

SEWARD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, Continued

Verbal Boundary Description: The Seward Street Historic District comprises properties beginning at the south end of the alley (block #4, Garbers Addition) with the boundary line continuing north approximately 3600' through the alley of Block #22, 21, 20, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, (Original Town), North across Block #19 (Original Town), Block #7, 17 (Smith and Moore's Addition) ending at the alley of Block #17, then turning east for approximately 525' across Seward Street, across Block #16 (Smith and Moore's Addition), then turning south at Cedar Street for approximately 1300', then making a slight jog west at Sixth avenue for approximately 150' then turning south approximately 850' through the alley of Block #13, 14 (Original Town). The boundary line then makes another slight jog east for approximately 150' returning to Cedar Street, then heading south for approximately 700', then turning west again at second avenue approximately 150' then turning south approximately 725' through the alley of Block #23 (Original Town) and Block #3 (Garber's Addition) ending at Avenue A, heading west for approximately 375'.

ELM STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

82-4934

DESCRIPTION: The Elm Street Historic District is located in the northeastern section of Red Cloud. A residential district, the area is comprised of smaller, more humble dwellings than those generally found along Seward Street.

The district is composed of a contiguous group of dwellings of like size and qualities, a majority of which are dwellings which were extant during Cather's years of residency in Red Cloud.

Forty-three residential properties are extant in the district. Unlike the other districts, none of these have any explicit Cather associations, except for the neighborhood itself, as a whole. Of the forty three, twenty-three were extant during Willa Cather's residency in Red Cloud or 53% of the total. Fourteen others are of a type, style or scale which is similar to, or compatible with the Cather-era sites. These amount to 33% of the total. Only six, or 14% of the whole, are intrusive features, giving the district as a whole an 86% figure of overall integrity.

Below are described those features which are important to the district:

- WT07-36. northeast corner Locust & 9th Avenue; frame with asphalt siding; rectangular; two-bay; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; wraparound porch, small addition on rear.

- WT07-39. southeast corner Elm Street and 10th avenue; brick; square; two by two bay; one story; pyramidal roof; central chimney, segmentally arched openings, only door at rear of property, multiple frame additions; c. 1880's.

- WT07-40 821 N. Elm; frame; rectangular; three bay front facade; one story; gable roof; saltbox-like shed addition on rear, shed porch along front with turned columns; late 1880's.

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- WT07-95. Grice house, 925 N. Elm; brick; square; one story; three by two bay; truncated pyramidal roof with central chimney; segmentally arched openings with decorated lintels, stuccoed; c. 1880's; (photo #56).
- WT07-147. west side Elm street between 6th & 7th avenues; frame; rectangular; three bay; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; enclosed shed porch along front; late 1870's.
- WT07-148 Martin S. Ballard house, 625 Elm; frame with asphalt brick wall cladding; rectangular; three bay; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; shed addition on rear; gabled porch stoop on front; 1882.
- WT07-149. Hopper-Parkes house, 637 Elm; frame; rectangular; symmetrical three bay front facade; one story; gable roof; gable and shed roofed additions on rear, pedimented hood molds on openings; 1880; (photo # 57).
- WT07-150 Henry C. Cutter house, west side Elm street between 7th & 8th avenues; frame; square, three bay; one story with attic; truncated pyramidal roof; imbricated gablet on front facade, full frontal screened porch, additions on rear; 1894; frame, square barn with cross-gabled roof, imbricated cornice, round-arched windows in loft; 1899; (photo #58).
- WT07-151. 728 N. Elm; frame; ell-shaped; one story; gable roof; square bay on south, ell filled-in with enclosed shed porch, open porch along front of upright section; 1880's.
- WT07-152. 741 N. Elm; frame with asbestos siding; rectangular; three bay; one story; gable roof; modern extension of south gable, shed porch stoop on front; early 1880's.
- WT07-153 745 N. Elm; frame with non-original wood siding; rectangular; three bay; one story; gable roof; gabled porch stoop on front, shed and gable additions on rear; 1880's.
- WT07-154 Diodate C. Hungerford house, 806 N. Elm; frame; tee-shaped; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; porch in south corner of tee, cut-corner bay on first floor of front tee, pedimented window hoods; c. 1886.
- WT07-155. 842 N. Elm; frame; deep rectangular form; three by four bay; one story; hip roof; c. 1905.
- WT07-160. 805 8th Avenue; frame; ell-shaped; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; enclosed porch in ell; c. 1890's.

