. The first story has been remodeled and corner pilasters are deteriorating. However, above the iron lintel which separates the stories, a remarkable amount of detail remains. The second story contains three equally-spaced rectangular windows. The surrounds consist of engaged colonettes supporting a semicircular arch; an archivolt springs from pilasters which separate the window openings. The tympanum above each window is filled with foliated decoration. The central tympanum includes a bas relief eagle. Two pilaster strips, supported by carved corbels, rise to support the broken pediment which is centered on the building. The capitals of colonettes and pilasters are carved acanthus motifs. More stylized ornament decorates the cornice.

The First National Bank building conveys a sense of massiveness despite its small scale. This is accomplished through the use of stone, repetition of semi-circular arches and substantial cornice and pediment. Delicate ornament is juxtaposed with the large scale elements to further enrich the design. The building is best characterized as a Richardsonian Romanesque design and is significant as an example of a period of construction. This is the only building in the commercial district constructed of Lake Superior Brownstone and displaying this very intricate, delicate ornament.

This is another of the old bank buildings on Main Street. The First National was founded in 1883 on the site of the eastern bay of the Hunter's Corner building (1003 Main). It moved to this site in 1891 and is presently located at 1245 Main Street.⁶

39 1124-28 Main St. The Grand Opera House/
Fox Theater—Lee Ayers Jewelers

Constructed in 1893-94, the Grand Opera House is an example of late nineteenth century commercial building design. The facade is organized into three vertical sections with the center third being of unusual height and shape. The facade is distinguished by its scale and clarity of surface articulation, fenestration, and decoration. The center finial, oversized Romanesque tympanum, and elongated brick machicolations under the cornices refer to the lingering medieval vogue of the era.

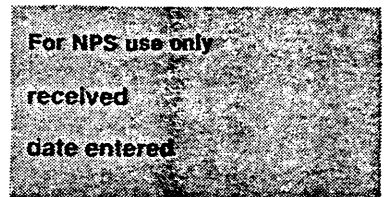
The Theater's architect, Oscar Cobb, was a widely-known midwestern theater architect. He is credited with a number of grand opera houses including those in Syracuse, N.Y., St. Paul, Minn., Minneapolis, Minn., and the Grand Opera House, 1885, St. Louis.

41 1136 Main St. Curran-Wiesner Block/Book World

This commercial structure was built in 1900. The post office occupied the first floor

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for several years. It was built by H. and S.D. Curran, prominent citizens of the community and operators of The Curran House, a local hotel formerly located on First and Main Streets.

This two-story commercial building has a facade composed of cut stone. The second story consists of two pair of windows which are set beneath semicircular arches. The tympana and spandrel areas feature square blocks of stone which are distinguished from the remaining rectangular blocks on the facade. The pressed metal cornice which completes the composition follows a classical theme with swags decorating the frieze which rests beneath a band of dentils.

43 1140 Main St. Martini Alhambra Saloon/
The Unique Bar

The Alhambra is a two-story commercial building, veneered with red brick on the facade. Built in 1896 by architect C.C. Buck, this building retains an intact second story, which is distinguished by fine detailing and an elaborate cornice. Three 1/1 sash windows are spaced across this level and are joined by a common stone lintel. Individual arches spring above the lintel and are capped by stone keystones. The tympana consist of terra cotta floral patterns. Capping the building is a large pressed metal cornice, consisting of corner brackets and pairs of smaller brackets which support a central pediment.

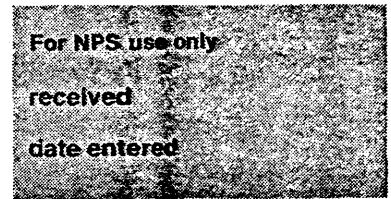
This building was originally the Alhambra Saloon operated by John Martini. Several news articles describe this saloon as a "gilded palace". A skylight lit the interior by day and "no less than fifty (electric) lights" by night. The interior consisted of tiled floors, mahogany panels with the bar rest made of marble supported by oxidized silver brackets. The walls and ceiling were steel decorated in gold and aluminum-bronze.

47 1205-09 Second St. K. Chilla Building/
Home Furnishings-
B.T. Vacuum Sales

The Chilla Building, constructed in 1892, is significant as a representative example of a period of construction. The massing of the building, as well as detailing, suggests a departure from the building styles which were dominant in Stevens Point in the 1880's and 1890's. In contrast to the Italianate and Romanesque commercial buildings, the Chilla building displays the massing and details often associated with the Second Empire style. Particularly noteworthy is the symmetrical square shape, with projecting central pavilion, inclusion of classical details and the distinctive roof line. The attic story is not developed as a mansard, although the tower and dormers are somewhat derivative of that form. The Chilla building is not a fully-

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developed example of the Second Empire style, but remains a good local interpretation of the period.

