

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 14 1986

date entered JUL 14 1986

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

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Menomonie Downtown Historic District

LOCAL PRES. DIV.

2. Location

street & number See Inventory not for publication

city, town Menomonie vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dunn code 033

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name NA

street & number NA

city, town NA vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dunn County Courthouse

street & number 800 Wilson Avenue

city, town Menomonie state WI 54751

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic
title Places (Menomonie Survey) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state WI 53706

JUL 2 1986

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The proposed Menomonie Downtown Historic District reflects the predominant architectural styles during Menomonie's economic peak in the last decades of the nineteenth century and its progressive years in the early twentieth century. The prosperity of the lumber industry in the region, and particularly the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company, resulted in the building of a substantial community. The downtown district is a good collection of buildings which represent the typical broad range of styles used during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Architectural Description

The proposed Menomonie Downtown Historic District is located in the central business district of Menomonie. It was established between 1883 and 1924, and extends from the intersecting block of Broadway and Main Streets, along Main Street going east. This includes the commercial core of downtown Menomonie and the historic campus buildings of the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

The Menomonie Downtown Historic District is an area south and west of Lake Menomin. While the city grew up around the lake, and the downtown is in close proximity to the lake, the central business district has always been oriented away from Lake Menomin itself. Thus, historically, while an occasional hotel might face the lake, and residences might be oriented toward it, the commercial and public buildings of the city turned their backs to it.

The district is composed of a combination of commercial, educational, and public/governmental buildings. The majority of the commercial buildings are two story commercial styles with an occasional one or three-story structure. Bowman Hall (University of Wisconsin-Stout) supports a local landmark, "The Stout Tower", which rises above the roof lines of the downtown area. The public/governmental structures in the district, Mabel Tainter Memorial and the U.S. Post Office, are two and one-story structures respectively.

Most of the buildings in the district are of red pressed brick made locally, in and near Menomonie. The dominant structure in the district, the Mabel Tainter Memorial, is made of stone block cut at Dunnsville, a few miles south of Menomonie in Dunn County. The memorial represents a high style building and contributes to the broad range of styles found in the district. The commercial structures are distinguished by their decorative brick detailing at the cornices.

The proposed Menomonie Downtown Historic District reflects the city's economic peak, when the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company brought prosperity and growth to the area. Thus, most of the structures in the district reflect the popular public and commercial styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the mid-west.

The essential character of the Menomonie Downtown Historic District is that of the late nineteenth century era. While there has been some rebuilding in the downtown area, and there are intrusions encroaching on the edges of the proposed district area, the district itself is architecturally coherent, with only minor exceptions. The styles represented in the commercial structures are: Victorian Italianate, Neoclassical and Vernacular Commercial styles. The styles represented in the

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

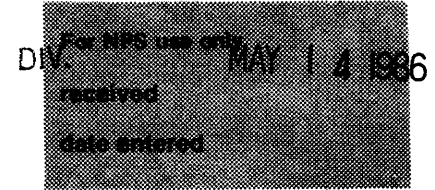
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 7

Page 1



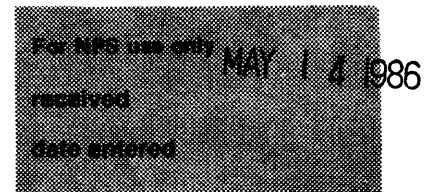
educational structures are: Neoclassical, Renaissance Revival, and Vernacular Commercial. Although most ground floor facades have been modified, integrity has been maintained at the upper story levels.

The Menomonie Downtown Historic District is comprised of 37 buildings. The four non-contributing buildings are of recent construction and share neither scale nor character with the rest of the district. One exception, Mexicana/Coffin's, located at 228-30 Main Street, was built in c. 1909. The one-story structure, though of the same historical period as other buildings in the district, has been altered in appearance and no longer fits into the character of the district. The following inventory indicates the map number, street address, historic or common name, construction date, if known, and the classification code of each building. Historic names were determined by consulting business directories, newspaper accounts, journal articles and Sanborn maps. Menomonie has not retained building permits and an abstract search did not always yield the construction date. On several instances, the construction date was shown on a building cornice or corner stone. Sanborn maps, available for the years 1885, 1889, 1894, 1902, 1910, and 1925, provided some information (see endnotes and bibliography for a complete list of sources).

INVENTORY

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>HISTORIC OR COMMON NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
1	630 S. Broadway	Schutte & Quilling Bldg.	1907	C
2	113 Main St.	Johnson Block	c. 1889 ¹	C
3	117 Main St.	Army Recruiting	c. 1950	NC
4	125 Main St.	EME Audio	c. 1888 ²	C
5	129-49 Main St.	Heller Block	c. 1888 ³	C
6	205 Main St.	Mabel Tainter Memorial	1889	C
7	235 Main St.	U.S. Post Office	1913	C
8	301 Main St.	Lange Block	1896	C
9	311 Main St.	Glen Mar	1897	C
10	313 Main St.	Bertelson's	c. 1950	NC
11	315 Main St.	Pabst Milwaukee Bldg.	c. 1909 ⁴	C
12	321 Main St.	Albert Alseth Bldg.	c. 1909 ⁵	C
13	327 Main St.	Kivlin Eye Clinic	c. 1909 ⁶	C
14	331-35 Main St.	Higgins/Chamber of Commerce	1906	C
15	438 Main St.	RBS Building	c. 1909 ⁷	C
16	436 Main St.	Knights of Pythias Bldg.	1924	C

