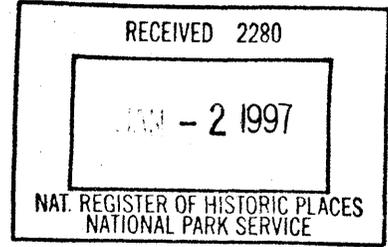


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### 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. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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 Virginia Commercial Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number Chestnut Street between 1st and 6th Aves. not for publication N/A  
city or town Virginia vicinity N/A  
state Minnesota code MN county Saint Louis code 137 zip code 55792

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart

Date 12/20/96

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

Signature of commenting or other official

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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Beall* 1-31-97

*Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of Keeper

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

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>78</u>	<u>25</u> buildings
_____	<u>3</u> sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	<u>1</u> objects
<u>78</u>	<u>29</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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



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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1900-1941  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1900  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Radcliffe, Edwin S. and Price, Vernon  
Liebenberg, Jacob (Jack) J. and Kaplan, Seeman  
(  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN  
Virginia Area Historical Society, Virginia, MN

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acres of Property 13 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	534617	5263240	3	15	535283 5263161
2	15	535283	5263241	4	15	535201 5263161

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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Chad J. Perkins, Research Historian; Charlene K. Roise, Principal Investigator;  
Christine A. Prestegard, Research Historian

organization Hess, Roise and Company date 21 August 1996  
street & number 405 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 200 telephone (612) 338-1987  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55454

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 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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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Virginia Commercial Historic District

Saint Louis County, MN

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### Description

The Virginia Commercial Historic District contains 103 buildings (78 contributing, 25 noncontributing), three vacant lots and one clock tower (all noncontributing). The district consists of all Chestnut Street properties located between 1st and 6th Avenues, and contiguous buildings at 201-203, 205, and 519-521 1st Street South; 104-114 and 105-109 2nd Avenue South; 95 2nd Avenue North; 107 4th Avenue North; 106 5th Avenue South; and 103 5th Avenue North.

Buildings in the district are generally one to three stories in height with flat roofs. Nearly all of the structures were built of brick or sheathed in brick veneer. With few exceptions, detailing is minimal, and the buildings are vernacular in character. Of the 103 buildings, sixty were built before 1910, and twenty-one during the 1910s. The totals from the succeeding decades are: 1920s, five; 1930s, four; 1940s, two; 1950s, six; 1960s, one; 1970s, one; 1980s, one; and 1990s, two. Twenty-five buildings are noncontributing components of the district due to alterations which have compromised the historical integrity of the buildings, or because they were built after 1941, the end of the district's period of historic significance. The three vacant lots and the clock tower are also noncontributing elements. The majority of the buildings have had storefront alterations, but the historic appearance has been maintained on the upper floors. Since there are few vacant lots and a relatively small number of buildings built after the first two decades of the century, the district continues to illustrate Virginia's history from an early twentieth-century perspective. Chestnut Street, where the bulk of the buildings are concentrated, represents an extended streetscape of attached construction typical of early twentieth-century commercial districts. The district is also a reflection of the strongest economic period of the city's main industries -- mining and lumber. These industries created a need for, and fostered the development of, a downtown commercial district. During the economic downturns in those industries, and in later years, tourism brought dollars into the city.

The following description of each building includes the street address and inventory numbers shown on the maps enclosed with the nomination and entitled "Virginia Commercial Historic District." The descriptions are arranged in the following order: Chestnut Street, 1st Street South, 2nd Avenue North, 2nd Avenue South, 4th Avenue North, 5th Avenue North, and 5th Avenue South.<sup>1</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** vacant

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Virginia Commercial Historic District

Saint Louis County, MN

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**Address: 101 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1905-1906**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built between 1905 and 1906, this one-story brick building with a flat roof was constructed in two sections: a 28- by 120-foot main building and a 13.5- by 120-foot addition to the west. The building features a newer brick storefront with two large plate-glass windows, each topped with a soldier course. A central glass-and-metal door with transom light provides an entrance to the store. On the east side of the building, two large plate-glass windows span the newer storefront and the original part of the building. North of these windows, there are segmentally arched, stone-silled, historic openings fitted with newer metal-framed casement windows. Toward the northern end of the east wall, there is a larger segmentally arched historic entry that has been filled with wood and brick. The wall north of this opening is comprised of a different type of brick.

Prior to the fire of 1900, this site was occupied by a hardware store. After the fire, a smaller building, also a hardware store, is shown to occupy the lot. The 1904 Sanborn map shows a warehouse addition to the rear of the hardware store. By 1908, a narrow addition to the west side of the building appears to function as a harness shop, perhaps for use by the adjacent livery at 105 Chestnut Street. The main portion of 101 Chestnut Street is used as a saloon, and a warehouse continues to occupy the back of the building. This use of the building continues through the 1910 and 1916 Sanborn maps. By 1921, the main part of the building was used as an auto display and sales room. From 1921 to 1923, 101 and 105 Chestnut Street were occupied by Boyle and Mather, an automobile agency as well as home appliance seller. By 1929, the Sanborn map shows that the main building still held an auto repair shop. City directories indicate occupancy by the Farmers Equipment Company from at least 1939 through at least 1962. Currently, this building is vacant.<sup>2</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Jenia's Appliance and TV**

**Address: 102 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1900, this one-story structure has no distinguishing architectural features. The brick has been painted a light-brown color and no historic door or window openings are currently

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Virginia Commercial Historic District

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used. The storefront has been extensively altered. This building shares a party wall with 106 Chestnut Street. Seven boarded-up openings are located on the east side.

102 Chestnut Street was once a prime location. Situated at the southwest corner of Chestnut and Railroad Avenue (now 1st Avenue), the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railroad station was across the tracks on the other side of Railroad Avenue. This was the first of four rail lines to serve Virginia. The building was occupied by a saloon through at least 1915. By 1921, it appeared on the Sanborn maps as a garage. When a fire caused minor damage to the building in 1930, the tenants were the Frasa Motor Sales Company and the William Anderson Automobile Repair Shop. By 1939, 102-106 Chestnut Street was occupied by the Range Co-op Federation garage and farm equipment store. This business remained at this location through at least 1943. In 1947, Art L. Mattson Automobile Sales moved to this building and the adjacent building. By 1949, the Jenia Brothers Electric Company, which had been established in 1933 at 209 Chestnut Street, had also moved to this building. City directories indicate that by 1951, the Flood Motor Company was the only occupant of the building, and by 1962, it had been replaced by Venaas Furniture. The Jenia name is now again associated with the building, this time as an appliance and television outlet.<sup>3</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: vacant**

**Address: 105 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900-1908**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 46- by 120-foot, one-story, brick building with a flat roof and concrete foundation was built shortly after the fire of 1900. The original structure was approximately 25- by 70-feet. By 1908, the building had been expanded to its present size. A newer facade of cream brick with red-brick decorative courses features a remodeled uncoursed stone storefront with six ribbon windows. To the right, there is an area of glass brick with architectural-glass tiles below it. Another glass-brick area lies above and slightly off to the left of the storefront. The west side of the building consists of older beige brick and three large glass-brick areas.