The Chilla building which stands two stories plus attic, occupies an important site on the east side of the Public Square. The exterior of the building is composed of red brick, with limestone and metal employed for details. The major design features as well as details have been retained, in spite of some first floor modifications.

68

1314 Third St.

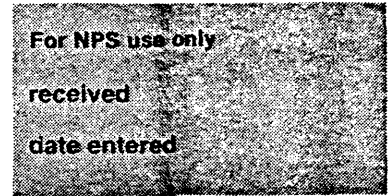
J. Phillip Rothman & Co./LeAnn's Lingerie

This two-story structure is a fine example of the nascent Classical Revival style. The employment of classically derived designs was not common in Stevens Point.

In this instance, the approach was eclectic; combining Romanesque Revival details with classical motifs and increasing order. Because the building is eclectic, it provides a link between nineteenth century structures such as the Johnsen Store (820 Main) and the very fine twentieth century Classical Revival Citizen's Bank (1045 Main). In this particular building, the blind arcature beneath the metal cornice, and repeated arch forms are reminiscent of Romanesque Revival buildings in Stevens Point. The overall design is more restrained and carefully ordered, suggesting a classical influence. In addition, specific details such as Ionic and Composite capitals are characteristic of the Classical Revival style. The building is veneered with pressed brick, with limestone and brick employed for details. The storefront, although modified, retains corner piers (with stone bases and Ionic capitals) which support a simple entablature. A sill course, accented with dentils, introduces another strong horizontal line across the facade. Six round-headed windows are above the sill, and are capped by brick arches which spring from pilasters featuring composite capitals. A belt course, arcade pattern and metal cornice complete the design. This building is relative intact and the best example of early Classical Revival in Stevens Point. The only comparable building, the Kingsbury building (1024 Main) has lost integrity.

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COMMERCE

Stevens Point is rooted in the lumber industry. During the period from 1840-1870, Stevens Point was an important center of logging and lumbering in the Wisconsin Pineries. The District served as the supply depot for raftsmen. Buildings within the District housed the retail and business establishments needed to nurture the growing community. The Public Square served as a market place in which rural residents sold their merchandise to city dwellers and vice versa. Auctions were held once a month which attracted large crowds. The Square also served as a forum in establishing "cordial city-county relationships".

During the 1870's, the arrival of the railroad had a great impact on the economy of Stevens Point. The lumber industry branched out from primarily a logging industry to preparing finished wood products for export. During this period, there was tremendous growth in wood-related business. Several saw mills and planing mills sprang up. In turn, furniture factories and paper mills became important industries. This diversification of industries created the need for craftsmen, technicians, and businessmen. Several banks and commercial buildings were constructed to accommodate the needs of the growing industries and the concurrent growing population of the City.

After the turn of the century, commercial growth leveled off. It was during this period that another industry rose which remains today as a vital force in the economy of Stevens Point. In 1914, Hardware Mutual Casualty Company (Sentry Insurance) began business in downtown Stevens Point. From 1920-22, they operated out of an office in the Grand Opera House (#39) prior to construction of their headquarters building on Strongs Avenue (outside of the District) in 1922. This company played a major role as an economic stabilizer during the Depression. The insurance industry has since been a major component in the livelihood of Stevens Point.

Most of the Commercial buildings in the District were constructed during the "lumber boom" days of the 1860's - 1890's. With the exception of the new downtown mall, relatively little new construction has occurred within the District since then to impact its physical appearance. Today, the District remains as the center of commercial activity in Stevens Point.

<u>Map #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BLDG. NAME - ORIG./CURRENT</u>
2	823 Main St.	C. Krembs & Brother Hardware/ Vacant

The Krembs Hardware Co. building was constructed in 1895 as the expanded home of an early local business. The Krembs store was founded by Charles and Alexander Krembs in 1863.⁸

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The Krembs building was originally a most impressive design, unfortunately only the cornice work and mass of the building remain as a reminder of the nineteenth century period.

Charles Krembs, a tinsmith, was the first of the brothers to move to Stevens Point in 1854; his brother followed two years later. Krembs Hardware continued in operation until the early 1960's. During the height of the lumbering era, Krembs was a major outfitter for lumber companies headquartered in the Stevens Point area. The period of significance for the Krembs building is from 1895 to 1920 when the influence of the lumber industry was declining.