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



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 7

Page 2

INVENTORY

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>HISTORIC OR COMMON NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
17	424 Main St.	Waterbeds	c.1960	NC
18	420 Main St.	Lucas Block	1883	C
19	414 Main St.	The Spot	c.1909 ⁸	C
20	406-08 Main St.	Christies/Hammarback	c.1924 ⁹	C
21	400 Main St.	Noer Bldg.	1916	C
22	342 Main St.	Goodrich Furniture	c.1924 ¹⁰	C
23	336 Main St.	Graven & Wilcox Bldg.	c.1893 ¹¹	C
24	332 Main St.	Shy Violet/Carousel	c.1884 ¹²	C
25	320-26 Main St.	Reeds Shoes/Fashion Carousel	c.1909 ¹³	C
26	306 Main St.	Meyer's Drugs	c.1924 ¹⁴	C
27	300 Main St.	Anshus Jewelers	c.1909 ¹⁵	C
28	717 E. 3rd. St.	Eau Galle Cheese, Too	c.1909 ¹⁶	C
29	244 Main St.	Teare Bldg.	1922	C
30	228-30 Main St.	Mexicana/Coffins	c.1909 ¹⁷	NC
31	214-20 Main St.	The Arcade	1903 ¹⁸	C
32	200 Main St.	First Bank & Trust	1888	C
33	710 E. 2nd St.	Patterson Bldg.	1923 ¹⁹	C
34	UW-Stout	Harvey Hall	1916 ²⁰	C
35	UW-Stout	Ray Hall	1906 ²¹	C
36	UW-Stout	Bowman Hall	1899 ²²	C
37	636 S. Broadway	Long's	c.1907 ²³	C

Description of Selected Architecturally Significant Buildings

Heller Block 129-149 Main Street

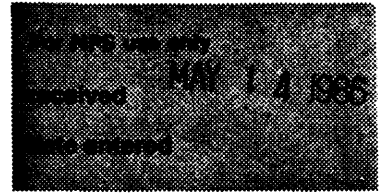
This is a two-story brick Victorian Italianate structure. Its facade has been altered by minor modifications to the store front and upper story. The original cornice is extant, and the strength of the style anchors an important corner in the district. The building is directly across from the west face of Mabel Tainter Memorial.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonee Downtown

Historic District
Dunn County, Wisconsin



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Johnson Block 113 Main Street

This is a two-story brick Victorian Italianate structure. It is identical to the Heller Block and anchors the west end of the block and also the district. The facade has been repainted, and modified slightly, but similar to the Heller Block, the Johnson Block is a significantly strong Italianate style building. Its cornice remains intact, and thus provides visual continuity with the rest of the block.

Schutte & Quilling Building 630 South Broadway

This is a two-story stone faced Neoclassical Revival style building. Its strong conservative style reflects its former use as a bank. The structure is situated at mid-block, but the remainder of the block going north is now a parking lot. Thus, the Schutte & Quilling Building is on the edge of the Menomonee Downtown Historic District.

Mabel Tainter Memorial 205 Main Street

This is a two-story Richardsonian Romanesque styled building. Its architect, Harvey Ellis, designed two buildings for Menomonee clients: Mabel Tainter Memorial and the Louis Smith Tainter home, both individually listed in the National Register. The memorial building now houses a community theater, with a Moorish interior decor restored to its original condition, and the public library and reading room. The structure, given to the city by Andrew Tainter as a memorial to his deceased daughter, is a pivotal structure in the downtown district. Its bold and decorative style is much admired by architectural historians. The memorial building does much to establish the architectural personality of the downtown district. Mabel Tainter Memorial Building is located in the heart of the commercial district and in close proximity to the University of Wisconsin-Stout campus. The building was constructed in 1889 of sandstone from the Dunnsville quarry. The nearly square building has a hip roof with two turrets in each hip and a round tower at each corner. The front facade features a Syrian arched entrance and a boat's prow to commemorate Andrew Tainter's beginnings as a steamboat pilot.

U.S. Post Office 235 Main Street

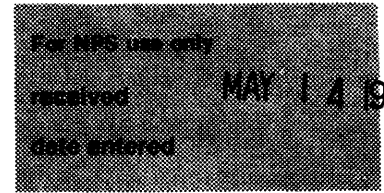
This is a one-story brick Neoclassical structure. It is on the same block as Mabel Tainter Memorial Building. The structure was designed by Oscar Wenderoth and bears the date 1913. The Post Office building is central to the downtown district, and is located near the Memorial building, thus making its block one that is devoted to public service structures. Like the Tainter Memorial, the Post Office is a strong stylistic statement, supporting a Doric metope and triglyph frieze over the door, and classically framed rectangular windows.

Pabst Milwaukee Building 315 Main Street

This is a two-story brick Victorian-influenced commercial structure. Its facade has been restored to reflect its original character. The front of the building thus is brick with polychrome wood trim. The original Pabst emblem is embedded in the wall on both the upper front story and upper back story. The structure is mid-block, and is the strongest building on its block stylistically.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Menomonie Downtown
Historic District
Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 7

Page 4

Meyer's Drugs 306 Main Street

This is a one-story Art Deco-influenced building that dominates the southwest end of the block. The structure has a stepped gable roof line, and the facade is covered with a glazed tile of predominately cream color, with red and black bands. The building reflects a late building phase in the district, but is strong in bringing a complimentary polychromy to the facing street and neighboring structures.

Lange Block 301 Main Street

This is a two-story brick structure on the corner of its block. The building exhibits a commercial style, with patterned brick work and an ornamental cornice. The structure has been modified at the ground level, but the upper story reflects the original design, which is typical of the unpretentiousness of Menomonie's late 19th century commercial district.