This building first appears on the 1900 Sanborn map as a one-lot-wide and 70-foot-deep livery. By 1904, the building had been extended in the back to almost a full 120 feet. By 1908, the building had been expanded eastward to adjoin 103 Chestnut Street, which also appeared on Sanborn maps for the first time in 1908. Its use as a livery was continued until 1918, when the Reliance Motor Company occupied the building. From 1921 to 1923, it and

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Virginia Commercial Historic District

Saint Louis County, MN

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103 and 105 Chestnut Street were occupied by Boyle and Mather, an automobile and home appliance dealer. Sanborn maps indicate that 105 Chestnut Street retained its function as a center for transportation needs through at least 1944. By 1948, it had received a new facade, which was touted as "one of the most impressive fronts on Chestnut street." The Erickson Brothers Company, another car dealership which was established in December 1929, remained at this location through at least 1951. By 1962, Dependable Motors of Virginia, Inc. had taken over occupancy of the building. By 1978, the building was occupied by Reliable Motors, Inc. Currently, 105 Chestnut Street is vacant.<sup>4</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Avco Financial Services**  
**Address: 106 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1900**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1900, this two-story structure is rectangular in plan. The brick has been painted an off-white color. Partially unpainted bricks near the top reveal a dark red color, which is confirmed by historic photos. The two window openings on the second floor are segmentally arched, with paired 1/1 replacement sash and slightly projecting brick sills. The storefront has been altered, and has a modern appearance. A simple brick corbel table details the parapet. This building shares a party wall with 102 Chestnut Street.

The building originally housed a saloon. By 1904, the back of the building had been extended almost to the rear lot line. By 1915, the building was vacant, but was later occupied by a garage that also occupied adjacent 102 Chestnut Street. City directories show that the Range Co-op Federation was simultaneously housed in 102 Chestnut Street. This store remained in these two buildings through at least 1943. By 1948, the tenant was Art Mattson's Automobile Sales Company which also occupied 102 Chestnut Street. The Flood Motor Company took over tenancy of the building by 1951. This business was replaced by Venaas Furniture by 1962.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Range Cities Remodel. & Beltone Hearing Ctr (108)/Union Opt.(110)**  
**Address: 108-110 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1901**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

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Built in 1901, this two-story, dark-red brick structure is rectangular in plan. All of the doors are modern except a wood door with five recessed panels in the westernmost opening. The six segmentally arched window openings on the second floor each contain 1/1 double-hunt sash, with metal framed combinations on the outside, and have projecting stone sills. The storefronts have been altered and now have inappropriate materials surrounding the openings. Steel I-beams over the transom area and two cast-iron columns with "National Iron Co., Duluth, Minn." in raised letters near the base are the only original storefront materials still evident. A simple brick corbel table serves as detailing on the parapet. This building shares a party wall, as well as similarities in detailing, with 112 Chestnut Street.

This building housed a confectionery and a saloon soon after its construction in 1901. By 1908, the confectionery had been replaced by a saloon. Part of the building appears vacant on the 1915 Sanborn map. By 1921, part of the building was a public reading room, while the other part housed an unidentified store. City directories show that a public restaurant occupied part of the building by 1939. Matt's Bar had joined the restaurant by 1941. Matt's was replaced by Rudy's Bar by 1943. By 1948, Rudy's Bar had been replaced by Luke's Tavern and Johnnie's Bar. By 1949, Duly Match's Liquor Store had joined Johnnie's and Luke's. Pete's Bar and Duly's Liquors remained in 1962. Presently, the building is occupied by Range Cities Remodeling, the Beltone Hearing Center, and Union Optical.<sup>5</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building (razed)

**Current Name:** vacant lot

**Address:** 109-111 Chestnut Street

**Date:**

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This 50- by 120-foot site is a vacant lot. The site once held a building that was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. According to Sanborn maps, saloons occupied this building through 1910, and by 1915, a billiard hall had moved into one half of the building. By 1921, the billiard hall remained, but the adjoining saloon had been replaced by a sheet-metal worker's office. A mattress factory and saloon occupied the building by 1929. Skytle Motor Sales Company and the McClintock Mattress Company were the tenants by 1939-1940, and from at least 1941 through at least 1944, Cuffie's Repair Shop and the Home Improvement Company were present in the building. By 1948, the building was occupied once again by a sheet metal worker's office, as well as by the Virginia Cafe. By 1962, Hyde Supply, a sporting goods store, had taken over both sides of the building. A fire swept through the building in 1981, but available materials do not indicate whether or not this fire

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destroyed the building. At the time, the building housed the Salvation Army Family Service Store.<sup>6</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Barber Graphics**

**Address: 112 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1901**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1901, this two-story red brick structure is rectangular in plan. The two segmentally arched window openings on the second floor contain modern 1/1 replacement sash set in wood surrounds. Obtrusive round awnings cover the top of the second-floor windows. The bricks of the corbel table and four rows above the windows, including the arches, have been painted yellow to highlight the detailing. Two slightly projecting rows under the windows form a continuous sill/course and have also been painted yellow. All original door materials have been replaced. The storefront has been completely altered, including incompatible brick around the openings. A steel I-beam above the original transom area is the only extant storefront material. This building shares a party wall, as well as similarities in detailing, with 108-110 Chestnut Street.

This building housed a saloon from the time of its construction in 1901 through approximately 1915, when the building appeared vacant on Sanborn maps. After that point, a vulcanizing shop was located in the building. By 1939, 112 Chestnut Street was home to the Men's Reading Room, which remained at this location through at least 1944. By 1948, the Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store occupied the building. Three years later, the Range Auto Upholstery and Glass Company had moved into the building, followed by the Range Tire and Battery Company by 1962. Barber Graphics is the present tenant.

**Historic Name: Trampush Block**

**Current Name: vacant**

**Address: 113 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1908**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1908, this 25- by 75-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. Stone coping tops the parapet. On the second floor, there are two segmental-arch openings with rough-cut stone sills, each holding coupled windows; the left opening has 2/2

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double-hung wood sash windows with newer 1/2 metal sash storm windows, and the right opening has 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows with newer 1/2 metal sash storm windows. The storefront, which is flanked by original brick columns with stone bases, has been remodeled with plate-glass windows with cream brick below, and a recessed glass-and-metal door. To the left is an auxiliary glass-and-wood door with a screened transom light. The newer cream-colored vinyl siding that covers the east wall is visible along the right edge of the facade.

A bakery stood on this site prior the 1900 fire. The site was not rebuilt until 1908, at which point it was occupied by a saloon. The city directories indicate that this building was called the Trampush Block. The 1921 Sanborn map shows the building to be occupied by a motorcycle shop. By 1929, an auto repair shop occupied the building. By 1948, the building housed a fruit dealer. Currently, the building is vacant.

