



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

January 18, 2011

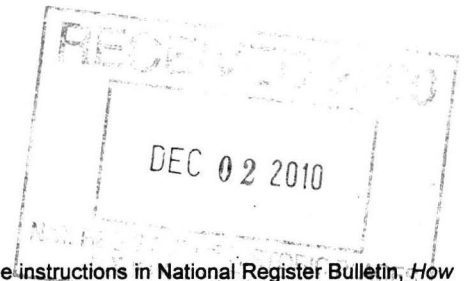
Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1144



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name N/A
other names/site number Norton Downtown Historic District / 137-272

2. Location

street & number Generally bounded by E Lincoln St., S 1st St., E Penn St., and S Norton Ave.
city or town Norton
state Kansas code KS county Norton code 137 zip code 67654

N/A not for publication
 N/A vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Patrick Zolner DSHPO 12/1/10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall 1.18.11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	17	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
44	18	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/department store
- COMMERCE/financial institution
- COMMERCE/organizational
- COMMERCE/restaurant
- (see continuation sheet)

- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/department store
- COMMERCE/financial institution
- COMMERCE/organizational
- COMMERCE/restaurant
- (see continuation sheet)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Spanish Revival

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: BRICK
- CERAMIC TILE
- roof: SYNTHETICS
- other: GLASS

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

The Norton Downtown Historic District is located within the boundaries of the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas. [Figure #1] The 19-acre district is in a commercial, industrial, and civic area between the two original Burlington & Missouri River and Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad alignments that travel along the north and south edges of downtown. The district boundaries form an irregular polygonal area generally bounded on the north by East Lincoln Street, on the south by East Penn Street, on the east by South Norton Avenue, and on the west by South First Street. The District includes sixty-two (62) resources, comprised of forty-three (43) contributing buildings, one (1) contributing structure, seventeen (17) non-contributing buildings, and one (1) non-contributing structure constructed between circa 1887 and 1985. With only eighteen (18) non-contributing resources, over seventy percent (70%) of the resources contribute to the significance of the District. The non-contributing buildings are the same scale as the contributing buildings in the District and do not significantly impact the overall visual and functional cohesiveness of the District. Four vacant lots are scattered throughout the District, however despite these small gaps, the District continues to clearly communicate its historic commercial setting and landscape.

The District's setting and its historic resources represent a cohesive sense of place and reflect Norton's late nineteenth century establishment and nearly a century of commercial and community development. Over 87 percent of the extant resources served a commercial function, several of which had mixed uses and included second-story meeting halls, professional space, and/or residential units. Interspersed among the commercial properties are buildings of various functional types, including industrial (communications), recreational, road-related, and governmental resources. The forty-four (44) contributing resources include buildings and a structure constructed between circa 1887 and 1960. Of the eighteen (18) non-contributing resources, ten date to the period of significance but suffer from a loss of integrity¹ and four are currently less than fifty years of age and will become potentially eligible within the next four to six years.

The District encompasses the largest intact grouping of the commercial, civic, industrial, and road-related resources of Norton's historic central business district, which is anchored by the courthouse square. Most of the contributing resources reflect simple vernacular commercial buildings that reference restrained architectural treatments on basic One-Part Commercial Block and Two-Part Commercial Block building forms. Less than one-third of the resources exhibit popular architectural styles from the period of their construction. The architectural styles of these contributing properties include Queen Anne, Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, Classical Revival, Spanish Revival, and Modern Movement styles including PWA Moderne and Streamlined Moderne. The network of brick-paved streets is counted as a contributing structure.

¹ Seven of these ten resources are believed to retain their historic fabric intact beneath non-historic claddings and secondary applications. In the future, if the non-historic materials and/or infill are removed, these properties should be re-evaluated to determine if they would be contributing elements to the historic district.

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As a contiguous grouping of late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century commercial, institutional, industrial, and road-related resources, the Norton Downtown Historic District retains its historic integrity and continues to communicate important information about its commercial development.

Elaboration

LOCATION AND SETTING

The District's setting and its historic resources reflect its late-nineteenth century establishment and its commercial and community development through the mid-twentieth century. The downtown commercial area's arrangement follows the traditional courthouse square configuration and also illustrates a common commercial alignment perpendicular to the original Burlington & Missouri River Railroad tracks along the north edge of the District. State Street, the primary commercial street, is perpendicular to the east-west aligned tracks and Main Street is parallel to the rail lines. The District reflects a development pattern common to county seats arranged around a central public square. Aligned on the cardinal axes, the courthouse square anchors the adjacent streets of Norton's central business district. All subsequent plats followed the traditional north-south, east-west grid and reflect the courthouse square's influence upon Norton's development patterns. The network of streets is a circulation feature that defines the spatial organization and development patterns of downtown Norton. [Figure #2]

All lots in the District are on a grid system platted between 1878 and 1887, the majority of which belong to the Original Town Plat and the Norton Town Association Plat, both filed in December 1878. Lot sizes vary depending on use (e.g. commercial, institutional, or industrial) and reflect a number of twentieth century parcel boundary alterations as a result of subdivision or merging adjacent parcels/lots. Brick-paved streets, concrete curbs, and concrete sidewalks characterize the commercial streetscapes.² The District's streets are notably wide, measuring between 80 and 93 feet, with S State Street as the exception and measuring a standard 60 feet wide. The associated alleys have a combination of concrete and brick.

The vast majority of the extant buildings served commercial functions, many of which had mixed uses and included first-floor retail and service spaces with storefronts and second-story spaces to accommodate meeting halls, offices for professional services, and residential apartments. Interspersed among the commercial properties are buildings of various uses, including agricultural processing, governmental, domestic, social, industrial, recreational, and road-related resources.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND PROPERTY TYPES

Dating from the late 1880s through the mid-twentieth century, most of the buildings found in the Norton Downtown Historic District are simple masonry commercial buildings of one to two stories. The traditional building materials are red or buff brick and/or limestone. Commercial building designs lacking a definable architectural style dominate the District. When a defined style is present, it is often restrained and/or subtle. While the majority of the contributing resources are One-Part and Two-Part Commercial Block buildings with no discernable style, a number represent a formal architectural style. In particular, they reflect the influences

² State Street is the only thoroughfare in the survey area with concrete paving; all the rest of the streets in the District have brick paving.

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of the popular Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals and the Modern Movement styles of the pre- and post-World War II period. The District also includes one structure – the historic brick-paved street network.

INTEGRITY DISCUSSION

The District's setting and its historic buildings reflect its development as the commercial, agricultural processing, and civic hub of Norton County and as a significant regional railroad market center during the late nineteenth century and through the mid-twentieth century. [Figure #11] Many of the buildings in the District reflect changes and alterations that occurred during the District's period of significance and some of these historic alterations have achieved significance in their own right. The majority of these historic changes reflect the modernization of the first-story storefronts. The replacement of display windows and covering of transoms above the storefronts are the most conspicuous modifications. It is notable that many of these alterations left the original openings and spatial relationships of the storefront intact. As a rule, the upper portions of the primary facades of contributing buildings retain their original integrity and are often the principal means by which to identify the building's original style.

During the post-World War II period, prosperity in Norton stimulated enhancements to existing nineteenth- and early twentieth-century façades and storefronts in an effort to modernize. During this time, the influence of Modern Movement architectural styles prompted the installation of aluminum-framed display windows, structural glass, and façade re-facing with buff-colored brick. Buildings that exhibit alterations made before 1960 reflect the local evolution of commercial architecture in downtown Norton during the District's period of significance. Because many of these changes have gained historical significance in their own right, these buildings are included in the District as contributing resources for their illustration of these trends.

PROPERTY INVENTORY

The following list provides information specific to each resource located within the District. Arranged in order by street name and then by address, the list includes the following information for each building: current street address, historic property name (if known), construction date, significant alteration dates (if known), architect and/or builder (if known), the building's eligibility status, number of stories, architectural style (if applicable), and building form. Style categorizations and building form categorizations are based on Richard Longstreth's *The Buildings of Main Street*, National Register Bulletin 16 *Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms Part A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, and Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Unless otherwise stated, all buildings' roofs are flat and their primary exterior materials are brick.

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SOUTH 1ST AVENUE

01. 117 S 1st Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Brooks Motor Company; Scheetz Motor Company
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1925
Photograph Number: 20, 21

Description:

This auto sales and service building has six bays in the primary (west) elevation, defined by five display windows and a central entrance. Character-defining features include the low bulkhead under the display windows, the lack of applied ornament, the vehicular bays in the side (north and south) elevations, and the historic wall painted signs visible on each elevation. Historic photos show this building retains its historic architectural integrity. [Figure #10]

02. 127 S 1st Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Kent Oil; Kent Filling Station
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1925
Photograph Number: 19, 20

Description:

This filling and service station building is comprised of a prominent hipped drive-through porch with an office at the rear (east) end and a service wing extending north from the office section. The building retains the original porch roof with replacement posts; the original wood sash windows and entrance door, each with transoms, in the office section; and the wood overhead doors in the vehicular service bays of the north wing. A historic, 1930 photo shows this building retains its historic architectural integrity. [Figure #10]

NORTH KANSAS AVENUE

03. 107 N Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Stapp Cabinet Shop
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Photograph Number: 5

Description:

This small commercial building has a center entrance flanked on each side by a large display window. Character-defining features include the stone window sills and the modest patterned brick work across the upper facade wall that provides the only embellishment. The side elevation facing the alley has an additional window and single pedestrian entrance. It shares a party wall with the rear wall of 201 East Main Street.

04. 109 N Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Dr. Lathrop's Dentist Office
Style: Streamlined Moderne
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1938
Photograph Number: 5

Description:

This small building incorporates the key design elements of the Streamlined Moderne style. Character-defining features include the buff-colored brick walls, the curved walls flanking the center-bay entrance, the use of glass block for windows, the shallow aluminum visor awning over the entrance that has horizontal grooves, and the three

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courses of contrasting elongated, white stone on the upper facade wall. Additional features of note include the soldier brick course at the base of the facade wall and the cast stone parapet coping that projects forward slightly. The south elevation faces an alley. It shares a party wall with 111 North Kansas Avenue to the north.

05. 111 N Kansas Ave. *Eligibility:* Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Tweed's Barber Shop
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1955
Photograph Number: 5

Description:

This small building has two, centered single doors, each flanked on the outside by a display window. An aluminum visor awning spans the full width of the storefront system. The facade features red brick cladding with three contrasting yellow brick courses on the upper facade wall. Cast stone forms the parapet coping. It shares party walls with neighboring buildings to the north and south.

SOUTH KANSAS AVENUE

06. 105 S Kansas Ave. *Eligibility:* Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Norton County Courthouse
Style: Classical Revival
Property Type: Institutional: Government
Number of Stories: 3
Date of Construction: 1929
Architect/Builder: Cuthbert & Suehrk (architects); Gurtler & Co. (builder)
Photograph Number: 4

Description:

This courthouse building has four primary elevations, each of which features a colonnaded design motif. The first story is incorporated into a very high, ashlar stone foundation. The two upper stories have light brown brick walls with stone accents. Centered on the east and west elevations are six fluted Corinthian engaged columns spanning the full height of the two upper stories. The north and south elevations have the same arrangement, but fluted pilasters evoke the colonnaded motif instead of columns. The columns and pilasters each support full stone entablatures. Additional character-defining features include: dentillation on the cornice of the raised parapet wall; stone cornice molding supported by stone brackets over each of the entrance doors in the east, west, and south elevations; and the overall strict symmetrical arrangement. The windows are non-historic replacements, however, they are set within the original openings and this alteration does not affect the building's overall ability to convey its historic associations and ability to contribute to the significance of the surrounding historic district.

07. 212 S Kansas Ave. *Eligibility:* Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Lyons, Dr. E.A., House
Style: Queen Anne
Property Type: Single-Family Residence
Number of Stories: 1.5
Date of Construction: c. 1901
Photograph Number: 16, 18

Description:

This house has a gable-on-hip roof with a center cross gable on the front (east) elevation and an intersecting gable wing extending from the rear (west) elevation. The full-width front porch retains the original turned posts and spindlework frieze, as well as the two entrance doors, the north one of which historically led directly into Dr. Lyons' dental office. Character-defining features include the three-part bay window under the porch, the historic screen doors, the decorative wood shingles on each gable wall, the projecting brick hoods over each first-story window, and the original wood sash windows with colored lights enframing the upper sashes. The rear (west) addition dates to circa 1915 and contains a kitchen, a bathroom, and an enclosed porch on the first floor, as well as a small bedroom and open balcony on the upper level. This building is an excellent example of a Queen Anne style house in Norton. It is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

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08. 213 S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Carter Building; Norton Telegram Building

Style: Modern Movement

Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block

Number of Stories: 1

Date of Construction: 1952; 1955

Photograph Number: 15

Description:

This building has an overall, low, horizontal profile characteristic of its Modern Movement style. The original north half dates to 1952 and features salmon-colored tile walls, a continuous horizontal band of metal windows set at the top of the facade wall, a broad aluminum cornice band with horizontal grooves, and an off-center single entrance. The 1955 addition to the south features: a prominent recessed entrance with stone-clad side walls and a roof rising about two feet higher than the remainder of the building; very wide eaves overhang; and a high-set horizontal band of windows that wraps the southwest corner of the building and spans part of the south elevation. This building retains excellent integrity and is a good example of Post-World War II commercial development in downtown Norton. Please see Figure #13.

09. 213A S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Howell Beauty Parlor

Property Type: Ancillary Building

Number of Stories: 1

Date of Construction: c. 1946; c. 1956

Photograph Number: 13

Description:

This gable-front garage building has two bays in the alley (north) elevation. Two, high-set glass-block windows define the bays. The windows are within the circa 1956 concrete infill of the vehicular bay; part of a conversion of the garage into a small commercial beauty shop space. Additional character defining features include: the corrugated metal roof with open eaves and exposed rafter tails; the shiplap, tongue-in-groove novelty siding on the gable wall; and the paired two-over-two windows with horizontally divided wood sashes and concrete sill.

EAST LINCOLN STREET

10. 206 E Lincoln St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Southwestern Bell Telephone Building

Style: Modern Movement

Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block

Number of Stories: 2

Date of Construction: 1956-58

Photograph Number: 6

Description:

This building has two bays in the primary (north) elevation, defined from left to right by a three-part entrance and a three-part window. Character-defining features include: the lack of applied ornament; the large expanses of blank brick wall; the simple visor awning over the two facade bays; the buff-colored brick facing; and the slightly contrasting salmon-colored brick that forms the single rectangular pier support of the visor awning, as well as the adjacent wall space below the first-story window in the west end bay. This building is an excellent example of Modern Movement architecture in downtown Norton.

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11. 206A E Lincoln St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Southwestern Bell Microwave Tower
Property Type: Communications Tower
Number of Stories: 4
Date of Construction: 1985
Architect/Builder: Shepherd Cement Works
Photograph Number: 5, 6, 9

Description:

This poured concrete tower has a triangular footprint. The smooth concrete walls feature a decorative, slight projection of the concrete face rising the full height of the structure at the center of each face. A single pedestrian door is centered in the southwest elevation, accessing the stairs within. Large triangular projections occur at the top of the northwest elevation and just below the top of the east elevation. The roof is flat. This building dates to outside the period of significance.

EAST MAIN STREET

12. 101 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Browne Block
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1907; 1939
Photograph Number: 3

Description:

This building is six bays wide and eleven bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. Each upper-story window features decorative brick work that forms projecting hoods referencing the Italianate style. All upper-story windows are currently covered with plywood and vinyl siding. Dating to a 1939 remodel, the historic first-story display windows and corner entrance arrangement are intact, as is the glass block storefront transom. Character-defining features include: the corbel courses of brick that embellish the cornice; the full-height canted southwest corner; the recently revealed wall-painted sign on the west elevation that reads, "Men's Wear/Browne's/Women's Wear;" and the stone date block at the top of the canted corner bay with letters in relief that read, "M.F. Browne/1907." The second-floor retains a very high degree of integrity with the original central atrium with skylights, open wood staircase, and office entrances trimmed with stained wood remaining.

13. 109 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Ayers Block; Ben Franklin
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1905
Photograph Number: 3

Description:

This building is seven bays wide and seven bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. Each upper-story window features decorative brick work that forms projecting hoods referencing the Italianate style. All upper-story windows are currently covered with painted plywood. The first-story storefront dates to the mid-twentieth century and features smooth burgundy synthetic panels surrounding aluminum-framed storefront display windows on low bulkheads. A non-historic porch with wood shingles spans the south elevation. Non-original stucco clads the east elevation. Character-defining features include: the historic wood cornice molding below the second-story windows; the corbel courses of yellow brick embellishing the cornice; the yellow brick pattern work forming a zigzag motif across the upper facade wall; the use of contrasting red and yellow brick to enliven the upper facade wall; the full-height canted southeast corner; and the stone date block with letters in relief that read, "Ayers/Block/1905." The non-historic porch and covered windows currently prevent the building from clearly conveying its historic associations with the commercial development of downtown Norton. If these non-historic alterations were removed, the building could be reconsidered for potential eligibility as a contributing building to the surrounding historic district.

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14. **201 E Main St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** First National Bank
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1887; 1949-1950
Photograph Number: 3, 4
- Description:**
This building reflects a 1949-1950 remodeling, a common occurrence in the post-World War II era in Norton and commercial centers nationwide. This building is three bays wide and nine bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. Character-defining features include: the smooth, white limestone panels and white brick cladding the south and west elevations; the marble panels cladding the base of each elevation; and the full-height canted southwest corner. The smooth exterior appearance, lack of applied ornamentation, and buff-colored masonry cladding are classic design elements of the Modern Movement style. Though the windows are non-historic, this building retains integrity from the period of its significant remodeling and conveys important historic associations with pattern of post-World War II commercial and architectural development in downtown Norton.
15. **203 E Main St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Moulton Drugs; Garrett's Plumbing and Heating
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1896; 1949-1950
Photograph Number: 3, 10
- Description:**
This building has no visible fenestration. Stucco covers all visible elevations. Three courses of pebble-stone, stylized, hexagonal panels clad the lower third of the primary (south) elevation. Cut-out letters in relief read, "FIRST SECURITY BANK." The building no longer clearly conveys its significant associations with the commercial development of Downtown Norton.
16. **205 E Main St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** First National Bank Annex
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1984
Photograph Number: 3, 10
- Description:**
This building has no visible fenestration on the primary (south) elevation. Stucco covers the south elevation and most of the east elevation. Two courses of pebble-stone, stylized, hexagonal panels clad the lower third of the primary (south) elevation. Three high-set, deeply set windows, a single pedestrian door, and the drive-thru banking window define the five asymmetrical bays in the side (east) elevation. This building dates to outside the period of significance.
17. **215 E Main St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Auditorium; Norton Theater
Style: Streamlined Moderne
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1907; 1948
Photograph Number: 10, 12
- Description:**
This building has a symmetrical facade and retains the original neon canopy. Double-leaf, full-light doors flank each side of the original glass block ticket booth centered in the first story. Additional character-defining features include: the aluminum-framed poster cases embedded in the first-story walls; the smooth stucco wall surface; the large, glass block window openings centered in the upper story; and the vertical, terra cotta coping tiles capping the parapet. This building retains excellent integrity from the period of its historic remodeling and represents the pattern of post-World War II renovations and development in Norton.

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18. 301 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Cole's Standard Oil Service Station
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1953; 2008
Photograph Number: 9, 7

Description:
 This filling and service station has a trapezoidal footprint, formed by the canted southwest corner of the original block. The two large bays at north date to circa 2008, as does the canopy to the east. The recent remodeling also filled in original window openings. The building no longer retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations.

19. 309 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Norton-Decatur Co-Op Electric Company
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1953
Photograph Number: 9

Description:
 This building has a low, horizontal profile, underscored by the aluminum visor awning that spans the central portion of the primary (south) elevation. Additional character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick wall facing; the paired aluminum windows with stone enframements; the multiple wall face depths on the primary elevation; the horizontal grooves in the visor awning; and the recessed, off-center entrance. Though some of the windows have been replaced, they are set within the original openings. The building retains its historic architectural integrity and represents the pattern of post-World War II development in Norton. [Figure #12]

WEST MAIN STREET

20. 101 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Norton City Cafe; First State Bank
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1953; 1964-65
Photograph Number: Figures 18 and 19

Description:
 This building has a single bay in the primary (south) elevation that contains a four-part display window. The secondary (east) elevation has thirteen asymmetrically arranged bays, comprised of single pedestrian entrances and high-set display windows. The south and north elevations have stone cladding dating to the 1964-65 remodeling that linked it with the bank building to the west (105 W Main Street). The east elevation has the original buff-colored brick exposed. Four display windows in the east side elevation have glass block or vinyl siding infill. The building clearly reflects the bank's intentional effort to convey an 'up-to-date' aesthetic to the public and it retains good integrity from the period of remodeling. The facade remodeling dates to just outside the period of significance and the building is currently counted as a non-contributing resource. However, if integrity is maintained, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility in three to four years.

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21. 105 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Cozy Theater; Commonwealth Theater; First State Bank
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1920; 1964-65
Architect/Builder: Rouse, Bill (remodel)
Photograph Number: 2, Figures 18 and 19

Description:

This building's appearance reflects a 1964-65 remodeling that linked it with the one-story building to the east (101 W Main Street). The primary (south) facade features uncoursed stone cladding on the west half and a full-height aluminum-framed curtain wall on the east half, a common design motif of the early to mid-1960s. The building clearly reflects the bank's intentional effort to convey an 'up-to-date' aesthetic to the public and it retains good integrity from the period of remodeling. The facade remodeling dates to just outside the period of significance and the building is currently counted as a non-contributing resource. However, if integrity is maintained, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility in three to four years.

22. 111 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Melroy Cafe
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1928
Photograph Number: 2

Description:

This building has two bays in the primary (south) elevation, defined by the paired, one-over-one light, wood windows in the upper story. The first-story arrangement features a pedestrian entrance to the second floor and a recessed retail entrance flanked on each side by a display window. Character-defining features include: the brown brick facing on the south and east elevations; the soldier brick lintels that form continuous belt courses; the header brick sills and parapet cap; the transom windows over the first-story fenestration; and the wood-framed, three-quarter light storefront entrance door.

23. 115 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Ward Brothers Garage
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1917
Photograph Number: 2

Description:

This simple auto sales and garage building has four bays in the primary (south) elevation, defined by three storefronts and a central window. The west side elevation has six bays, defined from left to right by a vehicular bay, three small square windows set high in the wall, and two large display windows. Though a 1940s photo shows a drive-through porch at the southwest corner of the building, a circa 1918 photo shows display windows in the southwest corner bays, as the building appears today. Courses of soldier and header brick provide modest embellishment to the upper facade wall. Historic photos show this building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significant historic associations with the commercial development of downtown Norton.

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NORTH NORTON AVENUE

24. **112 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Garrett's Plumbing and Heating
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1946; c. 1951
Photograph Number: 8
- Description:**
This building is six bays wide and five bays deep. Window and door openings define the bays. The primary (east) elevation has two single pedestrian entrances and four large display windows arranged asymmetrically. Character-defining features include the buff-colored brick facing, the salmon-colored hollow tile side walls, the header brick windowsills, the header brick enframingent on the upper facade wall, and the small aluminum visor awning over the central entrance.
25. **113 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) Building
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1966
Photograph Number: 7, Figures 20 and 21
- Description:**
This building has six bays in the primary (west) elevation, defined by asymmetrically arranged single, full-light aluminum-framed pedestrian doors and a single high-set window. Elongated, narrow, brown brick facing laid in a running bond clads the west and north elevations, with stacked stretcher courses at wall corners and framing each opening. A visor awning spans the full width of the west and north elevations surmounted by a non-historic canopy sign at the northwest corner. Unique, embedded glass blocks arranged in diagonal pairs and groups of three appear at irregular intervals on each elevation. Each glass block features a different geometric pattern in relief in the molded face and a colored back panel within the block. Low brick planters adjacent to most entrance doors appear to be original to the design with matching, elongated brown brick. A 1979 addition extends from the north end of the rear (east) elevation, creating an overall L-shaped plan. If integrity is maintained, this building will be potentially eligible within the next few years and could be reconsidered for potential eligibility.
26. **116 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Acme Glass; Harding Glass; Hahnenkratt Glass Company
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1928
Photograph Number: 8, 6
- Description:**
This building is three bays wide and seven bays deep. Window and door openings define the bays. The primary (east) elevation has a center entrance flanked on each side by a display window. The north side elevation has six single windows and a vehicular bay at the rear (west) end. Additional character-defining features include the shaped parapet, the header brick sills, and the header brick enframingent on the upper facade wall.