Mr. Krembs had written a personal history and enclosed it in the building cornerstone. In the final paragraphs, he states: "It is with pride that I now pay the debt which I owe to our beautiful city and its kind and industrious people. May this stone (cornerstone) prove to be a lasting monument and bear remembrance its founder. May prosperity guard the future, as it has the past and approve of my sincere gratitude. May God bless the soil where upon this structure is built and also those who have directly or indirectly assisted its completion, and Alexander Krembs, May 3, 1895."

10 929 Main St. Spraggon Block/Spurgeons

The Spraggon Block, a two-story brick building was constructed in 1885 after the fire. This store was built by pioneer businessman W.W. Spraggon and leased to J.P. Rothman who opened his C.O.D. general store here. Rothman's store was the principal general store for many years. He prospered and eventually expanded to the building at 1314 Water St. The C.O.D. store is significant as a long-time leader in commercial trade and one of the City's first department stores. Its period of significance is from 1885 to 1900.

12 944 Main St. Schwebach Block/Hostel Shoppe

Built in 1874, this building housed a saloon operated by Benham and Moffitt and later, by one Louie Zimmer. In 1902, it was purchased and renovated as the home of the Wisconsin State Bank. It was the home of that institution for another thirty years until it failed during the Great Depression, the only local bank to fail in the Thirties. Since that time, it has had a number of commercial uses. The second story was used as a meeting hall for two lodges and one encampment of the Odd Fellows, a locally important society. It is also locally told that cock fights were held on the second floor although this cannot be confirmed.

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General A. G. Ellis, editor of The Pinery and the two share the record for the most terms in office. He was also elected to the County Board of Supervisors on several occasions and once to the Stevens Point Board of Education.¹¹

Although the building is not in good repair and has lost a large degree of its architectural integrity, it is the only building remaining in the city which is intimately connected with the life of W.W. Spraggon. The period of significance would be from 1866 to 1885 when the bakery business went to Spraggon's step-son, David Bennett.

71 Intersection of Mathias Mitchell Public Square
Main St./Second St.

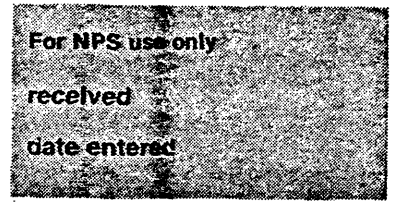
As the lumbering business grew around Stevens Point and along the river, commercial properties grew to service this trade. The Square area became the commercial center of the village.

The trading was not limited to the stores surrounding the Square. It appears that from the beginning the Square itself has been utilized as a trading and gathering area for town people. Farmers would bring produce in season, and more importantly, hay and fire wood to sell to city dwellers. Dozens of horse and oxen teams would occupy the Square where the owners would sell their wares. As time passed, special auction days were organized. In 1912, "fair day" was every third Thursday of the month. On this day, auctioneers would sell stock, furniture, and miscellaneous goods.

With the advent of the automobile and of coal for space heating, the materials sold on the Square changed from hay and wood to produce. This change put the amateur Portage County vendors on the Square in direct competition with local grocers. It also developed that commercial transient merchants began to use the Square. They brought in full truckloads of produce from other areas of the state, staying parked in one place all day or until the load was sold. This foreign professional competition was resented by the local sellers both on and off the Square. The result was the adoption by the City Council on June 23, 1935, of an ordinance regulating the use of the Square by "hawkers, peddlers, and transient merchants". The ordinance required such persons to move their trucks or stands at least 30 feet every 15 minutes. Joseph Bocksbaum, a Milwaukee fruit peddler, brought in a full truckload of fruits and vegetables to sell on September 10, 1935. He was arrested for violation of the ordinance and found guilty in Municipal Court. Appeal was taken to the Circuit Court where Judge Byron B. Park reversed the municipal judge and found for Bocksbaum on the ground the ordinance was unconstitutional because the Common Council had no authority to destroy the market square as a market. The Supreme Court reversed Judge Park and ruled the ordinance was a valid exercise of the City's police power to prohibit or regulate sales on the Public Square and streets even though it was done indirectly under the guise of a traffic regulation. The court found the

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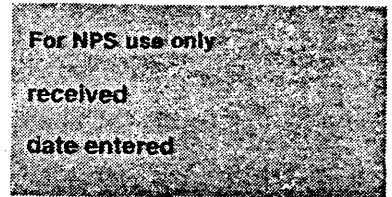
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dedication of the Square to be unrestricted. Therefore, the Council may change the use of the Square at their discretion. (City of Stevens Point v. Bocksbaum, Wis. 1937 274 N.W. 505)

In spite of the decision 137 years after its dedication, the Square continues to be used as a market place by peddlers and hawkers as well as farmers.