**Historic Name: Pakkala Building**  
**Current Name: Solar Realty - Jack Butalla Agency**  
**Address: 114 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1903**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story, dark-red brick structure is rectangular in plan. The west doorway has a tall wood surround with two transoms and a newer wood door. The recessed center doors are wood-framed with large single panes of glass and transoms. These doors appear to date from the 1930s or 1940s, when the storefront was altered. The four segmentally arched windows on the second floor have brick keystones and pink, rough-faced stone sills. These windows are modern 1/1 replacement sash set in wood surrounds. The center of the parapet wall is slightly taller and has a panel of dog-tooth brickwork. The brick corbel table flanks the name ("Pakkala") and date ("1903") blocks, which are recessed in the center and crowned by brickwork. This building shares a party wall, as well as similarities in detailing, with 116 Chestnut Street.

The Pakkala Building housed a saloon during its first decade. By 1915, the building appeared vacant on Sanborn maps. It remained vacant at least through 1921. By 1941, the McClellan Auto Electric occupied the building. McClellan's was replaced by Vizanko Auto Electric by 1948. Vizanko's stayed at 114 Chestnut Street through at least 1951. By 1962, however, Perpich TV and Appliance was the building's tenant. Currently, the Solar Realty and the Jack Butalla Agency occupy the building.<sup>7</sup>

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**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Kap 'n' Kork**

**Address: 115 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1908**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 65-foot, two-story, building was constructed of light-brown glazed brick in 1908. It rests on a stone foundation and is topped with a flat roof. The parapet has metal coping and decorative brick courses near the roofline. The second floor features three segmentally arched, stone-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows with cream brick below, and a glass-and-metal door. Above the storefront is a fabric awning with recessed lamps that run across the storefronts of 115 and 117 Chestnut Street. Brick columns with stone bases flank the storefront and auxiliary wood-and-glass door, which lies to the left of the storefront.

Prior to the fire of 1900, a vacant building stood on this site. By 1904, a smaller building that housed a saloon occupied the site. In 1908, a larger building, presumably the present building, is shown on the Sanborn map. A saloon occupied the building from at least 1908 until a steam bath house took over occupancy by 1921. By 1944, the building was once again occupied by a saloon. Mak's Bar was the tenant from at least 1948 through at least 1951. By 1962, the tenant was Christensen Parts Service. The building is currently occupied by Kap 'n' Kork, a liquor store that also occupies adjacent 117 Chestnut Street.<sup>8</sup>

**Historic Name: Fortie Building**

**Current Name: Magic Bar**

**Address: 116 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1903**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story, brown brick structure is rectangular in plan. The modern 1/1 replacement sash in the segmentally arched second-floor openings are smaller than the original windows, and have filler material in the space below the arch. Each window has a brick keystone and pink, rough-faced stone sill. All original door materials have been replaced. Except for a steel I-beam over the transom area, the storefront materials have been replaced or covered. The brick corbel table flanks the name ("Fortie") and date ("1903") blocks, which are recessed in the center and crowned by honeycomb brickwork. Both the name and date block

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Virginia Commercial Historic District

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have been painted. This building shares a party wall, as well as similarities in detailing, with 114 Chestnut Street.

The Fortie Building housed a saloon from the time it was constructed through at least 1915. A barbershop was also present by 1915. The 1921 Sanborn maps show the building to house an Army supply store. From at least 1939 through at least 1944, Jensen and Guyer occupied the building. Then, the tenant was Bill's Bar by 1948. The bar's name changed to Roy's Bar by 1951, and by 1962, the name had changed again to the Magic Bar. The Magic Bar continues to operate at this location.<sup>9</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Kap 'n' Kork**

**Address: 117 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1905**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Constructed around 1905, this 25- by 60-foot, two-story, brown-brick building has a flat roof and concrete-block foundation. The parapet features metal coping and decorative brickwork. On the second floor, there are two stone-silled, segmental-arch openings with coupled 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Cream-painted original brick columns with stone bases flank the newer plate-glass storefront, which features a fabric awning sign with recessed lighting that extends across 117 and 115 Chestnut Street. An auxiliary wood-and-glass door lies to the right of the storefront.

A smaller building appears at 117 Chestnut Street on the 1900 Sanborn map. By 1908, a presumably new building is shown on the same lot, and is labeled a saloon. It remains a saloon until 1921, when it appears as a livery. By 1929, it is again a saloon. The 1939-1940 city directory indicates that the current tenant at that time was the Virginia Auto Top and Harness Company, and it remained at the 117 Chestnut Street location through at least 1962. Currently, this building is occupied by Kap n' Kork, which also occupies adjacent 115 Chestnut Street.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Range Repair**

**Address: 118 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1917**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

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Virginia Commercial Historic District

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This simple, one-story brick structure was built in 1917. The storefront has been altered, including the addition of blond bricks below the windows. No original storefront materials are extant, although the configuration may be original. A simple brick corbel table details the parapet wall, which is raised in the center.

The present building stands on a site that once held a building that was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. The previous building held a grocery, then a general store, followed by a saloon. The present building was constructed in 1917 and held a printing store by 1921. The Range Printing Company and the Shoppers Digest occupied the building by 1939. The Range Printing Company remained through at least 1944. The Micka Electric Company was present by 1948 and stayed for at least a few years. By 1962, Arrow Auto Supply was the building's tenant. Range Repair is the current tenant.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: vacant (119) / Stan Anderson, Public Accountant (121)**

**Address: 119-121 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1905**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 50- by 120-foot, three-story, brick building was built around 1905. It has a flat roof and stone foundation. At the roofline is a decorative brick corbel table, as well as metal coping atop the parapet. The second and third floors each have five stone-silled flat-arch, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The two remodeled storefronts, which are framed by decorative brickwork, have a light-green and black architectural-glass surround, some tiles of which are broken or missing. The left storefront has two single-pane windows, a wood-paneling surround, and a recessed wood-and-glass door. Between the storefronts is a glass-and-metal case. Original brick columns stand on the left and right of the facade.

This building makes its first appearance on Sanborn maps in 1908. At that time, it was called the New England Hotel, and contained a saloon and dining room. The Hotel Holland was established in 1912. By 1939, city directories referenced the building as the D.B. & M Building; during this time, it continued to house the Holland Hotel and Cafe. By 1948, the building also contained a liquor store and electrical contractor. In 1951, Lloyd's Tavern took over the space occupied by the liquor store and electrical contractor, but by 1962, this space was vacant. The Holland Hotel continued business through at least 1962. Currently, part of

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the building is occupied by Stan Anderson, Public Accountant; the other part of the building is vacant.<sup>10</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Popper's Bar**  
**Address: 120 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: ca. 1905**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story, brown glazed-brick structure is rectangular in plan. The four window openings on the second floor have flat arches with exaggerated stone keystones and rough-faced stone sills. Inside the openings are modern 1/1 replacement sash. Both doors, which are modern in appearance, are recessed. Modern, incompatible materials have been used to replace or cover the original storefront. The elaborate metal cornice along the top of the parapet is the building's most distinguishing feature. The cornice consists of a series of fleur-de-lis projections along the top of a simple molding. A large metal block with recessed panels and a projecting cap sits at the east end of the cornice. The simple molding and metal-block elements of the cornice tie this building to 122-122A-124 and 130 Chestnut Street, which have the same details. The metal block at the east end of the former serves to complete the visual effect of the building's cornice.