Knights of Pythias Building 436 Main Street

This is a two-story brick commercial style structure. Its style dominates the block in which it is located. It supports an ornamental cornice, which includes the name of the fraternal society, "Knights of Pythias," which was responsible for its construction. The Knights of Pythias Building is the dominant structure on the block that is farthest east in the district. It also is on a block which actually faces the lake.

Noer Building 400 Main Street

This is a two-story early twentieth century commercial style structure on the southwest corner of its block. The structure has been modified at ground level, but the upper story still carries the original ornaments. The Victorian-influenced bracketed cornice is clearly visible.

First Bank & Trust 200 Main Street

This is a dominant building in the downtown district. Its Victorian Italianate style is strong and has been relatively well preserved on the upper floor. The decorative brick cornice and segmental-arched window caps are intact and provide a stylistic link to the Heller Block and Johnson Block north and west of the bank. Constructed of locally manufactured red brick, the bank is now painted cream color.

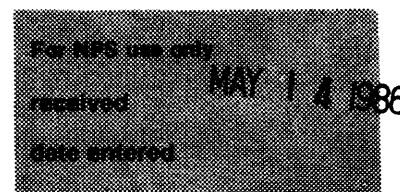
Teare Building 244 Main Street

This is a two-story, brick commercial styled building. The structure is located on the corner, directly across from the U.S. Post Office. The flat roof is decorated with battlements and the building is largely intact. An important element to the district, the Teare Building brings continuity to the block in which it is located and lends visually to the style of the buildings in the 300 block.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District



Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 7 Page 5

Patterson Building (Campus Art) 710 E. 2nd. Street

This is a one-story Art Deco-influenced commercial building adjacent to the First Bank and Trust, and across the alley from the UW-Stout campus buildings in the downtown district. The Patterson Building has a brick and tile facade. The name and construction date of the structure is recorded in the tile floored entrance. The building, while small, provides continuity between the commercial buildings of the downtown district and the educational buildings of the UW-Stout campus.

Bowman Hall University of Wisconsin-Stout

This is an eclectic four-story brick Romanesque Revival styled building. It is prominent in the downtown district because of its distinctive Tuscan tower, with clock. The "UW-Stout Tower" is a local landmark, and has become closely associated with the identity of the university. The structure is a strong, classical style with some early Renaissance sculptural details (column style) that link it to the bold Romanesque style of nearby Mabel Tainter Memorial. The red brick is a contrast to the painted brick commercial buildings in the district, and provides visual continuity with the two other UW-Stout structures included in the district.

Ray Hall University of Wisconsin-Stout

This is a two-story vernacular, utilitarian building with decorative stone ornamentation. The building reflects the manual arts beginnings of the Stout education. Ray Hall is a critical member of the educational group of buildings in the district.

Harvey Hall University of Wisconsin-Stout

This four-story brick Neoclassical styled building is the third of the UW-Stout structures included in the district. Harvey Hall is east of Bowman, thus forming a triangular nucleus for the historic Stout campus. Harvey Hall once faced the Natatorium, but now faces two modern constructions. The imposing character of Harvey Hall is enhanced by the giant order Ionic columns at its front entrance. The classical style reminds us of the high-minded ideals of the university, while the neighboring Bowman and Ray Halls remind us of the practical mission of education at UW-Stout (former Stout Institute). Although windows have been altered, they do not detract from the classically proportioned, abstracted neoclassic form.

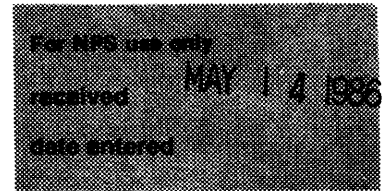
The Arcade 214-20 Main Street

The Arcade, built in 1903, has maintained the integrity of its second story. The red brick Commercial Vernacular building was designed by the architectural firm of Burrill & Bailey of Minneapolis. Completed at a cost of \$18,000, The Arcade features a parapet with four finials and richly decorative brick detailing.

Higgins-Chamber of Commerce 331-35 Main Street

This red brick Commercial Vernacular building continues the decorative brickwork at the cornice and provides a natural boundary for the district. The distinctive flat-iron shape is suited to the triangular block and is the last building on the north side of Main Street.

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



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 7 Page 6

Christies-Hammarback 406-08 Main Street

Once the site of C.A. Clark's Great Department Store, the Christies-Hammarback building replaced a structure damaged by one of the many fires to ravage Menomonie's downtown. The one-story red brick building features an arched parapet with brick and stone detailing. Typical early 20th century Commercial style on a simple scale.

Lucas Block 420 Main Street

Built in 1883, the Lucas Block provides a strong visual impact with its Victorian Italianate design. The cornice features brackets, a raised parapet and five finials to accompany the brick detailing. The window caps feature radiating voussoirs with keystones and the second and third story levels have not been altered.

Graven & Wilcox Building 336 Main Street

Another of the one-story buildings in the district, this Commercial Vernacular structure features decorative brick work with a three panel frieze below the cornice.

Shy Violet-Carousel 332 Main Street

This Commercial Vernacular two-story brick building exhibits Italianate influence with its brackets and brick work cornice and distinctive keystone and arch window caps.

Archeological Resources

A complete archeological survey has not been undertaken, however, because of the extensive development of the district, it is unlikely that significant archeological resources have survived undisturbed.