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SOCIAL

The District is socially significant primarily as the entertainment and retail hub of the City. Several buildings in the District reflect the Polish heritage of the City. In addition, there are two buildings in the District that were built as investment property by women.

During the growth of the lumber industry the demand for entertainment and facilities for social gatherings grew. Several saloons operated around the Public Square which were frequented by the raftsmen. McCulloch Hall (upstairs #15) served as the first large center for community cultural events. Other important entertainment facilities include a hall in the K. Chilla Building (#47) and the Grand Opera House (#39) which continues to serve as a movie theater today. Several famous entertainers visited and performed here including Tom Thumb and Mdm. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a great vocalist of the time who was proclaimed the "Mother of the American Legion".¹² The Grand Opera House also featured performances by traveling stock companies, lectures and speeches by politicians and other prominent people and presented one of the first motion pictures in the City. In addition to entertainment, the halls also hosted social clubs, weddings and notoriously, local cock fights.

Early settlers of Stevens Point came from a variety of ethnic backgrounds including many Scandinavians, Germans, Yankee-English, and French-Canadians. During the period from 1890-1930, there was a major influx of Polish immigrants to the area. In the City of Stevens Point, persons of Polish descent established a strong ethnic community that's influence remains today. Several buildings in the District have connections to the Polish heritage of Stevens Point. Most notable are the Ossowski and Glinski Building (#9) and the Ule Block (#17) from which two Polish language newspapers were published.

Today, the Polish heritage is celebrated on the Public Square at the annual Polski Festival. While the halls are no longer used for social events, the Grand Opera House (Fox Theater) still retains its function as a entertainment center. Several restaurants and bars exist in the District which today remains the entertainment hub of the City.

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BLDG. NAME - ORIG./CURRENT</u>
8	913-25 Main St.	Kuhl's Block/Gwidt's Drug Store-Hat City

Kuhl's Block was erected in 1885 on a prominent site facing onto Main Street with its west side facing the Public Square. This structure was built immediately after the

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disastrous fire of 1885. It is interesting to note the land was purchased and the building built by Mrs. Kuhl. It was not unheard of but still unusual for a woman to develop property in that time. She did not run a business from the property but constructed the Block as an investment property. The two-story brick building now reads as two buildings due to remodeling and painting of the Gwidt Drug Store (913 Main) portion of the building. The intact second story of 925 Main and the cornice work belt course, and articulated chimney and panels of 913 Main continue to convey a Victorian character in spirit with the district.

9 916-24 Main St. Ossowski (saloon) & Glinski (tailor)/
Point Surplus-Dutch Tailor

This building was constructed by two local Polish businessmen, Nicholas Ossowski, a saloon keeper, and Joseph Glinski, a tailor, in 1890. Ossowski and Glinski are symbolic of the rising influence of the minority Polish ethnic community which did and still does play a significant role in the history and the future of the community. The period of significance for this building is from 1890-1930, years in which the Polish Community was developing as a major part of local society.

The building was designed by Bernard Kolpacki, a Milwaukee architect. Kolpacki, a Germain immigrant, arrived in Milwaukee in 1873 and began work in the building trades. In approximately 1887 he began designing buildings. Kolpacki was responsible for both residential and commercial structures in Milwaukee and other cities. In 1893, Mr. Kolpacki was appointed supervising architect for the Milwaukee Post Office and custom house building. The Milwaukee Federal Building has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.¹³

.15 964 Main St. H.D. McCulloch Block/
Bean Eddy-Gepetto's

The H.D. McCulloch Block was constructed as a double commercial block with a public hall on the second floor which measured 100 ft. by 36 ft. by 19 ft. high. This was the City's first large "cultural center" pre-dating G.F. Andrae's Opera House by 21 years. McCulloch Hall was used for lectures, performances, wedding dances, and other local events. It is significant to the cultural history of the community for that period and it served as the cultural center for the entire community for many years.

The Gepetto's Workbench toy shop on the east end of the building was originally a grand staircase to the second floor.¹⁴

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17 1000 Main St. Ule Block/Parkinson's
Men's Wear

This building, built between 1904-1912, had the Worzalla Dry Goods store on the first floor and J. Worzalla and Sons Publishing on the second which was the Polish language press. Two newspapers, the Rolnik and Gwiazda Polarna were published here. The former developed a state-wide circulation and the latter a national one. The Worzalla Publishing Co. is still operating at another location and Polarna is still published. Given the size and importance of the Polish Community in Stevens Point, it is felt the Ule building is historically significant as the major communication organ of the Polish ethnic community. Period of use is from 1906 to 1958 when a new publishing building was erected.¹⁵ It is also indicative of the rise of importance of the Polish community in Stevens Point.