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SOUTH NORTON AVENUE

27. **101 S Norton Ave.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Fleming's Hudson; Wingfield Motor Company; City Motors Dodge
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1917; c. 1950
Photograph Number: 11, 7, 9
- Description:**
 This building has four bays in the primary facade, defined by three display windows and a pedestrian entrance. The primary facade has a Perma-stone facade treatment that appears in a 1951 photograph. The display windows are intact, though their transoms are covered with wood. The side elevation has six bays, defined by two vehicular bays, two small square windows set high in the wall, a single pedestrian entrance, and a display window at the west end bay. The parapet has a raised center section that hides a barrel roof. Additional character-defining features include the rectangular sign panels on the upper facade wall and the remnant wall painted sign on the north side elevation. Though the Perma-stone facade treatment is not original, this was a common post-World War II treatment of building facades throughout the Midwest as property owners strove to update their appearance. The building retains sufficient integrity to communicate its significant commercial associations with downtown Norton, and post-World War II development in particular. Please see Figure #14.
28. **105 S Norton Ave.** *Eligibility:* Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Sebelius Building
Style: Shed Style
Property Type: Commercial: Office Building
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1982
Photograph Number: 11
- Description:**
 This building has a shallow pitched hipped roof with a large, shed roof, vertically projecting dormer at the center. Additional character-defining features include the stone wall cladding, the wide eaves, and the recessed off-center entrance. This building dates to outside the period of significance and is therefore counted as a non-contributing resource.
29. **210 S Norton Ave.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** OK Tire Shop
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1946
Photograph Number: 13
- Description:**
 This building has three bays in the primary (east) elevation. A recessed center entrance and two display windows define the three symmetrical bays. A stepped parapet on both the primary (east) and rear (west) elevations conceals the barrel roof. The north side elevation along the alley has four bays, defined by two fixed-sash windows, a large vehicular bay, and an original one-by-one sliding wood sash window. Additional features of note include: the stucco cladding on each elevation, which by oral history accounts and a 1951 photo is original; the lack of any applied ornamentation; the concrete block construction; and the three original one-by-one sliding wood sash windows in the rear (west) elevation. This simple functional building retains good integrity and contributes to the commercial significance of the district.

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SOUTH STATE STREET

30. **101-103 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Masonic Lodge; Western Auto; Horney Appliance
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1947
Photograph Number: 1, 17, 24
- Description:**
 As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this end building has three primary elevations - north, east, and west. Character-defining features include: the full-height canted corners; the buff-colored brick facing; the stepped, ashlar stone surrounding the upper-floor entrances centered in the east and west elevations; the curved visor awnings over the retail entrances at each canted corner; the four continuous soldier brick belt courses across the entire upper facade wall; the cast stone medallions and belt courses across the parapet wall face at cornice level; and original full-light wood paneled entrance doors with transoms recessed in the center of the east and west storefronts. Additional original elements include: the historic one-over-one light wood sash windows in the four windows at the south end of the east elevation; low brick bulkheads below each storefront display window; the distinct angle to the storefront display windows, projecting out from the base to the head; and the sidelights flanking each retail entrance. Though not original, the glass block infill in most of the upper-story window openings does not compromise the overall ability of this building to communicate its historic associations.
31. **102 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Dunbar's Shoe Store; Moffet Drug Store
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Photograph Number: 1, 2, 23
- Description:**
 This building has a recessed, canted corner at the northeast corner with a square brick support post and the flush entrance in the angled wall. The storefront configuration is historic and includes a brick bulkhead with stone sills. Non-historic display windows with multi-light snap-in muntins fill the original openings. A non-historic pent roof with wood shingles spans the majority of the east and north elevations. Three small square window openings in the upper wall of the north elevation have brick infill. Soldier and header brick courses provide modest embellishment to the upper facade wall. The cumulative effect of the non-historic pent roof and display windows compromises this building's ability to clearly convey its historic associations. If these alterations were reversed, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.
32. **104 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Bower's Barber Shop
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Photograph Number: 1, 23
- Description:**
 This tiny building has a narrow, aluminum-framed storefront system that includes a pedestrian entrance (north) and a small display window (south). Character-defining features include: its diminutive size; the buff-colored brick facing; the stucco treatment to the upper facade wall; the cast stone coping on the parapet wall; and the course of soldier brick over the storefront. A 1951 photograph shows it much as it appears today, with the stucco treatment on the upper facade.

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33. 105 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Duckwall's
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1946
Photograph Number: 1, 17, 24
- Description:**
As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this building has two primary elevations - east and west - each of which has three symmetrical bays defined by upper-story fenestration. The second-story windows consist of tripartite units with glass block sidelights and a hopper sash central section. Additional character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick walls; the lack of applied ornamentation; cast stone parapet coping; and the visor aluminum canopy over each storefront.
34. 106 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Abbey's Toggery; Hall's Clothing
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Photograph Number: 1, 23
- Description:**
This building's storefront has a broad recessed center entrance flanked on each side by a display window resting on a low bulkhead. Character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick wall cladding; the stucco treatment to the upper facade wall; the narrow glass block storefront transom; the aluminum visor canopy over the storefront; the peaked parapet wall; the aluminum-framed storefront; the cast stone parapet coping; and the vertical blade sign with painted letters reading, "HALL'S." A 1951 photograph shows it much as it appears today, with the stucco treatment on the upper facade, the vertical blade sign, and the visor awning.
35. 107 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Stapleton Drugstore
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1890; 1946
Photograph Number: 1, 17, 24
- Description:**
As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this building has two primary elevations - east and west - each of which has three bays defined by upper-story fenestration. The second-story windows are single, one-over-one light wood sash units. Additional character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick walls; the lack of applied ornamentation; patterned brick work at cornice level forming a dentillated motif; and the visor aluminum canopy over each storefront. Each storefront retains the historic aluminum framing, recessed center entrance, and curved glass display windows resting on very low bulkheads.
36. 108 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Hall's Clothing
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Photograph Number: 1, 23
- Description:**
This building's storefront has a recessed center entrance flanked on each side by a display window resting on a low bulkhead. Character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick wall cladding; the stucco treatment on the upper facade wall; the narrow, glass block transom; the aluminum visor canopy over the storefront; the cast iron storefront lintel; the aluminum-framed storefront system; and the cast stone parapet coping. A 1951 photograph shows it much as it appears today, with the stucco treatment on the upper facade.

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37. 109-113 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Moulton's Drugstore; Cottage Shop; Hall's Real Estate

Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals

Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block

Number of Stories: 2

Date of Construction: c. 1906

Photograph Number: 1, 17, 22, 24

Description:

As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this building has three separate first-story retail spaces (and currently three separate parcel numbers and owners) and a unified upper story linked by a shared atrium. It has two primary elevations - east and west. Each elevation has nine bays, defined by upper-story fenestration. Character-defining features include: the pressed metal cornice; the cast iron hoods over each upper-story window; the tall, narrow, upper-story window openings with stone sills containing many of the historic one-over-one light wood sashes; and the unique arched recessed porch centered in the second story of the east elevation. Five of the six storefronts retain integrity and date to post-World War II updates. The interior of the second story retains a very high degree of integrity and features the original skylights in the atrium, half-light wood office doors with transoms and sidelights, wood floors, door and window surround trim, pressed metal ceilings, and historic light fixtures.

38. 110 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Pool Hall

Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block

Number of Stories: 1

Date of Construction: c. 1937

Photograph Number: 1, 23

Description:

This building has a recessed center entrance flanked on each side by a display window resting on a low bulkhead. Character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick wall facing; the contrasting red brick diamond motif in the upper facade wall; the narrow glass block transom; the historic full-light wood-framed entrance door; and the cast stone parapet coping. A 1951 photograph shows it much as it appears today, with the existing storefront in place.

39. 112 S State St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Vern Lee Building; Isaac Furniture

Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block

Number of Stories: 1

Date of Construction: c. 1946

Photograph Number: 1, 22, 23

Description:

This broad building has a central recessed bay that contains the double-leaf entrance with sidelights. The remainder of the street-level facade contains aluminum-framed storefront display windows divided by the original brick piers, which are concealed by pebble stone panels. A historic, single pedestrian door with transom is at the south end. The historic aluminum visor canopy spans the full width of the facade. An engaged brick pier with cast stone cap is visible at the south end of the upper facade, however non-historic metal siding covers the remainder of the upper facade wall. If the upper non-historic cladding was removed and the original materials found to be intact underneath, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.

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40. **115-117 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Virtue Store; McDonald's Clothing
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1903
Photograph Number: 1, 17, 22, 24
- Description:**
 As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this building has two primary elevations - east and west. The upper facade wall of each elevation has non-historic metal cladding concealing the historic facade. The storefronts in the east and west elevations date to the post-World War II period and were in place by circa 1959. The west elevation has two flush, aluminum-framed retail storefronts, each with a center entrance and flanking display windows resting on low bulkheads. A historic full-light wood-framed door to the second story is centered in the first story of the west elevation, between the two storefronts. The east elevation has a single broad storefront with very low bulkheads and a central recessed double-leaf retail entrance. A single full-light wood-framed door with transom at the north end of the east elevation leads to the second story. This building's appearance reflects late twentieth century alterations and does not clearly communicate its historic associations. If the non-historic siding were removed from the upper story and the historic materials found to be intact below, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.
41. **116 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Boxler Insurance; Gordon Realtors
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Photograph Number: 1, 22, 23
- Description:**
 This very small building has a recessed entrance at the south end and a small display window at the north end. The upper facade wall has an applied stucco finish. Oral history interviews indicate the building appears as it did in the 1950s. The building appears in a 1951 photograph much as it does today, including the stucco treatment to the upper facade wall.
42. **116-1/2 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Coe Barber Shop
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Photograph Number: 1, 22, 23
- Description:**
 This building has a center entrance flanked on each side by a display window on brick bulkheads. The upper facade wall has a smooth stucco finish, a common affordable 'modern' update in the post-WW II period. A very shallow visor awning spans the storefront. Oral history interviews indicate the building appears as it did in the 1950s. The building appears in a 1951 photograph much as it does today, including the stucco treatment to the upper facade wall. Please see Figure 11.
43. **118 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** J.C. Penney Company
Style: Streamlined Moderne
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1946
Photograph Number: 1, 22, 23
- Description:** This building retains its historic center-bay recessed storefront entrance flanked on each side by aluminum-framed display windows on low bulkheads. The single-leaf, full-light aluminum door has a transom above. The entire facade has Carrara glass cladding in green and black. The historic aluminum visor awning spans the storefront. This building retains very good integrity for its original period of construction.

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44. 119 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Marsh Building; Rexall Drugstore
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1904; 1958
Photograph Number: 17, 22, 24
- Description:**
 As part of a block of buildings that face onto both S State Street and S Kansas Avenue, this end building has three primary elevations - east, west, and south. It is four bays wide and seven bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. The original, tall narrow, second-story window openings are intact with their stone sills and highly decorative projecting brick hoods that evoke the Italianate style. Each of the storefronts (east and west elevation) dates to a circa 1959 remodeling, a common occurrence in downtowns nationwide after World War II. Additional character-defining elements include: the extensive brick corbelling at cornice level and rising above the parapet wall; the full-height canted corners on both the southeast and southwest call junctions; the original segmental arched first-story utility opening centered in the south elevation; and the stone sign block centered in the cornice of the south elevation with letters in relief that read, "W.H. Marsh/1904." Despite the non-historic pent roof spanning the top of each storefront and the non-historic window units in the original upper-story openings, the building continues to convey its important associations among a dense block of downtown commercial buildings.
45. 120 S State St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** First State Bank
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1907; c. 1950
Photograph Number: 1, 22, 23
- Description:**
 This building is three bays wide and twelve bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. The original tall, narrow window openings are intact with their stone sills and decorative terra cotta lintel treatments. Character-defining features include: the yellow brick walls; the contrasting terra cotta accents and decorative panels that include garlands and swags and engaged column motifs; the full-height canted southeast corner; and the recessed wall face at each window opening. Until recently, the building had a mid-twentieth century smooth, applied wall treatment, the application of which resulted in the loss of the elaborate applied ornamentation shown in earlier photographs. Though historic materials have been revealed, a high number of original elements are missing including the tower structure, the broken pediment over the entrance, the historic windows, the cornice, and the arched entrance. If some of these elements were restored, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.
46. 205 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Kent Service Station
Style: Spanish Revival
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1934
Photograph Number: 16, 18, 19
- Description:**
 This auto filling and service station has four bays defined by engaged piers that rise above the parapet wall. The bays contain, from left to right (north to south), two vehicular bays, a narrow pedestrian entrance, and a display window. The piers rise above the roof and have shaped terra cotta capitals and a diamond motif on the west face. Between each pier, at cornice level, a clay tile pent roof spans the primary (west) elevation wall, characterizing the Spanish Eclectic/Spanish Revival style. Additional character-defining features include: the smooth stucco wall finish;

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the historic wood framed full-light entrance door with transom; and the wood paneled overhead doors in the vehicular bays. A concrete block addition to the rear will expand the interior space while respecting the historic character. This building clearly conveys its historic associations and contributes to the district's significance.

EAST WASHINGTON STREET

47. **108 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Fulcrut Dry Goods; Sears Catalog Store
Style: Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1900
Photograph Number: 17, 24
- Description:**
 This building reflects an eclectic combination of nineteenth century revival styles through the use of: stone corner quoins; corbel brick courses that create projecting blocks at regular intervals along the cornice giving a castellated effect; the corbel courses of brick that create a dentillated cornice; and the brick hoods with stone corner blocks that reference the Italianate style. The building is three bays wide and seven bays deep. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. The original tall, narrow window openings are intact, though currently filled with plywood. Despite the plywood infill, the original openings and their character-defining embellishments are clearly legible. Historic metal stairwells are intact on the east and south elevations, one of which appears in a circa 1920 photograph. The existing storefront is a late twentieth century alteration that although non-historic, is largely reversible and does not affect the building's overall ability to convey its historic commercial associations with downtown Norton.
48. **202 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Savings & Loan; Heritage Savings Association
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1964
Photograph Number: 15, Figures 22 and 23
- Description:**
 This building has a low, horizontal profile underscored by the continuous visor awning that spans the full width of the long, west side elevation. The high-set pairs of horizontal window on the west elevation further enhance the horizontality. Additional character-defining features include: the very dark brown brick facing; the stacked brick courses forming the primary (north) elevation; and the slightly recessed facade wall at the northwest corner entrance. This building retains excellent integrity for its period or construction and if maintained, will be eligible in a few years.
49. **204 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Hixon Jewelers; Worden's Jewelers
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1930; c. 1946
Photograph Number: 14
- Description:**
 Though portions of this building may date to before 1930, the exterior appearance dates to the late 1940s. The primary (north) elevation features the original recessed center entrance with a circa 1960 flush entrance door flanked on each side by a display window. The upper facade wall retains the decorative projecting header brick forming a diamond motif. A 1940s photo shows the upper facade wall as it appears today. Additional character-defining features include: the buff-colored brick wall facing; the relatively tall display window bulkheads; the slightly projecting engaged brick piers at each end of the facade that rise above the parapet wall with a distinctive curve; the shaped parapet with cast stone coping; and the historic full-light wood-framed recessed entrance door with diagonal pull bars and glass block sidelights.

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50. 206 E Washington St.

Eligibility: Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Ambrose Creamery
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1920; c. 1950
Photograph Number: 14

Description:

This building's storefront has a recessed entrance at the west end and a three-part display window on a high bulkhead at the east end. The facade appearance dates to a c1950 update, when numerous buildings downtown experienced facade remodeling. The existing storefront features Perma-stone cladding on the bulkhead and on the side walls of the recessed entrance, an aluminum framed display window system, and stucco cladding on the upper facade wall. The simple corbel courses of brick at the top of the parapet wall are original. This building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic commercial associations, in particular for what it represents about post-World War II development in downtown Norton.

51. 208-210 E Washington St.

Eligibility: Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Lyons Building; Norton Bakery Building
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: 1921
Photograph Number: 14

Description:

This building is six bays wide. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. The first story has a recessed center entrance bay flanked on each side by a storefront. The recessed center bay contains the entrances to each of the flanking storefronts, as well as the entrance to the upper story. The west storefront retains the following features: the large, historic display windows; storefront transom; low brick bulkhead; and historic entrance door with transom above. Non-historic wood siding currently covers the east storefront. The upper-story entrance and the entrance to the west storefront both retain the historic wood paneled doors and transoms above. Additional character-defining features include: the modest embellishment to the upper facade wall in the form of a belt course of soldier and header brick at cornice level; the cast stone parapet coping; the historic wood one-over-one sash windows; and the stone sign block centered at cornice level with letters in relief that read, "1921-BY/DR-LYONS." Despite the non-historic concealment of the east storefront, this alteration is reversible and the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic commercial associations. The utilitarian historic outbuilding is intact and has a gable roof, poured concrete walls, and a large service bay in the south elevation.

52. 208-210AE Washington St.

Eligibility: Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Lyons Building Garage
Property Type: Ancillary Building
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1921
Photograph Number: 13

Description:

This gable-front garage has a rectangular footprint and poured concrete walls that clearly show the relief patterns of the lumber forms required for its construction. A single vehicular bay is centered in the alley (south) elevation and contains a pair of double-leaf metal doors with three-part steel sash windows in the upper quarter. Additional features of note include: the diamond-shaped window centered in the gable wall, the corrugated metal roof with tight eaves, and the single pedestrian door at the north end of the east side elevation.

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53. 212 E Washington St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Undetermined
Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 2
Date of Construction: c. 1918
Photograph Number: 14
- Description:**
This building has three facade bays. Upper-story fenestration defines the bays. A recessed entrance to the upper story is at the west end of the first story. A single door and a small window define the storefront area at the east end of the first story. Secondary vinyl siding obscures the entire facade and all historic material that may be intact underneath. If this siding was removed and the original materials found to be intact underneath, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.
54. 214 E Washington St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Undetermined
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1900
Photograph Number: 14
- Description:**
This building has a center recessed entrance flanked on each side by display windows. The facade has non-historic wood siding concealing any and all historic materials and the building no longer conveys its historic associations. If the wood siding was removed and the historic materials found to be intact underneath, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.
55. 301 E Washington St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Municipal Building; City Hall
Style: Modern Movement
Property Type: Institutional: Government
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1954
Architect/Builder: Metz, John (architect); Davidson, Forest (builder)
Photograph Number: 11, 12
- Description:**
This building has asymmetrical fenestration and an overall low, horizontal profile characteristic of its Modern Movement style. Located on a corner lot, the building has two primary elevations - west and south. Character-defining features include the vehicular bays at the north end of the west elevation, the high-set windows with stone enframements, the buff-colored brick walls, the alternating recessed and projecting wall faces, the limestone parapet coping, and the overall lack of applied ornament. The non-historic addition at the rear of the east side elevation and the replacement entrance door and glazing system do not affect the building's overall ability to convey its historic associations with the significant post-World War II development in downtown Norton.
56. 306 (302-308) E Washington St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
- Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Post Office
Style: PWA Moderne
Property Type: Institutional: Government
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1935
Architect/Builder: Simon, Louis A. (architect); Melick, Neal A. (engineer); Marchbank, J.H. (builder)
Photograph Number: 14
- Description:**
This building clearly conveys the transitional PWA Moderne style, which is described by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as "stripped classicism." This primary facade features a strict symmetry expressed by

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embedded, fluted pilasters with cast stone capitals. The building is five bays wide and four bays deep. Large, multi-light wood windows define the bays. The interior lobby retains the original wood-framed entrance air lock and the floor and wall tile.

WEST WASHINGTON STREET

57. **101 (109) W Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Corner Cafe
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Photograph Number: 19

Description:

This building has a low, horizontal profile. The historic projection of the walls at the southeast corner extends the restaurant interior at this location. A non-original, continuous band of display windows spans the north half of the east elevation and wraps the east third of the north elevation. The stucco wall sheathing is non-original and likely dates to the 1940s, appearing in a 1951 photo. The original vehicular bays have been filled and non-historic pent roof elements have been applied to the south, east, and north elevations. If these non-historic secondary elements were removed and the original material found to be intact underneath, the building could be reevaluated for potential eligibility.

58. **102 W Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Ayers Auto Supply
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1917
Photograph Number: 18, 19

Description:

This building has four bays in the primary (north) elevation. An entrance at the east end and three display windows define the bays. The east side elevation has four bays, defined by a display window at the north end and three small square windows set high in the wall. Courses of header brick form the only embellishment and are found below the windowsills, as an enframingent in the upper facade wall, and atop the parapet walls. The windows are aluminum-framed replacements occupying the original openings and date to the mid- to late-twentieth century. A historic photo shows the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic commercial associations.

59. **109 W Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Coca-Cola Bottling Warehouse
Property Type: Commercial Warehouse
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1946
Photograph Number: 21, Figure 11, 24, and 25

Description:

This large utilitarian building has a gable-front roof and two primary, vehicular freight elevations – the south elevation facing West Washington Street and the alley (west) elevation. The walls and roof retain the original corrugated metal siding. True to its functional property type, large vehicular bays characterize the primary elevations, with four in the alley (west) elevation and one in the south elevation. The historic wood-paneled overhead doors with two central rows of lights remain in the west elevation bays and the original double-leaf sliding metal doors are intact on the south elevation. Historic multi-light steel windows occupy the four bays in the rear (north) elevation. A small metal emblem on the south elevation has letters in relief that read, "Starbilt/Star Mfg. Co./Okla. City" Oral history interviews with long-time residents, the current owner, and the original owner who built it, confirm the building's construction date and integrity. The only apparent alterations are the introduction of non-historic fiberglass overhead door in the south elevation vehicular bay behind the original sliding doors and covering of one vehicular bay on the alley elevation. These alterations do not affect the overall integrity of the building or its ability to convey its important associations with the post-World War II development of downtown Norton. A non-historic ancillary building stands immediately adjacent to the east.

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60. **109A W Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Non-contributing
Property Type: Ancillary Building
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: c. 1980
Photograph Number:
Description:
 This ancillary building to the east has a gable-front roof and a rectangular footprint. A large vehicular bay is centered in the primary (south) elevation and contains a multi-paneled overhead door. Corrugated translucent fiberglass covers the gable wall and vertical wood siding covers the remainder of the facade wall. The roof is metal. This building's construction date is outside the period of significance and is therefore counted as a non-contributing resource.
61. **111-115 W Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Coca-Cola Bottling Plant; Norton Bottling Works
Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block
Number of Stories: 1
Date of Construction: 1927
Photograph Number: 19, 21
Description:
 This building has eight bays in the primary (south) elevation. Asymmetrically arranged openings, comprised of display windows and pedestrian entrances define the bays. Character-defining features include: the lack of applied ornament; the very low bulkheads under the display windows; the cast stone windowsills and parapet coping; the vehicular bays along the alley elevation; and the original multi-light steel sash windows with central hopper sashes in the east side elevation. A rear addition expanded the north elevation between 1932 and 1951. The display windows, though not original, are set within the original openings. The west end pedestrian entrance contains the original wood-framed, half-light door with transom above. Despite non-original alterations, such as the brick infill of the east end display window, the changes are largely reversible and do not compromise the overall ability of the building to clearly convey its historic commercial associations.
62. **Brick Street Network** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Property Type: Paved Roadway
Date of Construction: 1919-1920
Photograph Number:
Description:
 The historic network of brick-paved streets is a significant transportation feature of the District and is intact throughout the district, with the exception of the concrete-paved roadway along South State Street. The street configuration follows a standard cardinal grid axis. The dark red and plum-colored bricks are laid in a regular coursed pattern perpendicular to the traveling direction, except at intersections where the courses are diagonally aligned. Street widths are unusually wide, measuring between 80 and 93 feet, again with S State Street as the exception at a standard 60 feet wide. The associated alleys have a combination of concrete and brick. Concrete curbs and sidewalks and tall, 'cobra head' light posts flank the streets throughout. The network includes: the 100 block of W Main Street; the 100-300 block of E Main Street; the 100 block of West Washington; the 100-300 block of E Washington; the 100 block of N Norton Avenue; the 100-200 block of S Norton Avenue; the 100 block of N Kansas Avenue; the 100-200 block of S Kansas Avenue; the alley behind (north) the 100 block of W Washington; and the alley behind (south) the 100 block of E Washington.
- The historic network of brick streets retains a high degree of historic integrity and clearly conveys its character-defining features. Given the importance of this cultural landscape element to the significance of the historic district, it is counted as a contributing structure.

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DISTRICT INTEGRITY

Of the 62 buildings and structures that comprise the Norton Downtown Historic District, over 82 percent are one- or two-part commercial blocks and the commonality of form and commercial function unifies the District. The balance of resources represents mixed-use commercial, recreational, civic, and light industrial functions typically associated with downtown commercial districts. As the largest concentration of extant buildings that retain their historic architectural integrity and associations with the city's commercial development, they form a distinctive district with a visual sense of place.

The historic location, setting, feeling, and associations of the District are intact, and the commercial and architectural associations are clearly conveyed. The historic grid of the original town plats and additions are intact, including the notably broad street widths and alley configurations, as well as the historic brick paving. The solid wall of masonry commercial buildings with uniform setbacks and retail storefronts has been maintained along Main Street, South Kansas, and in particular both sides of South State. The dense commercial sense of place along the 100 block of South State represents the most 'urban' environment in all of Norton County. Of note, the historic automobile-related and light industrial buildings remain intact at the edges of the district and clearly reflect downtown Norton's pattern of commercial development as it evolved in the early through mid-twentieth century.