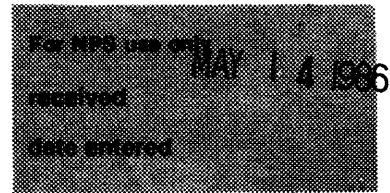
Inventory Footnotes

1. John M. Russell, Menomonie - 1890 and The Tainters, (Menomonie: Dunn County News, 1979).
2. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1889.
3. Ibid.
4. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1910.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1894.
10. Ibid.
11. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1894.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District



Continuation sheet
Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 7

Page 7

12. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1885.
13. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1910.
14. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1925.
15. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1910.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Dunn County News, January 9, 1903.
19. Dunn County News, January 3, 1924.
20. Ann M. Keppel and James D. Clark, "James H. Stout and the Menomonie Schools," Wisconsin Magazine of History, V42 #3, Spring, 1959, pp. 204-206.
21. Sanborn-Perris Map, 1925.
22. Keppel and Clark, pp. 204-206.
23. Building first appears on Sanborn-Perris Map of 1910.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1883-1925 **Builder/Architect** See below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Menomonie Downtown Historic District includes most of the significant commercial structures in the central business district, and the three important educational buildings associated with the Stout Institute (now University of Wisconsin-Stout). The commercial buildings reflect the prosperous lumber community of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The public buildings reflect the community pride and spirit in the educational experiment that led to the establishment of the Stout Institute and later became known as Stout State University and the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The lumber industry caused ambitious and intelligent businessmen to settle in Menomonie. One of these, Andrew Tainter, left an architectural legacy to the community by the donation of the Mabel Tainter Memorial Building. The private financing of both the Mabel Tainter Memorial and the original U.W.-Stout buildings, by James H. Stout, are a tribute to the philanthropic spirit of Menomonie's early leaders.

Architectural Significance

The downtown commercial buildings line Main and Broadway Streets, forming the core of the city's Central Business District. Stylistically, the Victorian Italianate and vernacular Commercial styles of the late 19th and early 20th century dominate the district. Menomonie's many brick factories which supplied builders with the materials for their structures played a sizable role in the outward appearance of the downtown district. Essentially, the district reflects the conservative and somewhat provincial styles common to rural areas and small communities across Wisconsin. Within Menomonie, the structures exhibit a coherent architectural character reflecting the city's years of economic prosperity between 1880 and 1920 with few intrusions to detract from that character. Although strongly vernacular in appearance, the district does include a number of significant buildings which were clearly influenced by the prevailing high-style architectural traditions of the period, thus illustrating a growing local taste for more elaborately decorated buildings. Examples include the Italianate-influenced Heller Block (#5-1888), the Glen Mar Building of 1897 (#9), the Lucas Block (#18 - 1883), the Johnson Block (#2-1889), and the First Bank & Trust (#32-1888); and such Neo-classical examples as the 1913 Post Office (37) and Schutte & Quilling Bldg. (#1). The Mabel Tainter Memorial Building, from 1889, is an example of one prominent citizen's desire to bring an established architect to Menomonie. The architect, Harvey Ellis, was known for his ornamented Romanesque Revival style. His erratic career caused him to be overlooked and under acclaimed for several decades, but now, Ellis is seen as a creative genius whose originality may rival some of his more famous employers. The Mabel Tainter Memorial Building is the only sandstone building in the downtown district, and the only Richardsonian Romanesque-styled building as well. A key building within the downtown, it is a focal point of the district.

The Menomonie District is a typical collection of commercial and educational buildings as might be located in small communities anywhere across the upper Midwest. The buildings represent a cross section of economic development exhibited in a broad range of styles influenced by various "high-style" traditions. Retaining the small town atmosphere, the buildings collectively form the core of the commercial and educational center of Menomonie's "golden-years" and represent the largest intact grouping of architecturally-significant commercial buildings in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation page

10. Geographical Data

See continuation page

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 8.3 acres

Quadrangle name Menomonie South
Menomonie North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	8	5	6	0	0	4	9	6	9	3	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	5	5	8	4	6	5	0	4	9	6	9	3	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	5	5	8	4	6	5	0	4	9	6	9	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	5	5	8	4	7	5	0	4	9	6	9	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

1	5	5	8	4	7	5	0	4	9	6	9	5	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

1	5	5	8	4	9	2	0	4	9	6	9	5	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

1	5	5	8	4	9	2	0	4	9	6	9	5	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

1	5	5	8	4	7	7	0	4	9	6	9	6	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

see item 8 continuation

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roxanne K. Owens and Claudia Smith

organization West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission date January 10, 1986

street & number 4421 Davenport Street telephone (715) 235-4686
1712 5th. Street. W. #202

city or town Omaha, NE 68132 state Menomonie, WI 54751

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local


As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title _____ date APRIL 25, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Keeper of the National Register date 7-14-86

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

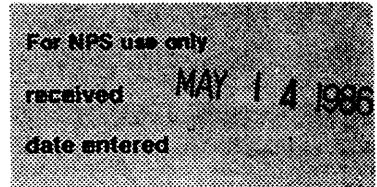
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn Coutny, Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 1



Commercial Significance

Located in the center of the 19th century commercial district, the proposed Menomonie Downtown Historic District reflects the town's commitment to the city growth. Platted in 1859 by her largest employer, the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company, Menomonie experienced a steady and stable growth and avoided the boomtown chaos which afflicted many towns that relied on one industry for employment. The emerging commercial area was generally confined to a triangular shaped area in the center of town. This early commercial district was bounded on the west by Broadway Street and on the south by Main Street. Crescent Street ran from northwest to southeast, from the north end of Broadway to the east end of Main Street.

