

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 06000608

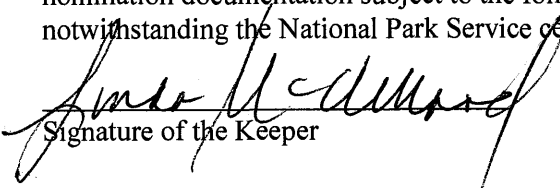
Property Name: Vinton Street Commercial Historic District

County: Douglas County State: Nebraska

N/A

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

July 11, 2006  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 6: The following Historic and Current Sub-functions are, hereby, added to correspond with the function, COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, restaurant, business, institutional, professional

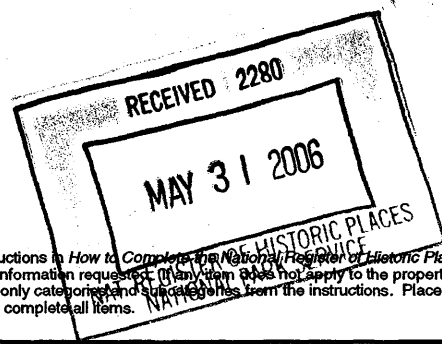
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The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name Vinton Street Commercial Historic District

Other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

Street & number Vinton Street between Elm Street and South 17<sup>th</sup> Street

Not for publication

City or town Omaha

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

County Douglas

Code 055

Zip code 68109

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Michael J. Aul  
Signature of certifying official

May 24, 2006  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Linda McClelland

7/11/00

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X Private
Public-local
Public-state
Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
X District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total). Values: Contributing 14, Noncontributing 3, Total 17.

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE 19TH & 20TH CEN. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne
OTHER

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Foundation STONE
Walls BRICK
STUCCO
Roof ASPHALT
Other STONE
METAL

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- X 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 a grave.
D A cemetery.
E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F A commemorative property.
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1890 - 1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet for Section 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
Previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
Designated a National Historic Landmark
Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property 3.17

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	15	253659	4568714	3.	15	253740	4568556
2.	15	253743	4568710	4.	15	253649	4568484

[ x ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bob Frame & Chad Moffett  
 organization Mead & Hunt, Inc. date June 15, 2005  
 street & number 7900 West 78<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 370 telephone 952-941-5619  
 city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55439

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

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

name/title See continuation sheet  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Vinton Street Commercial Historic District

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Narrative Description

Vinton Street is located in the city of Omaha, south of the downtown in an area locally identified as South Omaha. The street's alignment deviates from the surrounding street grid because it follows a ridge line that meanders from the east to the south. This topographical feature may have been developed as a trail and country road preceding Vinton Street's establishment in the late-nineteenth century. The route of Vinton Street extends from South 11<sup>th</sup> Street at its eastern terminus to South 25<sup>th</sup> Street at its western terminus. The portion of Vinton Street between South 15<sup>th</sup> Street and South 21<sup>st</sup> Street angles southwest and is one of the few streets within South Omaha oriented diagonally to the surrounding street grid.

The Vinton Street Commercial Historic District encompasses seventeen commercial buildings facing Vinton Street with construction dates that range from 1890 to 1923. The district extends two-blocks from South 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the east to Elm Street in the west. The grid pattern of the surrounding blocks creates irregular-shaped lots and skewed building fronts that parallel Vinton Street. The buildings are not set back from the sidewalk along Vinton Street. The historic district is surrounded by commercial buildings along Vinton Street and single- and multiple-family dwellings on the surrounding streets.

Collectively, the buildings of the Vinton Street Commercial Historic District represent the core concentration of commercial buildings that have provided goods and services to South Omaha residents. These buildings continue to be associated with commercial development in South Omaha and display good historic integrity.

Thirteen buildings are two stories in height and four buildings are one story in height, demonstrating a mixture of architectural styles. As a general pattern, two-story buildings occupy corner lots with one-story buildings located in between. The historic district contains a mixture of buildings with immediately adjacent exterior walls and freestanding buildings with open space between.

The dominant building material is brick, with fifteen buildings within the historic district constructed of brick or a combination of brick and stone, pressed metal, wood-frame, stucco, or concrete. The remaining two buildings are wood-frame and stucco. Two-story buildings largely retain second-story window openings, ornamented cornices, decorative brickwork, and first-story storefronts. Some buildings within the historic district display minor first-story changes made by business owners in an effort to modernize storefronts. One-story buildings retain decorative brickwork in panels above storefronts and window openings.