This building was constructed in approximately 1905, and by 1908, it was occupied by a grocery. A few years later, the building housed a meat market. By 1921, the meat market shared space with an automobile tire repair shop. City directories show that Wallin and Williams, later referred to as the Wallins Company, occupied the building by 1939 and remained there for the next couple of years. Matt Cucich, a beverage retailer, was the tenant from at least 1943 through at least 1948. By 1951, the building housed The Liquor Cabinet and John's Bar. John's Bar was later replaced by Kelk's Bar. Popper's Bar is the current tenant.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Warren's Barber (122) / Hearing Aids (122A) / Arrowhead App. (124)**  
**Address: 122-122A-124 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1903**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

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This two-story, light-brown brick structure is rectangular in plan. Built in 1903, the building's dimensions are 80 by 50 feet. The doors in the center and west storefronts are slightly recessed. All three doors have transoms, and all door materials are modern. The four segmentally arched window openings on the second floor each contain two-part sliding windows with opaque panels below the arches. Projecting stone sills are under each window. The storefront areas have been completely altered, including newer cream-colored brick around the openings and extending to just below the second-floor window sills. A simple, projecting-metal cornice runs along the top of the parapet, with brick dentils below. A large metal block with recessed panels and a projecting cap sits at the northeast end of the cornice. The simple molding and metal-block elements of the cornice tie this building to those on either side of it, 120 and 130 Chestnut Street, which have the same details. The metal block at the northeast corner serves to complete the visual effect of the cornice on 120 Chestnut Street, while another block at the northeast corner of 130 Chestnut Street does the same for this cornice.

When this building was constructed, it was occupied by a barbershop, a tailor's shop, and a dry goods store. During these early years, the building was also the meeting place for the Catholic Order of Foresters, as well as the Salvation Army Barracks. In 1912, Rinaldi and Trotta's Confectionery shared space in the building with Laugier's Concert and Dance Orchestra. Around 1915, a piano store had moved into the space once occupied by the tailor, but by 1921, Oscar Turen's Jewelry had replaced the piano store and a grocery had replaced the dry goods store. The barbershop remained in its original location. Turen's Jewelry later became Turen-Welsh Jewelry and moved to 218, then 216 Chestnut Street. Gershgols' was the tenant from at least 1939 through at least 1943. In 1944, Zimmerman's Super Market opened in the west half of the building. Maki Elias' Barbershop also occupied the building by 1948. These two businesses remained through at least 1951, but by 1962, had been replaced by the DeLuxe Barbershop and the Arrow Auto Supply Company, which had been founded at another location in 1949. Current tenants include Warren's Barber Shop, the Master Plan Hearing Aid Center, and Arrowhead Appliance and Recycling.<sup>11</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: W.A. Fischer Co.**

**Address: 123 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

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This 47- by 70-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. There are two additions to the back that total 49- by 50-feet. The parapet is topped with metal coping and features a soldier course. The second floor has two coupled and two single 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal storm windows, set in openings with soldier course surrounds. Newer blue-painted metal sills and blue-painted metal corner accents adorn the windows. The remodeled storefront consists of four large-plate glass windows, a centrally-located wood-and-glass door, and a blue-painted, textured-metal paneling surround.

Constructed immediately after the 1900 fire, this building originally housed a grocery and confectionery. By 1904, a saloon and restaurant had taken occupancy. Then, a barber shop appeared with the saloon on the 1915 Sanborn map; the restaurant remained in the other half of the building. A jewelry shop and a garage occupied the building by 1921, followed by 1929 by a garage and two stores. The current tenant, W.A. Fisher Company, first occupied the building in 1933.<sup>12</sup>

**Historic Name:** The Phoenix  
**Current Name:** Flaimer's  
**Address:** 127 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 75-foot, two-story building with a flat roof and stone foundation was built in 1900. A metal building marker identifying the building as "The Phoenix" is mounted near the corbelled-brick roofline. On the second floor, there are two stone-silled, segmental-arch openings with coupled 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The sills and arches are painted red, and are connected with red-painted courses. The storefront, which has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, green-stained wood paneling and red-stained wood trim, wraps around to the west side of the building. An original light-tan brick column remains at the east side of the front elevation. The west side has brick detailing along the roofline, though a different pattern than the facade's detail, and five stone-silled segmental-arch openings on the second floor, each with 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The northern end of the west wall has a historic opening with a newer wood door, a brick-filled historic opening, and four newer, stone-silled, stained glass windows.

The Phoenix Block originally housed a saloon. Its occupancy by a saloon continued until 1921 when the building held a meat market. By 1929, the building was used as a store with a bus depot in the rear portion of the building. The Phoenix Liquor Store occupied the building

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from at least 1939, and by 1951, the building was also occupied by Olson's Bar. By 1951, Phoenix Liquors had been replaced by Otto Johnson Liquors. Olson's Bar remained, but by 1962, it had been replaced by the Corner Bar. The building is currently occupied by Flaimer's Bar.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Crazy Ricky's Liquor Warehouse**  
**Address: 130 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1900**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story, brick structure is rectangular in plan. The building's dimensions are 80 by 50 feet. Light-brown, common brick forms the exterior walls. One door is located in the center of the west half of the north facade, in an angled recess, and two more are near the southeast corner on the west side. All door materials are modern. The segmentally arched second-floor window openings all have stone sills and contain two-part sliding windows with opaque panels below the arches. Newer, cream-colored brick fills the space below the second-floor windows, while the majority of the north side storefront area is covered with stucco. Building detailing include brick pilasters along both walls and at the corners. The simple, slightly-projecting metal cornice sits atop the parapet wall on the north side, and wraps around to the first pilaster on the west side. Below the cornice is a simple corbel table with dentils, while a slightly different corbel table runs along the west side where there is no cornice. A large metal block with recessed panels and a projecting cap sits at the east end of the cornice. The simple molding and metal-block elements of the cornice tie this building to 120 and 122-122A-124 Chestnut Street, which have the same details. The metal block at the east end of this building serves to complete the visual effect of the cornice on 122-122A-124 Chestnut Street. Assessor's records note that the building was remodelled in 1945. The remodeling may have included the construction of a one-story, concrete-block addition to the rear, with dimensions of 40 by 50 feet. The addition has as its address 102 2nd Avenue South.

In 1900, this building contained a grocery and a barbershop. Soon thereafter, a furniture shop moved into the space occupied by the barber. The 1908 Sanborn map shows that by that time, the grocer had moved to where the furniture shop had been and a hardware store was located on the corner. By 1921, the building housed a hardware and furniture store. At some time in the 1920s, the Engman Agency, which was established in 1919 and is currently located at 210 1st Street South, moved into this building and remained there through 1929.