The Dunn County Lumberman, the first newspaper published in Menomonie, provided an advertising medium for the burgeoning business community. In the April 19, 1862 issue, advertisers included the Elkhorn Saloon, Thompson & Elmer chair manufacturers and several attorneys, real estate agents and physicians. Retail and wholesale trade included Mrs. Hamilton, a dressmaker, Peter Lammer, a tailor, and William Weatherbee's new general store.(1)

During the 1870's, the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company grew to become the largest lumber concern in the world. Menomonie's business community also experienced growth and the first brick commercial buildings were erected. Five hotels were advertised in the 1873 Chippewa Valley Business Directory, as well as numerous other retail, wholesale and service oriented businesses.(2)

William Schutte and Albert Quilling become partners in 1873 and together owned a dry goods store and bank. That same year they erected the first commercial brick building in Menomonie at 610 Broadway Street. George Tonnar, who opened his drug store in 1871, Conway & Andrus, a milinery shop which began business by 1873, and J. F. Bonnell's photography studio were all located on Main Street.(3)

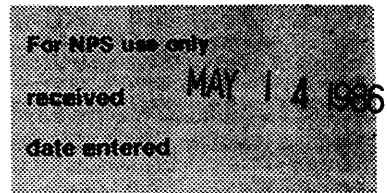
The "second generation" of commercial development in Menomonie occurred from 1880 to 1924. At that time, many frame buildings were destroyed by fire and replaced with the more durable brick, most of which was manufactured locally. A fire in 1880 damaged the south side of the 300 block of Main Street. The largest of these fires occurred on April 24, 1906, and destroyed \$50,000 worth of property on Main Street. Both the north and south sides of the 300 block burned and many merchants sustained heavy damage. On the north side of the street, the Pabst Milwaukee Building and the Palace Bakery were heavily damaged by the blaze.(4)

The buildings in the proposed Menomonie Downtown Historic District are among those "second generation" structures. The proposed district also includes buildings that were given to the city by officers of the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company. One of these, the Mabel Tainter Memorial, lies near the center of the proposed district and was given to Menomonie by Captain and Mrs. Andrew Tainter. The Memorial building, a structure which houses a theater and the city library, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.(5)

Contiguous with the commercial area is the University of Wisconsin-Stout; three of the Stout buildings have been included in the proposed district. Senator James Huff Stout, son of the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company partner Henry Stout,

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 8 Page 2

became interested in experimental forms of education during the late decades of the 19th century. His legacy to Menomonie was the Stout Manual Training Institute, an experiment in post-secondary education that gained Menomonie a national reputation. Fire destroyed the first building in 1897 and Stout, who had built and equipped the school, contributed a major portion of the money needed to rebuild, and the Industrial Arts Building, known as Bowman Hall, was erected in 1897. (6) The establishment of the school adjacent to the commercial district had a beneficial effect on the downtown area, reinforcing its role as a focus point of activity and adding greatly to its economic base.

The buildings of the Menomonie Downtown Historic District represent the historically important "second generation" of commercial growth in the downtown area of the city, reflecting the community's most extensive era of development and economic success around the turn of the century. The historic buildings and their associated commercial enterprises formed the core of Menomonie's retailing district and remain the strongest reminder of the community's role as a regional mercantile center from the 1880's through the mid-1920's.

Below are outlined a number of the more historically significant commercial resources found within the district.

The Johnson Block c. 1889 113 Main Street

Thomas A. Johnson had been in the dry goods business for twenty years before opening his new store in 1897. Located on the northeast corner of Main and Broadway Streets, at the busiest point of the triangular business district, the dry goods store became a profitable endeavor. The second floor offices were rented by many prominent professional people and the Johnson Block contributed to the steady growth of Menomonie's commercial district.

Mabel Tainter Memorial 1889 205 Main Street

The Mabel Tainter Memorial was built by Captain and Mrs. Andrew Tainter to honor their daughter. The Tainter's felt that Menomonie needed a public building which could perform a number of civic and cultural functions. The Memorial contained the public library, a fine example of a Gilded Age theater and numerous meeting rooms. For several years, the G.A.R. as well as the Unitarian Society held meetings there. The building has been restored and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Schutte & Quilling Building 1907 630 Broadway Street

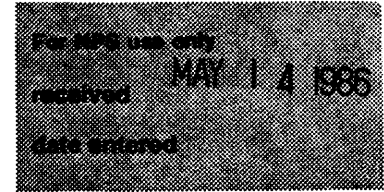
In 1873 William Schutte and Albert Quilling, both natives of Prussia, opened Schutte & Quilling, a banking and exchange, dry goods, clothing, notions, and general, all purpose store. Their first building, erected in 1873 at 610 Broadway Street, was the first brick commercial building in Menomonie. Their new building, erected in 1907, housed the business until its assets were sold to the First National Bank in 1924. Schutte & Quilling were in business for fifty one years.

Gravel & Wilcox Building c. 1893 336 Main Street

P.O. Graven came to Menomonie from Norway in 1884. John C. Wilcox, a native Wisconsinite, came to Menomonie in 1883. Both men worked for the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company before

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Menomonie Downtown
Historic District
Dunn County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

entering into their partnership in 1891. The first store was located in 314 Main Street, and when the business outgrew the confines of that building, they moved to the 336 Main Street location. Graven & Wilcox sold both shoes and boots, and the business and building retained that name until the late 1970's. One an American and one an immigrant, they were originally attracted to the area by the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company. Their business was named in the 1925 History of Dunn County "one of the most important mercantile concerns of the city." The partnership lasted for decades and the building remains a significant feature of the proposed district.