Fourteen properties retain historic integrity and are considered contributing resources; three properties within the historic district have lost their historic integrity and are considered noncontributing resources (see *Table of Properties within Vinton Street Commercial Historic District*). The district includes several parking lots. Research revealed that the parking lots were developed from vacant portions of lots within the district during the historic period. Independently, parking lots do not contribute to the significance of the historic district and as a result were not included in the resource count.

The descriptions of individual buildings are organized by numbered blocks from east to west with construction dates for buildings in parentheses following the historic name of the building (if known).

The south side of the 1700 block includes five buildings and two parking lots. The D.J. Jourdan Building (1907) at 1701 Vinton Street is built in the Italianate style. Its corner location is defined with a two-story angled entryway and it displays prominent brick pilasters, recessed panels, and a corbelled brick cornice. A second D.J. Jourdan Building (1922) at 1703 Vinton Street is a one-story brick commercial vernacular building with decorative white and black glazed brick with stone

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medallions and a stone capped parapet roof. The Henry Schoenen Building (1904) at 1715 Vinton Street is a two-story frame building that displays diminished historic integrity. The building has applied stucco and does not retain architectural detailing or its cornice. The Arthur G. Rochford Building (1913) at 1717 Vinton Street was constructed in the Italianate style, and retains its original cast-iron first-story columns and inset double entryway with transom windows. This building displays a small tin cornice with corbelled brickwork and a raised stringer course. The frame commercial building at 1723 Vinton Street (c.1915) displays diminished historic integrity due to an enclosed first-story storefront, applied stucco, non-historic siding, and replacement windows. There are two narrow parking lots located between 1703 and 1715, and 1717 and 1723 Vinton Street. A review of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicates these lots were undeveloped in the historic period.

The north side of the 1700 block includes three buildings and one parking lot. The two-story Fritz Mueller Building (1893) at 1702-1704 Vinton Street is Italianate in style and displays a rough-cut stone arched doorway with Fritz Mueller's monogram – "FM" – ornately carved in the keystone. The building has single and paired segmental arched windows supported by decorative columns and surrounded with decorative stone scrollwork. Occupying the center four lots of the block is the second Fritz Mueller Building (1900, 1910) at 1710-1720 Vinton Street. The building displays a corbelled brick cornice with a stone-capped, stepped parapet roof. The building includes two, two-bay storefronts with stone walls, and one single-bay storefront with a brick wall. Between the buildings located at 1702-1704 and 1710-1720 is a parking lot. A review of the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicates that a former theater also constructed by Fritz Mueller formerly occupied this site. The South Side Turner Hall (c.1910) at 1724 Vinton Street consists of the frame rear of the building joined to a concrete Streamlined Moderne front portion of the building that have historically functioned as one building. The building served as a social hall and may have earlier once housed a saloon owned and operated by the Schlitz Brewery.

The south side of the 1800 block of Vinton Street includes four buildings and a parking lot between South 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm Street. The William Vasak Building (1919) at 1801-1805 Vinton Street is a two-story, brick building constructed in the commercial vernacular style. The building displays polychromatic brickwork surrounding each of the storefront's four bays, including the recessed corner entryway with a cast-iron column. Other decorative features include segmental arched windows, belt and stringer courses, transoms, and a stone-capped parapet roof. The commercial building (c.1902) at 1807-1809 Vinton Street is one-story brick corner building with an irregular plan. It has been substantially altered with modern brick additions, glass block windows, and single-bay overhead garage opening. The building lacks architectural detail. The Dr. Harrison A. Wigton Building (1916) at 1817 Vinton Street is a rectangular two-story brick office building with stone sills, segmental arched windows with stone accents, belt course, stringers, and water table. The building displays modest Colonial Revival stylistic elements including an arched front entry overhang. The irregular lot between the buildings at 1807-1809 and 1817 Vinton Street historically included an apartment building attached to the building at 1807-1809, which was removed sometime in the late 1950s. The Henry P. Rigge Building (1913) at 1819 Vinton Street is a small, one-story, commercial vernacular building. The brick building displays few architectural details besides stone coping and decorative stonework in the panel above the storefront transom.