39 1124 Main St. The Grand Opera House/
Fox Theater—Lee Ayers Jewelers

The Grand Opera House was the focus of much of the social and cultural life of the City. Traveling companies, local charity and civic theater productions, as well as general public gatherings were regular occurrences. Notable among the various public gatherings taking place were speeches by Eugene V. Debs and William Jennings Bryan. As early as 1925, remote broadcast of events presented in the theater were a regular feature of the University of Wisconsin Education radio station, WLBL. In 1931, the stations studios were moved from their Whiting Hotel location to the large hall above the theater. In 1920, the Hardware Mutual (now Sentry Insurance Co.) then recently established, obtained office space in the Opera House.

47 1205-09 Second St. K. Chilla Building/
Home Furnishings-
B.T. Vacuum Sales

Kasimir Chilla built this building in 1892 as a double store with a hall above. He operated his own hardware store in one bay and rented out the other. Chilla's Hall on the second floor was one of several in the downtown used as a meeting hall. It was a popular place for Polish wedding dances and also served as a gymnasium to some social groups.

60 1320-22 Strongs Ave. Tack Block/C.J. Lanagan's Restaurant

Built in 1894, this building was designed by C.C. Buck, a Green Bay architect.¹⁶ This two-story commercial building is historically significant in that it was owned and financed by Miss Flora Tack, a late nineteenth century businesswoman in the City.

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Miss Tack was a milliner whose business prospered allowing her to invest in real estate. At the time of her death in 1898,¹⁷ she owned five other commercial properties in the downtown in addition to the Tack Block, making her one of the downtown's largest landholders. As far as can be determined, Miss Tack was in a rare position for a woman in that period and the leading business-woman in the community. As the remaining building most directly connected with her life, it is eligible for the National Register. The period of significance for the Tack Block is from 1894 to 1898, the year Miss Tack died. The second story was home to Stevens Point's first public library until 1904 when it moved into its permanent home.

71 Intersection of Mathias Mitchell Public Square
Main St./Second St.

The Square has been used for more than a market place. It also was a focal point for civic events. The immigrant populations added their language and dress which lent an old-world character to the area. All this activity gave the Square a certain notoriety. Post cards of the area recorded the colorful flavor of activities on the Public Square and were distributed due to its uniqueness.

During the Civil War, the Square was used as a mustering point for local military units. In 1853, the first flag pole was erected on the Square. It was erected during the City's first Fourth of July celebration.¹⁸ The flag was made by local women who also organized the ceremony. The flag was used at all civic events and on special occasions during the Civil War and after until the whereabouts of the flag became unknown. The original flag pole was replaced by a larger, 121 foot pole, in 1869. This pole became known as the "liberty pole" and stood on the Square until after the turn of the century.

A horse-watering fountain was located in the center of the Square. A statue depicting a boy draining water from a boot was later added. When the fountain was no longer used, the statue was salvaged by the City Fire Department and is functioning in front of their headquarters.

The uniqueness of the Public Square in the Stevens Point area is significant and has played a major role in the social life of the community throughout the years.

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FOOTNOTES

Significance

- ¹Ellis, Albert; Handbook of Stevens Point and Upper Wisconsin; (Ellis, Tracy and Swayze, Stevens Point) 1857 p. 43 (Pfaller-Herbst)
- ²Rosholt, Malcolm, Our Country Our Story Portage County, Wis. (1959, Stevens Point) p. 434-35
- ³Conard, H. The History of Milwaukee v.3 1896 p. 106-07 (Pfaller-Herbst)
- ⁴Point Daily Journal, Jan. 4, 1930
- ⁵Ibid, Jan. 17, 1903
- ⁶Stevens Point City Directory, 1893
- ⁷A History of the City of Stevens Point - Centennial Edition, Portage County Historic Society (1958) p.9
- ⁸Point Daily Journal, June 28, 1958
- ⁹Idid; Stevens Point Daily Journal, 1964
- ¹⁰Wisconsin Pinery, Aug. 9, 1866 p. 1
- ¹¹Portage County Gazette, Aug. 7, 1901
- ¹²Discussion with John Anderson (local historian) Dec. 1985
- ¹³Conard, H. The History of Milwaukee, v. 3 1896 p. 106-07 (Pfaller-Herbst)
- ¹⁴Stevens Point Daily Journal Jan. 14, 1928
- ¹⁵Stevens Point Daily Journal June 28, 1958
- ¹⁶Portage County Gazette, Dec. 26, 1894
- ¹⁷Portage County Gazette, Aug. 3, 1898 (Obituary of Flora Tack)
- ¹⁸Rosholt, M., Our Country Our Story Portage County, Wis. (1959, Stevens Point) p.455

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Boundary Justification/Description

The boundaries of the district encompass Mitchell Square and the buildings facing onto it, and the buildings along Main Street extending approximately three blocks east of the Mitchell Square. Also included within the district are contiguous blocks of buildings along Third Street and Strongs Avenue, extending south from Main Street. This area comprises the concentrated core of the 19th and early 20th century downtown area of the commercial business district.