The integrity of design and materials in the District are intact. Of the commercial storefronts and facades in the District that have sustained alterations, most occurred during the period of significance and have gained historic importance in their own right. Most of these historic alterations convey an intentional pattern of updating and reflect typical design and materials from the period in which they were made. The handful of insensitive alterations consists primarily of non-historic coverings that do not obscure the original storefront configurations.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

circa 1887-1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cuthbert & Suehrk Architects

Gurtler & Company Construction

Simon, Louis A. (archit)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in circa 1887, the construction date of the oldest resource in the District, and ends in 1960 with the fifty-year cut-off date established by the National Park Service to provide sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the historic resource eligibility at the time of its listing. The period of significance also acknowledges historic alterations made to buildings as specific functional needs and commercial styles evolved and accepts the buildings that experienced such alterations within the period of significance as contributing elements to the District.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Norton Downtown Historic District comprises the historic business and civic center of the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas. It is eligible for listing in the National Register for its local significance under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE. The District includes the contiguous commercial, industrial, social, and governmental resources that retain architectural integrity and continue to reflect the evolution of Norton's economic center from the late nineteenth century through the post-World War II period. The District encompasses sixty-two (62) resources constructed between circa 1887 and 1985 and contains forty-three (43) contributing buildings, one (1) contributing structure, seventeen (17) non-contributing buildings, and one (1) non-contributing structure. The District is locally significant in the area of Commerce for its associations with the growth of Norton as a county seat, railroad market center, and economic hub. As county seat and later with the arrival of the railroad, Norton grew to become the railroad agricultural market center of Norton County and major hub in northwest Kansas. The physical and architectural development of the downtown commercial center reflects the importance of the railroad, as well as US Highway 36, in the community's commercial history. The District's resources communicate historic trends in downtown development, physically representing the spectrum of building technology, design, stylistic features, form, and function that define the history of Norton. The District's period of significance begins with the construction of the earliest building and ends at the recognized fifty-year cut-off date established by the National Park Service to provide sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the historic resources at the time of its listing. The period of significance acknowledges historic alterations in response to specific functional and marketing needs and counts buildings that experienced such alterations within the period of significance as contributing elements to the District.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTON AS A REGIONAL COMMERCIAL HUB: 1867-1960

THE EARLY YEARS OF NORTON: 1867-1880³

The establishment of a commercial trade route to Santa Fe in 1821 promoted the first major encroachment by Euro-Americans into the territory of the Kansa, Osage, and Pawnee nations in present-day Kansas. By the 1840s, pressures created by the increasing use of the Santa Fe trade route and the California-Oregon overland emigrant trails impacted the territory set aside for Native American groups and the United States government began to forcibly remove all the tribes from what is now the State of Kansas to reservations in present-day Oklahoma.⁴ The first Euro-Americans to pass through what would become Norton County were explorers, buffalo hunters, and trappers. During his exploration of the Rocky Mountains by way of the Kansas and Republican Rivers, John C. Fremont traversed much of the area that would become Norton County in 1843, identified for Euro-Americans its three principal water courses, and gave Prairie Dog Creek its name.⁵

When the Kansas Territory opened for settlement after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, there was an immediate influx of immigrants. In the years leading up to and after the Civil War, north central Kansas experienced a steady increase in activity and settlement. With the onset of the 1859 Colorado Gold Rush, the Leavenworth-Pike's Peak Express Stageline was established, traveling through Norton County. Near the site that became the town of Norton, the stagecoach company maintained Station 15, a depot where lodging, meals and fresh teams of horses were provided and where in 1859, *New York Times* publisher Horace Greeley spent the night.⁶

Immediately following the war, Kansas' leaders focused their attention on rail construction. The previous 1862 Homestead Act and the rapid growth of railroads encouraged speculators to construct towns further and further west. During this period, Kansas again became a destination point for settlers from the East and between 1865 and 1870 the state's population grew from 150,000 to 365,000. Most of these settlers established farmsteads in rural areas and the state's population began to spread into the central and western portions of the state.⁷

Responding to increased settlement and railroad development, in 1867 the Kansas Legislature passed an act establishing the boundaries of thirty-five new counties, including Norton County, to provide for the division of all the unorganized territory east of Range Line 26. These counties would be officially organized when they

³ For an expanded discussion of the early settlement of Norton, please refer to Sally Schwenk Associates, *Norton Downtown Survey, Norton, Kansas*, April 2010 completed for Norton City/County Economic Development.

⁴ David Sachs and George Ehrlich, *Guide to Kansas Architecture*, (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1996), 6.

⁵ Sally Schwenk and Kerry Davis, *Norton Downtown Survey, Norton, Kansas*, (Kansas City, Missouri: Sally Schwenk Associates, April 2010), 20.

⁶ Schwenk and Davis, *Norton Downtown Survey*, 21.

⁷ "Kansas Preservation Plan, Study Unit on the Period of Exploration and Settlement (1820s-1880s)," (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1987), 55.

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could show the requisite population.⁸ The boundaries of Norton County contained nine hundred square miles with thirty-mile boundary lines on each side, very similar to at least twenty-five of the other counties organized under this 1867 act, and among the westernmost counties in Kansas at the time. [Figure #3]

Sources vary as to the identity of the first Euro-American settler and precisely when they arrived in Norton County. Among those arriving in late 1871 and early 1872 were: George Cole and Shelby Reed, who settled in what is now Centre Township; Thomas Beaumont, Henry Gordon, and Peter Hanson, who settled in the southern part of the county near the North Fork of the Solomon River; and James Hall and Daniel C. Coleman, who located on the Prairie Dog River, twelve miles east of Norton.⁹

Town of Norton, Kansas

Sources vary as to the exact sequence of events that transpired to establish the town of Norton. However, most agree that speculator N.H. Billings arrived in Norton County in 1872 and began the formation of a group of investors among the existing settlers to officially organize the county. Among them, D. C. Coleman, L. J. Crans, and Samuel and Edward Newell, who together hoped to establish the town of Billingsville as the county seat. To meet the requirement for county organization that there be a building in the proposed county seat, they quickly constructed a wood-framed store building adjacent to the bank of Prairie Dog Creek and near the geographical center of the county in Centre Township. The Newell brothers stocked the building and began operating Norton County's first general merchandise store in the fledgling settlement.¹⁰

The same summer, N.H. Billings brought a fraudulent petition and largely fabricated census data to the governor as documentation to justify Norton County's official organization.¹¹ He was successful and on August 22, 1872, the Governor of Kansas issued a proclamation declaring Norton County's official governmental organization, which created three townships – Alma, Centre, and Solomon – each ten miles wide and thirty miles in length – and the city of Billingsville as the county seat. A month later, on September 24, 1872, the first county election occurred with less than fifty votes electing three township commissioners, a county treasurer, a county clerk, a county attorney, a sheriff, a superintendent of schools, a register of deeds, and a representative to the state legislature, who was none other than N.H. Billings.¹²

Original Town Plat

Unlike most western Kansas towns, Norton experienced rival plats that formed the town's commercial center and first residential neighborhoods. Shortly after county organization and temporary county seat designation for Billingsville, competing settlers formed the Norton Town Company and laid out the town of Norton just 500 yards northeast of Billings' town plat. Due to errors in the rival plats and many irregularities in records, a long

⁸ *Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1903-1904*; ed. Geo. W. Martin, Secretary. Vol. VIII. (Topeka: Geo. A. Clark, state printer, 1904), <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/county/map6.html> (accessed August 26, 2010).

⁹ William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/norton/norton-co-p1.htm> (accessed March 12, 2010). Also Hon F.M. Lockhard, *The History of the Early Settlement of Norton County, Kansas*, (Norton, Kansas: Champion, 1894), <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/norton/Lockard/02.htm> (accessed August 26, 2010).

¹⁰ Cutler, <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/norton/norton-co-p1.html> (accessed August 2, 2010).

¹¹ Kansas State Historical Society, "Kansas Counties: Norton County, Kansas," article online, <http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/places/counties.php?county=NT> (accessed August 26, 2010).

¹² Cutler, <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/norton/norton-co-p1.html> (accessed August 2, 2010).

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court battle ensued and Billingsville was forced to file its plat as an addition. [Figure #4] The rivalry and court proceedings delayed the recordation of the plats until December 1878.¹³

The Original Town plat consisted of only two large blocks bounded by Main Street to the north, State Street to the east, Washington Street to the south, and Second Avenue to the west. The two blocks were each unevenly divided into six sections by a grid network of alleys. The lot alignments varied with the two south sections and the northwest corner section aligned north-south, while the lots of the two center sections and the northeast corner section aligned east-west. [Figure #4]

The Norton Town Association's addition to the east that added more than six times the area of the Original Town plat and followed a more traditional courthouse plan. Bounded by the North Street to the north, Michigan Avenue to the east, the alley behind Washington Street to the south, and State Street to the west, the Norton Town Association Addition included equal-sized blocks with lots generally aligned north-south except that all lots facing the courthouse square aligned to face the square. Brigg's Addition, platted the following year in 1879, added four blocks to the north of the Original Town Plat. [Figure #4]

Upon the organization of the Town Company, its treasurer, W.E. Case, proceeded with the construction of the first residence. In the spring of 1874, David Close built a store house for the merchant firm of Van Trump & Hallowell. The first school in Norton County opened in December 1873; within five years, the county boasted twenty-four school districts and 642 students.

THRIVING COMMERCIAL HUB OF NORTON COUNTY: 1880-1900

William G. Cutler described Norton County's terrain in his 1883 *History of the State of Kansas* as comprised of ninety-two percent (92%) upland and eight percent (8%) bottom land with one percent (1%) of the landscape covered in forest (elm, willow, and cottonwood) and ninety-nine per cent (99%) covered in prairie.¹⁴ Good water required wells drilled to depths from fifteen to one hundred thirty feet.¹⁵

Such conditions enticed settlers to the area and rapid rural settlement ensued. Of the 576,000 acres in the county, only 3,156 were under cultivation in 1874, but by the early 1880s, settlers had more than 205,000 acres cultivated.¹⁶ Nearly 160 farmhouses went up throughout the county in 1881 alone. Of the nearly 26,000 fruit trees planted in the county, about 1,200 were already bearing fruit. Stock ranches took advantage of the native prairie grasses for grazing and supplemented with crops such as clover, timothy, orchard grass, sorghum, millet, rye, corn, barley, and alfalfa. The diverse stock raised in Norton County included beef cattle (2,684), dairy cows (2,020), swine (2,565), sheep, (2,947) and horses (2,181).¹⁷ Annual farm production in 1881 included more than 123,000 pounds of butter, 6,900 tons of prairie hay, and 816 tons of timothy grass. Corn and spring wheat dominated the cultivated acreage, with 28,188 and 4,263 acres respectively.

¹³ James R. Shortridge, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*, (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1984), 321.

¹⁴ Cutler.

¹⁵ Schwenk and Davis, 20 from "Northwestern Kansas The Garden Land of the New West Norton County the Gem of the Beautiful Republican Valley," *Norton County, Kansas*, circa 1885.

¹⁶ Cutler.

¹⁷ Ibid.

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Additional major crops under cultivation at the time included barley (114), oats (1,112), Irish potatoes (289), sorghum (1,366), castor beans (116), broom corn (970), Hungarian (likely Turkey Red winter) wheat (3,382), corn, (590).¹⁸ With a saw mill, a successful and growing creamery, and five water-powered grist-mills in the county, Norton had a diversified agricultural economy by the early 1880s.¹⁹

The increase in rural settlement very soon created the need for goods and services. Population growth and the diversity of Norton County's early residents are evidenced by school, postal, and church membership data. By 1880, nineteen post offices operated throughout the surrounding rural landscape to serve the growing rural population and eighty-four school districts spanned the county with more than 2,000 pupils; a growth of more than three times in just two years.²⁰ Norton County had eleven Methodist Episcopal organizations with a membership of 268; four Christian organizations with a total membership of 218, four Baptist organizations with a membership of 165, a Congregational organization with a membership of 55, a Presbyterian organization with a membership of 34, a Roman Catholic organization with a membership of 100, as well as Mennonite, Church of God, and Free Methodist organizations.²¹

Due to the influx of immigrants during the late 1870s, by the early 1880s Norton County had about 7,000 residents with approximately 500 people residing in the bustling market center of Norton.²² At this time, the town boasted five general merchandise stores, two hotels, two millineries, two restaurants, five lawyers, two physicians, one harness shop, one furniture store, two livery stables, two blacksmiths, two newspapers, two billiard halls, two meat markets, one feed store, two hardware and farm implement stores, one lumberyard, one barber shop, one bank, two drug stores, two shoe shops, and two grain elevators.²³

As Norton grew in the early 1880s, new businesses opened including a broom factory, a photographic gallery, a blacksmith and wagon shop, a furniture business, a barber shop, a shoe and clothing store, a real estate and abstract business, offices for dealers of wild ponies, and the Norton Creamery that manufactured 250 pounds of butter each day during the spring and summer months, shipping the majority to Denver.²⁴

Norton County Population²⁵	
1880	1890
6,998	10,617

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Cutler.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Kansas State Historical Society, "Kansas Counties: Norton County, Kansas," article online, 2010, <http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/places/counties.php?county=NT> (accessed August 26).

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Arrival of the Railroad

In the years leading up to and after the Civil War, "railroad mania" swept the nation. Widespread projecting, promoting, and speculating took place with towns fiercely competing for the favor of railroad companies and convenient access to new rail lines. Connection to the railroad was a matter of economic life or death for many growing rural communities. The companies often profited from such competition by choosing routes that ran through the towns pledging the highest bids.²⁶ By 1883, the Atchison, Colorado and Pacific Railroad, the central branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, traveled east-west across the southern part of Norton County along the banks of the Solomon River, providing regional access to Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago.²⁷ Norton's rapid growth, solid role as a regional commercial hub, and county seat status attracted railroad planners and by 1885, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad²⁸ arrived in Norton, providing connections with Omaha, Kansas City, and Chicago.²⁹ Even before a depot could be constructed, the promise of the railroad brought new investors to Norton who filed five new plats, adding forty blocks to the town, within the next thirty months.

In addition to the area's robust agricultural conditions, the most significant economic stimulus to downtown Norton was the arrival of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad. Access to rail trade and travelers spurred commercial growth and anchored the town. By 1885, the west side of the courthouse square featured a full block of one- and two-story wood frame buildings with gable-front or false front designs.³⁰ The north side of the courthouse square included the two-story dressed limestone Morgan Heaton Bank³¹ and the large, wood-framed, side-gabled Commercial House hotel.³²

A publication from the period boasted that Norton featured active Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, literary and dramatic societies, a fairgrounds with agricultural display buildings, a cornet band, a large skating rink, two large hotels (Seymour and Windsor hotels), and "half a hundred business houses."³³ In 1885, the Graves Brothers erected a two-story brick opera house at West Main Street and First Avenue. Among the commercial endeavors operating in the mid-to-late 1880s were two banks, a jewelry store, two druggists, an ice cream parlor, a furniture store, a lumber yard, and a grain elevator, as well as a diversified hardware dealer who sold everything from coal to farm machinery and lumber to wagons.³⁴ Accounts described the town of Norton as taking on "a big city air."³⁵

Within a few short years, Norton's commercial business district took shape and sufficient development had taken place that Norton incorporated as a City of the Third Class in by September 1885. With the arrival of the

²⁶ Sherry Lamb Schirmer and Richard D. McKinzie, *At the River's Bend: An Illustrated History of Kansas City* (Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc. in association with the Jackson County Historical Society, 1982), 41.

²⁷ *Official State Atlas of Kansas: Norton County* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts and Co., 1887), map collection online <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/56766/Norton+County/>, (accessed August 2, 2010).

²⁸ This rail line later became the Burlington, Kansas, and Southwestern Railroad and subsequently the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. By 1900 it was known simply as the Burlington and Missouri.

²⁹ *Official State Atlas of Kansas: Norton County*.

³⁰ Schwenk and Davis, 25.

³¹ The Morgan Heaton Bank was the first in Norton County and was later reorganized in 1890 as the Norton County Bank.

³² Later known as the Windsor Hotel and subsequently, in 1893, as the Peerless Hotel.

³³ Schwenk and Davis, 25.

³⁴ *Ibid*

³⁵ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 10.

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Burlington and Missouri Railroad and its east-west path along North Street, two blocks north of the courthouse square, development and new additions occurred in the vicinity. The depot and a grain elevator went up adjacent to the railroad grade at Second Avenue. Among the plats filed were: Mrs. Case's Addition of May 1885 that added seven large residential blocks at the west edge of town two blocks away from the central business district; Hillside Addition of June 1885, which nearly doubled the platted area of Norton by adding twenty-one blocks north of North Street and the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad alignment; Howard's Addition of March 1886 that added a single block to the west edge of the Original Town plat; Broquet's Addition of May 1886 that added eight blocks to the south edge of the Original Town plat; and Spencer's Addition of November 1887, which added three and half blocks south of the Norton Town Association Addition. By the end of 1887, all the plats that form the Norton Downtown Historic District had occurred. [Figure #4 and #5]

In 1886, fire temporarily interrupted the rapid pace of growth in downtown Norton with the destruction of the row of wood-framed commercial buildings along the west side of the courthouse square. Among the business buildings destroyed were several general merchandise stores, the land office, rooms occupied by fraternal organizations, a hardware and implement business, a paint shop, a hardware store, a drug store, a newspaper office, a clothing business, second-story professional offices, a jewelry store, a furniture store, a billiard parlor, a meat market, the post office, a tin shop, and a restaurant.³⁶ Despite the extensive damage and setback to Norton's growth, merchants rebuilt quickly, filling much of the courthouse square and State Street with one- and two-story brick business houses within a few years.

By 1888, Norton's status as regional commercial center was sealed with the arrival of a second railroad – the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad – with tracks traveling east-west just one block south of the courthouse square. Infrastructure associated with the railroad included a depot near the intersection of Second Avenue, a water tank with pumping engine near the creek, a freight office with scales, and the private construction of a grain elevator near the freight office.

The advent of Norton's second railroad stimulated the establishment of a new brickyard along the banks of Prairie Dog Creek and within five years brick was a major export of Norton.³⁷ Increased population and commercial trade spurred public infrastructure improvements during the late 1880s, including the extension of water mains, construction of a new waterworks, the completion of the electric light plant, and the initiation of construction of a new stone courthouse in 1889.³⁸ Thus established, Norton entered the 1890s with a diverse economy and economic confidence.

During the 1880s, Norton County's population grew by more than 51 percent, to over 10,600 residents in 1890.³⁹ The vast majority of the population growth occurred in the surrounding rural areas and only about seventeen percent of the countywide population resided in the city of Norton. While commercial growth was solid within Norton, the economy of the region remained largely dependent on agricultural production, which grew steadily. As the shipping point for the surrounding agricultural region, most area harvests passed

³⁶ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 15.

³⁷ Schwenk and Davis, 26.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 18.

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through Norton. In addition to widespread cultivation, livestock was a significant component of the regional economy and stockyards developed along the Burlington and Missouri River railroad grade. One stockman reportedly shipped twenty-two cars of hogs, four cars of cattle, and a car of horses in one shipment to distant stockyards.⁴⁰

By 1893, of the forty lots facing the courthouse square, almost three-quarters (72%) contained one- or two-story retail and service buildings, many with wood porches sheltering the first story entrances. [Figure #6] Commercial buildings also lined both sides of State Street between Main and Washington, as well as along Main Street west to First Avenue.⁴¹ Businesses downtown included two hotels; various millinery shops; two banks; livery stables; harness shops; general merchandise stores; and shops specializing in Queensware, flour, ice cream, stationary, jewelry, and furniture. Other commercial endeavors included a cigar factory, a printing company, a blacksmith and wagon shop, a carriage manufacturer, farm implement dealers, and two lumber yards. The A.C. Davis Elevator operated adjacent to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad tracks with a tall 6,000-bushel grain tank and no less than five corn cribs, while Harris Brothers Elevator operated along the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad grade with a 10,000-bushel grain tank and two long corn cribs of more than two hundred feet in-length. Light industrial entities, such as lumber yards, liveries, and warehouses, occupied the edge of the commercial district with residential development filling the lots immediately beyond.⁴²

Additional signs of the community's progress included the 1898 installation of tall wooden poles marking the arrival of telephone service to Norton, Dr. Turner's renovation of a brick block east of the square to serve as a sanitarium, and the availability of passenger service on five daily trains to St. Louis.⁴³

Analysis of the available Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps and other sources indicates limited development occurred between 1893 and 1899, a likely reflection of the effects of the Panic of 1893, a serious nationwide economic depression that lasted most of the decade. Among the restricted growth in Norton during this period was the expansion of the Chicago Lumber Company that added coal sales facilities and occupied the neighboring block, the new Western Fence Company, and the establishment of Norton Marble Works.⁴⁴

City of Norton Population ⁴⁵	
1893	1899
~1,800	~1,200

EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY NORTON: 1900-1930

⁴⁰ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 22-23.

⁴¹ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Norton, Kansas*, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1893), Database online, <http://www.kclibrary.org/localhistory/> (accessed August 10, 2010).

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Schwenk and Davis, 27.

⁴⁴ *From a Covered Wagon Ride. . .*, 20.

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Following the strained market conditions of the 1890s, the United States entered a period of prosperity. International demand for wheat and other crops provided farmers with expendable income to purchase tractors and cars, thus improving both production and market access.⁴⁶ Increased farm production created a boom economy during the first decades of the twentieth century commonly referred to as the “Golden Age of Agriculture” in Kansas. The resulting increase in real estate values and farm mortgages continued until the 1920s. Prosperous times spurred immigration to Kansas and the state population increased forty-nine percent between 1900 and 1910, from 330,000 to 492,000, and increased another twenty-five percent between 1910 and 1920.⁴⁷

Norton County experienced only limited population growth during this period, with the total number of residents increasing by only about 3½ percent between 1900 and 1930; from 11,325 to 11,701. However, the city of Norton grew rapidly during this period. Certified by the Governor of Kansas as a “City of the Second Class” in 1901, Norton more than doubled in population between 1900 and 1930, growing 125 percent from about 1,200 residents to more than 2,700 at the end of the 1920s.⁴⁸

A prosperous economy and population growth led to extensive development in downtown Norton, which is apparent on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map that shows significant new construction between 1899 and 1908. By this time, of the forty lots facing the courthouse, only five lacked a commercial or institutional building and large two-story brick buildings had replaced many of the earlier, one- and two-story wood-framed buildings. Development during this short period included: the new Norton Ice, Light & Storage Company at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Second Avenue with its own spur line from the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad line; expansion of the grain elevators on both railroad lines; the replacement of the earlier, smaller Cottage House Hotel with the much larger Way Side Inn at the southeast corner of Lincoln Street and First Avenue; the establishment of a moving picture house in the former opera house at the northeast corner of Main Street and First Avenue; and the opening of a third lumber company at the northeast corner of Washington Street and First Avenue.⁴⁹ Among Norton’s new endeavors were the Kansas Poultry Company handling eight breeds and shipping 500 chicks per week and a business college.⁵⁰ Seven contributing buildings in the Norton Downtown Historic District date to the first decade of the twentieth century: Fulcrut Drygoods (District Property #47); Dr. Lyons House (District Property #07); Marsh Building (District Property #44); Ayers Block (District Property #13); 109-113 South State (District Property #37); Browne Block (District Property #12); and Norton Auditorium (District Property #17).⁵¹

At this time, Norton boasted four weekly newspapers, a small hospital providing skilled nursing care, a new three-story auditorium spanning three lots on the north side of the courthouse square, its first dry cleaning shop, and a continuous cement sidewalk between the two railroad depots – Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and Burlington & Missouri – to the north and south of downtown. Elmwood Park at the southeast corner of the corporate limits featured a race track and associated agricultural buildings. Electric lighting came to downtown

⁴⁶ Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas,” (Topeka, Kansas: Davis Preservation and Spencer Preservation, 2008), E-21.

⁴⁷ Schwenk and Davis, 29.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 30.

⁵¹ Three non-contributing buildings also date to this period between 1900 and 1910, but suffer from a lack of integrity.

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in 1906 and by 1909 Norton had a small police force, a fire department, and a City-owned municipal waterworks system with newly installed water mains throughout the city.⁵²

Norton County Population ⁵³		
1900	1910	1920
11,325	11,614	11,423

City of Norton Population ⁵⁴			
1905	1908	1916	1925
~1,400	~2,000	2,223	~2,650

Continued good agricultural production and demands for agricultural products created by the United States' entry into World War I, spurred continued immigration and improvements in Norton and downtown in particular. By 1916, Norton had 2,223 residents, an increase of fifty-eight percent from the previous decade.⁵⁵ Such rapid growth during this period led developers to file more plats and Norton steadily expanded in each direction, and to the north and west in particular. Between 1900 and 1917, additions to Norton included: the East Addition, Guthrie's Addition, and Leon Broquet's Addition that added a combined total of fourteen blocks to the northeast edge of town; the Golf, McCune's, North, and High School additions that, combined, added more than thirty blocks to the north end of town; Jacob's Addition, Wright's Addition, Betterson's First and Second additions, and Kirk's Addition added ten blocks to the northwest part of town; Close Addition added six blocks to the southwest edge of town; and Broquet's Fourth Addition added three small residential blocks to the south edge of town. Outside the city limits, southeast across Prairie Dog Creek, Park View addition platted six very large parcels.

During this period, car ownership in Kansas grew at a rapid pace, as a result of improved roads and the increasing affordability of vehicles. In 1900, Kansans owned only 220 automobiles, ranking the state tenth in the nation. By 1910, there were nearly 10,500 automobiles in the state, and just two years later Kansans owned 30,000 vehicles.⁵⁶ By this time, auto tourists were becoming important travelers across Kansas and the identification of regional and transcontinental auto routes became vital. To provide tourists with a documented network of roads that linked states and identified roadside necessities along the route, town boosters and national automobile clubs planned touring routes and published guidebooks directing "autoists" from state to state.⁵⁷ Among the early trans-state highways developed in the 1910s, promoters of the Rock Island Highway (along the present route of U.S. 36) joined with representatives from Colorado Springs, Colorado and St. Joseph, Missouri in 1914 and laid out a national highway dubbed the Pike's Peak Ocean to

⁵² *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 20.

⁵³ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, "Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900-1990," table online, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ks190090.txt>, (Accessed August 27, 2010).

⁵⁴ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Norton, Kansas*, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1905, 1908, 1925), Database online, <http://www.kclibrary.org/localhistory/> (accessed August 10, 2010).

⁵⁵ SSA Report from *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 38.