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city directory identifies the building's tenant as Koski's Hardware and Furniture. It is possible that Koski's is the same hardware and furniture shop shown on the 1921 Sanborn map. Koski's stayed in the building through at least 1943. Then, another furniture retailer, Forsman, Inc., took over occupation from at least 1948 through at least 1962. The building's present tenant is Crazy Rick's Liquor Warehouse. A mid-1940s addition to the back of the building, with the address 102 2nd Avenue South, is occupied by Arrowhead Answering Service and the Turner Insurance and Realty Agency.<sup>13</sup>

**Historic Name: Svea Block**

**Current Name: Stingers Nite Club**

**Address: 201-203 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story brick building with flat roof and stone foundation was built in 1900. On the second floor, there are four segmental-arch openings with rough-cut stone sills and 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. Near the roofline, there is a brick corbel table and a metal plaque reading, "Svea Block 1900." The remodeled storefront consists of a recessed entry with a raised wood platform on each side of the metal door, and a wood-siding surround. The east side of the building has two historic openings, a window and entry, that have been filled with brick and tongue-and groove paneling. An original cast-iron beam runs above these openings, indicating the possible location of a historic storefront. On the second floor, there are nine segmental-arch, stone-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows.

The Svea Block was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900, replacing a stationery shop and saloon that once stood at this site. The first building known as the Svea Block was located at 205 Chestnut Street, but it was destroyed in the fire of 1900. From its construction, the present Svea Block housed two saloons in addition to the Hotel Svea, which was no longer in existence by 1915. The White Cross Pharmacy moved to the Svea Block in 1918, and by 1921, a barber, restaurant, and billiard hall had joined it in the Svea Block. The Hotel Pulzola and another store had replaced the barber, restaurant, and billiard hall by 1929. In 1933, the Roosevelt Tavern was established next to the pharmacy, where it remained through at least 1962. The White Cross Pharmacy is documented to have been housed in the Svea Block through at least 1967. At present, the Svea Block is occupied by Stingers Nite Club.<sup>14</sup>

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**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** The Menagerie Pet Shop  
**Address:** 202 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1930  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

A former gas station, this building is one story tall, with dimensions of 45 by 25 feet. Assessor's records indicate that the building was built in 1930 and remodelled during the years 1951-1960. The structure sits at the back of the lot, and is rectangular in plan except for an angled entry at the northeast corner. Although noted as "brick" in the assessor's records, maroon, vertical wood siding now covers the exterior. The materials of the angled entryway have also been altered. Vertical wood siding surrounds a modern door which is flanked by two, three-part modern windows with sash units in the middle. A concrete parking lot fills the remainder of the lot.

This building sits on a lot once occupied by a building constructed in 1900. For most of its years, the earlier building contained a saloon. The present building, which is set back on the lot, was constructed in 1930 to function as a gas station, which it was through at least 1948. By 1962, a liquor store called the Bottle Shop had moved into the building. The building's tenant is now the Menagerie Pet Shop.<sup>15</sup>

**Historic Name:** Roman Block  
**Current Name:** Range Auto Parts (204) / C&S Pawn Shop (206)  
**Address:** 204-206 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1914  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, brown glazed-brick structure is rectangular in plan. Building dimensions are 120 by 50 feet. The eight window openings on the second floor contain modern two-part sliding windows with opaque panels at the top. The first floor of the main facade is divided into two storefronts by a center doorway which provides access to the second floor. Marble lines the bottom half of the deep, center recess which has an inlaid tile floor and a modern door. Above the door, the original wood surround holds two large single-pane transoms. Approximately seven feet behind this doorway is another, with all original materials. The east storefront door is modern, while the recessed west storefront door is wood with a single large pane. The west storefront, which dates from 1945, features black carrara glass over the transom and under the windows. The east storefront has modern materials. The floor plan of

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the second story is I-shaped, with recesses on the east and west sides of the building containing additional windows. The pedimental center section of the parapet wall contains two round terra-cotta medallions flanking a crest with the initials "J" and "R." Other terra-cotta detailing includes a denticulated projecting cornice below the parapet, a name/date block below the cornice with "19 Roman 14" in recessed letters, a projecting sill/course below the second-floor windows, and trim around the first-floor openings.

When the present building was constructed in 1914, it housed the Rex Theater which was operated by Katherine Roman. The building was thus known as both the Roman Block, as inscribed on the building marker, and the Rex Building. Two buildings occupied the site prior to the Roman Block's construction. By 1939, the Rex Theater was still listed in the city directory, but was marked "closed," while the other part of the building was vacant. The building remained vacant until the mid-1940s, when the Range Auto Parts Company and Koski's Hardware and Furniture Company became tenants. By 1962, the building was called the Brandt Building and was occupied by Range Auto Parts and some professional offices. Range Auto Parts continues as a tenant. C & S Pawn Shop and Living Water Music Recording Studio also occupy the building.<sup>16</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Frank's

**Address:** 205 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. A brick corbel table adorns the parapet. The second floor has 4 stone-silled segmental-arch openings with newer 1/1 double-hung metal-sash windows. The arches and sills have been painted white. The symmetrical recessed storefront features large plate-glass windows and a glass-and-metal door, surrounded by beige tongue-and-groove vinyl siding with white trim. An auxiliary entrance, whose surround has also been covered in tongue-and-groove vinyl siding, lies to the left of the storefront. Above the storefront is a white-painted metal cornice. Original brick columns remain on each side of the building, as well as between the storefront and the auxiliary entrance.

This building was built immediately after the fire of 1900, on the site where the first Svea Block once stood. It was originally a notions shop. By 1910, a clothing store had been opened, followed by a cafe operated by the Marmas brothers in 1914. The Marmas brothers

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later moved their operation to 312 Chestnut Street. By 1915, the building was occupied by both the cafe and an office. The 1917 city directory shows the tenant to be the Mesaba Range Office Supply Company. A drug store occupied the site by 1921. Vic's Bar was established at this site in 1936, and remained until 1950, when it was replaced by Niv's Bar, which remained at least through the mid-1960s. The current tenant is Frank's Bar.<sup>17</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Rainy Lake Saloon & Deli**

**Address: 207-209 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1902**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 50- by 60-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. The parapet is topped with metal coping and has a brick corbel table. The second floor has four stone-silled openings with tripartite casement windows; the two left sets of windows have wood frames, while the two right sets have newer, slightly shorter, metal frames that require wood infill below the windows. The remodeled storefront has plate-glass windows, a wood-siding surround, and a recessed newer wood-and-glass door. At the far east end, there is an auxiliary wood door with three glass panes. The storefront is topped with a striped awning and large wood sign area, and is flanked by newer brown-brick columns.