The areas adjacent to the district are generally distinguished by newer, non-descript construction and various non-commercial uses. Buildings in these areas are not contiguous as are the buildings within the district, but are often interrupted by large parking lots and driveways. The northern boundary of the district is created by a modern shopping mall facility, while further to the east along Main Street residential properties become increasingly common.

Archeological Potential

Due to the continual development of the Public Square—Main Street Historic District from the early 1860's, it is unlikely that significant archeological resources survive undisturbed. Based on the documentation available from the State Historic Preservation Division, no known archeological sites exist within the boundaries.

Preservation Activity

In 1980 and 1982, the city engaged in Architectural Surveys of the downtown commercial district as a means of assessing the city's existing architectural resource. At that time, the city was embarking on a downtown redevelopment project and a strong interest was expressed in the concept of "one downtown" which would integrate new development with the existing late 19th century commercial district. The surveys revealed the feasibility and potential for rehabilitation of existing architecture. As a result, in October of 1984, the Common Council of Stevens Point adopted an Historic Preservation/Design Review Ordinance and A Guidebook on Historic Preservation and Design Review which contains standards consistent with Federal guidelines. A Design Review District was created and a nine member Historic Preservation/Design Review Commission was appointed to review all proposals within the district that would alter the exterior appearance of the buildings and/or streetscapes. In taking these steps, the community formally committed itself to the protection and enhancement of its historic and cultural heritage.

Since its creation in 1984, the Historic Preservation/Design Review Commission has held regular monthly meetings to review incoming proposals. Proposals have ranged from design of the new shopping mall and surrounding parking and pedestrian areas to

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storefront renovations and signage proposals. All proposals must be reviewed and approved by the Commission prior to issuance of a building permit. To date, the Commission has reviewed 56 proposals and approved 51 proposals.

In addition to nominating the downtown commercial district to the National Register, the city is recognized as a Certified Local Government. The city recently received a CLG Grant to provide design services for facade renovation within the historic district. This project is just getting underway and will be completed by July of 1986.

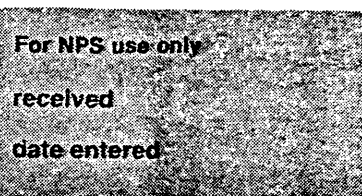
In 1983, the area now comprising the Public Square—Main Street Historic District was officially Determined Eligible for listing in the NRHP as a result of a Section 106 - Compliance project reviewed through our office in connection with the City of Stevens Point and the Advisory Council. (Stevens Point Commercial Historic District 6-21-83).

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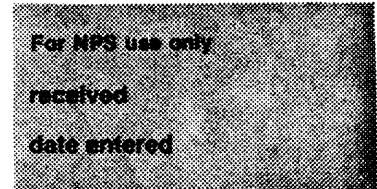
Page -1

Major Bibliographic References

- HNTB, Milwaukee
Intensive Survey of Downtown Stevens Point, 1982 (Charles W. Causier)
- Architectural Survey & Historic Preservation Potential Analysis of Central Stevens Point, Wis. Pfaller-Herbst Associates Inc. Milwaukee Oct. 1980
- Rosholt, Malcom, Our County Our Story Portage County Wisconsin, c 1959 (Portage County Board of Supervisors, Worzalla Publishing Co.)
- A History of the City of Stevens Point Portage County Historical Society c. 1958
- Stevens Point City Directory (1893-1940) (1964)
- Sanborn Perris Maps (1884, 1891, 1898, 1904, 1907-08, 1912, 1915-16, 1922, 1929, 1934)
- Birds-Eye Map of Stevens Point, 1874
- Stevens Point Daily Journal (1872 to date) esp. Special Centennial Issue - June 28, 1958
- Portage County Gazette (1890-1921)
- Wisconsin Pinery (Nov. 27, 1873, Mar. 17, 1864, Aug. 9, 1866)
- Wisconsin Lumberman (June 12, 1868)