⁵⁶ Elizabeth Rosin and Dale Nimz, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Draft), "Roadside Kansas," (Kansas City, Missouri; Rosin Preservation, 2009), E-7.

⁵⁷ Rosin and Nimz, E-8.

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Ocean Highway (PPOO).⁵⁸ Norton was about midway on this transcontinental route between New York-to-San Francisco. [Figure #7]

The July 1924 issue of *Motor Camper & Tourist* magazine described the route as The Appian Way and a “superlative scenic route” traveling through twelve states, six state capitals, and five hundred hamlets, towns, and cities.⁵⁹ It was also commonly referred to as “The Road from Hell’s Gate to the Golden Gate.” With the coming of the U.S. Bureau of Roads numbering system in 1926, the 1,414-mile portion of the PPOO Highway between Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Uhrichsville, Ohio was designated U.S. Route 36.

Norton benefited greatly from the increased traffic through town.⁶⁰ The PPOO route traveled into town from the east on Main Street, turned south on State Street (later S 1st Street), and west out of town on Washington Street. As a result, tourist camps opened on West Washington, on East Main where it merged with Lincoln, and at Elmwood Park where the electric lights were installed at the campground and along the driveway to accommodate the tourists.⁶¹ Filling and service stations, as well as various automobile associated businesses, went up along the route throughout town to serve both the tourists and the increasing numbers of local automobile owners. By 1925, Norton boasted three filling stations, seven garages, four auto sales buildings, two auto repair establishments, and one auto salvage shop. Among the fourteen contributing resources in the Norton Downtown Historic District dating to this period, seven have direct associations with the expansion of auto-related businesses: Ward Brothers Garage (District Property #23) [Figure #9]; Ayers Auto Supply (District Property #58); Fleming’s Hudson (District Property #27); the brick street network (District Property #62); Brooks Motor Company (District Property #01); Kent Oil Filling Station (District Property #02); and the auto repair shop at 116 N Norton (District Property #26). [Figure #10]

Paved, “all weather” roads appeared throughout Norton County, which further stimulated automobile use. Among them was the 1919 brick paving of the downtown street network (District Property #62). In the late 1920s, the city responded to the notably increased vehicular traffic and installed stop signs at the intersections of “greatest traffic and dangerous turns.”⁶² Accompanying these physical road improvements, Norton adopted a new organization for its city street network. Streets names received the prefix “North,” “South,” “East,” or “West” with the dividing lines being Main and State streets, and the city did away with its out-of-date building numbering system that ran sequentially down the street by adopting the more ‘modern’ and accepted method of even building numbers on the west and odd numbers on the east.

Major agricultural and industrial developments occurred throughout Kansas during the 1920s. Wheat harvests broke records and wheat was described as “a billion dollar crop;” Kansas ranked second in meat-packing nationally; and from 1919 to 1931, Kansas ranked second in the nation in overall oil production. To meet the

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ “The Open Road: Our National Motor Roads No. 2 Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway,” *Motor Camper & Tourist*, July 1924, http://www.ppoo.org/PPOOMags/MtrCampr&Tourst_7-24_p92.jpg (accessed August 27, 2010).

⁶⁰ “Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway,” article online, <http://www.ppoo.org/> (accessed August 26, 2010).

⁶¹ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 45 and Warren Heaton (long-time Norton resident and business owner), in discussion with the author, August 26, 2010.

⁶² *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 52.

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demand for building materials as rapid development took place across the Midwest, Kansas brick, stucco, plaster, and cement industries grew significantly during this period.⁶³

In 1925, Norton's population had grown to 2,650, an increase of more than 19 percent since 1916.⁶⁴ By this time, more permanent brick, tile, and stone buildings replaced nearly all of the earlier, nineteenth century wood-framed buildings providing a significantly more 'modern' appearance downtown. Norton's commercial and industrial operations included: three lumber companies; five grain elevator and flour/grist mill operations; a stockyards; a machine works manufacturing company; a greenhouse; and four oil companies with fuel tanks along the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad alignment. Notable expansions by this time included: a new warehouse for the Norton Manufacturing Company, which had thirty employees; the installation of new bleaching equipment at Peerless Flour Mills, which processed one thousand bushels of wheat a day; a new municipal building at 115 North Kansas; and the construction of a new Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad depot at a cost of \$15,000 in 1926.⁶⁵ [Figure #8]

In 1926, a major blow to Norton's promising downtown took place when fire destroyed the Norton County Courthouse. The site remained in ruins for three years before the county's elected officials hosted the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new courthouse. The new building had an estimated cost of \$200,000.⁶⁶ Additional municipal projects of the late 1920s were the construction of a new high school building, a new grandstand at Elmwood Park, the construction of new water mains and extension of the existing lines, the replacement of the old standpipe with a water tower with tank capacity of 250,000 gallons, and the approval of a bond to establish the Norton Airport.⁶⁷

By the late 1920s, the streetscapes facing the courthouse square were largely full of one- and two-story masonry commercial buildings and limited new development took place on the lots immediately abutting the square. However, notable expansions occurred elsewhere downtown and in the immediate vicinity, including two new oil company facilities, two new gas service filling stations, a new auto sales building, a new bottling works, and the expansion of Peerless Flour Mills with two new 12,000 bushel grain tanks.

Fourteen contributing buildings in the Norton Downtown Historic District date to the 1920s, among them the seven auto-related buildings discussed above, as well as Stapp Cabinet Shop (District Property #03); Ambrose Creamery (District Property #50); Lyons Building and garage (District Properties #51); Heaton's Coca-Cola Bottling Plant (District Property #59); the Melroy Café Building (District Property #22); and the new Norton County Courthouse (District Property #06).

⁶³ Schwenk and Davis, 33 from Daniel Holt, "A Time of Contrasts: Progress, Prosperity, and the Great Depression, 1900-1940," *Kansas Preservation Plan*, (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, 1990), 7.

⁶⁴ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 50.

⁶⁵ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 52.

⁶⁶ Schwenk and Davis, 37.

⁶⁷ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 52.

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THE GREAT DEPRESSION: 1930-1940

The onset of the Great Depression, marked by the October 1929 collapse of stock market prices, forced nearly half of the nation's banks to insolvency. The resulting drastic reductions in spending and production led to a sharp rise in unemployment nationwide. By 1933, the value of stock on the New York Stock Exchange was less than a fifth of its peak in 1929 and approximately one fourth of Americans were unemployed.⁶⁸ Businesses shut down, factories closed their doors, and farm income dropped by half. Little private commercial development occurred during the Great Depression and the only significant construction nationwide took place through public building projects.

In Kansas, agricultural business values dropped from \$545 million in 1929 to \$204 million in 1932. The meatpacking industry was among the only businesses that contributed any stability to the state's economy during this time.⁶⁹ Severe drought from 1935 through 1937 further compounded the problems created by the Great Depression, adding to the austere conditions for farm families. Approximately 103,000 Kansans left the state during the 1930s and more than 1.3 million acres came out of cultivation. The number of farms statewide dropped ten percent in just five years, from a high of 175,000 in 1935 to 159,000 in 1940.⁷⁰

Due to the combination of financial depression and drought, federal relief programs focused their efforts toward the Plains states. In particular, the programs of the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA; renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) significantly impacted not only the state's economic conditions, but also the Kansas landscape.⁷¹ These programs provided funding to state and local governments for the construction of public improvements, such as buildings, roads, bridges, and dams in order to provide jobs and to stimulate the local economy. In Kansas, federal and state relief monies enabled cities and counties to build courthouses, city halls, libraries, ball fields, auditoriums, memorials, post offices, and park areas, as well as improve other public facilities and municipal infrastructure.

Additionally, the federal government began a wide-sweeping building campaign to demolish older federal buildings, construct new buildings in their place, and expand existing structures. By June 1934, the U.S. Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act appropriating \$65 million dollars for the Federal Works Agency's national public building program, which the Federal Works Agency's Public Buildings Administration administered. The deficiency bill included a list of more than fifteen hundred potential projects.⁷² The Norton Post Office (District Property #56) was most likely funded by this bill.

Like Kansas counties statewide, Norton County experienced job scarcity and severe financial strain during the Great Depression. In 1931, a mass meeting of taxpayers gathered at the Norton County Commissioner's

⁶⁸ Schwenk and Davis, 38.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, "Historic Kansas Farm Facts," http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2006/pdf/historic.pdf, (accessed August 30, 2010).

⁷¹ Schwenk and Davis, 38.

⁷² Kerry Davis, Architectural/Historical Inventory Form, "Salem (Illinois) Post Office," (Kansas City, Missouri: Sally Schwenk Associates, 2009), 5.

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office to demand a reduction in taxes and county expenditures. As hard times continued well into the 1930s, the City was forced to cut its payroll several times and established methods to distribute clothing to the needy, while the school board reduced teacher salaries.⁷³ Private commercial activities slowed considerably or stopped altogether. Norton businesses that closed during the Depression included T.J. Rouse’s Variety Store and NuFashions, both of which had been operating for twenty years. Scrambling for cash flow, businesses, such as the Norton Feed Mill, the Bower Hardware Store, the Redd Hat Shop, Kansas United Telephone Company, and Norton Steam Laundry, either sold their businesses, added partners or leased their operations to other business entities.⁷⁴ As with many Kansas communities during this period, Norton’s flour mills were vital to the hobbled economy during this period, and Peerless flour Mill ran at full capacity.⁷⁵

Norton County Population ⁷⁶	
1930	1940
11,701	9,831

City of Norton Population ⁷⁷	
1930	1940
2,767	2,762

During the 1930s and up to the onset of World War II in 1941, federal and state programs spurred significant new construction in Norton County and the City of Norton, in particular. The WPA Federal Writers’ Project visited Norton and described downtown as “modern.”⁷⁸ An early public works project in Norton was the construction of a new sewage plant at the site of the old plant, as well as the extension of water mains to the cemetery and airport where a \$12,000 federal grant assisted with improvements to the air field.⁷⁹ Seventy-five local men found employment through a program to build thirty-three dams in Norton County. The City created jobs in the summer of 1934 with the further extension of water mains and the development of center street parking on West Main and South Kansas.⁸⁰ Norton received funding for a new post office, which opened in 1935 at the southeast corner of the courthouse square (District Property #56). In 1935, the KERK provided funds for twenty weeks of nursery school education, as well for significant improvements at Elmwood Park, including paint for all existing structures, establishment of an artificial brook, a new fountain feature with electric lighting, a new Boy Scout cabin, new ovens and picnic shelters, a drinking fountain, a new poultry pavilion, new walkways, and changes in the channel of Prairie Dog Creek.⁸¹ Despite one of the worst dust storms of the “Dirty Thirties,” in 1935 workers began construction of the new Kansas State Highway Department’s Division Three regional office and shop buildings southwest of the central business district. The following year, work began laying natural gas lines for residential heating and cooking in Norton. Other significant projects providing local jobs and upgrading Norton’s built environment were the new Junior High School building, the installation of lights in baseball park, the installation of new fire hydrants, the new library

⁷³ Schwenk and Davis, 39.

⁷⁴ Schwenk and Davis, 41.

⁷⁵ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 56-57.

⁷⁶ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, “Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900-1990,” table online, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ks190090.txt>, (Accessed August 27, 2010) and Norton County Historical Society, “Population,” vertical file.

⁷⁷ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, “Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900-1990,” table online, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ks190090.txt>, (Accessed August 27, 2010) and Norton County Historical Society, “Population,” vertical file.

⁷⁸ Shortridge, 320.

⁷⁹ Schwenk and Davis, 39.

⁸⁰ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 56-57.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

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building, and the expansion and renovation of the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium northeast of town between 1937 and 1939.⁸²

Federal expenditures strengthened the regional transportation network during this period. Kansas received more than \$10 million from the Federal Emergency Relief Commission for highway construction.⁸³ In 1937, work began on the U.S. 36 overpass, which relocated the highway's approach from the east up to Holme Street at the north edge of town.⁸⁴ By 1939, the federal highway system expanded to include Kansas Highway 21 and Kansas Highway 8, which were designated U.S. 283 and 281 respectively.⁸⁵

Between 1934 and 1939, despite the desperate financial conditions, some private investment occurred in Norton, if at a restrained pace. Rex Kent opened a second filling and service station at the northeast corner of West Washington and South First Street (District Property #46) and Dr. Lathrop built a small medical office for his dental practice (District Property #04). Additional new commercial endeavors in Norton during this period included: the Wingfield automobile agency; the Brooks Grocery; the Ideal Trucking Line; the Sanford Hatchery; the new bowling alley in the basement of the Vern Lee building; the conversion of the M.N. Brown Cabins up on Highway 36 to become Motel 36; and the renovated and expanded Wayside Inn to be the new Adams Hotel.⁸⁶

WORLD WAR II AND THE POST-WAR PERIOD: 1941-1960

The general disruption of private construction resulting from the Great Depression continued after the United States entered World War II. As the nation refitted for wartime production, public works efforts also ceased. However, while many rural cities experience a complete halt in public and private endeavors during the war years, upgrades and expansions continued in Norton, if at a restricted pace.

Despite the restrictions on construction materials and fuel, not all development ceased and private, local, state, and federal investment continued in Norton County. Between 1941 and 1945, private commercial activities included: Ideal Truck Line's extension of service to both Kansas City and Denver; Sanford Hatchery's expansion of its hatching facilities; Moffet Drug Store's addition; and Norton Ice Service's installation of eighty new lockers. Among Federal and state projects during this period were: the cooperative effort between the federal government and the school district establishing the "Defense School" to provide specialized training in the welding and sheet metal work at the Norton Manufacturing Company's foundry; the establishment of a Soil Conservation Service regional office in Norton to provide technical assistance to area farmers; the completion of a Kansas State Highway regional shop building; the provision of more than fifty grain bins to aid with storage of a record wheat crop; and the Civil Aeronautics Administration approval for the development of Norton airport to provide accommodations for ten to twelve planes.⁸⁷

⁸² *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 58-59.

⁸³ Schwenk and Davis, 39.

⁸⁴ After the realignment, U.S. 36 came into Norton from the east on Holme Street, traveled south on State Street to Washington, and turned west out of town.

⁸⁵ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 58-59. K-21/U.S. 283 ran north-south along State Street and south all the way to Brownsville, Texas.

⁸⁶ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 55-60.

⁸⁷ *From a Covered Wagon Ride . . .*, 61-63.

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Norton County Population: 1940-1960 ⁸⁸			
1940	1950	1960	1970
9,831	8,808	8,035	7,279

City of Norton Population: 1940-1960 ⁸⁹			
1940	1950	1960	1970
2,762	3,060	3,305	3,627

Post-War Transformation

By the end of World War II, Norton's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial areas and residential neighborhoods reflected the combined effects of the Great Depression and the rationed resources of the wartime period. As in many American cities during the late 1940s through the 1950s, poorly maintained older commercial buildings in Norton received storefront "updates" and an immense wave of new construction significantly altered the appearance of the city's streetscapes. The amount of postwar remodeling and new construction is not surprising, as almost twenty years had passed during which the Great Depression and wartime restrictions had severely constrained construction, maintenance, and commercial development. Thus, there was a real and psychological need for new, clear symbols of progress and a return to normalcy.

In Norton, the pent-up need for new construction created a building boom and widespread remodeling downtown. New housing went up at a rapid pace and by 1950, more than 10-percent of Norton's housing units dated to the 1940s.⁹⁰ In the years immediately following the War, Norton's central business district saw more than a dozen new buildings go up, nine of which are in the Downtown District.⁹¹ The Masonic Hall (District Property #30) and the new Duckwall's Building (District Property #33) were among the first new buildings downtown, replacing the previous nineteenth century buildings destroyed in an early 1945. Other new buildings downtown included Garrett's Plumbing and Heating on (District Property #24), a new auto service garage on North 2nd Street, J.C. Penney's (District Property #43), Walter Motor Company, Norton City Café (District Property #20), the Vern Lee Building (District Property #39), the John Deere Building, a new metal warehouse at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant (District Property #59), Howell Beauty Parlor (District Property #09), and the OK Tire Shop/John's Printing Shop (District Property #29). [Figure #11]

In addition to new construction, numerous buildings completed major improvements and/or storefront updates during this period. Among those in the Downtown District were Heaton's Coke Bottling Plant (District Property #59), Ayers Block (District Property #13), Moulton's Drugstore (District Property #15), Hall's Clothing (District Properties #34 and #36), and the Corner Café Building (District Property #57).⁹²

⁸⁸ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, "Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900-1990," table online, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ks190090.txt>, (Accessed August 27, 2010)

⁸⁹ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, "1990 Census of Population and housing," table online, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen1990/cph2/cph-2-1-1.pdf>, (Accessed October 26, 2010)

⁹⁰ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, "1960 Census of Housing," table online, <http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/41962442v1p4ch3.pdf>, (Accessed October 26, 2010).

⁹¹ Seven of these contribute to the District.

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While post- World War II remodeling of commercial buildings was common nationwide, a notably high number occurred in downtown Norton, some of which were so thorough that the building's original style and/or form is unrecognizable. The majority of these buildings face onto the courthouse square and their redesigned facades suggest a concerted response to the Modern Movement's affinity for smooth wall faces achieved through stone, stucco, or buff brick, as well as for new materials such as Perma-Stone, a wall treatment developed in the late 1920s that became popular in the post World War II modernizing and remodeling movement.⁹³ Historic wholesale remodeling dating to this period took place at the following seven buildings in the Norton Downtown Historic District, six of which contribute to the district's significance: Norton Theater (District Property #17), First National Bank (District Property #14), First State Bank (District Property #45), Hixon Jewelers (District Property #49), City Motors (District Property #27) [Figure #14], Ambrose Creamery (District Property #50), and the Stapleton Drugstore Building (District Property #35) that was extensively repaired and remodeled after a destructive 1945 fire.

Returning veterans and improved economic conditions led to numerous new and expanded businesses. In Norton, Mizell Motor Company added Ferguson implements to its sales line and among the new businesses established immediately after World War II were Isaac Furniture, United Dairy, Abbey's Toggery, Quenzer Appliance, Ben Franklin (District Property #13), the Hobby Shop, Silvaire Skating Rink, Norton Beauty Shop, Jordan's Infant Apparel Shop, Bowlmor Bowling Alley, and Kuhl's Watch and Clock Shop.

As with the nation's buildings, deferred maintenance during World War II and improved economic conditions in the decade following the war led to road and infrastructure improvements nationwide. The Kansas Legislature reconsidered state highway needs that had been halted during the War and drafted a long-range program for highway construction and maintenance, which included development of a "useful" network of highways.⁹⁴ At the same time, the auto industries refitted for automobile manufacturing, which had been ceased during the War, and consumer demand skyrocketed as Americans hit the road.

US Highway 36 was an important element of Norton's economy during this period, not only as a trade and transportation route, but in attracting tourist dollars. The Highway 36 Association formed during this period to promote tourism and improvements along the inter-state route. Among their first promotional efforts was the "Miss Perfect 36" contest, a national search for a "36-26-36" spokeswoman for the highway.⁹⁵ The first national winner (1951) was Pat McKinley of Norton, Kansas, who during her reign traveled the length of the highway promoting its use, meeting with politicians, throwing out the first pitch at baseball games, and "[making] a big splash in her official costume: shorts and a sweater."⁹⁶ [Figure #16] Improvements along US 36 in Norton included the new Brooks Motel and a promotional sign at the edge of town read "US 36/SHORTEST ROUTE.../INDIANAPOLIS to DENVER." [Figure #17]

⁹² Of the six buildings with documented façade remodeling during this period, four contribute to the District.

⁹³ Holly Hope, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register of Historic Places, "The Thrill of a New Home Without the Cost," http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/historic-properties/national-register/siding_materials.asp (accessed August 30, 2010).

⁹⁴ Rosin and Nimz, E-13.

⁹⁵ Jack Briggs, "Highway 36: A Highway with some Personal Remembrances," *Quincy (Illinois) Herald Whig*, July 10, 2010, http://www.whig.com/story/news/History_36 (accessed August 27, 2010). According to Briggs, "Measurements made up 50 percent of the points and there was a penalty of 10 percent for every inch of deviation. The other 50 percent was 10 percent for questions, 15 percent for personality, 10 percent on poise and the other 15 percent was for 'composition.'"

⁹⁶ Ibid.

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Rural-to-Urban Migration

As the post-war economy stabilized around the country, consumer demand increased, fueling production growth and contributing to a period of unprecedented economic prosperity. Wartime legislation, such as the GI Bill of Rights, provided subsidies for education, housing, and business endeavors, further shifting the national economy away from its agricultural roots.⁹⁷ As the nation's standard of living rose, those who chose to continue farming found it financially difficult. By 1950, the median income of farm families was only sixty percent of the median income of American families nationwide.⁹⁸ Thus, numerous families left farming for the increasing opportunities in towns and cities nationwide, a nationwide pattern reflected in Norton County. During the 1950s, Norton increased in population by almost 20 percent since 1940, its highest population to date. At the same time, outside the city limits Norton County lost 33 percent of its population, with just 4,730 residents in 1960.⁹⁹

As farms grew in size through consolidation, corporate farming brought larger-scale and advanced agricultural practices to the surrounding rural areas. Norton County farmers thoroughly adopted these new techniques and supported the commercial development of agricultural implement dealers and associated businesses in Norton. By 1950, Norton County led the state in terracing, with 417 miles established; over the next five years that number would grow to 3,850 miles. The Norton-Decatur Electric Co-Op expanded the county's electrical lines more than 700 miles along rural routes countywide and by 1955 nearly 90 percent of Norton County farms had electricity.¹⁰⁰ By the mid-1950s, five-dozen area farmers joined to form a new cooperative grain elevator company and the Norton County Co-op station went up in downtown Norton on West Lincoln. Though still described as "a new farming practice," by 1956 Norton County had more than 24,000 acres under irrigation and one of Norton's newest commercial endeavors was C&H Irrigation.¹⁰¹ Dramatic increases in farm equipment ownership took place between 1940 and 1955, during which time Norton County farms experienced a growth in the number of tractors by 117 percent, trucks by 298 percent, and combines, corn pickers, and bailers by 161 percent.¹⁰²

The wave of new development in Norton that began immediately after the War continued through the 1950s and well into the 1960s, as it did in many rural county seat communities nationwide. Municipal and federal investment continued at a rapid pace in an effort to keep up with Norton's growth. The school district undertook renovation and expansion projects at the grade school and high school buildings, as well as the construction of the new Eisenhower School. The City approved construction of a new swimming pool and completed a new Municipal Building (District Property #55), as well as numerous paving, curbing, and guttering projects on residential streets adjacent to downtown. The National Guard completed construction of a new armory in 1956-57, another State Highway division shop building went up in 1958, and the federal Bureau of Reclamation put forth a proposal to build a dam on Prairie Dog Creek west of town; after recent disastrous floods and desiring an improved water supply, the Norton City Council endorsed the plan.

⁹⁷ Davis and Spencer, E-34.

⁹⁸ Davis and Spencer, E-35.

⁹⁹ US Bureau of Census, Population Division, "1990 Census of Population and housing," table online, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen1990/cph2/cph-2-1-1.pdf>, (Accessed October 26, 2010)

¹⁰⁰ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 65-68 and *Trade Area Directory*, (Norton, Kansas: *Norton Daily Telegram*, 1956), 6.

¹⁰¹ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 70.

¹⁰² *Trade Area Directory*, 70.

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The early 1950s completion of the realignment of US Highway 36 along Holme Road bypassed downtown Norton and stimulated new construction along the northern edge of the city. New commercial development began to concentrate along the improved route and national trends materialized in Norton as convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, and new housing developments appeared along US 36.

A review of City Council minutes in the two years between June 5, 1951 and June 2, 1953 indicate a boom in private investment throughout Norton. In this short period, the City issued eighty-six building permits of which eighteen reflected commercial development and fifty-one reflected residential development.¹⁰³ By this time, television had arrived in Norton and residents enjoyed a new television store on South Wabash, as well as a new large Cinemascope screen at the Norton Theater (District Property #17). The new *Norton Telegram* building (District Property #08) [Figure #13] reflected the largest newspaper expansion in the area to date. The increase in construction spurred Bewbury Lumber & Ready Mix Company to join the other lumber companies doing business in town. In 1958, the community celebrated the arrival of dial system when Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (District Property #10) moved into a new building on East Lincoln Street.¹⁰⁴

Between 1950 and 1960, Norton's built environment underwent significant changes as new buildings went up throughout town. Seven resources in the Downtown District date to this period, five of which contribute.¹⁰⁵

Date of Construction	New Building
1950	Andbe Home for the Elderly
1950	Lutheran church (North Second Avenue)
1951	All Faiths Chapel (State Sanitarium)
1951	Neil Johnson's new office building
1951	Bennett Motors (West Lincoln)
1952	Dr. Atkinson's Animal Hospital
1952	Safeway Grocery Store
1952	Sunset Drive-In
1952	Epp's Snappy Service
1952	Hillcrest Motel (Holme Road/Highway 36)
1952	Sinclair Service Station (Holme Road/Highway 36)
1952; 1955	Carter/Norton Telegram Building (District Property #08) [Figure #13]
1953	Trailer court (Holme Road/Highway 36)
1953	Cole's Standard Oil Service Station (District Property #18)
1953	Dairy Queen (Holme Road/Highway 36)
1953	Norton-Decatur Electric Co-op Building (District Property #19) [Figure #12]
1953	Norton City Café Building (District Property #20)
1954	Ralph Reich's grain elevator (West Washington)
1954	Norton Appliance & Furniture
1954	Norton Municipal Building (aka City Hall) (District Property #55)
1955	Norton County Co-op Station
1955	Bozie's Barber Shop

¹⁰³ The remaining seventeen were unidentified as to whether they reflected residential or commercial development.