Lucas Block 1883 420 Main Street

The site of the Lucas Block, originally owned by Nathan Eytcheson, was purchased by Carroll Lucas in 1880. Lucas built his brick block in 1883 and began business as the Lucas Hardware Store with his sons Herbert and Cyrus. The second floor was rented to a variety of business people for office space, and the third floor was leased to the Bury Lodge 183, Independent Order of Oddfellows. The building passed out of Lucas' hands in 1913. Carroll Lucas came to Dunn County in 1855 to be a farmer. He served as county treasurer for sixteen years and was also a member of the school board and a library trustee. His business was a commercial success, and Lucas was a prominent and highly respected businessman in Menomonie.

First Bank & Trust 1888 200 Main Street

The First National Bank of Menomonie began as a state bank in 1879 and became a national bank in 1883. F. J. McLean began the business and was president from 1879 to 1906. They moved to this location in 1888. The bank originally occupied only the west 1/3 of the ground floor. The east 2/3 was occupied by George Gallaway's Furniture and Undertaking Parlor. The second floor was rented to a variety of doctors and dentists. Senator James H. Stout purchased McLean's interest and succeeded him as president. In 1924 the bank took over assets of the Schutte & Quilling Bank, giving Menomonie the largest bank for any city of its size in Wisconsin. It was, in fact, one of the largest banks in any city of 5,000 in the nation. Both F. J. McLean and Senator Stout were well known and popular businessmen in Menomonie and their connection with the institution contributes to its historical significance. The central location placed the bank in the middle of the proposed district. The Mabel Tainter Memorial, one of the town's centers of culture, is located directly across the street.

The Heller Block c. 1888 129-49 Main Street

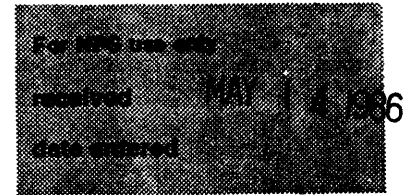
Originally owned by the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company, David Heller acquired the site in 1867. The family retained the land and it passed into the hands of John Heller in 1886. The 1890's saw the beginning of a succession of tenants. The Diamond Cigar Company, one of several cigar manufacturers in Menomonie, became a tenant in 1890. The Heller Block also housed the Post Office and the Menomonie Telephone Company for several years. In 1897 Carr & Hawthorn, a candy store, ice cream parlor and restaurant, operated their business in the block. The Boston Drug Store, Gregg's Music Store and Wolf's Barber Shop were once tenants. The second floor was rented to several prominent dentists and physicians including Dr. Kate Kelsey, who was active in local temperance efforts. The building was home to many prominent business ventures.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormMenomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 4

Lange Block 1896 301 Main Street

In 1889 Louis Lange opened his first grocery store and confectionary business. By 1896 his business had outgrown its home and Lange built his all brick building on the northeast corner of Main and 3rd Streets. The Lange Brothers' Grocery Store remained in business until 1905. The Lange Block fits well into the chaotic commercial atmosphere of Block 87. There are no lots in Block 87 and most of the properties have a nonspecific property description. The block progressed east, with buildings erected in 1896, 1897, and 1903. Part of the block, destroyed in a 1906 blaze, was rebuilt following the fire. The Lange Block remains in good condition, and represents the product of Louis Lange's successful business.

Albert Alseth Building c. 1909 321 Main Street

Another of the Block 87 buildings, the Albert Alseth Building, has had a variety of tenants and a colorful history. An earlier building on its site housed Tonnar's Drug Store from 1871 to 1887. George Tonnar was a respected businessman and for a time he shared the building with the Menomonie Post Office. In the current building, Joseph Anstett ran his Palace Bakery on the ground floor from 1894 until 1906 when the building was severely damaged by fire. Much of the historical significance is derived from Carl Pieper, who purchased the property in 1898. Pieper owned the Northwestern Press, which published five German language and one English language newspapers. The Menomonie Nordstern, which began publication in 1887, was the leading German Language newspaper in northern Wisconsin. Pieper was its editor from 1887 until 1901. The 1885 figures show that 11.5% of Menomonie's population were born in Germany. The large influx of German immigrants during the 1880's increased demand for a German newspaper. The Albert Alseth Building is the only extant commercial building in Menomonie related to a specific ethnic group.

The Arcade 1903 214-20 Main Street

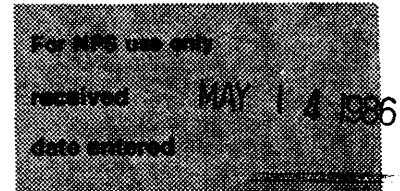
Construction began in April, 1902 and The Arcade opened its doors in January, 1903. Designed by the architectural firm of Burrill & Bailey of Minneapolis, The Arcade occupies a central location in the downtown district. The Post Office moved from the Heller Block to The Arcade and made its home there until the new Post Office was completed several years later. Thomas & Wagner's shoe repair, Angraham's Jewelry and A. Pillsbury's drug store were also housed on the first floor. Several suites were available on the second floor and E.B. Bundy, a prominent Menomonie lawyer, as well as Haft & Kausrud, a photography studio, became tenants.