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification

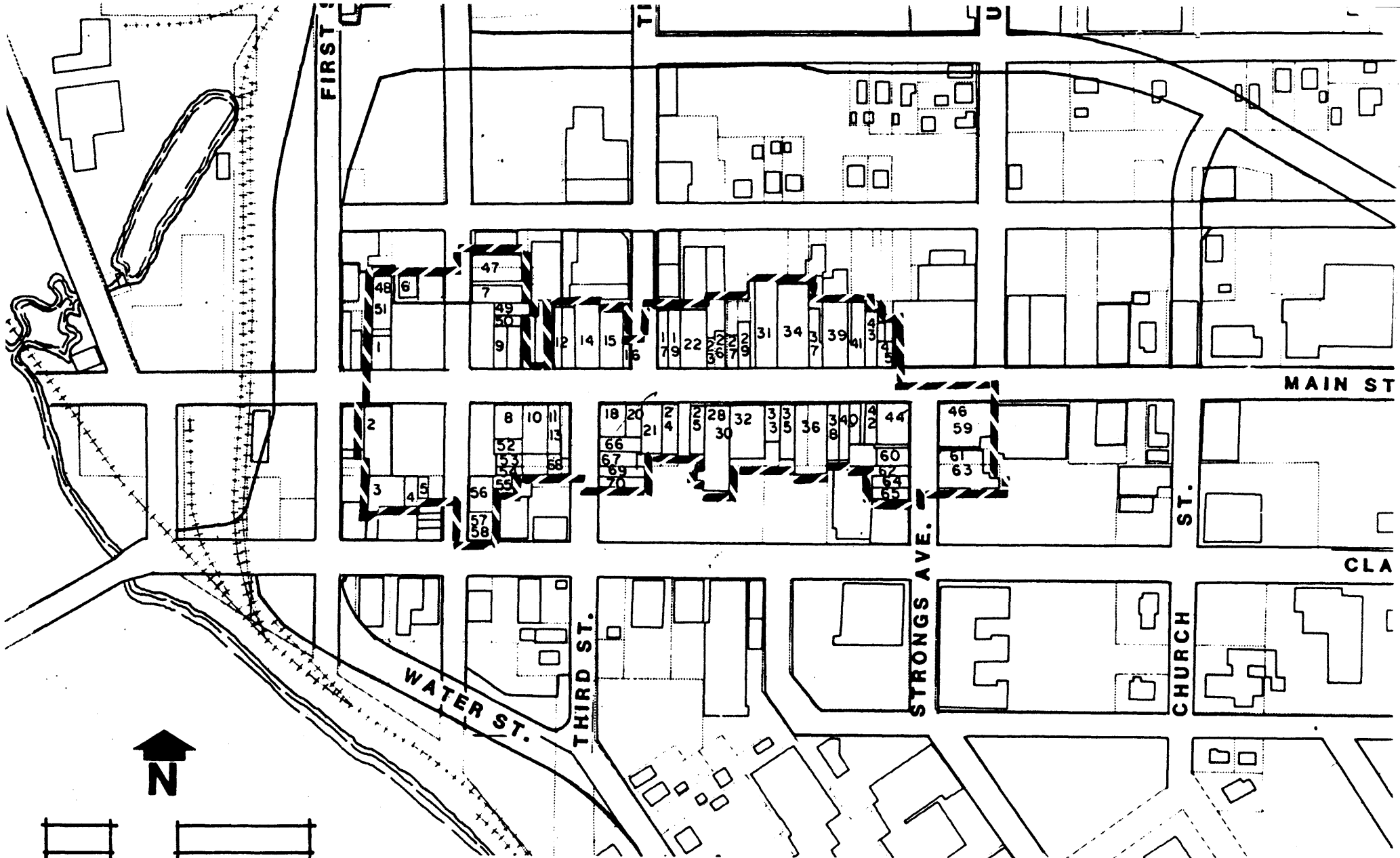
Com on the NW cor of Lot 2 - Blk 6 - S E & O Add., thence South 193', thence East 45', th North 7', th East 5', th North 4', th East 21', th North 3', th East 29', th North 12', th East to the C.L. of Second St, th South along C.L. of sd St to North ROW of Clark St, th East along N ROW of Clark St to the SE Cor of Lot 8 - Blk 5 - S E & O Add., th North 100', th East 32', th North 24', th East to the C.L. of Third St, th South 40' along C.L. sd St, th East 96', th North 40', th East 124', th South 50', th East 50', th North 50', th East 50', th South 18', th East 127', th North 18', th East 75', th South 59', th East to the C.L. of Strongs Ave, th North 8.5' along C.L. of sd St, th East 135', th North 50.5', th West 10', th North to C.L. of Main St, th West along C.L. of sd St 165' West of West ROW of Union St, th North 165' th West 155', th North 35', th West 60', th North 15', th West 51.5', th South 50', th West 135', th S 19', th West to C.L. of Third Court, th South along sd CL.L 68', th West 45', th North 87', th West 117', th South 132' to North ROW of Main St, th W 50', th North 106', th East 25', th North 26', th West 13', th North 92', th West to C.L. of Second St, th South along C.L. of sd St 40', th West 64', th South 4', th West 20.5', th North 12', th West 10', th North 10', th West 77', th South 70', th East 12.3', th South 12', th West 12.3', th South 43', th East 12.3', th South to South ROW line of Main St, th West along sd ROW to POB and there terminating.