ELM STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, Continued

- WT07-161. George C. Martindale house, 902 N. Locust; frame; rectangular; three bay; one story; gable roof; multiple additions on rear, hipped porch stoop on front with vernacular Victorian detailing; c. 1900.
- WT07-162. Douglas J. Myers house, 925 N. Locust; frame; rectangular; three bay; one story; hipped roof; double internal chimneys, shed roofed simplified Eastlake porch on south side, shed addition on rear, enclosed shed porch on front; c. 1894; (photo #59).
- WT07-163. Leonard Aultz house, 941 N. Locust; frame; square; three bay; one story; truncated pyramidal roof; gabled porch stoop on front; frame, square barn on rear of property; truncated pyramidal roof with segmental cover; 1880's; (photo #60).
- WT07-164. Tulleys-Richardson house, north Locust street at east end of 10th avenues; brick banked upright with frame wing over brick banked basement; ell-shaped; one story over basement; gable roof; late 1870's, early 1880's.
- WT07-190. southeast corner Locust and 9th Avenue; frame; ell-shaped; one-and-one-half stories; gable roof; additions on rear and north side.

Other properties included as a part of this district are as indicated on the site map and include the following: Smith and Moore's Addition; Block 1, lots 10-12; Block 5, lots 13-14, lots 15-16, lots 19-20, lots 21 and north ½ of 22; Block 6, lots 4-6; Block 10, lots 1-2, lots 3-4, lots 7-8, lots 9-12; Block 11, lots 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 15-17, 18-19, 20-22; Block 12, lots 1-6, Block 13, lots 9-12.

Intrusive properties are as shown and include: Smith and Moore's Addition; Block 1, lots 1-2; Block 5, lots south ½ of 22 and all of 23-24; Block 6, lots 10-12; Block 13, lots 18-20, lots 21-24; Block 14, lots 9-12.

SIGNIFICANCE: Cather was keenly aware of the differences between rich and poor; the pretentious and the humble. This awareness, and its environmental implications are manifest in Song of the Lark where she describes this part of Elm and Locust streets in Red Cloud ("Moonstone").

"In the part of Moonstone that lay east of Main Street, toward the deep ravine which, farther south, wound by Mexican Town, lived all the humbler citizens, the people who voted but did not run for office. The houses were little story-and-a-half cottages, with none of the fussy architectural efforts that marked those on Sylvester Street. They nestled modestly behind their cottonwoods and Virginia creeper; their occupants had no social pretensions to keep up. There were no half-glass front doors with doorbells, or formidable parlors behind closed shutters. Here the old women washed in the back yard, and the men sat in the front doorway and smoked their pipes. The people on Sylvester Street scarcely knew that this part of the town existed. Thea liked to take Thor and her express wagon and explore these quiet, shady streets, where the people never tried to have lawns or to grow elms and pine trees, but let the native timber have its way and spread in luxuriance. She had many friends there, old women who gave her a yellow rose or a spray of trumpet vine and appeased Thor with a cooky or a doughnut." (Song of the Lark, pg. 31-32).

ELM STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, Continued

The architecture of the Elm Street District is certainly less elaborately attired than the Seward Street District; however, fine examples of basic house-types exist. The best-preserved examples of the three-bay cottage include the Martindale house (WT07-161) and the Hopper-Parkes house (WT07-149). A notable one-and-one-half story version is the Martin S. Ballard house (WT07-148).

Well-preserved examples of the "temple-form" house are conspicuously absent but two "ell-shaped" houses should be mentioned, one at 805 8th avenue (WT07-160) and the brick-and-frame, banked ell known as the Tulleys-Richardson house (WT07-164).

Several square-type houses are notable. The two, two-bay brick squares at 925 and 934 Elm are exceptional examples of the basic type (sites WT07-95, and 39). The existence of only the rear door on site 39 should be noted as a possible ethnic-related site. Two square-type houses have square carriage-barns associated with them — the Leonard Aultz house (WT07-163) and the Henry Cutter house (WT07-150).

One unusual house for the district that appears to be a two-square-wide rectangular dwelling should also be mentioned for its vernacular architectural qualities (WT07-162).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: 17 acres (approx.)

- UTM Coordinates: A 14/E541050/N4438240
- B 14/E541280/N4438240
- C 14/E541270/N4437750
- D 14/E541060/N4437750

Verbal Boundary Description: The Elm Street Historic District comprises properties beginning at the south end of the alley at Sixth avenue, west of Block #1 (Smith and Moore's Addition), with the boundary line continuing north approximately 1525' up the alley, west of Block #6 (Smith and Moore Addition) through Block #10, Block #14, then turning east at Tenth avenue for approximately 750'. The boundary line then heads directly south through several outlots for approximately 775', then jogs west on Eighth avenue for approximately 400' turning south again approximately 375' through the alley (Block #5), then making another slight jog west 225' to Elm street, then turning south on Elm street for approximately 375', finally turning west approximately 150'.

RAILROAD ADDITION HISTORIC DISTRICT

82 - 4934

DESCRIPTON: The Railroad Addition Historic District is another residential district similar in character to the Elm Street district but distinct in the sparse placement of dwellings. The Railroad Addition was an attempt to span the area between Red Cloud proper and the railroad depot after the Burlington alignment missed the heart of Red Cloud by about a half a mile. The Addition was only sporadically successful, developing into the sparse settlement which is still extant today.