Built sometime between 1900 and 1904, this building originally housed a saloon. By 1908, it was occupied by two saloons, and its use continued as such until the early 1920s, when it was occupied by a clothing store. In 1933, the Jenia Brothers Electric Company was established in the west half of the building. By 1941, the electric shop had been joined by the Central Barber Shop. Lahdes' Cafe occupied 207 Chestnut Street by 1943, and by 1948, it had been replaced by Kes's Cafe. Western Auto Associate Store occupied 207 Chestnut Street by 1962. In 1984, a fire did extensive damage to the building, which was at the time occupied by the current tenant of the building, the Rainy Lake Saloon & Deli.<sup>18</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Grande Ace Hardware**

**Address: 208 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1902**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

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This one-story, brick structure is rectangular in plan. Dimensions of the original section of the building are 69 by 25 feet. The assessor's records note that the building was remodelled in 1940. Changes may have included the construction of an addition with dimensions of 51 by 25 feet, and the replacement of the original facade with cream-colored bricks that appear to be glazed. Two rows of red brick along the parapet serve as detailing. The detailing and colors of the brick match that of 212-214 Chestnut Street, which was also remodelled. The facade is now dominated by red metal that covers much of the wall above the windows, and gray metal under and on the sides of the windows. The storefront materials and design are shared by the two buildings to the west, 210 and 212-214 Chestnut Street. All three buildings have been joined through interior walls, and are occupied by a single tenant.

After its construction in 1902, this building housed a clothing store. By 1915, a musical goods store occupied the building, followed by a soft drink shop by 1921. The Hanson and Gavin Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning Shop, which was established in 1919, moved to 208 Chestnut Street in 1938. This business remained at this location through at least 1951. Pietrini's Liquor Store was also a tenant from the mid-1940s through at least 1951. By 1962, the building was occupied by Sam and Buck's Bar and the Arrowhead Decorators. Currently, the building is occupied by Grande Ace Hardware, which also occupies the next two buildings west of 208 Chestnut Street.<sup>19</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Grande Ace Hardware**

**Address: 210 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This one-story brick structure, built in 1900, is rectangular in plan. Dimensions of the original section of the building are 60 by 25 feet. Sanborn maps show that an L-shaped addition, with the tail running along the west side of the lot, was added sometime between 1921 and 1929. Assessor's records note that the structure was remodelled in 1955, probably referring to a new storefront. Detailed brickwork along the parapet is the only original part of the facade still visible. The brick appears to be glazed. The entire storefront area has been covered with metal panels -- red over the transom area and gray over the balance. The storefront materials and design are shared by the adjacent buildings, 208 and 212-214 Chestnut Street. All three buildings have been joined through interior walls, and are occupied by a single tenant.

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This building was originally occupied by an unidentified store. By 1904, it housed the American Exchange Bank which was one of two banks listed in the 1909-1910 city directory. In 1913, the bank moved to 410 Chestnut Street. Within the next couple of years, a meat market had moved into 210 Chestnut Street, and remained there through at least 1939. By 1941, the William Kaner Company, a grocery and meat market, was the building's tenant. Kaner's Grocery stayed at this location through at least 1951, but had been replaced by the Range Lettering Service by 1962. Presently, the tenant is Grande Ace Hardware, which also occupies the buildings on either side of 210 Chestnut Street.<sup>20</sup>

**Historic Name: Pakkala Building**

**Current Name: Pepelnjak Agency**

**Address: 211 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story brick building was constructed in 1900. It has a flat roof and stone foundation. The parapet features a prominent metal cornice inscribed with "Pakkala 1900," newer metal coping, and a brick corbel table. The second floor has two stone-silled segmental-arch openings with coupled 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The arches consist of red brick, and their courses continue across the facade. Red-brick pilasters stand on each side of the second floor. The storefront has been remodeled with a large plate-glass window, a recessed entry with paired glass-and-metal doors, and wood siding. An auxiliary wood-and-glass door lies to the right. No original brick is visible on the first floor.

The Pakkala Building was originally occupied by a saloon and continued to operate as a saloon through at least 1915. By 1921, the building was occupied by a clothing store. Pauly's Liquors was established at this location in 1935, and remained there until at least 1951. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Troy Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company also occupied the building. Rodorigo's Liquor Store and Jo-Stell Grill were the tenants by 1962. At some point between 1962 and 1967, the Jenia Brothers Electric Company expanded its store at 209 Chestnut Street to include 211 Chestnut Street. The building is currently occupied by the Pepelnjak Agency.<sup>21</sup>

**Historic Name: Calderwood Block**

**Current Name: Grande Ace Hardware**

**Address: 212-214 Chestnut Street**

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**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story brick structure is rectangular in plan. Dimensions of the original section of the building are 65 by 50 feet. A one-story brick addition, 39 by 50 feet, was attached to the rear between 1904 and 1908, according to Sanborn maps. The eight second-floor window openings, in groups of two, contain 1/1 double-hung sash. Red brick is used to detail the facade: two rows along the top of the parapet; three two-row courses, interrupted in the middle, evenly spaced down to the second floor windows; a continuous brick sill/course below the windows; and sections of headers between the grouped windows. Modern, paired doors are recessed in the center of the storefront, while an older wood door with a large single pane and transom, is at the northwest corner. The storefront has been altered with red metal panels over the transom area and gray metal panels under and around the windows. The storefront materials and design are shared by the two buildings to the east, 208 and 210 Chestnut Street. All three buildings have been joined through interior walls, and are occupied by a single tenant. Historic photos show that the brick of the facade was originally a dark color, probably matching the buildings to the west (216-218, 220-222, and 224 Chestnut Street). The brick corbel table also matched the above-mentioned buildings. What appears to be a metal name block in the center of the parapet had the words "Calderwood Block" in raised letters. The original windows were 1/1, double-hung sash with segmental arches and rough-faced, projecting stone sills. The current windows seem to be in the same positions. A center door originally provided access to the second floor, and was flanked by fancy metal columns and two individual storefronts. Assessor's records note that the building was remodelled in 1958, but the newer brick appears to be from the 1940s.

Built immediately after the fire of 1900, the Calderwood Block initially housed a department store. The 1912 city directory indicates the presence of the Shanedling Brothers Company. Sometime between 1915 and 1921, the clothing store left and a jewelry store, music shop, and hardware store moved into the building. By 1939, the building was referred to as both the Calderwood Block and the Grande Building. The Grande Company Hardware Store, as well as a variety of professional offices including the architectural firm, Damberg and Damberg, occupied the building throughout at least 1962. Grande Ace Hardware currently occupies 212-214 Chestnut Street and two buildings east of it.<sup>22</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Michael's II

**Address:** 213 Chestnut Street

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**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 70-foot, one-story, wire-cut brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. The remodeled plate-glass storefront, which is flanked by original brick columns, has a red textured-fiberglass paneling surround with brown trim. Beige textured-fiberglass paneling covers the transom area. To the left of the storefront is a slightly recessed metal-and-glass door. Above the storefront is a soldier course and a few courses of darker brick. The parapet is topped with metal coping.

This building was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. At first, it was occupied by a clothing store, then by 1910, the tenants were a barber shop and a saloon. By 1921, a tailor occupied the building. The Troy Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company had taken over occupancy by 1927, soon to be replaced by 1929 by a photography shop and another store, which lasted through at least 1944. During the early 1940s, the federal government's Food Stamp Issuing Office was also located at 213 Chestnut Street. Then, during the late 1940s, the building housed a restaurant called Marge's Ringside. Presently, the building is occupied by a restaurant, Michael's II.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Wink's Place**

**Address: 215 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. Its parapet is topped with metal coping. The second floor has two stone-silled, segmental-arch openings with coupled newer 1/1 metal-sash windows and blue-painted metal frames. The arches and sills have been painted white. Flanked by original brick columns, the storefront features plate-glass windows, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a cream textured-fiberglass paneling surround with brown trim. To the right is a glass-and-metal auxiliary door. A blue-painted metal strip separates the storefront area from the second floor.