¹⁰⁴ From a Covered Wagon Ride . . . 70-72.

¹⁰⁵ From a Covered Wagon Ride . . . 67-68.

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1955	Roark Cleaners (North 1 st)
1955	Tweed's Barber Shop (District Property #05)
1956	Washington School
1956-58	Southwestern Bell Building (District Property #10)
1957	Christian Church
1958	4-H Building

In addition to new construction, the remodeling movement of the late 1940s continued through the 1950s with numerous remodeling efforts, storefront redesigns, and additions, reflecting a commercial development pattern documented both in Norton and nationwide. Renovations and storefront remodeling took place across town, including the total exterior remodeling of the Kent Hotel, St. Francis Catholic Church and Scott Funeral Home; the storefront remodeling of Ernest Laundry and Cleaning (former John Deere Building), Raney Drug (aka Marsh Building) (District Property #44), and all the retail establishments between 109 and 117 South State Street (District Properties #37 and #40); expansion of Messer Machinery Shop, Garrett's Plumbing and Heating (District Property #24); and renovation of an auto garage into Howell Beauty Parlor (District Property #09).¹⁰⁶ [Figure #15]

The Sixties

In Norton, the growth and development of the 1950s, continued through the 1960s, reaching its peak in 1970. During the 1960s, the rural population continued to decline, while within its city limits Norton grew by 10 percent to 3,627 residents in 1970, the highest point of its history. In response to continued population growth and demand for goods and services, new businesses opened in Norton during this period, including an oil and real estate firm, a dental office, a sporting goods store, a bowling alley, a service station, a garden center, and a Coast-to-Coast store, as well as Norton Sheet Metal, Lorimer Roofing, and Norton Lumber's new truss manufacturing company, employing a significant work-force. The Norton Development Company formed to promote additional industrial development in Norton County and conducted a fund drive to purchase land for future industrial development.

New construction during the 1960s included the Methodist Church, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center, a new forty-unit motel on US Highway 36, Drake's Norton Greenhouse, Norton Savings and Loan Building (District Property #48), and the Agricultural Stabilization and Soil Conservation Service (ASCS) Building (District Property #25). Remodeling projects continued, including the major 1964-1965 redesign of the Cozy Theater and Norton City Café buildings (District Properties #20 and #21) with new, modern façades composed of juxtaposed panels of irregular coursed stone and curtain walls as the new home of the First State Bank.

By 1961, construction of the dam across Prairie Dog Creek west of town ensued, having been originally approved by the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Norton City Council in 1958. The dam assembly required a massive amount of earth moving, construction, and the relocation of the railroad grades, so the Bureau of Reclamation set up an office in Norton to oversee construction. Upon completion, the Norton Reservoir's¹⁰⁷ capacity was 134,738 acre-feet, providing water storage for irrigation, as well as for use by the city of Norton. Additionally, it offered protection for the valley downstream from floods, as well as new opportunities for

¹⁰⁶ From a Covered Wagon Ride..., 67-68.

¹⁰⁷ Now known as Keith Sebelius Lake.

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recreation and wildlife conservation. In 1963, the State of Kansas granted water rights to the city of Norton and they immediately constructed a pipeline from the Norton Dam outlet to the newly completed municipal treatment plant.

Municipal improvements continued to keep pace with commercial and population growth and included the expansion of the power plant, purchase of a new fire truck, improvements at Elmwood Park to facilitate stock car racing, upgrade of the sewer plant, and annexation of 160 acres into the city limits, which included forty acres at the northwest edge of town and the eighty acres between the US 36 bypass route along Holme Road and the US 36 business route through the city.¹⁰⁸

Prologue

Norton's growth and improvements peaked in 1970, after which population and commercial development began a decline that continues today. Despite the loss of one-fourth of its population since 1970, Norton's approximately 2,650 residents boast an intact downtown commercial area that reflects a continuum of commercial buildings spanning more than a century of development. Currently, the occupants of buildings in the District reflect the same variety of commercial uses that have characterized Norton throughout much of its history. Financial institutions, a movie theater, a grocer, business and professional offices, variety shops, a pool hall, a café, and the county courthouse continue to operate as they have throughout much of downtown Norton's history.

The Norton City/County Economic Development Corporation recognizes the importance of retaining Norton's historic downtown resources. It is as a result of their initiative and concern for their community that this nomination is being submitted.

¹⁰⁸ *From a Covered Wagon Ride...*, 78-79.

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PROPERTY HISTORIES

The following list of properties offers a brief description of their individual histories and documents the diversity and continuum of commercial, civic, and institutional buildings and structures within the District:

01. 117 S 1st Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Brooks Motor Company; Scheetz Motor Company
Date of Construction: 1925
Property History:
 This building dates to 1925 and Brooks Motor Company began operation in June that year, selling primarily Ford autos. The operation expanded with a large rear addition in 1928. A 1930 photo shows Brooks Motor Company, an auto sales & service operation in the building. In 1942, Fred Scheetz of Norcatour took over the Brooks Chevrolet franchise and moved into this building. Scheetz Motors remained in the building through the mid-twentieth century.
02. 127 S 1st Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Kent Oil; Kent Filling Station
Date of Construction: 1925
Property History:
 This was Rex Kent's first filling station, opened in 1925 (his second station is at 205 S State Street). This station at 127 S 1st Street appears in a 1930 photo and on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, where it appears as a filling station with an "auto laundry" wing at the north end. In 1939, it became the Sinclair Service Station. Historic photos show the existing porch posts date to the 1950s or 1960s. Francis Sutton owned and operated the station in 1972.
03. 107 N Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Stapp Cabinet Shop
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Property History:
 A small coal shed appears on this site on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing building first appears on the 1925 Sanborn map as containing an unidentified store. The 1932 Sanborn map shows the building containing two small unidentified stores. In the late 1930s, it contained the W.B. Stapp Cabinet Shop.
04. 109 N Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Dr. Lathrop's Dentist Office
Date of Construction: 1938
Property History:
 This site is vacant on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. This building was constructed as a dental office in 1938. Dr. Lathrop expanded his services with orthodontics in the early 1950s. The building has contained a dentist's office throughout the twentieth century and remains so today.
05. 111 N Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Tweed's Barber Shop
Date of Construction: c. 1955
Property History:
 A different one-story building appears at this location on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map and in a 1951 photo. Glenn Tweed built this building around 1955 to serve as a barber shop and shoe repair shop. It continues to function as a barber shop today.

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06. 105 S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Norton County Courthouse
Date of Construction: 1929
Property History:
 The earlier, 1889 courthouse burned down in 1926. In August 1928, voters approved a bond issue for the erection of a new courthouse. The corner stone was shaped and carved in Topeka, shipped to Norton, and the laying ceremony took place on May 30, 1929 in the presence of reportedly 2,000 to 3,000 attendees. The corner stone contained a time capsule containing a copy of the Courier newspaper. The jail cells were located on the upper floors instead of in a separate building on-site as they were previously. The building was finally complete in December 1929, with cost of construction estimated at \$208,500. The design firm, Cuthbert & Suehrk of Topeka, used the same plan for the nearly identical Bourbon County Courthouse in Fort Scott the following year.
07. 212 S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing;
 Listed in the Register of
 Historic Kansas Places
Historic Property Name(s): Lyons, Dr. E.A., House
Date of Construction: c. 1901
Property History:
 Three small commercial buildings are shown at this location on the 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The house first appears on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Dr. Lyon moved to Norton in 1885 from Iowa. Upon his arrival he spent several years in the hardware business before purchasing a drugstore. His work in the drugstore and pharmacy business led him to pursue a degree in dentistry, which he achieved in 1893 (sources vary as to whether he attended school in Kansas City or Chicago). He returned to Norton and began a practice in his drugstore. Between 1899 and 1905 he built this house adjacent to the central business district to function as both his residence and his dental office. The north of the two entrance doors on the east elevation historically led into Dr. Lyon's dental office located on the first floor. He maintained his dental office in the residence until his retirement in the 1930s. Dr. Lyons was very active in Norton's development and helped organize the town band, was instrumental in the construction and management of the opera house, and built the two-story brick building at 208-210 East Washington. The Dr. Lyons House remained in the family for over one hundred years, owned most recently by Mrs. Dorothy Kennedy Moffet who listed the building in the Kansas Register of Historic Places in 1989. The Norton County Community Foundation currently owns the property and has received a grant from the Kansas State Historical Society to rehabilitate the building. The house represents the intentional location of the house to serve the combined uses of commercial dental office and single-family residence.
08. 213 S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Carter Building; Norton Telegram Building
Date of Construction: 1952; 1955
Property History:
 The north half of this building opened in 1952 as the Carter Building, housing Carter Printing Inc. In 1954, owner Elton Carter received the building permit to build the printing plant addition to the south. This was completed in 1955 as the new home of the Norton Telegram newspaper offices. A circa 1959 photograph shows the building appeared exactly as it does today.
09. 213A S Kansas Ave. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Howell Beauty Parlor
Date of Construction: c. 1946; c. 1956
Property History:
 The auto garage building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, however it appears in a 1951 aerial photo largely as it does today. Shortly after completion of the expansion of the Carter Building as the new home of the Norton Telegram, the garage was converted into commercial space where Joyce Howell began operation of her beauty salon. The building's current appearance dates to around 1956.

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10. 206 E Lincoln St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Southwestern Bell Telephone Building
Date of Construction: 1956-58
Property History:
 Construction on this building began in 1956. It opened in 1958 as the home of the dial system for Norton. Oral history with a former employee indicate the customer service desk operated on the first floor front where one arranged service and paid bills, the switching equipment was at the rear of the building, and a break room and the switchboard for operators was upstairs. AT&T currently owns this building and it houses the switching equipment for telephone service. It represents the continued post-World War II development of downtown Norton.
11. 206A E Lincoln St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Southwestern Bell Microwave Tower
Date of Construction: 1985
Property History:
 In 1985 Shephard Cement Works constructed the microwave tower at the rear of this lot. Oral history interviews indicate it required a continuous pour for as many as five days.
- 12.101 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Browne Block
Date of Construction: 1907; 1939
Property History:
 Different, one-story buildings appear at this location on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing M.F. Browne Block first appears on the 1908 Sanborn map, where it is shown containing a combination dry goods and boots/shoe store in the west storefront and a millinery in the east storefront. A photographer is shown occupying the upper story. The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps show two unidentified stores on the first story and the photo studio (McClure's photo studio) now occupying the rear section of the second floor. Oral history interviews with long-time Norton residents indicate that in the mid-twentieth century, Browne's Clothing occupied the entire first floor. The existing storefront arrangement and materials dates to a 1940 remodel. During the 1940s and through the 1960s, the second-story occupants included a beauty shop, a dentist, and attorney, a sign painter, a tax accountant, and Ida Walker's yarn and thread shop.
13. 109 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Ayers Block; Ben Franklin
Date of Construction: 1905
Property History:
 Different, one-story buildings appear at this location on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing Ayers Block first appears on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, where it is shown containing a dry goods, clothing, and shoe shop in the east storefront and a grocery in the west storefront. At this time, a lodge meeting hall occupied the second floor. The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps show a bakery and cafe in the east storefront, an unidentified store in the west storefront, and the lodge hall still on the upper story. The building was remodeled in 1947 when a Ben Franklin store moved into the first story, where it remained for many years and into the late twentieth century. A circa 1960 photograph shows the existing storefront in place. [Figure #13]
14. 201 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): First National Bank
Date of Construction: c. 1887; 1949-1950
Property History:
 This building appears on the 1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the earliest to cover Norton. It appears as a bank on every edition of the Sanborn maps. Originally an Italianate style structure, the bank remodeled the exterior in 1949-1950 to its current appearance in an effort to update the building's appearance after World War II. At this time the bank took over the two neighboring buildings to the east and remodeled them in the same Modern Movement fashion.
15. 203 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

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Historic Property Name(s): Moulton Drugs; Garrett's Plumbing and Heating**Date of Construction:** c. 1896; 1949-1950**Property History:**

A one-story building appears at this location on the 1893 Sanborn map. The existing building first appears on the 1899 Sanborn map and also appears in an 1899 photo. Moulton Drugs occupied the building in the building's early years. The 1908 Sanborn map shows a hardware store in this building. Noah Garrett's Plumbing and Heating business took occupancy around 1918 and remained there through the 1930s. In 1946, Noah sold the business to his son Russell who moved it to a new building at 112 N Norton Avenue. In the late 1940s First National Bank took ownership and remodeled the original Garrett building at 203 E Main in the Modern Movement style. A circa 1984 remodeling compromised the Modern Movement design elements and resulted in the building's current appearance.

16. 205 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing**Historic Property Name(s):** First National Bank Annex**Date of Construction:** 1984**Property History:**

Early twentieth century buildings occupied this site until circa 1982 when they were razed. This building was constructed around 1984 as an annex to the First National Bank at 201 East Main Street.

17. 215 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing**Historic Property Name(s):** Norton Auditorium; Norton Theater**Date of Construction:** 1907; 1948**Property History:**

Constructed between 1905 and 1908 as the Norton Auditorium, this building originally served as a venue for live stage performances. It also historically housed a lodge hall upstairs and a millinery and tailor in the southwest and southeast corner retail spaces, respectively. By 1925, the public library occupied the southwest corner of the first story. The Commonwealth Movie Theater (formerly the Cozy Theater) operation moved into this building in 1948 after a significant remodeling to its current appearance. In 1954, the theater installed Cinemascope. It continues to operate as a movie theater today.

18. 301 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing**Historic Property Name(s):** Cole's Standard Oil Service Station**Date of Construction:** 1953; 2008**Property History:**

This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. City Council minutes show the building permit for this building was granted to Neale Cole in January 1953. An oral history interview with current owner indicates it was the Standard Oil Service Station. In 2008, the current owner expanded the building with the addition of two large car-washing bays to the north elevation and a canopy shelter to the east elevation.

19. 309 E Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing**Historic Property Name(s):** Norton-Decatur Co-Op Electric Company**Date of Construction:** 1953**Property History:**

This building was under construction during 1953 to serve as the home of the Norton-Decatur Co-op Electric Company, aka Rural Electric Association. It cost about \$88,000 to build. A circa 1959 photograph shows the building largely as it appears today, at which time the co-op supplied electric service to about 4,200 consumers. Valley Hope Association currently occupies the building. The Norton-Decatur Electric Co-op formed in October 1938. With a loan from the REA, lines were installed and the first 97 miles of lines energized in January 1941. By the end of 1946, the cooperative had grown to 361 consumers and 130 miles of line, and 1950 was the largest growth year with over 1,000 customers receiving service. Loads continued to increase in the 1950s, resulting in the need for a new headquarters building, and by 1957, more than 4,000 customers received service on more than 3,000 miles of lines. By the 1980s, the cooperative served six counties. [Figure #12]

20. 101 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing**Historic Property Name(s):** Norton City Cafe; First State Bank**Date of Construction:** c. 1953; 1964-65

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Property History:

Constructed in 1953, this building replaced an earlier cafe building. In January 1964, the Norton City Council approved the permit for the remodeling of the Cozy Theater building at 105 W Main to become the new home of First State Bank, which included the remodel of 101 W Main Street. Bill Rouse, bank president at the time, designed the remodeling. The remodeling appears underway in a circa 1964 photo and was complete by 1965, featuring a new drive-thru banking option on the east elevation. The building retains good integrity from the period of remodeling.

21. 105 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Cozy Theater; Commonwealth Theater; First State Bank

Date of Construction: c. 1920; 1964-65

Property History:

Originally constructed as the Cozy Theater between 1908 and 1925, the building later became the Commonwealth Theater. The first 'talkie' in Norton took place here in 1929 and the first '100 percent color' show happened the following year. The movie theater closed in 1948 when the motion picture operation moved to the old Auditorium building at 215 E Main, which became known as the Norton Theater. Upon the departure of the theater, Howard Kuhl began operation of a watch and clock shop in the building in December 1949. In January 1964, the Norton City Council approved the permit for the remodeling of the theater building at 105 W Main to become the new home of First State Bank, previously located at 120 S State Street. Bill Rouse, bank president at the time, designed the remodeling. The remodeling appears underway in a circa 1964 photo and was complete by 1965, featuring a new drive-thru banking option on the east elevation. The building retains good integrity from the period of remodeling.

22. 111 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Melroy Cafe

Date of Construction: 1928

Property History:

This building does not appear on 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. According to local history sources, Sarvis and Olsen signed a contract for its construction in March 1928, with the intent that part of it serve as a rooming house. The 1932 Sanborn map shows it containing an unidentified store. During the mid-twentieth century, the Melroy cafe operated here, where one could get lunch for 45 cents. A 1989 photo shows it as Isaac Furniture warehouse with apartments on the upper floor.

23. 115 W Main St. **Eligibility:** Contributing

Historic Property Name(s): Ward Brothers Garage

Date of Construction: c. 1917

Property History:

This building appears in a circa 1918 photo as Ward Brothers Garage. The 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows the building containing a garage with the capacity for 45 cars in the west end and an auto sales store in the east end. Between 1925 and 1932, the southwest corner was opened up as a drive-through filling station. Oral history interviews indicate this was Ward Brothers (aka Ward's Auto) until the mid-1950s when it changed to a furniture store around 1956 and the drive-through bays were enclosed as they were originally. [Figure #9] A 1989 photo shows Isaac Furniture occupying the building.

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24. **112 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Garrett's Plumbing and Heating
Date of Construction: 1946; c. 1951
Property History:
 Noah Garrett received a building permit in February 1946 to construct this building. The north addition was in place by 1953. Oral history interviews indicate it appears as it did in the 1950s and that it may have contained Norton's first laundromat at one time.
25. **113 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): ASCS Building
Date of Construction: 1966
Property History:
 In August 1965, the Norton City Council approved the building permit for Keith Sebelius and Russell Garrett to construct this building. Sebelius and Garrett completed by 1966 to house the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Soil Conservation Service (ASCS) offices. ASCS also subleased space in the building to the Federal Crop Insurance and Farmer's Home Administration. In 1979, an addition was added on to the rear, at the northeast corner. In 2000, Nex-Tech (Rural Telephone Service Corporation) bought the building and moved in after the Farm Service Center built a new building elsewhere. Recent occupants include Waddell & Reed from 2004 to 2009; Northwest Kansas Planning & Development from 2008 to 2009; Head Start and Norton City/County Economic Development since 2007.
26. **116 N Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Acme Glass; Harding Glass; Hahnenkratt Glass Co.
Date of Construction: c.1928
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. It first appears on the 1932 Sanborn map as containing an auto painting and repair shop. Oral history interviews indicate Acme Glass and Wallpaper operated here in the 1950s. Harding Glass operated in this building in the early 1970s.
27. **101 S Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Fleming's Hudson; Wingfield Motor Company; City Motors
 Dodge
Date of Construction: c. 1917; c. 1950
Property History:
 This building does not appear on 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. It first appears on the 1917 plat map and in circa 1920 and circa 1930 photographs as Fleming's Hudson and Essex auto dealer and service. The building appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps as an auto garage with capacity for 62 cars. It became the home of Wingfield Motor Company (Roy Wingfield, prop.) in 1937. A 1951 photograph shows the building with the existing Perma-Stone facade treatment and containing City Motors, a Dodge and Plymouth dealer. [Figure #14]
28. **105 S Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Sebelius Building
Date of Construction: 1982
Property History:
 Historical Society records date this building to 1982. It stands on the site of the former Gilbert Apartments building.

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29. **210 S Norton Ave.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): OK Tire Shop
Date of Construction: 1946
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Oral history interviews suggest it originally contained a tire retreading shop and is likely Gerald Murphy's OK Tire Shop constructed in 1946. A 1951 aerial photo shows it much as it appears today and interviews with long-time residents indicate it appears as it did in the 1950s. It is also possible the building served as the location of Joe Johns' printing business prior to 1970. Valley Hope owns the building today.
30. **101-103 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Norton Masonic Lodge; Western Auto; Horney Appliance
Date of Construction: 1947
Property History:
 A fire in February 1945 destroyed the building that previously stood on this site, as well as the two buildings to the south. The existing building was completed in 1947 as the new home of the Masonic Lodge (which previously occupied the upper floor of the earlier building), as well as for commercial endeavors on the first floor. Lee Horney operated a Western Auto store at this location prior to the fire. Glen M. Young took over the Western Auto store after the reconstruction and continued operation on the first floor in the late 1940s and 1950s. From 1947 until the 1980s, Horney Appliance occupied the south end retail space.
31. **102 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Dunbar's Shoe Store; Moffet Drug Store
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Property History:
 This building appears in a circa 1920 photograph. The 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows this building containing a bank with a printing shop in the basement and two unidentified stores at the west end. A 1920s photograph shows Dunbar's Shoes occupying the building. The 1932 Sanborn map shows the main corner retail space occupied by an unidentified store and the west end space (at the alley) occupied by the police department. Oral history interviews indicate Cutting Pharmacy was here in the 1930s and in the 1940s, Moffet Drugs occupied the forward (east) half of this building while doctor's offices and an insurance office occupied the rear spaces facing onto West Main Street. In the early 1970s, Moffet Drug occupied the forward part of this building and Bridges Insurance Agency occupied the rear part. Moffet Drug continues to operate in the building today.
32. **104 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Bower's Barber Shop
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Property History:
 A building of similar dimensions appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, however the existing building does not appear in a circa 1930 photo of this site. Oral history interviews indicate this building contained H. Bower's Barber Shop in the 1930s through 1950s. It appears in a 1951 photograph. It contained the cable television office in the 1980s.
33. **105 S State St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Duckwall's
Date of Construction: 1946
Property History:
 A fire in February 1945 at the Masonic Lodge (101-103 S State) building to the north destroyed much of this building and it was rebuilt to its current configuration and appearance in 1946-47. Duckwall's occupied the building during the late 1940s. It appears in a late 1940s view largely as it does today.

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34. 106 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Abbey's Toggery; Hall's Clothing
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Property History:
 A building of similar dimensions appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, however the existing building does not appear in a circa 1930 photo of this site. It appears in a 1951 photograph. Abbey's Toggery, a clothing store, began operating in this building in 1948. Carol Hall bought the buildings in 1950 and began Hall's Clothing. Hall had previously owned Hall's Produce Company, which he sold to Lauren Sanderson in 1949. Hall's Clothing remained in the buildings for the remainder of the twentieth century until recently. The current appearance likely dates to the late 1940s when Hall took ownership.
35. 107 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Stapleton Drugstore
Date of Construction: c. 1890; 1946
Property History:
 A fire in 1945 at the Masonic Lodge (101-103 S State) and 105 S State to the north caused significant damage to this late nineteenth century building. As a result, it was rebuilt and extensively remodeled to its current configuration and appearance in 1946. It appears in a late 1940s photograph largely as it does today and containing Stapleton Drugs. Historic photographs identify the existing storefront and awning as dating to circa 1959.
36. 108 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Hall's Clothing
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Property History:
 A building of similar dimensions appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, however the existing building does not appear in a circa 1930 photo of this site. It appears in a 1951 photograph. It has contained Hall's Clothing since the late 1940s. Carol Hall bought the buildings in 1948, which contained clothing shops at the time. Hall's Clothing remained in the buildings until recently. The current appearance likely dates to the late 1940s when Hall took ownership.
37. 109-113 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Moulton's Drugstore; Cottage Shop; Hall's Real Estate
Date of Construction: c. 1906
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. It first appears in a 1906 photograph and on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, where it is shown containing: a hardware and tin shop (north end); a drug store (center); and offices and apartments on the second floor. An early photograph of the building shows this as containing Moulton's Drugstore (center), Juarez [sic] Hardware and Queens ware shop (north end), and R.C. Elrod's store (south end). The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps show the tin shop still in the basement of the north end, unidentified stores in all the first-story retail spaces, and offices on the upper floor. A fire in the neighboring building to the south took place in 1935 that resulted in considerable interior damage. Mid- to late-twentieth century occupants included: Funk Cottage Shop and Mode-O-Day Dress Shop (south end); Manning's Office Supply (1980s south end); Palmer's (south end); Boatman Law Firm; Hall Real Estate (upstairs); and American Life Insurance. Historic photographs date each of the storefront systems to between 1949 and circa 1959.
38. 110 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Pool Hall
Date of Construction: c. 1937
Property History:
 A building of similar dimensions appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, however the existing building does not appear in a 1930 photograph of this site. Oral history dates this building to the 1930s. It appears in a 1951 photograph. According to local history sources, this building has functioned as a pool hall since at least 1939. Delphia and/or Babe Lesh may have been the operators. Norton historian, Joe Ballinger, recounted, "there were three pool halls on that block -- two on the west side and one on the east side -- and on Saturdays, cars were parked all along both sides of State Street with the farm ladies visiting in the cars and the men in the pool halls." The

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building continues to contain a pool hall today.