The north side of the 1800 block between Elm Street and South 17<sup>th</sup> Street includes five buildings. The Elsassar Building (1923) at 1802-1804 Vinton Street is a two-story brick commercial vernacular building. The stone-capped parapet roof displays the word "Elsassar" carved in a stone panel. The building displays decorative brick banding, window hoods, and stone sills. The second-story displays one enclosed window opening. The C.B. Schleicher Building (1922) at 1806-1808 Vinton Street is a one-story brick commercial vernacular building with a two-bay storefront. The building displays decorative brickwork with stone accents and crenellated parapet roof with stone coping. The Peter Wiig Building (1890) at 1810-1812 Vinton Street is a two-story, brick Italianate building that displays pressed metal siding designed to resemble stone and carved patterns in the window surrounds and frieze. The cornice displays the original owner's name, "P. Wiig,"

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under a central pediment. The Peter Strausbaugh Building (1906) at 1814-1816 Vinton Street is a two-story, brick Italianate building with a corner entryway with pilasters and segmental arched windows with keystones. Additional details include a parapet roof with a pediment with "1906" and the original owner's name, "Strausbaugh." The building includes a c. 1920 brick one-story garage on the northeast elevation. The William F. Lorenzen Building (1891) at 1820-1822 Vinton Street is a two-story, brick building with stucco applied to the exterior in 1948 to resemble stone blocks. The building has few architectural details. The front elevation displays three bays of recessed sets of narrow windows. The building includes a small one-story entryway on the east elevation.

**Table of Properties within Vinton Street Commercial Historic District**

NeHBS Site No.	Building address	Building name	Construction Date	District Status
DO09:0110-022	1701 Vinton Street	Daniel J. Jourdan Building	1907	contributing
DO09:0110-020	1702-1704 Vinton Street	Fritz Mueller Building	1893	contributing
DO09:0110-023	1703 Vinton Street	Daniel J. Jourdan Building	1922	contributing
DO09:0110-019	1710-1720 Vinton Street	Fritz Mueller Building	1900, 1910	contributing
DO09:0110-024	1715 Vinton St	Henry Schoenen Building	1904	noncontributing
DO09:0110-009	1717 Vinton Street	Arthur G. Rochford Building	1913	contributing
DO09:0110-025	1723 Vinton Street	Commercial Building	c.1915	noncontributing
DO09:0110-018	1724 Vinton Street	South Side Turner Hall	c.1910	contributing
DO09:0110-003	1801-1805 Vinton Street	William Vasak Building	1919	contributing
DO09:0110-002	1802-1804 Vinton Street	Elsasser Building	1923	contributing
DO09:0110-017	1806-1808 Vinton Street	C.B. Schleicher Building	1922	contributing
DO09:0110-026	1807-1809 Vinton Street	Commercial Building	c.1902	noncontributing
DO09:0110-008	1810-1812 Vinton Street	Peter Wiig Building	1890	contributing
DO09:0110-007	1814-1816 Vinton Street	Peter Strausbaugh Building	1906	contributing
DO09:0110-027	1817 Vinton Street	Dr. Harrison A. Wigton Building	1916	contributing
DO09:0110-028	1819 Vinton Street	H.P. Rigge Building	1913	contributing
DO09:0110-016	1820-1822 Vinton Street	William F. Lorenzen Building	1891	contributing



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**Architect/Builder**

Krelle, F. William	1814-1816 Vinton Street, 1817 Vinton Street, 1819 Vinton Street
Guth, J.P.	1710-1720 Vinton Street, 1715 Vinton Street, 1820-1822 Vinton Street
Kunz, F.O.	1702-1704 Vinton Street
Nachtigall, Jacob M.	1806 Vinton Street
Ransom, C.L.	1701 Vinton Street
Rice, F.W.	1802 Vinton Street
Rochford, Arthur G.	1717 Vinton Street
Stockhaus, William	1801 Vinton Street

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Vinton Street Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A: Commerce for its association with commercial development in South Omaha. The district is an intact collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings that developed to serve the needs of area residents brought about by the development of Omaha and South Omaha. The historic district has served as an important concentration of commercial activities within South Omaha from the date the first building within the district was constructed, in 1890, and has continued to be associated with commercial activities and development in South Omaha. The period of significance extends from 1890 to 1955, marking the current 50-year guideline to qualify for inclusion in the National Register and encompasses the construction dates of the buildings located within the district.

The historic district displays visual continuity and unity of form, scale, and functions and retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its association with commercial development in South Omaha. As such, the Vinton Street Commercial Historic District is eligible locally under Criterion A: Commerce.