This building was built immediately after the fire of 1900. Sanborn maps show that it housed a confectionery until 1908, when it housed a jewelry and stationery store. The 1915 Sanborn map shows the building to contain a drug store, but the city directory from that time indicates that it was occupied by Ralph Masinter's confectionery. The building's use returned

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in 1946. Now, the building houses another bar, Wink's Place.<sup>23</sup>

**Historic Name: Medical Block**

**Current Name: Ideal Optical (216)/ Office Bar and Lounge (218)**

**Address: 216-218 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1900, this two-story, orangish-red, brick structure is rectangular in plan. Dimensions of the building are 65 by 50 feet. Assessor's records note that the east half of the building was remodelled in 1939, while the west half was remodelled in 1942, probably referring to storefront changes. The segmentally arched window openings on the second floor contain paired, 1/1 replacement sash. Each opening has a brick keystone and rough-faced stone sill. Plate-glass sections along the east storefront are the only first-floor windows. All door materials are modern. The original configuration and materials of both storefronts have been significantly altered over time. Historic photos show each storefront with transom lights and deeply recessed doors centered between plate-glass windows. The words "Medical Block" are in raised letters in what appears to be a metal name block centered in a simple brick corbel table. The design and materials of this building are similar to the two buildings to the west, 220-222 and 224 Chestnut Street, as well as the original appearance of 212-214 Chestnut Street, which has been altered.

The Medical Block housed a clothing store and a drug store immediately after its construction, and continued to do so through at least 1921. The Lund Tailor Shop was opened at 218 Chestnut Street in 1907, and remained at this location through at least 1967. In 1921, the Turen-Walsh Jewelry Store moved into one part of the building and in 1947, moved into the other part of the building. From at least 1939 until the mid-1940s, Morris and Company occupied the other part of the building. When Turen-Welsh moved in 216, Groggin's Candy Shop shared space with Lund's shop. The Turen-Welsh Jewelry Store, Lund's Tailor Shop, and Groggin's Candy Shop remained in the Medical Block through at least 1962. Presently, the tenants are Ideal Optical and the Office Bar and Lounge.<sup>24</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Royal Cafe/Schaefer's Royal X**

**Address: 217 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

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**Address:** 217 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 50- by 120-foot, two-story brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. Brick pilasters divide the second floor and parapet into five bays. A stone crest is set in the slightly raised portion of the parapet over the second bay. Just below the parapet is a brick corbel table. Each bay on the second floor holds coupled 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows. A continuous stone sill runs below all the windows. Within each bay, there is a simple brick corbel table above the window. The left storefront has two recessed entries with glass-and-metal doors and a single plate-glass window between them. To the left of the right door is a narrow single-pane window. White enameled tiles that are held in place with metal muntins fill the rest of the storefront area. The right storefront has brown wood siding, a single plate-glass window flanked by glass brick, and a recessed glass-and-metal door with glass brick to its right. The sign area above this storefront has white tiles set off by a strip of ribbed metal. Green-painted brick columns appear on the left and right sides of the building, as well as between the storefronts.

When this building was first constructed in 1900, it housed a dry goods and clothing store. By 1904, two saloons occupied the building. Then, the Royal Theater took over the property sometime between 1910 and 1912. Apparently around this time, the building was either expanded or completely reconstructed, as revealed by 1915 Sanborn maps. By 1921, a restaurant had opened in the east side of the building, and hotel rooms were located on the upper floors. The 1929 Sanborn maps show the building to be occupied by the Royal Hotel and Theater, with a saloon in the eastern side. In 1933, the Royal Bar was established, and though it underwent changes in ownership, it continued to operate through at least 1949. During this period of time, the theater's operations ceased, but the Royal Hotel and Cafe, as well as the Royal Lounge, continued to occupy the building through at least 1962. The current tenants are the Royal Cafe and Schaeff's Royal X.<sup>25</sup>

**Historic Name:** The Annex

**Current Name:** Fox Government Surplus

**Address:** 220-222 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

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This two-story, orange-red, brick structure is rectangular in plan. Dimensions of the building are 50 by 65 feet. Assessor's records note that the building was remodelled in 1949, probably referring to storefront changes. The segmentally arched second-floor window openings contain paired, 1/1 replacement sash. Each opening has a brick keystone and rough-faced stone sill. First-floor windows consist of plate-glass sections. The storefront is divided in the center by a wooden door with a large, single-pane window.

The Annex was occupied by a saloon and grocery immediately after the fire of 1900. By 1910, it housed a confectionery and a dry goods store, and by 1915, it held a confectionery, a jewelry store, and a tailor's shop. The 1915 city directory shows that Savolainen Company, listed as a cut-glass business, was located in the Annex. By 1927, the Savolainen Jewelry Company remained at the Annex, and a number of professional offices had joined it, among them, the Engman Agency, now located at 201 1st Street South. Engman's remained at this location until 1947. By 1939, the Coffee Shop and the City Market occupied the part of the building next to Savolainen's. By 1941, the City Market was no longer there, but the Coffee Shop remained through at least 1951. Savolainen's and another coffee shop remained in the storefront shops through at least 1962. Currently, the tenant is Fox Government Surplus.<sup>26</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Virginia Hotel (221 1/2 or 223)/vacant (221)

**Address:** 221-223 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1912

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This three-story brick building with a flat roof was constructed in 1912. A metal cornice and stone coping top the parapet. Below the cornice, there is a stone building marker that reads "19 Anderson Block 12." Stone molding divides the second and third floors into four bays. Within each bay, and on each floor, there are two 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with a shared stone sill. Brick detail lies between the third and second floors. Two storefronts make up the first floor; both have been treated with beige vinyl siding. The left storefront has two single-pane windows and a recessed entry with curved glass-brick areas on each side of the wood-and-glass door. A column of original brick lies to the left of the storefront, and a metal column stands between the storefront and a central glass-and-metal door that provides access to the upper floors. The area around the central entry has been covered with green enameled panels, and there is a beige vinyl siding area above the door. To the right of the central door is an original brick column. The right storefront has a recessed wood-and-glass

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door, flanked by a single-pane window to the left and four ribbon windows to the right. The sign area above the storefront has been covered in beige vinyl siding.