Teare Building 1922 244 Main Street

Many portions of Menomonie's proposed historic district have been rebuilt following several devastating fires. Originally the site of O. Ohnstad's retail clothing business, the Teare family became owners early in the twentieth century. After a fire destroyed the original building, the Teares rebuilt on the original site. The building still houses a retail clothing firm.(9)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Menomonie Downtown
Historic District
Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 5

Educational Significance

Stout Manual Training Institute

The development of Menomonie as a educational center came about through the efforts of Senator James Huff Stout. The son of Knapp, Stout & Co., Company's Henry L. Stout, the future senator lived in St. Louis between 1880 and 1889 where he ran the retail part of the business. While there, his orthodox views of education began to change. He learned about manual training by observing the Calvin M. Woodward Manual Training School of Washington University in St. Louis. After moving to Menomonie, in 1889, he consulted administrators at the Chicago Manual Training School for advice about curriculum and equipment.(10)

In Menomonie, Stout carefully cultivated public support. Henry H. Belfield, a director of the Chicago Manual Training School, came to Menomonie and presented a lecture on the value of manual training. The school superintendent, R. B. Dudgeon, wrote several articles for the Dunn County News which explained the unusual program.(11)

Stout agreed to support the new program for three semesters. A two-room building was constructed in 1890 and courses were offered in both manual training and domestic science. The manual training school marked its first anniversary with a public celebration and the Board of Education agreed to continue the program, sustained by local taxes. The courses proved to be popular and facilities soon needed to be expanded. (12)

In 1893, with Stout's generous financial assistance, the city built and equipped a three-story building adjacent to the high school. The structures were connected by an enclosed bridge at their second story levels. An open house celebrated the completion of the Stout Manual Training School and Menomonie's educational experiment began to attract attention. (13)

The community rallied public support for Stout's school when both the manual training school and the high school burned to the ground in 1897. Public funds rebuilt the high school, but James H. Stout contributed the major portion needed to replace the manual training school. Stout sustained a personal loss of \$50,000 with the fire and the new buildings cost nearly \$160,000. The Industrial Arts Building, now known as Bowman Hall, is still being used. (14)

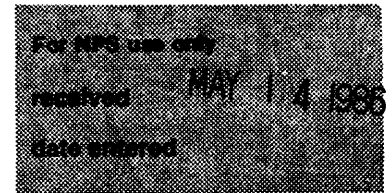
The new building provided ample space for Stout's school. The first floor housed the blacksmith, molding, casting and other departments. The machine shop, wood and iron turning departments and the superintendent's office were located on the second floor. The third floor was devoted to domestic science, household economy, mechanical drawing and architecture. The art department used the fourth floor and the gymnasium occupied the fifth. (15)

The Menomonie school board adopted a manual training program, and the concept was incorporated into the curriculum from kindergarten to high school. Although industrial and vocational education are part of many public school systems now, Menomonie was the first city in the United States to adopt such a program. A

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Menomonie Downtown
Historic District



Continuation sheet Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 8 Page 6

progressively more difficult program of manual arts was used through the grade school years. Children were cutting paper shapes in kindergarten, began woodworking in the fourth grade, and were ready for machine shop and wood turning by high school. Courses offered included drafting and architectural drawing; the grade and high school programs became vocational preparation. (16)

It is estimated that James H. Stout's gifts to Menomonie exceeded \$500,000. After his death, Stout Institute, as it was then known, was given to the state and became part of the Wisconsin State College system. While Lorenzo Dow Harvey served as president of Stout Institute, he succeeded in getting the legislature to appropriate funds for the Trade Building, now known as Ray Hall, and the Household Art Building, appropriately known as Harvey Hall. Ray Hall was equipped for practical application of skills. Students were given, "opportunity and latitude to express themselves in the finished product," and once built an entire house in Ray Hall. Harvey Hall, a large four-story building which covers one-half block, contained the library, kitchens, laboratories, and an auditorium which seated eight hundred. The basement housed the cafeteria and the administrative offices occupied part of the first floor. (17)

Bowman Hall, Ray Hall and Harvey Hall are all in excellent condition, and contiguous with the Main Street and Broadway Street commercial areas, and are a representative of Menomonie's growth through the altruism of James H. Stout. Menomonie's early commercial growth was due in large part to the town's major employer, the Knapp, Stout & Co., Company. Senator Stout's connection with the company lends another cohesive tie to the rest of the proposed district. (18)

By the time people were becoming interested in Menomonie's educational experiment, the lumber industry was becoming a thing of the past. The Stout Institute began to attract people to Menomonie at exactly the right time. Without Stout's school, Menomonie's commercial district might have disappeared with the white pine.

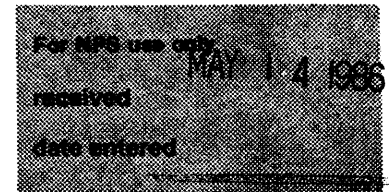
Verbal Boundary Description

The Menomonie Downtown Historic District is located in the central business district of the city. Its boundaries are from mid point in the 600 block of Broadway, including 630 Broadway and all south on the east side of street to the corner of Main and Broadway. Going east along Main Street, the district includes the north side of the 100 block, the north and south sides of the 200 and 300 blocks, and the south side of the 400 blocks to include 438 Main Street. Further, the district includes the 700 block of East 2nd Street and the UW-Stout buildings of Harvey, Bowman and Ray Halls adjacent and south of that and the 700 block of East 3rd Street. These descriptions are to extend to the rear property lines of the buildings.