**Commercial Development in South Omaha**

Omaha developed as a retail and outfitting center on the west bank of the Missouri River for settlers, miners, and traders heading west. Omaha was incorporated in 1857. The first transcontinental railroad, the Union Pacific, was completed in 1869 and Omaha served as its eastern terminus. The location of the Union Pacific Railroad established Omaha as the transportation hub west of Chicago.

Industrial development in Omaha mirrored national trends characterized by large enterprises that were established in undeveloped suburban areas that offered large tracts of open land to provide room for growth and easy access for railroads and residential development.<sup>1</sup> Investors focused on similar tracts of land south of the city limits of Omaha and created an industrial suburb. The new area developed into the city of South Omaha, where stockyards and meatpacking plants were located including the Union Stockyards Company, incorporated in 1883. In 1886 South Omaha was incorporated and within a year its population surpassed 5,000. By 1890 four major meatpacking plants had been

<sup>1</sup> Sam B. Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs, The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press and the M.I.T. Press, 1962), 104-105.

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established in South Omaha. In 1915 after several unsuccessful attempts, the city of Omaha annexed South Omaha.<sup>2</sup> The Vinton Street Commercial Historic District has been located within the city limits of Omaha during its period of significance; however, today, the area is locally referred to as South Omaha.

The large livestock and meatpacking operations required thousands of workers, which resulted in a period of rapid population residential growth and rapid commercial growth to serve the needs of Omaha and South Omaha residents. Overall, the packing industry did more to encourage the growth of Omaha than any other industry, and resulted in a period of rapid population growth resulted in residential settlement. As a result, commercial activities developed centered on 24<sup>th</sup> Street and N Street and on Vinton Street.<sup>3</sup>

Commercial development along Vinton Street<sup>4</sup>

Among the earliest owners of land along Vinton Street was Isaac Hascall. Hascall purchased a parcel of land between South 13<sup>th</sup> Street and South 20<sup>th</sup> Street in 1867. His goal was to develop the area into a thriving business district to rival Omaha's downtown business district, located to the north. To this end, Hascall erected a number of commercial buildings during the late 1800s.

Subsequent commercial development along Vinton Street was stimulated by the construction of a streetcar line into the area. In 1889, the Omaha Motor Railway opened north-south streetcar lines that traveled along South 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets within South Omaha. The South 16<sup>th</sup> Street line turned west onto Vinton Street and followed it southwest to South 24<sup>th</sup> Street, where it headed south to N Street. The line thus connected the South Omaha Commercial Historic District with the stockyards, meatpacking plants, and railroad terminal in South Omaha.<sup>5</sup>

Beginning in the 1890s property owners constructed buildings within the historic district and a core concentration of businesses was established. By 1895, three north-south streetcar lines shared a common east-west route along Vinton Street between South 13<sup>th</sup> Street and South 24<sup>th</sup> Street. These routes became known collectively as the Vinton Street Line or the South Omaha Line. The routes fostered the growth of adjacent residential areas for the growing numbers of workers in South Omaha and helped promote commercial development along the Vinton Street corridor.

<sup>2</sup> Lynn Bjorkman, "South Omaha Main Street Historic District," National Register Nomination Form, National Park Service, listed 14 February 1989, 8:1-2.

<sup>3</sup> The development of the livestock industry and its affect on the development of South Omaha has been thoroughly documented. For a discussion of the livestock industries' affect on commercial development in South Omaha, see the South Omaha Main Street Historic District Nomination.

<sup>4</sup> Research on the commercial development of Vinton Street and the Vinton Street Commercial Historic District sections was gained from: the Omaha city directories 1890, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1898, 1901, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1913-1916, 1925, 1929; the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, City of Omaha, Volume 1, 1934, updated to 1955 and Volume 3, 1901 updated to 1954; Baist's Real Estate Atlas, 1910; and Val J. Goodman, "Vinton Street: Evolution of an Ethnic Retail Ribbon, 1889 to 1989," (M.A. thesis, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1993); unless otherwise noted.

<sup>5</sup> Dennis Thavenet, "A History of Omaha Public Transportation" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1960), 45-47; Richard Orr, *O&CB: Streetcars of Omaha and Council Bluffs* (Omaha: Richard Orr, 1996), 80, 87, 96.

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The use of streetcars began to decline beginning in the 1920s, and Omaha's annual fares dropped by a third by the 1930s. The growth in ownership and use of automobiles and the establishment of bus lines lead to the continued decline of the streetcar use during 1940s and 1950s. Omaha streetcar service ended in 1955.<sup>6</sup> Between 1889 and 1955, the streetcar was a significant means of transportation within South Omaha.