39. 112 S State St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Vern Lee Building; Isaac Furniture
Date of Construction: c. 1946
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. According to local history sources, Vern Lee built the south half of this building immediately after the war and added the north half by 1951. Oral history interviews suggest a pool hall occupied the south half early on and the north half contained a bowling alley in the basement. The building was described as 'new' in 1946 when Isaac Furniture moved in. The building appears with both halves in place but without its current non-historic sheathing in a 1951 photo. Duckwall's moved to this location (previously located at 105 S State) in the 1970s. The remodeled facade, which visually combined the two halves of the building, likely dates to the arrival of Duckwall's and appears in a circa 1972 photo. Dollar General occupied the building until recently when they relocated to a new building on Highway 36. The removal of the non-historic facade coverings is pending.
40. 115-117 S State St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Virtue Store; McDonald's Clothing
Date of Construction: c. 1903
Property History:
 This site is vacant on the 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. This building first appears on the 1905 Sanborn map, where it is shown containing a general store (north half) and a clothing store (south half), as well as a photo studio on the upper floor. A circa 1915 photograph shows Matthews Grocery in the north storefront and Fairness Clothing in the south storefront. The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps show two unidentified stores in the building. In 1935, a fire caused considerable damage to this building and each of its neighbors to the north and south. In 1951, the building was remodeled and opened as the Virtue Store. J.M. McDonald purchased the building and business in 1953 opening McDonald's Clothing. The existing storefronts appear in circa 1959 photos when J.M. McDonald's Clothing occupied this building. The upper facade of this building appears sheathed, as it does today, in a 1972 photograph. McDonald's Department store occupied the building until the mid-1980s when LuJon's Department Store moved in.
41. 116 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Boxler Insurance; Gordon Realtors
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Property History:
 Though a building with a similar footprint is shown at this location on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, this building does not appear in a circa 1930 photo, where a different building appears. Oral history interviews indicate this was Boxler Insurance during the 1940s and 1950s. The building appears in a 1951 photo. A 1980s photo shows the same smooth, upper-facade treatment that appears there today.
42. 116-1/2 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Coe Barber Shop
Date of Construction: c. 1935
Property History:
 Though a building with a similar footprint is shown at this location on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, this building does not appear in a circa 1930 photo, where a very different building appears. This was a barber shop in the 1940s and 1950s. The building appears in a 1951 photograph as it does today, including the stucco treatment on the upper facade wall.

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43. 118 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): J.C. Penney Company
Date of Construction: c. 1946
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Oral history interviews date the building to shortly after World War II. The building appears as it does today in photographs from 1951 and circa 1964. The existing awning dates to circa 1959. J.C. Penney's remained at this location until at least the 1980s.
44. 119 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Marsh Building; Rexall Drugstore
Date of Construction: 1904; 1958
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. It first appears on the 1905 Sanborn as a drug store with the notation "From Plans." The 1908 Sanborn map shows the building containing a bank and a barber in the east half and the post office and a printing shop (basement) in the west half. First State Bank occupied this building from 1906 through 1917 when they moved to 120 S State Street. A circa 1920 photograph shows it containing the post office among the occupants. The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps both show it containing a drugstore. A fire in the neighboring building to the north took place in 1935 that resulted in considerable interior damage. It appears in a circa 1950 photograph containing Rexall Drugs. The existing storefronts date to the 1958 remodeling that occurred while Raney Drugstore occupied the building. Historic 1960s photographs show the existing storefronts in place. Raney's Drugstore was a very popular place as a 'hangout' for Norton's youth during the 1940s and 1950s.
45. 120 S State St. **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): First State Bank
Date of Construction: c. 1907; c. 1950
Property History:
 A different, smaller building appears at this location on the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing building first appears on the 1908 Sanborn, where it is shown containing a bank with an Odd Fellows hall on the second floor. It remains as such on both the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps. First State Bank first occupied the building in 1917, previously operating in the building at 119 S State Street. In the mid-twentieth century, by 1951, the decorative faux tower feature and the broken pediment over the entrance were removed and a smooth wall treatment applied to modernize the building's appearance. This secondary treatment has recently been removed to reveal much of the original decorative wall treatment.
46. 205 S State St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Kent Service Station
Date of Construction: 1934
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Rex Kent initiated the construction of this building in 1934, his second filling station (his first station is at 127 S 1st Avenue). It remained a filling/service station throughout the twentieth century. In the early 1970s Bill's Rapid Service occupied the building.
47. 108 E Washington St. **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Fulcrut Dry Goods; Sears Catalog Store
Date of Construction: 1900
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. A carved stone block at center of primary (north) parapet wall has letters in relief that read "1900." The building first appears on 1905 Sanborn map containing a binding shop in the basement, a dry goods and clothing store on the first floor, and the Odd Fellows hall on the second floor. The 1908 Sanborn map shows a dry goods and boots and shoes store on the first story. The historic address (pre 1925) was 56 Washington. A circa 1920 photo shows it containing F.C. Fulcrut's dry goods and shoe store. A 1972 photo shows Sears occupying the building.

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48. **202 E Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Norton Savings & Loan; Heritage Savings Association
Date of Construction: 1964
Property History:
 This building was constructed in 1964 as the new home for the Norton Savings & Loan. The grand opening took place in May 1964. Upon its opening, other occupants in the building included Business Men's Assurance Co., Norton County Abstract, a dentist in an office at the rear of the building, and Purtzer & Dutton Construction in a basement office. Founded in 1922 as the Norton County Building & Loan Association, it was an outgrowth of the earlier Kidder Insurance Agency founded in 1914. Almema State Bank now occupies the building.
49. **204 E Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Hixon Jewelers; Worden's Jewelers
Date of Construction: c. 1930; c. 1946
Property History:
 A one-story building of similar proportions appears at this location on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, where it is shown containing a tailor shop. A 1920s photo shows the building at this location as the Carter & McMullen grocery. The 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps show a building of the same proportions containing an unidentified store. A 1940s photograph, as well as a 1951 photograph both show this building retains good integrity from the period of significance. Worden's Jewlers moved into the building in 1955, at which time it had recently been remodeled and was described as 'modern.' Crow Chiropractic has occupied the building since 1970.
50. **206 E Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Ambrose Creamery
Date of Construction: c. 1920; c. 1950
Property History:
 A different, smaller building appears at this site on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing building first appears in a 1920s photograph and on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, where it is shown containing a creamery with an ice plant at the rear. A 1940s photograph shows this building with a different storefront and without the stucco treatment on the upper facade. Around 1950, Norton Cleaners moved into the building, at which time they remodeled the facade to its current appearance. Norton Cleaners continues operation at this location today.
51. **208-210 E Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Lyons Building; Norton Bakery Building
Date of Construction: 1921
Property History:
 Two different, smaller buildings appear at this site on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing building does not appear in a circa 1920 photograph of this section of Washington Street. The sign panel at cornice level dates the building to 1921. It first appears on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, where it is shown containing a cleaning and pressing shop in the east half and a telegraph office on the upper story. The post office is shown in the west half of the first story on the 1932 Sanborn map. A 1940s photo shows a bakery in the west half of the first story. In the 1980s, Norton Bakery and McCubbin Law Office occupied the building.
52. **208-210AE Washington St.** *Eligibility:* Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Lyons Building Garage
Date of Construction: c. 1921
Property History:
 This outbuilding appears on both the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as a dry cleaning house. These maps show small additions to the north and east sides that are no longer extant. The building appears in a 1951 aerial photo largely as it does today.

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53. **212 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Undetermined
Date of Construction: c. 1918
Property History:
 A different, smaller building appears at this site on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The existing building appears in a circa 1920 photograph and on the 1925 and 1932 Sanborn maps, where it is shown containing an unidentified store. Carol's Beauty Shop occupied the building in the 1980s.
54. **214 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Undetermined
Date of Construction: c. 1900
Property History:
 A building of the same dimensions appears at this location on all available Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and the forward portion of this building may date to as early as circa 1890. The 1893 Sanborn map shows a building matching the dimensions of the forward portion, where it is shown containing millinery. It later contained a tailor (1899) and an office (1905 and 1925). The 1908 Sanborn map shows the building containing an office, as well as a dwelling. Throughout this period, a small frame addition extended from the west half of the rear elevation. The 1932 Sanborn map shows the building internally divided north-south to form two narrow retail stores and will a new, tile rear addition. Security Abstract occupied the building in the 1980s.
55. **301 E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Norton Municipal Building; City Hall
Date of Construction: 1954
Property History:
 In November, 1951 this lot was vacant. John V. Metz of Mankato, Kansas, designed the new city hall building, plans for which were largely completed by February 1953. Forest Davidson Construction acted as contractor and his bid of \$67,080 was accepted by the City Council in April 1953. Furniture was ordered in December 1953 and the building opened in 1954, representing continued post-World War II development that occurred in downtown Norton. The police station wing on the east elevation dates to 1984.
56. **306 (302-308) E Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Norton Post Office
Date of Construction: 1935
Property History:
 A small filling station occupied this site on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. By 1934, the site had been chosen and the \$50,000 in costs paid for this WPA post office. The corner stone dates the building to 1935. The dedication of the building took place on February 2, 1936 and was occupied two weeks later under post mistress Mary Browne. It continues to function as Norton's post office today.
57. **101 (109) W Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Corner Cafe
Date of Construction: c. 1920
Property History:
 This building first appears on 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as a garage with a capacity of eighteen cars with a store in the southeast corner of the building. By the 1940s, a cafe occupied the south half of the building and a flower shop occupied the north half of the building. The stucco may date to this period, as it is in place in a circa 1951 aerial photo.

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58. **102 W Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Ayers Auto Supply
Date of Construction: c. e
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map and first appears on the 1925 Sanborn map, where it is shown containing grocery warehouse. The building appears in a 1951 aerial photograph. Ayers Auto Supply moved into this building in 1952 and sold wholesale auto parts until at least the 1970s.
59. **109 W Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Coca-Cola Bottling Warehouse
Date of Construction: 1946
Property History:
 This building does not appear on the 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Oral history interviews with long-time residents, including Warren Heaton co-owner of the plant at the time, confirm it was constructed in 1946 for truck and bottle storage for the neighboring Coca-Cola Bottling Plant (111 W Washington, across the alley to the west) during a period of expansion and improvements for the company and Norton, in general. It first appears in a 1951 aerial photo (Figure 11). It operated in its historic function until the 1970s when the bottling plant sold to a Colorado firm. Nelson Brothers Construction currently occupies the building.
- The Heaton family purchased the pre-fabricated building from Star Manufacturing Company of Oklahoma City. Founded in 1927, Star Manufacturing emerged out of Oklahoma's oil industry initially building small oil well engine shelters and tool sheds. A principal producer of military hangars and Quonset huts during World War II, after the war, Star Manufacturing aimed their market at agricultural and industrial business, such as the Heaton's Coca-Cola Bottling Plant.¹⁰⁹ Please see Figure 24 and 25.
60. **109A W Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Non-contributing
Historic Property Name(s):
Date of Construction: c. 1980
Property History:
 This building does not appear in a 1951 photograph of the area. It appears to date to the late twentieth century outside the period of significance of the district.
61. **111-115 W Washington St.** **Eligibility:** Contributing
Historic Property Name(s): Coca-Cola Bottling Plant; Norton Bottling Works
Date of Construction: 1927
Property History:
 Thomas M. Heaton began Norton Bottling Works with his brother Charley in 1903. Three years later, they started bottling Coca-Cola. They expanded the bottling business with the construction of this building in 1926-27 and installation of new bottling machinery in 1929. The building first appears on the 1932 Sanborn map, where it is shown containing a printing plant in the west half and a bottling works in the east half. The Daily Telegram occupied the building during the late 1920s until 1934, when the Daily Courier moved in. The building was "modernized" in 1946 with an addition to the rear, the installation of automated bottling mechanisms, and the construction of a new warehouse to the east (109 W Washington). Additional expansions of the automated bottling works occurred throughout the 1950s. In 1971, the Heaton family business, one of the longest continuously operating family businesses in Norton, sold the business to a Colorado firm and shortly thereafter bottling discontinued and the building served as a warehouse only. The building later contained a vacuum repair shop. American Family Insurance has been here since about 1989.

¹⁰⁹ Star Building Systems, "Star History," <http://www.starbuildings.com/about/history.aspx>, (Accessed October 27, 2010).

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62. Brick Street Network

Eligibility: Contributing

Date of Construction: 1919-1920

Property History:

The brick paving went in during the summer of 1919, subsequent to the installation of the sewers the previous winter. The brick street paving along State Street between each railroad line cost \$24,872. Increased traffic led to the installation of stop signs at major intersections in 1928. The brick paving was removed from South State Street in 1987 and replaced with concrete.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Composed primarily of commercial business buildings, as well as civic, mixed-use, and light industrial buildings, the Norton Downtown Historic District represents the historic patterns of economic development of Norton. As a grouping, this collection of buildings reflects the evolution of commercial, civic, and light-industrial functions present in Norton's primary mercantile district from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The restrained vernacular designs that comprise Norton's downtown convey a sense of cohesiveness and physically represent the spectrum of building types and forms associated with local commercial development. Of the sixty-two resources in the District, more than seventy percent (70%) contribute to the District's significance.

ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

Norton has benefitted from the several designs of architects and master builders. Among the notable figures that shaped downtown Norton were the following:

Cuthbert & Suehrk Architects (Topeka)

Charles D. Cuthbert (1894-1979) was a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and was appointed Kansas State Architect from 1925 to 1930. He had a successful solo practice prior to his partnership with William E. Suehrk. Among his contracts were: the Methodist Church in Lyons, Kansas (1915); the Fort Dodge Hospital (c1920); Hartman, Porter, and McCray halls in Pittsburg, Kansas (c1925); and the North Wing of Farrell Library on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, Kansas (1927). Cuthbert joined with Suehrk around 1927. Suehrk (1890-1970), a native of Davenport, Iowa and son of German immigrants, worked as an architectural draftsman for C.D. McLane in Rock Island, Illinois in the late 1910s. He remained in the Davenport area where he married his wife, Martha, until moving to Topeka in the late 1920s where he remained until his death.

Cuthbert & Suehrk completed worked primarily in Kansas, and Topeka, in particular, into at least the early 1950s. A non-comprehensive list of known commissions by Cuthbert & Suehrk includes:

Gem Building, Topeka, Kansas (1928)

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Norton County Courthouse, Norton, Kansas (1929) (District Property #06)
Rutter Building, Topeka, Kansas (1930; Demolished 2000)
Bourbon County Courthouse, Fort Scott, Kansas (1930)
Montgomery County Courthouse, Independence, Kansas (1931)
East Topeka Junior High School, Topeka, Kansas (1936)
Agriculture Building, Topeka, Kansas (1938)
Garlinghouse Building, Topeka, Kansas (1951; Demolished 2000)

Louis A. Simon, Government Architect

Between 1852 and 1939, the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect (OSA) oversaw the design and construction of federal buildings throughout the United States. The 1926 Keyes-Elliot Act authorized competitions to select private architects to design federal buildings and until about 1934, most smaller post offices were designed by private architects. However, after the 1934 passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act and its appropriations of \$65 million for federal building projects, few of the hundreds of smaller post office buildings constructed nationwide were designed outside the OSA.

The duties of the OSA included preparation of preliminary sketches and estimates, working drawings, specifications, and decorative treatment of all building projects authorized under the various federal building programs.

In addition to the Norton Post Office (District Property #56), OSA architect, Louis A. Simon, oversaw federal building plans from 1933 through at least 1940, a period of accelerated federal construction nationwide. Typically, the OSA architect developed plan "types" that could be modified for specific local conditions and would often be overseen on-site by a local architect. As a result, numerous post office buildings, and smaller facilities in particular, are identical or nearly so. For example, the author has identified identical WPA post office buildings in Salem, Illinois, and Missouri Valley, Iowa.

John V. Metz, Architect (Mankato)

Born in 1903 to a house carpenter, John Metz resided in Mankato through his early 20s. The Kansas State Census of 1925 shows he resided with his parents in Mankato while attending school in what appears to be Kansas City.¹¹⁰ In 1930, he and his wife Marie had a son, Richard. With J.W. Radotinsky he designed the Jewell County Courthouse in Mankato, a 1936 WPA project. The family lived in Panama for more than two years between 1945 and 1948. In 1952-53, he received the contract for design of the new Norton Municipal Building (District Property #55). Little else is known about Metz except that he moved to Wheat Ridge, Colorado in the late twentieth century and died in 1990.

¹¹⁰ The census taker's handwriting is only partially legible, preventing confirmation of location.

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Gurtler & Company Construction (Topeka)

George H. Gurtler (b1867), a North Topeka native, worked as a construction and lumber contractor throughout the early twentieth century. Engineering and Contracting journal reported in their January-June 1907 issue that G.H. Gurtler joined with M.A. Blanchard, Wm. Olham, C.W. Swallow, and O.E. Hungate to form Blanchard Construction. From 1910 through 1930 G.H. Gurtler lived with his wife, Florence, on Evelyn Street in Topeka. His firm completed construction of the Norton County Courthouse (District Property #06) in 1929.

Neal A. Melick, Government Engineer

Between 1852 and 1939, the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Engineer (OSE) oversaw the engineering aspects of the design and construction of federal buildings throughout the United States. In 1939, the Public Buildings Administration was established as a separate division of the Federal Works Agency to oversee public building projects nationwide. Responsibilities included "the administrative, technical, and clerical functions incident to the design, construction, maintenance and repair of Federal buildings."¹¹¹ Duties of the OSE included preparation of contract documents, notices to proceed, site surveys, and supervision of contractors completing work on any public building project.

In addition to the Norton Post Office (District Property #56), OSE engineer, Neal A. Melick, oversaw federal building plans from at least the mid 1930s through 1940, a period of accelerated federal construction nationwide. A non-comprehensive list of buildings known to be under his supervision include post offices in South Pasadena, California (1935), Salem, Illinois (1936-37), Berryville, Arkansas (1938), Kewaunee, Wisconsin (1940), Waupaca, Wisconsin (1940), and Fredricktown, Missouri (1939).

Forest Davidson Construction Company

The historic record is unclear as to the base location of the Forest Davidson Construction Company in the early 1950s when the firm was awarded the contract for construction of the Norton Municipal Building (District Property #55). Named for Forest Davidson, the firm was likely based in Barnard, Kansas upon the award since Davidson and his wife, Nora E. Blanding Davidson, resided in Barnard in 1940 where they had a son that year. Upon completion of the city hall building, Davidson also received the contract for Norton's Eisenhower Elementary School, completed in 1956. Oral history interviews with long-time residents indicates Davidson moved his family to Norton upon award of these contracts and built the brick home at 1120 North Second Street.

¹¹¹ *United States Government Manual*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, July 1940), available from University of Minnesota Library Online, <http://digital.lib.umn.edu/TEXTS/007/0005BODY.PDF> (accessed August 25, 2010).

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Norton Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

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Norton Downtown Historic District
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Norton County Historical Society; Norton City/County Economic Development

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 19 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>423870</u>	<u>4409020</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>14</u>	<u>424180</u>	<u>4409020</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	<u>14</u>	<u>424240</u>	<u>4408800</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>14</u>	<u>423940</u>	<u>4408760</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Norton Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Norton County, Kansas
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Norton Downtown Historic District is shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 26: Boundary Map." The narrative description of the boundaries is as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the property at 115 West Main Street, proceed east along the north property lines of the 100 block of West Main Street to the northwest corner of the property at 107 North Kansas Avenue, then proceed north to the northwest corner of the property at 111 North Kansas Avenue, then proceed east to the west edge of the property at 206 East Lincoln Street and proceed north to the northwest corner of the property, then proceed east to the northeast corner of the property at 113 North Norton Avenue, then proceed south to the north edge of the property at 309 East Main Street and proceed east to the north east edge of the property, then proceed south to the southeast corner of the property at 309 East Main Street and proceed west to the southwest corner of the property, then proceed south along the east property lines of the 100 block of South Norton Avenue and across East Washington Street to the north edge of the property at 306 East Washington Street, then proceed east to the northeast corner of the property and proceed south to the southeast corner of the same property, then proceed west along the south edge of the property and across the street to the northeast corner of the property at 210 South Norton Avenue, then proceed along the property's south edge to the east edge of the property at 213 South Kansas Avenue, then proceed south to the property's southeast corner, then proceed west along the north curb of East Penn Street and across South State Street to the southwest corner of the property at 102 West Washington Street, then proceed north to the north curb of West Washington Street, then proceed west to the southwest corner of the property at 127 South 1st Avenue, then proceed north to the northwest corner of the property at 117 South 1st Avenue, then proceed east along the property's north edge to the northwest corner of the property at 109 West Washington, then proceed north along the west edge of the properties in the 100 block of South State Street to the southwest corner of the property at 105 West Main Street, then proceed west to the southwest corner of the property at 115 West Main Street, then proceed north along the property's west edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Norton Downtown Historic District encompasses, without exceeding, the concentration of historic resources that retain architectural integrity and are significantly associated with the commercial development of the community during the period of significance. The District's boundary corresponds to the parcel lines of the included properties, all of which lie within the original limits of the town's original plat and early additions.

The contributing resources define the historic setting and sense of place of downtown Norton, which is underscored and strengthened by the intact historic brick street network. The historic automobile-related and light-industrial resources on the west, south, and north ends of the District are key elements to understanding the historic development of the Norton's downtown. Four non-contributing resources (#20, #21, #25, #48) clearly representing the continued post-World War II development of downtown Norton and reflecting Modern Movement stylistic influences, retain excellent integrity and will be potentially eligible within three to five years.

Residential properties and new construction form much of the boundary in each direction. The commercial properties adjacent to and beyond the boundaries were considered for inclusion, but were determined ineligible for reasons of integrity or age.

Norton Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Norton County, Kansas
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian
 organization Preservation Solutions LLC date November 2010
 street & number 606 Spruce Street telephone 816-225-5605
 city or town Wamego state KS zip code 66547
 e-mail kdavis@preservation-solutions.net

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Norton Downtown Historic District

City or Vicinity: Norton

County: Norton **State:** Kansas

Photographer: Kerry Davis

Date Photographed: August 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

All photograph locations shown on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 27: Photograph Location Map. All digital images labeled as follows: KS_NortonCounty_NortonDowntownHD_000#.tif

01 of 24	South State Street, view south from Main Street.	View S
02 of 24	West Main Street, view east from South 1 st Street.	View E
03 of 24	East Main Street, view northeast from State Street.	View NE
04 of 24	North Kansas Avenue, view southeast from Main Street.	View SE
05 of 24	North Kansas Avenue, 107 (R) through 111 (L)	View SE
06 of 24	East Lincoln Street, 106 (center)	View SE
07 of 24	North Norton Avenue, view southeast from East Lincoln Street.	View SE
08 of 24	North Norton Avenue, 112 (L) and 116 (R)	View NW
09 of 24	East Main Street, view west from Wabash Avenue	View W
10 of 24	East Main Street, view northwest from Norton Avenue	View NW
11 of 24	South Norton Avenue, view southeast from Main Street	View SE
12 of 24	East Washington Street, view north from South Norton Avenue	View N
13 of 24	South Norton Avenue, 210 (L)	View W
14 of 24	East Washington Street, 204 (R) through 306 (L)	View SE

Norton Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Norton County, Kansas
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15 of 24	South Kansas Avenue, view northeast from Penn Street	View NE
16 of 24	South Kansas Avenue, view southwest of 212 (L)	View SW
17 of 24	South Kansas Avenue, view northwest from East Washington St.	View NW
18 of 24	102 West Washington Street (R) and 205 South State Street	View SE
19 of 24	West Washington Street, view east from South 1 st Street	View E
20 of 24	South 1 st Street, view northeast from West Washington Street	View NE
21 of 24	Alley behind 109 & 111-15 West Washington and 117 South 1 st Street	View S
22 of 24	South State Street, view north from East Washington Street	View N
23 of 24	South State Street, 102 (R) through 120 (L)	View NW
24 of 24	South Kansas Avenue, 101-103 (R) through 119 (L)	View SW

Property Owner:

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

name PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Norton Downtown Historic District
Norton, Norton County, Kansas

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6. Function or Use (cont.)