11. Form Prepared by:

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Community Development Office
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Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481
(715)346-1567

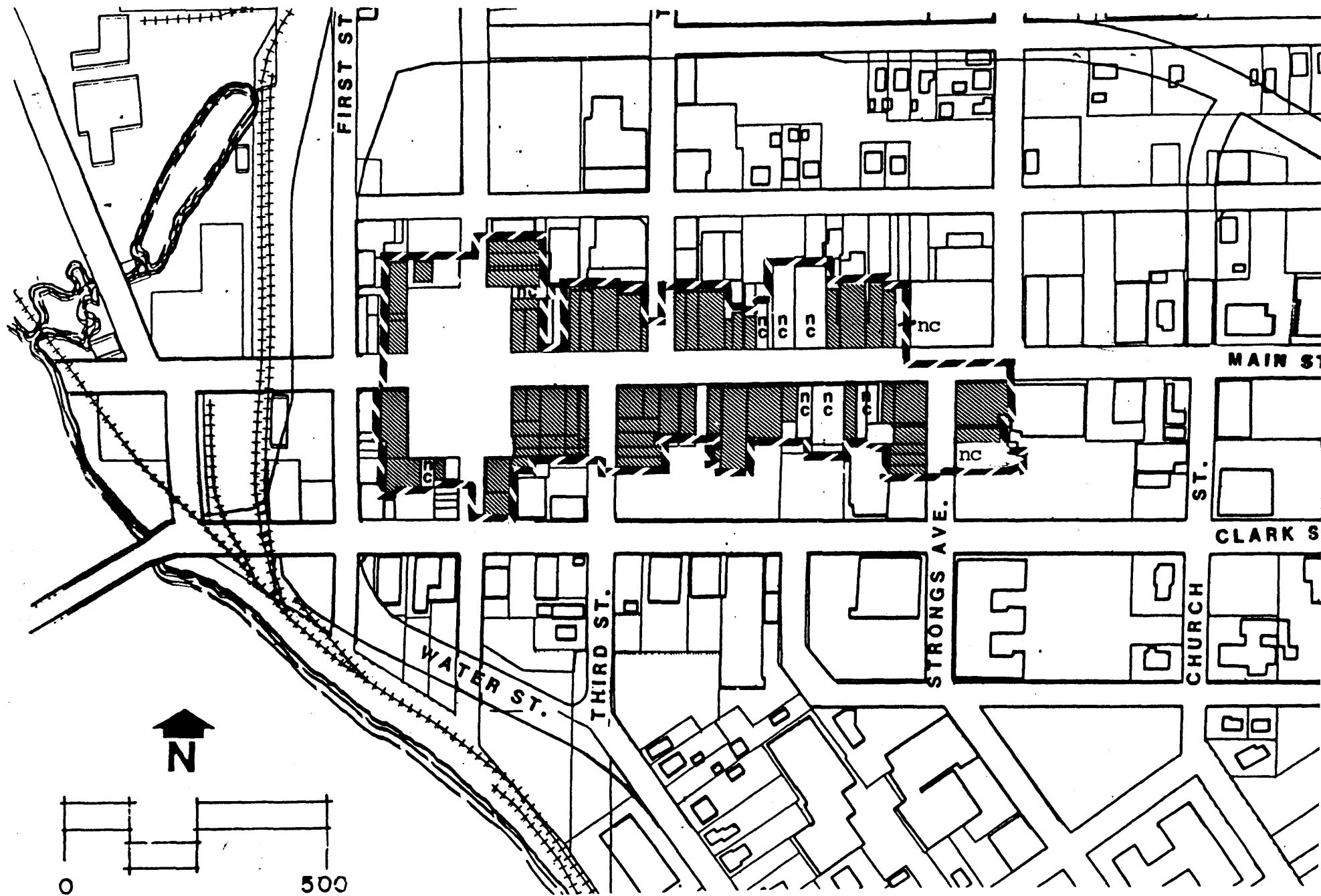
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Architects, Engineers, & Planners
6815 W. Capitol Drive
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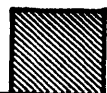


MITCHELL SQUARE-MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT

building identification map



MITCHELL SQUARE-MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT
 building significance



contributing



non-contributing