Parking lots provide natural boundaries for the area north of the rear property lines of the 100 and 200 blocks of Main Street. Crescent Street and Lake Menomin form the rest of the north boundary. A vacant lot east of 438 Main provides an eastern boundary and the area south of the rear property lines of the 300 and 400 blocks of Main Street is a residential area. The new UW-Stout Administration Building forms the western boundary of the district and another newer educational building, located south of Harvey and east of Bowman and Ray Halls, completes the boundary. The district is cohesive and the boundary lines, when viewed, are obvious.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Menomonie Downtown
Historic District Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 8 Page 7

Boundary Justification

The Menomonie Downtown Historic District contains important commercial, public and educational buildings. The structures in this area exhibit a coherent architectural character that reflects the city's years of economic prosperity between 1880 and 1920. The district has few intrusions to detract from its character.

Lake Menomin provided a natural boundary on the north side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Main Street. Parking lots provided other boundaries on the north side of the district. A parking lot on E. 2nd Street includes the Patterson Building and leads to the Stout buildings. On other parts of the district, obvious intrusions on the edges frame the district.

Local Preservation Activity

The Menomonie Intensive Survey Project was undertaken by the Landmark Commission of the City of Menomonie. The purpose of the study was to identify local properties of architectural and historical significance, and to nominate a downtown historic district for National Register nomination.

An agreement between the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the City of Menomonie provided the matching grant-in-aid sponsorship for the historical preservation project. Surveyors updated a 1978 survey, made a street by street architectural survey of the city, photographed surveyed properties and did historical research. Materials and documents produced by this survey project were deposited with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Landmark Commission of Menomonie.

Endnotes

¹Dunn County Lumberman, April 19, 1862.

²Chippewa Valley Business Directory, (Eau Claire: Eau Claire Free Press, 1873, p. 103.

³Ibid., p. 102-103, Bella French, Menomonie & Dunn County, Wisconsin, (LaCrosse: Sketch Book Company, 1874-5), p. 64, C. J. Haines and E. G. Dean, Souvenir of Menomonie, Wisconsin, (Menomonie: Dunn County News, Spring, 1897), p. 65.

⁴F. Curtiss-Wedge and others, History of Dunn County, (Minneapolis: H. C. Cooper & Co., 1925), p. 97-98.

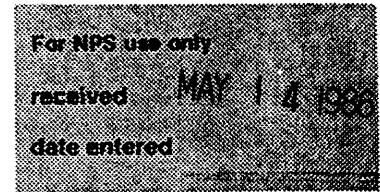
⁵National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, Mabel Tainter Memorial, 205 Main Street, Menomonie, WI 54751, January 18, 1974.

⁶Ann M. Keppel and James D. Clark, "James H. Stout and the Menomonie Schools," Wisconsin Magazine of History, V42 #3, Spring, 1959, p. 204, Sanborn Map, 1925.

⁷Russell.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Menomonie Downtown
 Historic District
 Dunn County, Wisconsin Item number 8 Page 8

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ The same sources were used for the research on the specific buildings. These were: Dunn County Records, Dunn County Courthouse, Menomonie, WI, John M. Russell, Menomonie - 1890 & The Tainters, (Menomonie: Mabel Tainter Festival of the Arts, 1979), and C. J. Haines and E. G. Dean, Souvenir of Menomonie, Wisconsin, (Menomonie: Dunn County News, Spring, 1897, Chippewa Valley Business Directory, (Eau Claire: Eau Claire Free Press, 1873).

¹⁰ Ann M. Keppel and James D. Clark, "James H. Stout and the Menomonie Schools," Wisconsin Magazine of History, V42 #3, Spring, 1959, pp. 202-203, Fred L. Holmes, Badger Saints and Sinners, (Milwaukee: E.M. Hale & Co., 1939), p. 432.

¹¹ Keppel and Clark, p. 203.

¹² Keppell and Clark, p. 203, Holmes, p. 433.

¹³ Keppell and Clark, pp. 203-204.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 204, F. M. Ingler, "Stout Institute, Trail Blazer in Industrial Education," The Wisconsin Magazine, V5 #12, December, 1927, p. 4.

¹⁵ Dunn County News, December 12, 1917.

¹⁶ Keppell and Clark, pp. 205-206.

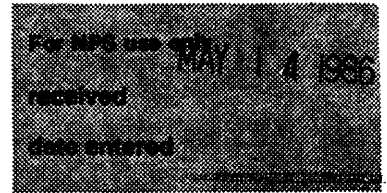
¹⁷ Founder's Day Centennial Commemoration - 1948, pamphlet, Keppell and Clark, p. 210, Dunn County Historical Society, Dunn County History, (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1984), p. 45, Dunn County News, March 11, 1926.

¹⁸ Ingler, p. 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Menomonie Downtown
Historic District

Continuation sheet

Dunn County, Wisconsin

Item number 9 and 10

Page 1

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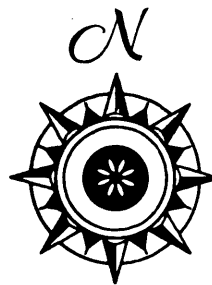
Maps

Atlas of Menomonie, Wisconsin, Minneapolis, C. M. Foote & Co., 1888.

Sanborn-Perris Co. Menomonie. 1885, 1889, 1894, 1902, 1910, 1925.

Item 10

I.	<u>15</u>	<u>584580</u>	<u>4969630</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
J.	<u>15</u>	<u>584580</u>	<u>4969660</u>
K.	<u>15</u>	<u>584540</u>	<u>4969660</u>
L.	<u>15</u>	<u>584540</u>	<u>4969580</u>
M.	<u>15</u>	<u>584600</u>	<u>4969580</u>



LAKE MENOMIN

MENOMONIE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

C - CONTRIBUTING
NC - NONCONTRIBUTING