Historic Functions

- INDUSTRY/communications facility
- AGRICULTURE/processing
- GOVERNMENT/city hall
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- GOVERNMENT/courthouse
- HEALTH CARE/medical office
- TRANSPORTATION/road-related
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

- INDUSTRY/communications facility
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
- GOVERNMENT/city hall
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- GOVERNMENT/courthouse
- HEALTH CARE/medical office
- TRANSPORTATION/road-related
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- VACANT

7. Description (cont.)

Architectural Classification

- MODERN MOVEMENT
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Streamlined Moderne
- OTHER: PWA Moderne
- OTHER: Shed Style
- OTHER: Brick Paving
-
-
-

Materials

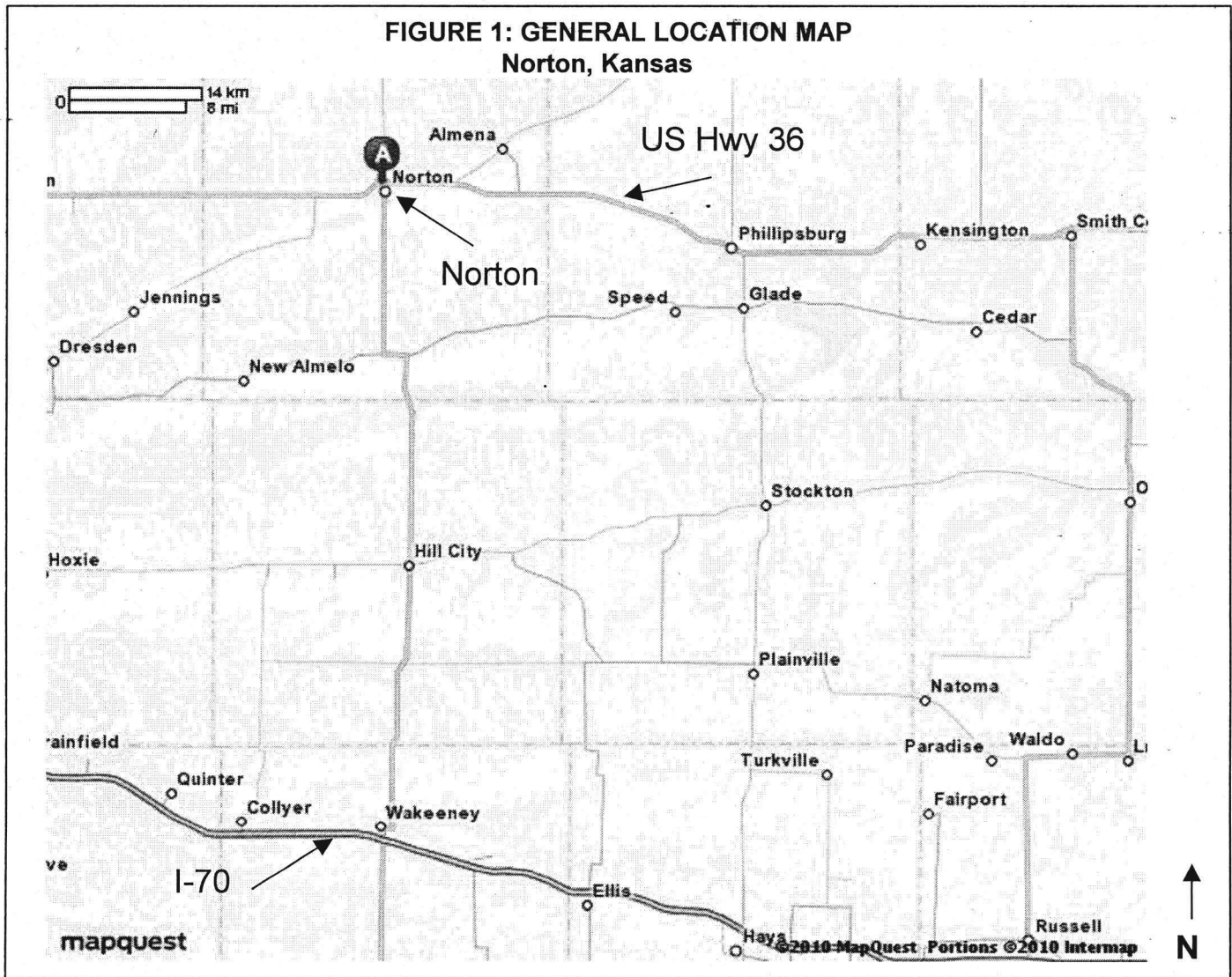
- foundation: STONE
- walls: CONCRETE/block
- STUCCO
- GLASS
- METAL/Aluminum
- STONE
- WOOD/Shingle
- SYNTHETICS/Vinyl
- roof: ASPHALT

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FIGURE 2: SETTING MAP
Downtown Norton, Kansas



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8. Statement of Significance

Architect/Builder

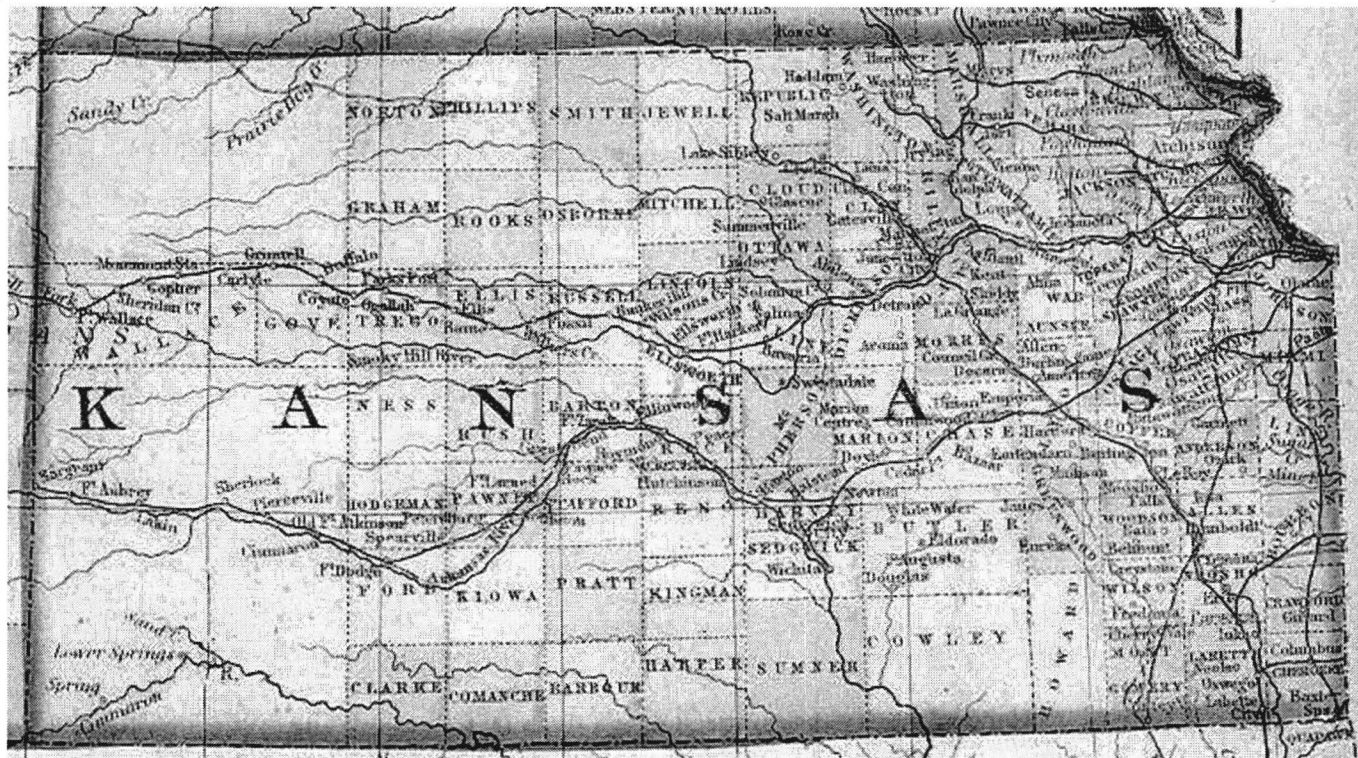
Melick, Neal A. (engr.)

Marchbank, J.H. (contr.)

Metz, John V. (archt)

Davidson, Forest, Construction Company

FIGURE 3: 1872 County Map of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Dakota, Wyoming, Montana



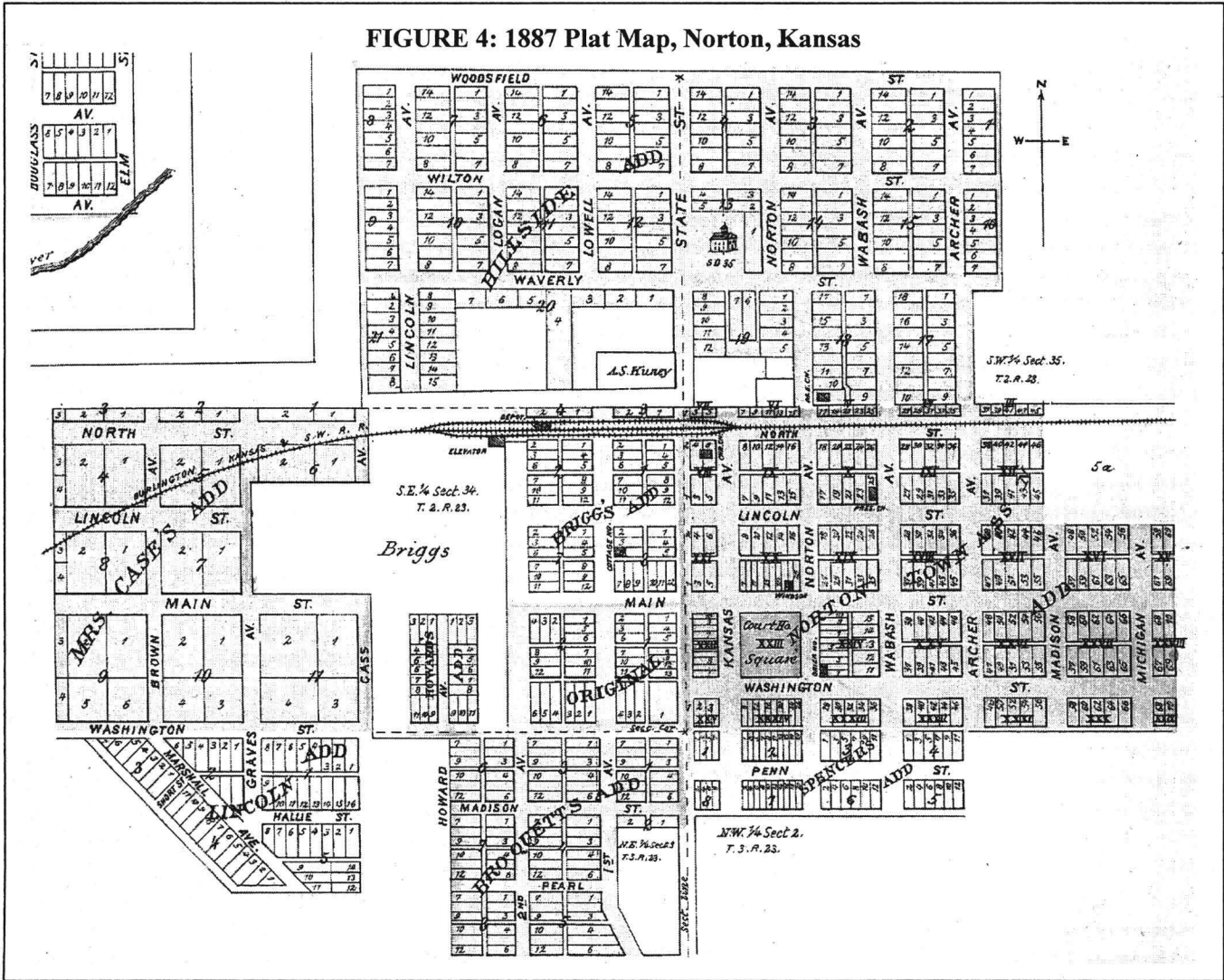
Wichita State University Libraries, Digitized Kansas Maps
<http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/maps/search.asp>

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National Park Service

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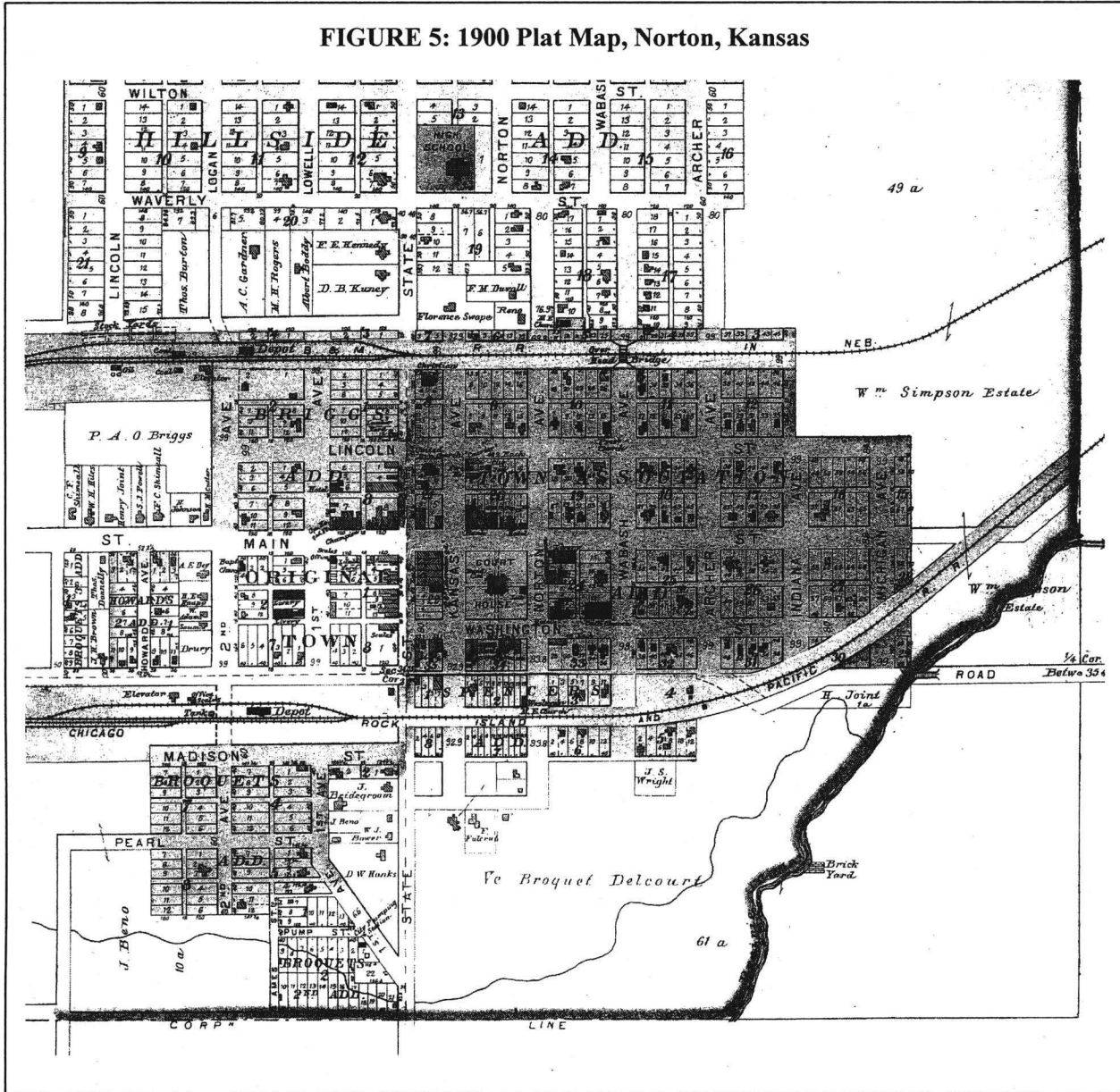
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FIGURE 5: 1900 Plat Map, Norton, Kansas



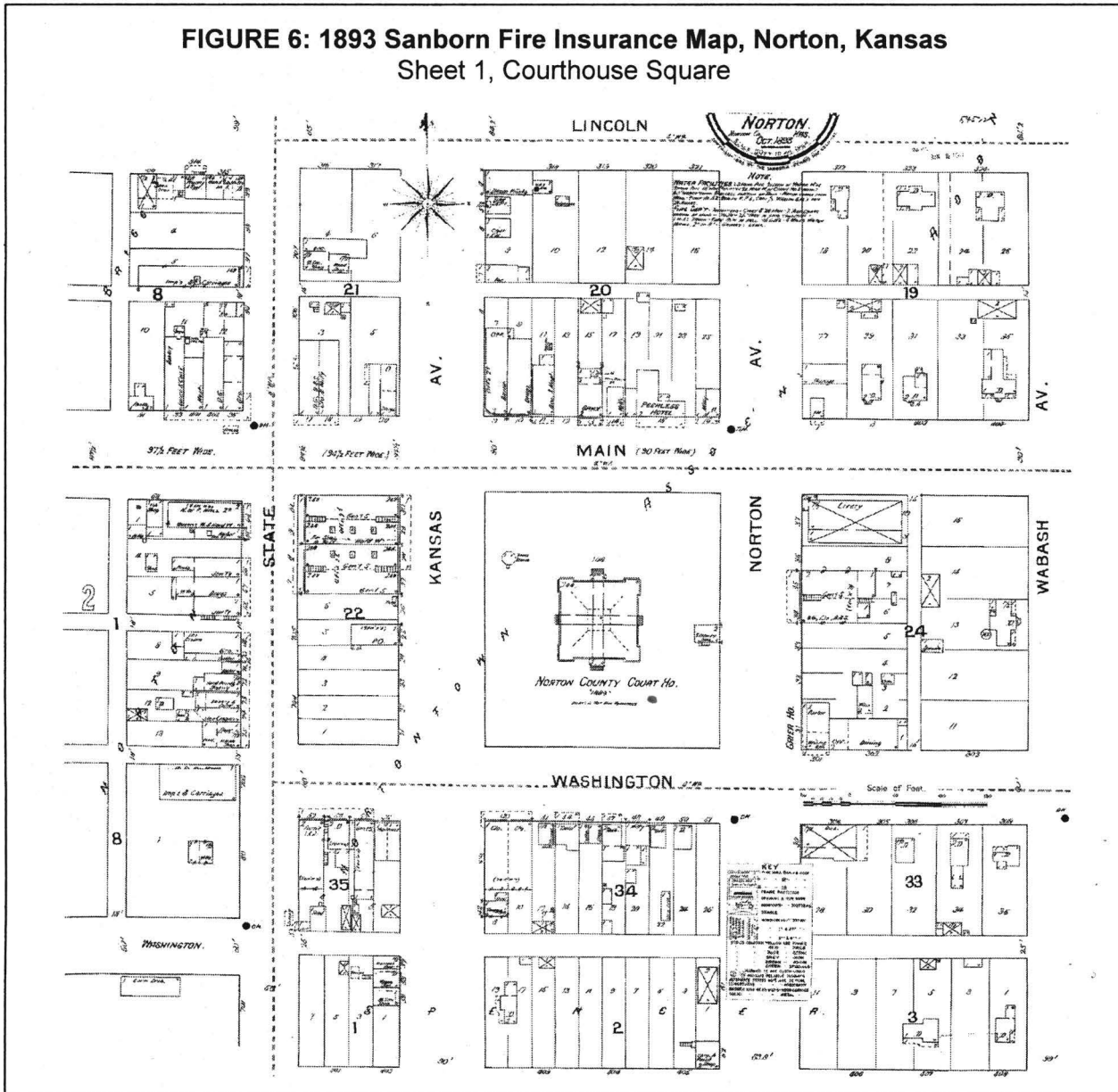
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FIGURE 6: 1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Norton, Kansas
Sheet 1, Courthouse Square



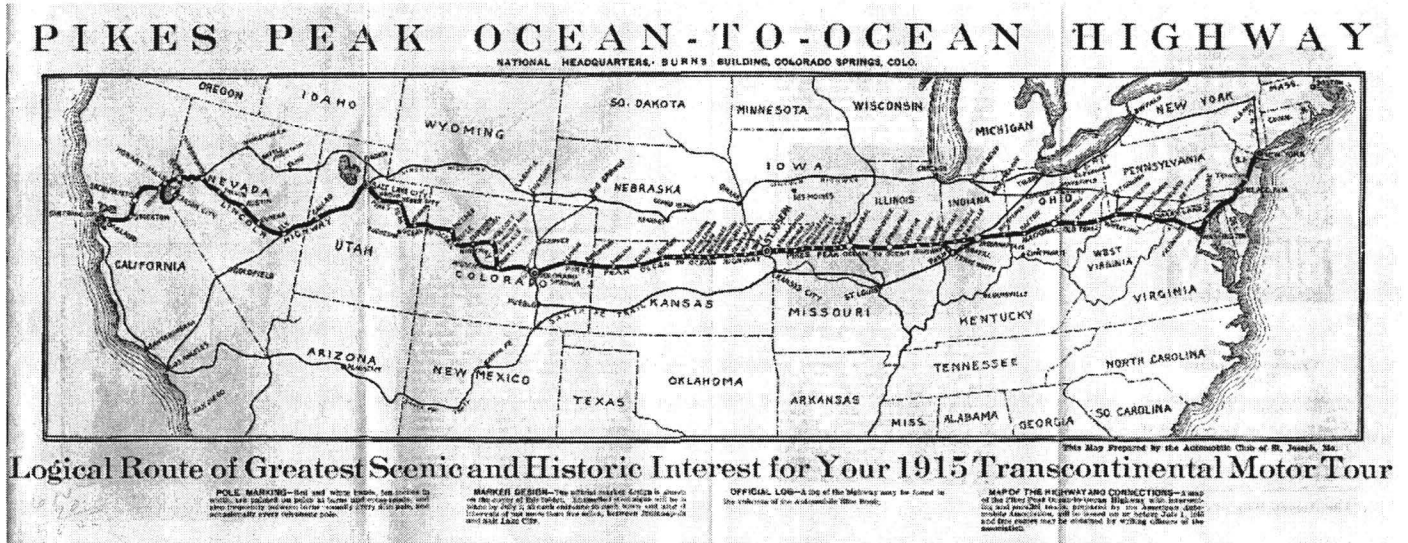
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FIGURE 7: 1915 Tour Map of Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway



Logical Route of Greatest Scenic and Historic Interest for Your 1915 Transcontinental Motor Tour

Map courtesy of USDOT <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/ppmap14.cfm>

FIGURE 8: Late 1920s view south down S State Street from Main Street



Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory Online Collection

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National Park Service

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FIGURE 9: 1919 view northeast of 115 W Main Street



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 10: 1930 view east of 117 and 127 S 1st Ave.



Norton, Kan. Oct. 1930

Norton County Historical Society

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National Park Service

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FIGURE 11: 1951 aerial view southwest of downtown Norton



Norton County Historical Society

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National Park Service

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FIGURE 12: 1956 view northwest of 309 E Main St.



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 13: 1956 view northwest of 213 S Kansas Ave.



Norton County Historical Society

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National Park Service

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FIGURE 14: 1950s view of 101 S Norton Ave.



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 15: 1950s view of storefront at 109-113 S State Street



Norton County Historical Society

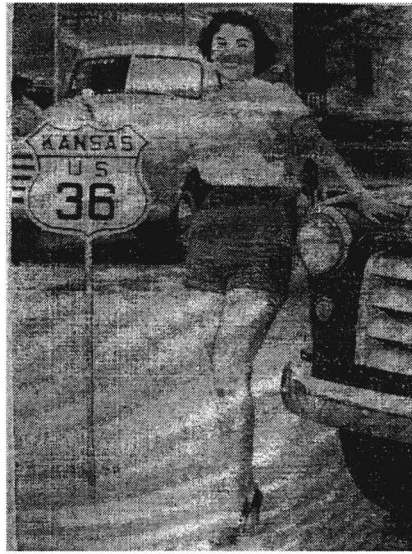
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FIGURE 16: Miss Perfect 36, 1951



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 17: Promotional postcard for US 36, circa 1955



Roadside MPDF, Rosin Preservation

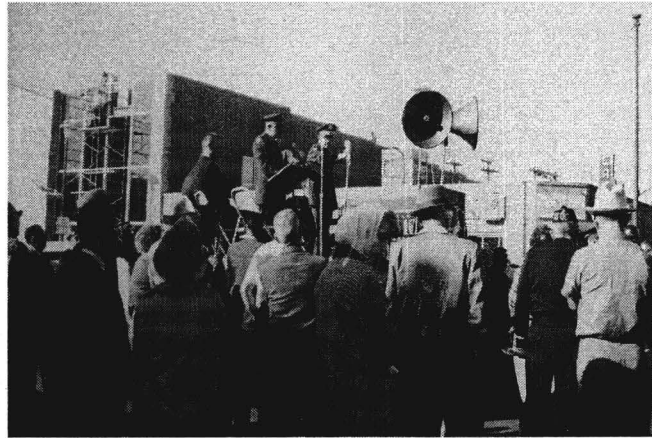
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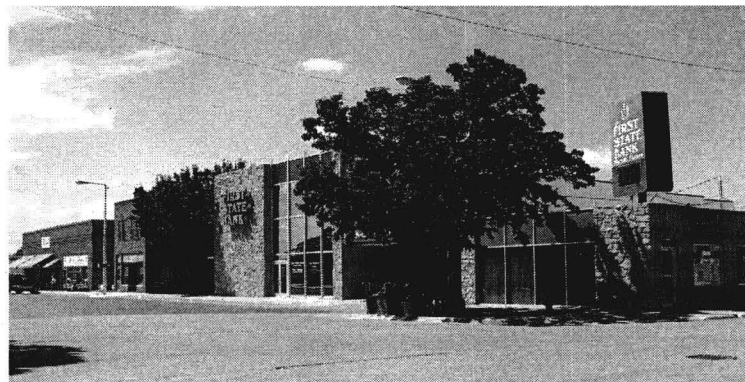
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FIGURE 18: 1964 Military presentation at State and Main streets.
(Note remodeling of 105 West Main Street in background)



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 19: Current view of 101 and 105 West Main Street



