

HISTORIC NAME:

COUNTY: Stearns

MAR 11 1982

CURRENT NAME: Fifth Avenue Commercial Buildings

CITY/TWP.: St. Cloud

LEGAL DESC.: Lots 3, 4, & 5, Block D, Wilson's Survey of St. Cloud

ADDRESS: 14-30 Fifth Avenue South (even numbers only)

|                   |                    |                |                               |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| CLASSIFICATION:   | CONDITION:         | SIGNIFICANCE:  | THEME/S:                      |
| Building <u>X</u> | Excellent _____    | Local <u>X</u> | Primary <u>Commerce</u>       |
| Structure _____   | Good <u>X</u>      | State _____    | Secondary <u>Architecture</u> |
| Object _____      | Fair _____         | National _____ | Others _____                  |
| District _____    | Deteriorated _____ |                |                               |

|                        |  |                  |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:    | Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Restricted _____ | PRESENT USE:     |
| VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: | Yes <u>X</u> No _____                  |                  |
| OCCUPIED:              | Yes <u>X</u> No _____                  | Mixed commercial |

|                   |                                  |                    |                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| DATE CONSTRUCTED: | 1883-1914                        | ORIGINAL USE:      | mixed commercial |
| ORIGINAL OWNER:   | Multiple -see continuation sheet | ARCHITECT/BUILDER: | see below        |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:<br>Multiple | ACREAGE: Less than one acre _____                                  |
|                                       | Approx. 2 acres <u>X</u>   |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:<br>N/A            | UTM REFERENCE:<br>15 / 409700 / 5045670<br>St. Cloud, MN Quad. 7.5 |
|                                       |  |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey       |  |
| DATE: October 1980                    |  |

DESCRIPTION:

The six buildings along the east side of Fifth Avenue between St. Germain Street and First Street South show some commercial architecture dating from 1883-1914. The buildings have seen only slight alterations. Included are the ornate McClure-Searle and D. B. Searle Blocks, the Elks Building, and three connected commercial structures.

The three-story D. B. Searle Block was constructed in 1886 to be a near match of the earlier commercial Queen Anne McClure-Searle Block, built in 1883. Both have buff brick sidewalls with red brick front facades, granite belt courses at the window sill levels, corbeled cornices with central pediments, and rectangular windows. The McClure-Searle Block is the wider of the buildings and has granite lintels and zig-zag coursing below the cornice. The D. B. Searle Block, narrower by two windows, has round-arched doorways, patterned brick arches above the first floor windows, and a pediment projecting above the roof line. The first-floor facades have been sympathetically altered and a narrow alley between the structures is now a glassed-in foyer.

The Neo-Classical Revival Elks Building (1913), designed by St. Cloud architect Roland C. Buckley, is a two-story, light brown brick building on a raised foundation. A recessed porch has four granite Tuscan columns and an iron railing. Second-floor, double-sash windows are flanked by etched granite Elks symbols - clock faces set at 11:00 o'clock and "BPOE." The first floor cornice is granite; the second floor, metal.

The Elks bowling alley was located in the adjacent Petters' Building also designed by Roland Buckley and built of dark brown brick in 1914. The two-story building has four rectangular windows on the second floor, corner pilasters marked by patterned brick, and a red-tile parapet between corner projections of the pilasters.

South of the Petters' Building are two similar brown brick commercial blocks. Decorative details are limited to raised brick belt courses and parapet treatment. The structures also date from the 1910s.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The fifth Avenue Commercial Buildings reflect the commercial architecture and history of St. Cloud's central business district. It is the best-preserved block face of business structures in the city. Designs range from the ornate McClure-Searle and D. B. Searle Blocks dating from the 1880s to simple brick commercial buildings of the 1910s. The buildings have housed fraternal organizations including a Masonic Lodge in the Searle Block, the Elks Home, and an I.O.O.F. hall in the southernmost building; two banks in the Searle Block; a U.S. Land Office & St. Cloud's oldest Ford dealership in the McClure-Searle Block; a funeral home grocery stores, cafes; and the Petters' tailor shop. The diversity of uses and span of architectural styles is typical of downtown St. Cloud. These buildings have been renovated and re-used. They stand as a model of preservation efforts that could expand to other structures.

Fifth Avenue Commercial Buildings  
St. Cloud, MN; Stearns County

OWNERSHIP LIST

Owners

Property

Lawrence Heim, John Petters,  
and Alan Stellmach  
201 Ramsey Place  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Petters Building  
26 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Ms. Olga Mallough  
1530 East Highway 23  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Commercial Building  
30 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Frederic Petters  
26 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Commercial Building  
28 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

George W. & Lucille Courier  
1106 8th Ave. North  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Elks' Building  
22 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Restaurants No. Limit Inc.  
9808 Wayzata Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55426

Searle Building  
18 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

McClure & Searles  
c/o Thomas Barrett  
7322 Ohms Lane  
Edina, MN 55435

16 5th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301