Vinton Street Commercial Historic District<sup>7</sup>

Beginning in the 1890s, commercial development along Vinton Street centered within the boundaries of the historic district. Businesses within the historic district have provided goods and services such as grocery stores, meat markets, bakeries, clothing stores, drugstores, barbershops, laundries, saloons, social halls, and plumber shops among others. The historic district contained nearly two-thirds of the businesses along the entire length of Vinton Street by the beginning of the twentieth century. Within the district, three buildings were constructed during the 1890s:

- The Peter Wiig Building (1890) at 1810 Vinton Street built as a retail store with apartments on the second story.<sup>8</sup>
- The William F. Lorenzen Building (1891) at 1820 Vinton Street built as a retail store.
- The Fritz Mueller Building (1893) at 1702 Vinton Street that functioned as a saloon.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Orr, *O&CB: Streetcars of Omaha and Council Bluffs*, 166, 182, 224, 229-237, 248.

<sup>7</sup> The commercial development of Vinton Street was documented in a University of Nebraska at Omaha master's thesis completed in 1993 by Val J. Goodman. In this study of Vinton Street the general locations and types of commercial activities is charted from the late-nineteenth century until the late-twentieth century. This study provides the basis to evaluate the significance of the Vinton Street Commercial Historic District, define district boundaries, and establish a period of significance. Key information is provided from the study to outline the general commercial development of the historic district. Wherever possible, information related to individual buildings and businesses within the district is listed.

<sup>8</sup> Among the office tenants in the Wiig Building during this time were architect Charles F. Beindorff and drafter William Krelle. Building permits indicate that Krelle later designed buildings along Vinton Street, including two within the historic district : 1814 Vinton Street and 1817 Vinton Street.

<sup>9</sup> Fritz Mueller, who owned the building at 1702 Vinton Street, was a prominent German immigrant and owner of numerous properties along Vinton Street as well as other businesses within South Omaha.

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The first two decades of the twentieth century was a period of growth. In 1912 nearly half of the businesses on Vinton Street were located in the historic district. By 1923 the remaining fourteen buildings within the historic district were constructed:

- The Fritz Mueller Building (1900) at 1710-1720 Vinton Street that included several retail shops.
- The Commercial Building (c.1902) at 1807-1809 Vinton Street.
- The Henry Schoenen Building (1904) at 1715 Vinton Street constructed by Schoenen to house his painting business, Frank Bongardt's meat market, and H. Topp's plumbing business.
- The Peter Strausbaugh Building (1906) at 1814 Vinton Street was constructed for use as a pharmacy.
- The D.J. Jourdan Building at 1701 Vinton Street (1907) built as a grocery store.
- The South Side Turner Hall (c.1910) at 1724 Vinton Street.
- The Henry P. Rigg Building (1913) at 1819 Vinton Street that housed Rigg's barbershop.
- The Arthur G. Rochford Building (1913) at 1717 Vinton Street that housed Globe Plumbing, a painting business, and a mail-order business.
- The Commercial Building (c.1915) at 1723 Vinton Street that housed E. E. Meyers meat market and in the 1920s Mathew Schnitchen's shoe repair shop.
- The Dr. Harrison A. Wigton Building (1916) was built at 1817 Vinton Street for offices.
- The William Vasak (1919) Building was built at 1801 Vinton Street for Vasak's dry goods establishment.
- The Schleicher Building (1922) at 1806 Vinton Street was built as a retail store and subsequently housed a hardware company in 1925.
- The D.J. Jourdan Building (1922) at 1703 Vinton Street housed a plumber and a confectionary in 1925.
- The Elsasser Building (1923) was built at 1802 Vinton Street for the W.L. Elsasser Bakery.

During the Depression, World War II, and the post-war period, commercial development within the historic district continued with only a slight decrease in the number of businesses by the 1950s. After the 1950s many businesses within the historic district shifted from providing basic goods and services to providing a wider range of retail activities and made improvements to modernize storefront in an effort to attract consumers.