Preservation Solutions LLC

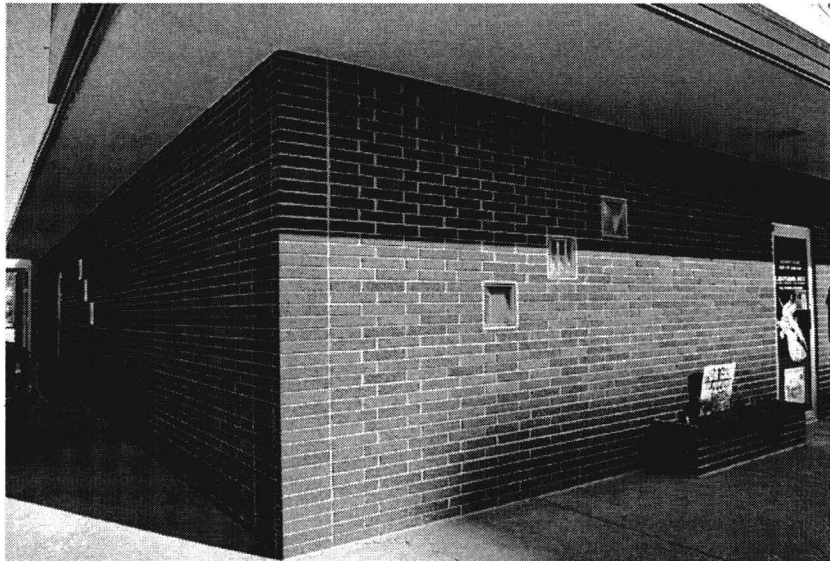
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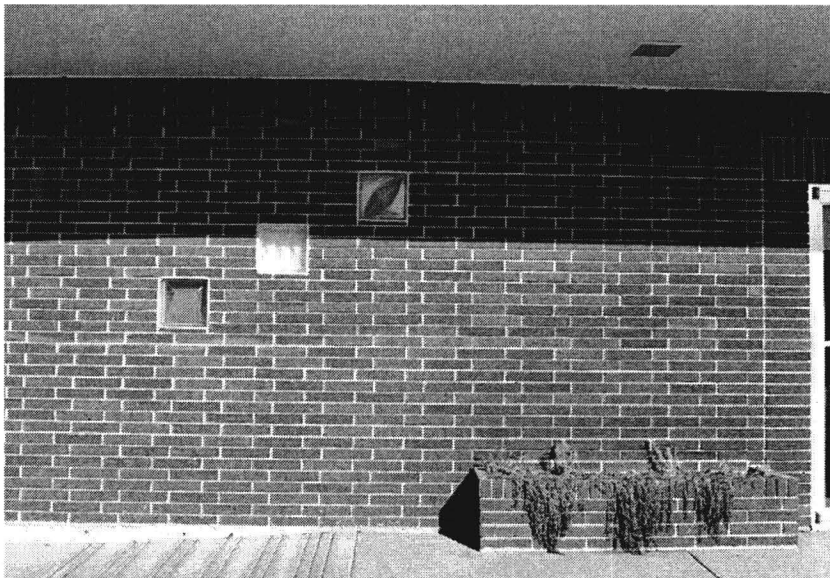
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**FIGURE 20: Current view of 113 North Norton Avenue.
Detail of uncommon embedded glass block elements**



Preservation Solutions LLC

**FIGURE 21: Current view of 113 North Norton Avenue.
Detail of uncommon embedded glass block elements**



Preservation Solutions LLC

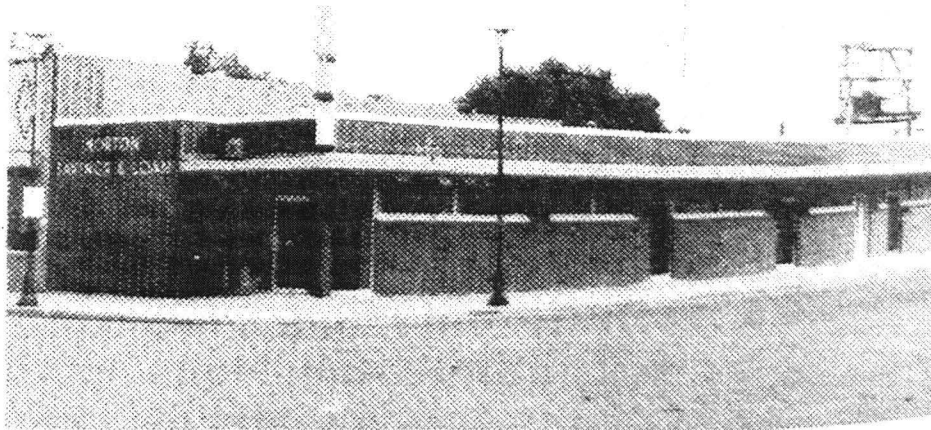
United States Department of the Interior
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FIGURE 22: Circa 1970 view of 202 East Washington Street



Norton County Historical Society

FIGURE 23: Current view of 202 East Washington Street



Preservation Solutions LLC

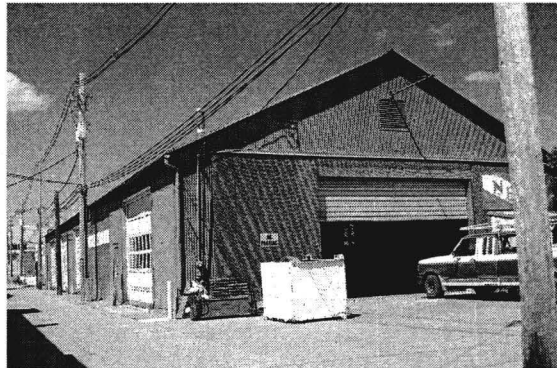
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FIGURE 24: Current view of 109 West Washington Street



Preservation Solutions LLC

FIGURE 25: Current detail view, 109 West Washington Street



Courtesy Norton County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FIGURE 26: BOUNDARY MAP



Norton Downtown
Historic District

- Contributing Property
- Non-contributing Property



Approximate Scale: 1" = 144'

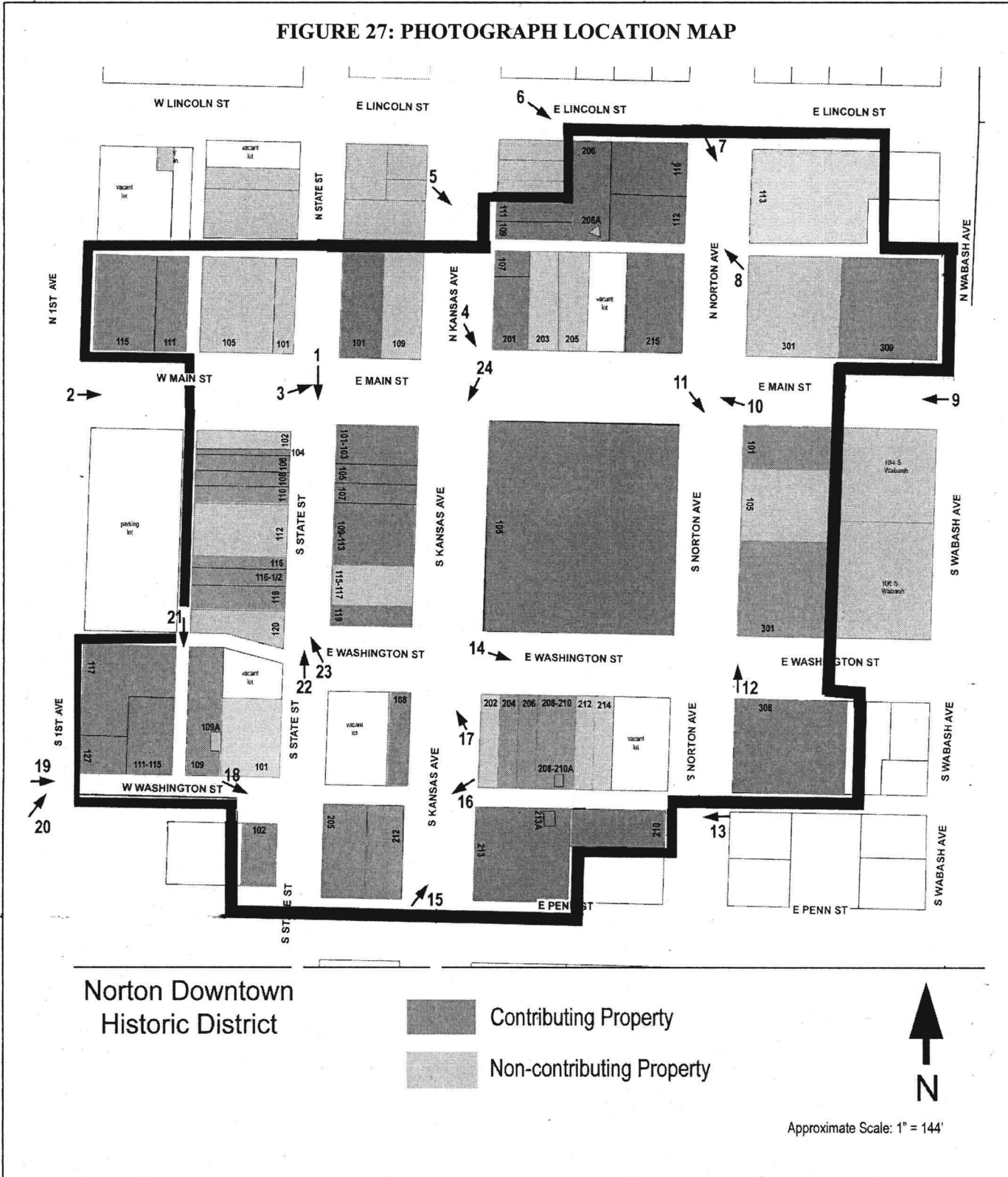
United States Department of the Interior
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FIGURE 27: PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION MAP



NORTON QUADRANGLE
 KANSAS-NORTON CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6063 N NE
 (NORTON NE)



SW/4 NORTON 15' QUADRANGLE

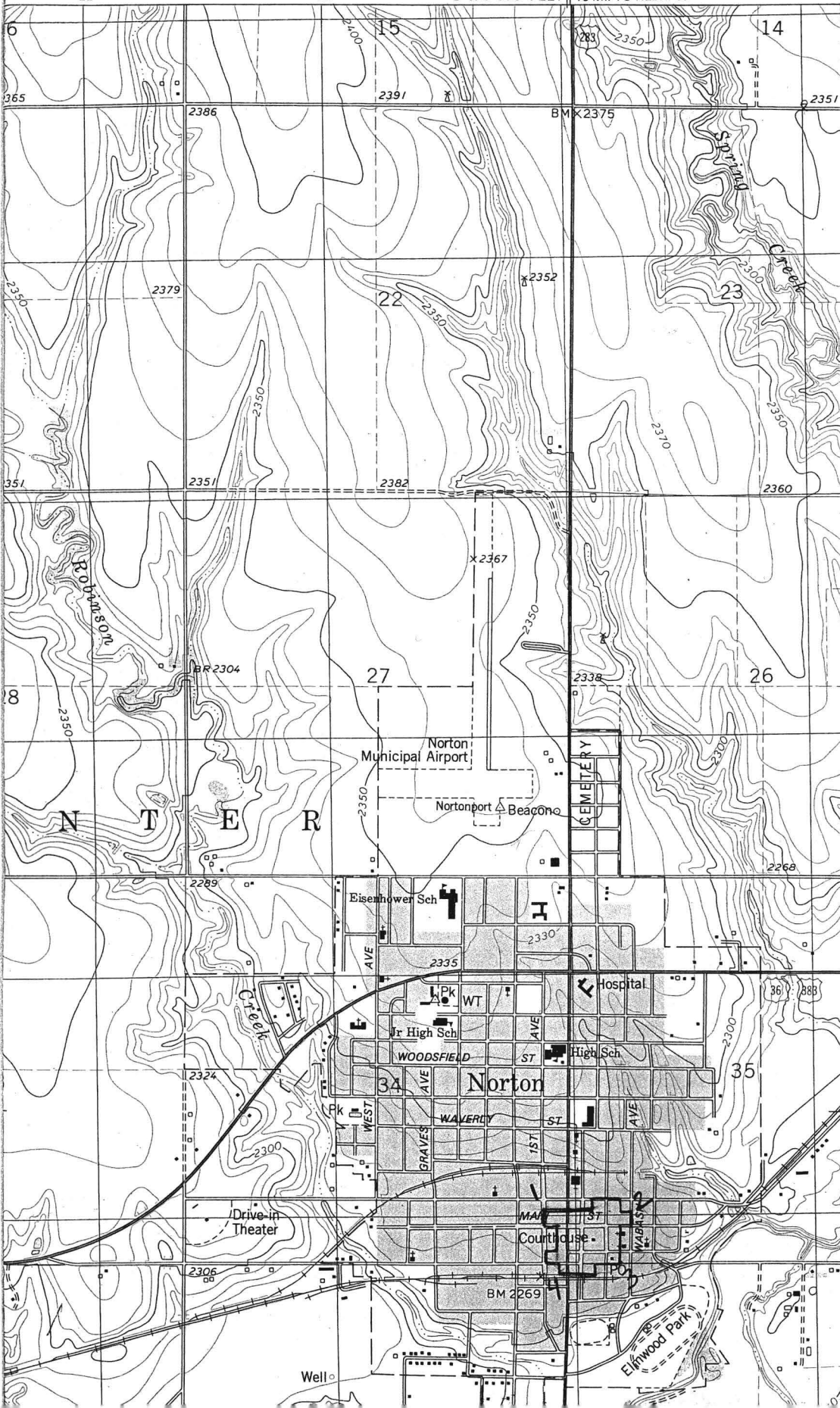
ARAPAHOE, NEBR. 31 MI.
 18 MI. TO NEBR. 89

99°52'30"
 39°52'30"

22

23

1 470 000 FEET



560 000
 FEET

5 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 36 & 383
 PHILLIPSBURG VIA U.S. 361 30 MI.

NORTON DOWNTOWN
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NORTON, NORTON CO.,
 KS

UTM REFERENCES:

1. 14/423870/4409020
2. 14/424130/4409020
3. 14/424240/4408800
4. 14/423940/4408760

T 3 S

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Norton Downtown Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Norton

DATE RECEIVED: 12/02/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/04/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/19/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/17/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001144

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.19.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.















NORTH
KANSAS
PAWNEE
WEST
AS
WORKERS

GARRETT
PLUMBING HEATING

Garrett
PLUMBING HEATING
2007-2008

2008
CLASS



















SIDLES CO. +

STOP







CHEVROLET
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DRIVE IN

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ENTRANCE

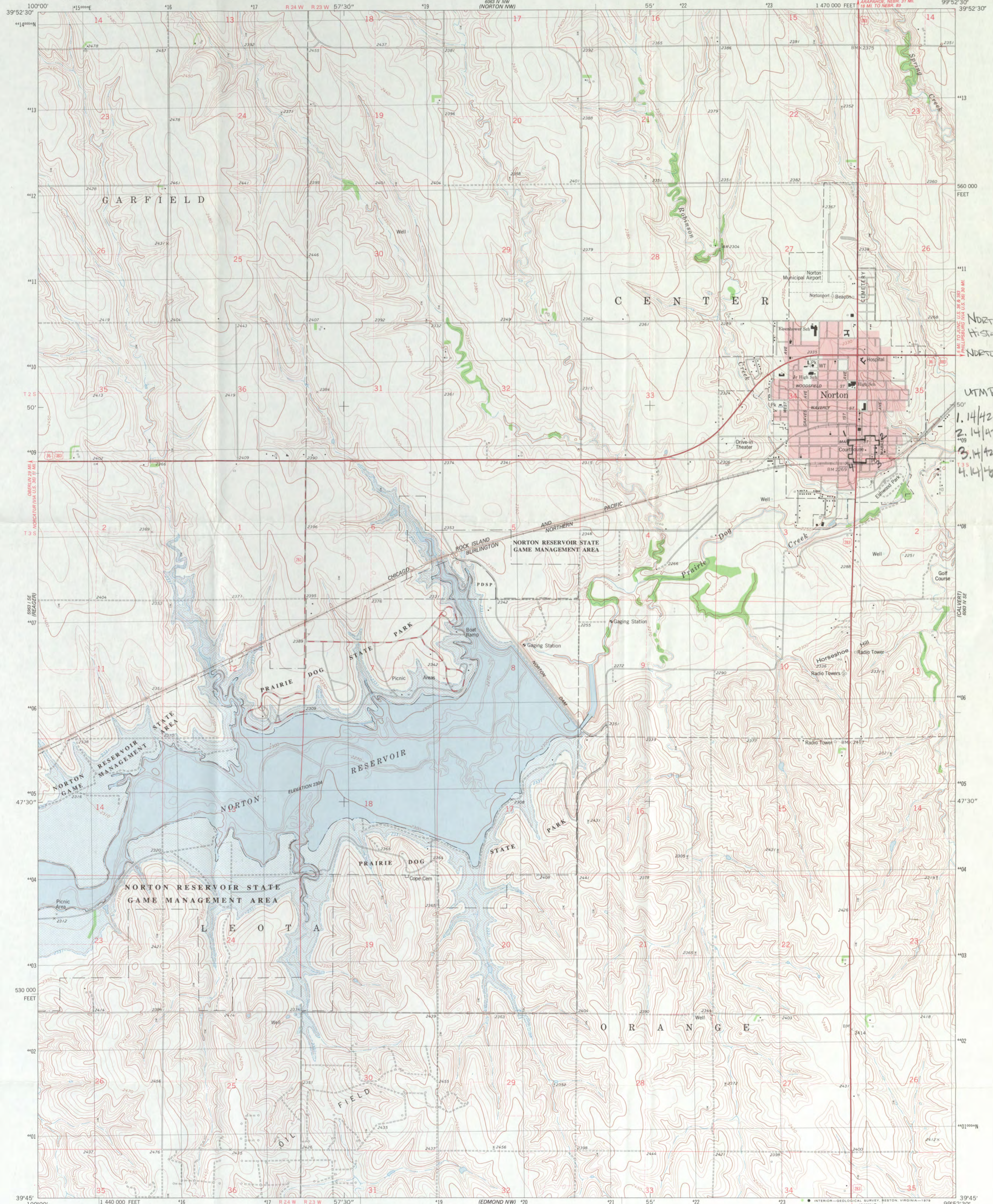








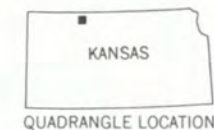
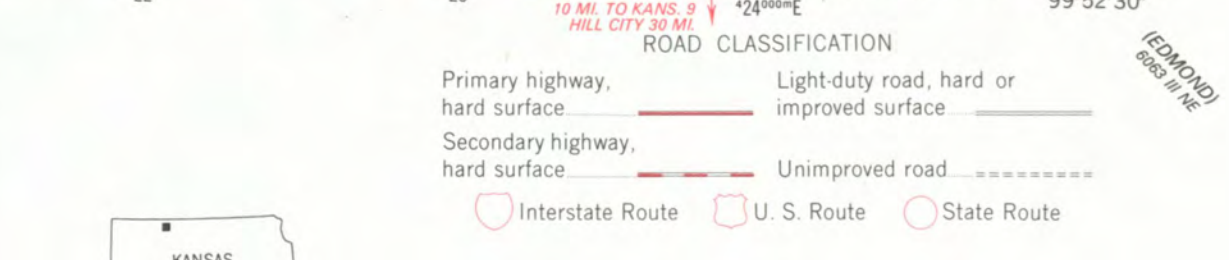
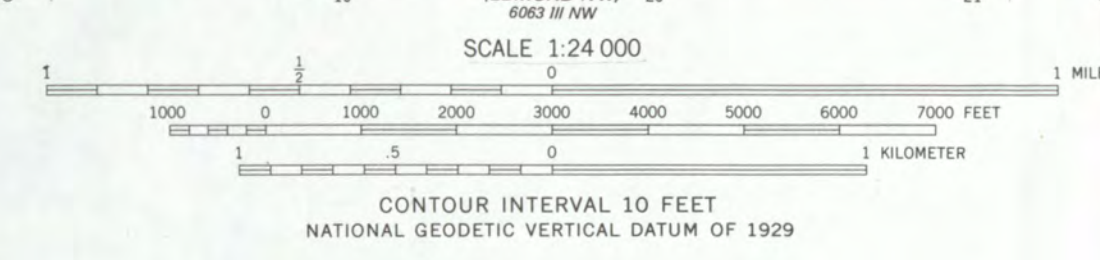
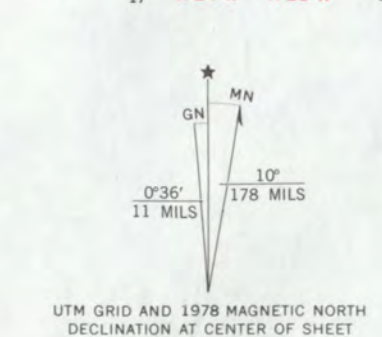




Norton Downtown Historic District
 NORTON, NORTON CO., KS

UTM REFERENCES:
 1. 14423870/4409020
 2. 14424180/4409020
 3. 14424240/4408800
 4. 14423910/4408760

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975. Map edited 1978
 Underwater contours in Norton Reservoir from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation maps dated 1956
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Kansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14 1927 North American datum
 Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORTON, KANSAS.
 SW/4 NORTON 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3945-W9952.5/7.5

1978
 AMS 6063 IV SW-SERIES 9787



KANSAS

Kansas Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

October 20, 2010

Dallan C. Wordekemper
US Postal Service
4301 Wilson Blvd. STE 300
Arlington, VA 22203-1861

Re: Norton Downtown Historic District – Norton, Norton County

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

We are pleased to inform you that the Norton Downtown Historic District will be considered by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places at their next meeting on November 20, 2010. You are invited to attend this meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and will be held at the Kansas Museum of History at 6425 SW 6th Avenue in Topeka. The Kansas Historical Society welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in this meeting. If you have a disability, please call 785-272-8681 ext. 240 no later than two weeks before the meeting to discuss what we can do to ensure your ability to participate.

In early 2010, the Norton City/County Economic Development office hired a historic preservation consultant to prepare and submit this National Register nomination to the State Historic Preservation Office. If approved at the above-referenced November 20th meeting, the nomination will be forwarded to the National Park Service for review and registration.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. Properties approved for nomination to the National Register by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review are automatically listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state register.

Listing of this district provides recognition of the area's historic importance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the district. This area will also be protected under the Kansas Historic Preservation Act (K.S.A. 75-2715 through 75-2725). For more information on state and federal protection, please visit our web site, www.kshs.org/resource/histpresstatutes.htm.

The proposed district is comprised of both "contributing" and "non-contributing" properties. Contributing resources include properties located within the district boundaries that add or contribute to the historic significance of the district. These may qualify for rehabilitation incentives. Non-contributing properties are those that are within the boundaries of the district but do not add historic significance to the district. They are either non-historic

(not built within the district's period of significance – 1887-1960) or have been altered and no longer reflect their historic appearance. Non-contributing properties *may* become contributing resources to the district *if* they were built within the period of significance, the alterations are reversed, and the building is returned to its historic appearance. Enclosed is a list of properties within the proposed district.

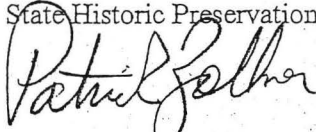
If the district is listed in the National Register, properties may qualify for rehabilitation incentives. Our office administers two rehabilitation tax credit programs and the Heritage Trust Fund grant program. More information about these funding incentives is available on our website at www.kshs.org/resource/buildings.htm. Please contact the tax credit coordinator Kristen Johnston 785-272-8681 ext. 213 or kjohnston@kshs.org for applications and more information on the tax credit programs. Also, please contact the grants manager, Katrina Ringler, at 785-272-8681, ext. 215 or at kringler@kshs.org for applications and more information.

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing may submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a **notarized** statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the listing. Each owner or partial owner of the private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners within the district boundaries object, a district will not be listed. However, the State Historic Preservation Officer may submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places for a determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the National Register. If you choose to object to the listing of your property, the notarized objection must be received in our office before the meeting.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review meeting, please contact Sarah Martin at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or at smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,

Jennie Chinn
State Historic Preservation Officer



Patrick Zollner
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mayor David Corns
Norton County Commission
Norton City Council
Norton County Historical Society
Scott Sproul, Norton City/County Economic Development
Kerry Davis, Preservation Solutions
Property Owners



KANSAS

Kansas Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

November 24, 2010

Dallan C. Wordekemper
US Postal Service
4301 Wilson Blvd. STE 300
Arlington VA 22203-1861

Re: Norton Downtown Historic District – Norton, Norton County

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

We are pleased to inform you that the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review has approved the nomination of the Norton Downtown Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination will soon be forwarded to the office of the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. where it will be evaluated by their professional staff. If they concur with the findings of the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, the district will be included in the National Register of Historic Places. We will notify you of their decision at the earliest opportunity.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the property or seek to acquire them. Properties approved for nomination to the National Register by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review are automatically listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state register.

The proposed district is comprised of both "contributing" and "non-contributing" properties. Contributing resources include properties located within the district boundaries that add or contribute to the historic significance of the district. These may qualify for rehabilitation incentives. Non-contributing properties are those that are within the boundaries of the district but do not add historic significance to the district. They are either non-historic (not built within the district's period of significance – 1887-1960) or have been altered and no longer reflect their historic appearance. Non-contributing properties *may* become contributing resources to the district *if* they were built within the period of significance, the alterations are reversed, and the building is returned to its historic appearance. Enclosed is a list of properties within the proposed district.

The Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credit is available for the rehabilitation of contributing buildings within a historic district listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places. Please contact Kristen Johnston, at the State Historic Preservation Office at 785-272-8681 ext. 213 or e-mail at kjohnston@kshs.org for applications and more information about this program.

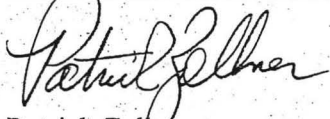
State register listing also qualifies contributing properties within a historic district for the Heritage Trust Fund grant program. Please contact the grants manager, Katrina Ringler, at 785-272-8681, ext. 215 or e-mail at kringler@kshs.org for applications and more information.

Listing of this district provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the historic properties. This district is also protected under the Kansas Historic Preservation Act (K.S.A. 75-2715 through 75-2725). For more information on state and federal protection, please contact Kim Gant at 785-272-8681 ext. 225 or kgant@kshs.org, or visit our web site, <http://www.kshs.org/resource/histpresstatutes.htm>.

Thank you for your interest in our state's historic resources. If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please contact Sarah Martin at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or e-mail at smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,

Jennie Chinn
State Historic Preservation Officer



Patrick Zollner
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mayor David Corns
Norton County Commission
Norton City Council
Norton County Historical Society
Scott Sproul, Norton City/County Economic Development
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Property Owners