The Vinton Street Commercial Historic District continues to serve South Omaha as a commercial center, providing a variety of goods and services to nearby residents.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Vinton Street Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

County and State

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Vinton Street Commercial Historic District**

Name of Property

**Douglas County, Nebraska**

County and State

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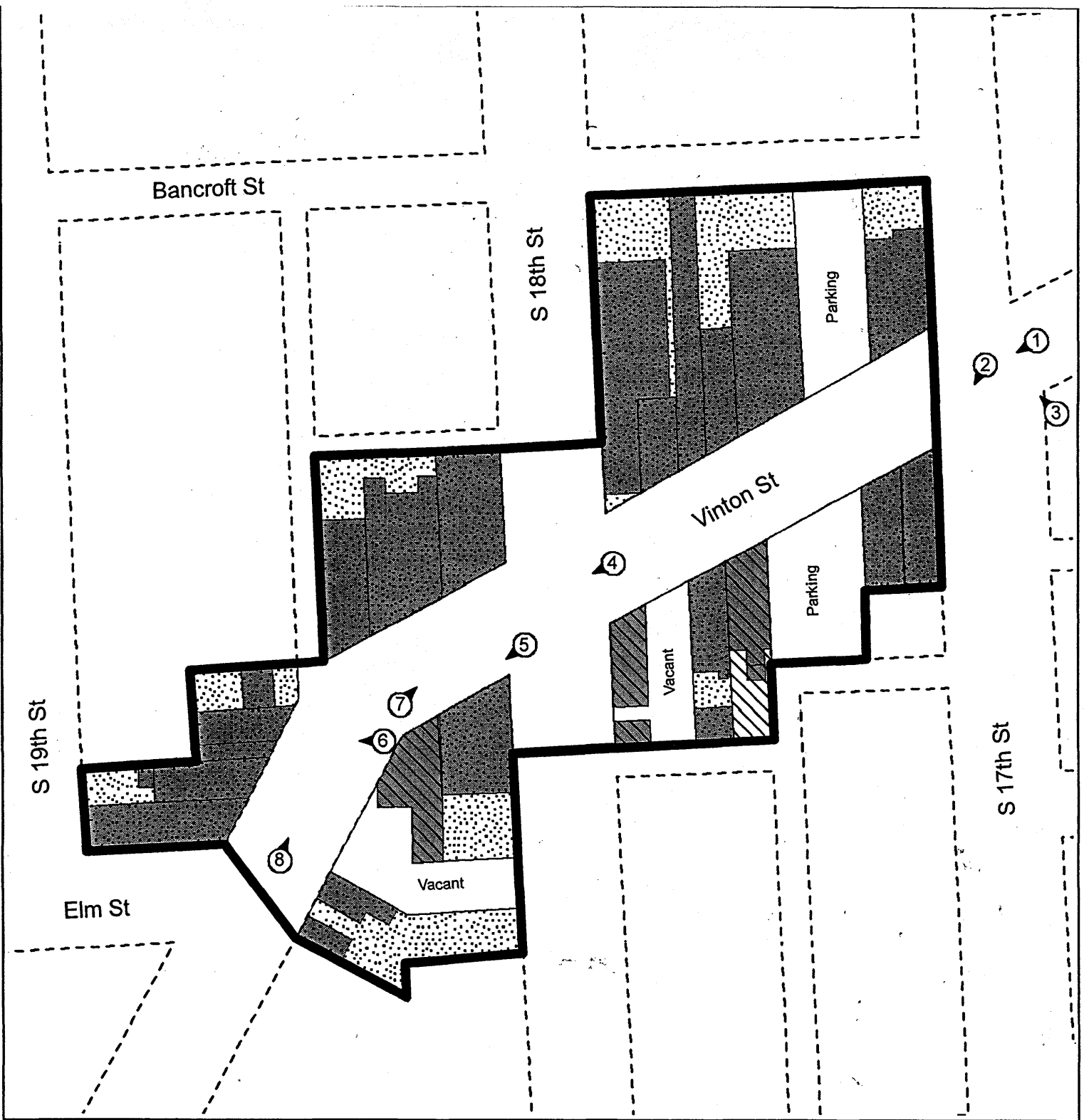
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

(See continuation sheet with map and district boundary.)








**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Vinton Street Commercial Historic District encompasses the core historic business district of Vinton Street. The boundary is based upon visual continuity of a grouping of commercial buildings that front on Vinton Street and that are historical significance and also retain historic integrity. Commercial properties outside the boundary display diminished historic integrity and visual continuity; as such, these buildings were not included within the boundaries. Residential properties to the north and south of the boundary are not directly related to the historic context of commercial development of South Omaha; as such, this property type is not included within the boundaries.



# Vinton Street Commercial Historic District

Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

-  Commercial Historic District
-  Contributing property
-  Noncontributing property
-  Other property
-  Building Footprint
-  Block
-  Photo number and direction