There was a single-lot clothing store and a tailor's shop on this site before the Anderson Block was constructed in 1912. The 1915 Sanborn map shows the building's second and third floors to be occupied by the Ormonde Hotel, and the first floor to be occupied by a clothing store in the west half and saloon in the east half. By 1921, the saloon had been replaced by the hotel office, followed by a store by 1929. The National Clothing Company occupied part of the building by 1927. A variety of stores continued to occupy Anderson Block from the late 1930s onward, beginning with the S & S Auto Parts Company and the Virginia Cafe by 1939. By 1941, Mark's Cafe had replaced the Virginia Cafe. By 1948, Ristau's Liquor Store and Casey's Billiards (in the basement) had replaced Mark's Cafe. Joe's Billiards had replaced Casey's by 1951. By 1962, the Virginia Hotel, the only current occupant of the building, had been established in the upper floors, and Goldfine's Furniture and Pietrini's Liquor occupied the first floor.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Manseau's Range Music  
**Address:** 224 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1902  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1902, this 25- by 65-foot, dark-red brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. There is a 30- by 25-foot addition to the back, as well as a 20- by 20-foot attached shed. The parapet is topped with metal coping, and below the parapet, there is a simple brick corbel table. The two second-floor segmental-arch window openings with brick keystones and stone sills hold paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows. On the left side of the first floor, there is a recessed plywood door set within the original wood surround with a two-pane transom above. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, black architectural glass (some of which is missing), a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a large sign in the storefront transom area. On the far left side of the facade, an original brick column with a pink-stone base is still visible.

This building was originally occupied by a clothing store until approximately 1915, when it is shown on the Sanborn map to house a barbershop and a saloon. By 1921, a billiards hall was the building's tenant. In 1929, Sears, Roebuck and Company opened its store at adjacent 226 Chestnut Street. In 1939, it expanded into 224 Chestnut street, and then into 232

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Chestnut Street in 1944. Sears remained at this location through at least 1962. The present occupant is Manseau's Range Music.<sup>27</sup>

**Historic Name:** Shanedling Building  
**Current Name:** Isabel's Outlet  
**Address:** 226 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1904  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1904, this rectangular-plan, 37.5- by 120-foot, two-story building is constructed of light-brown brick. It has a flat gravel roof and stone foundation. The parapet features a stone building marker with lettering that reads "Shanedling." Below the parapet, there is a small terra-cotta (perhaps stone) cornice with dentils. On the second floor, there are four window openings all surrounded by stone molding. Brick pilasters separate each window. A single stone or terra-cotta sill runs below all of the windows. The left window opening holds a 2/2 double-hung sash window that is in poor condition and has a newer screen in the bottom portion. The central openings are approximately two-thirds boarded and hold narrow fixed-pane windows in the centermost portions. The right opening is completely boarded. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, black architectural glass (some of which is missing), and a recessed pair of wood-and-glass doors with transom lights. This storefront remodeling is similar to the remodeling of adjacent 224 Chestnut Street.

From its 1904 construction through at least 1910, the Shanedling Building, built by the Shanedling brothers, was occupied by a meat market and a jewelry store. By 1915, it housed a clothing store, which is likely to have been the Shanedling Dry Goods Company Store that was damaged by fire in 1929. Apparently, the facade was remodeled at this time. Historic photographs show the building to have a flat cornice and three windows. After the fire, Sears Roebuck and Company moved into the building and later expanded to the east and west. Sears remained in this building through at least 1967. The current tenant is Isabel's Outlet.<sup>28</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** American Legion  
**Address:** 229 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1953  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

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Constructed in 1953, this 50- by 19-foot, two-story building has a stone-and-concrete foundation and flat roof. A 50- by 101-foot section has been added to the back of the building. The unadorned parapet is topped with metal coping. Seven 2/2 double-hung wood-sash windows with metal sills appear on the second floor. The first floor has nine narrow ribbon windows on each side of the off-center, slightly recessed entrance, which consists of two glass-and-metal doors separated by full-length plate-glass windows. Above this entrance is a cantilevered sign with aluminum trim that extends along the width of the facade. To the right, there is a recessed pair of metal doors that appear to be used only for exiting the building.

After the fire of 1900, the Tower Hotel was constructed on this site. By 1915, the Ormonde Hotel had taken over occupancy, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1953. Immediately after the fire, the American Legion Building was constructed on the site, and continues to exist in this capacity.<sup>29</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Northern Lights Sports**  
**Address: 230 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: ca. 1910**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 37- by 120-foot, three-story, light-brown glazed-brick building has a flat gravel roof and stone foundation. The parapet is topped with metal coping and features a simple brick corbel table. The second- and third-floor windows are flat-arch replacement 1/1 double-hung sash with stone sills. Below the second floor and the storefront, there is some decorative brick coursing. the storefront has been remodeled with brown-trimmed plate-glass windows and a recessed glass-and-metal door. There is a two-window-wide section on the left and a four-window-wide section on the right; each section is delineated by original brick columns.

This building first appears on the 1910 Sanborn map as the Duluth Hotel. Prior to its construction, the double-lot site was occupied by two buildings, one of which housed a barbershop and the other, a saloon. The present building's tenants were originally also a barber and a saloon. By 1921, the saloon's space was vacant. City directories show that the building was later occupied by the Piggly-Wiggly Grocery Store, as well as a couple of beauty shops. The grocery store remained until Sears, Roebuck and Company expanded west into this building in 1944. Sears remained through at least 1962. The present tenant is Northern Lights Sports.<sup>30</sup>

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**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Uptown Hair Care  
**Address:** 233 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 60-foot, one-story, wire-cut-brick building has a stone foundation and flat roof. The back of the building consists of two additional sections of 25 by 25 feet and 25 by 35 feet. The newer storefront has plate-glass windows and a recessed entry with a glass-and-metal door. White-painted tongue-and-groove paneling lies above the windows and on the entry ceiling, and there are blue-painted metal panels below the windows. A brown-and-white striped fabric awning spans the storefront area.

This building originally contained a dry goods store when it was constructed in 1900. Soon after that, an office and confectionery occupied the building, followed by a clothing store in 1908. In 1919, the Arrowhead News Company was established in the rear of the building by David Milavetz. Milavetz was the son of Ike Milavetz, who played a key role in developing commercial activity in Virginia. By 1941, the rear of the building housed the Montgomery Ward Distribution Center, and the Arrowhead News had moved to the front of the building. Montgomery Ward occupied the entire building by 1948, and continued to do so through at least 1962. Currently, the tenant is Uptown Hair Care.<sup>31</sup>

**Historic Name:** Roman Building  
**Current Name:** Shoes and Things  
**Address:** 234 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 120-foot, white-painted brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. The letters "Roman" are mounted below the parapet, which features a metal cornice and a simple brick corbel table. There are two segmental-arch, stone-silled openings on the second floor. The left opening holds a 1/1 double-hung sash and single-pane window. The right opening holds a pair of single-pane windows. The storefront, which wraps to the west side of the building, has been remodeled with multi-paned glass-and-metal windows that have "X" motifs in the top row, and a recessed glass-and-metal door with the "X" motif. The west side of the building has the same metal cornice and brick corbel table as the north side. The second-floor windows are segmentally arched with a keystone and rough-faced stone

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sills. Toward the north end of the wall, there is a bay window that holds a large fixed pane in the central opening and 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the side openings, each with a stained-glass transom light. Recessed wood panels lie below the bay window's sections, the outer two featuring the "X" motif. To the left of the bay window is a tripartite window with 1/1 double-hung sash sections flanking a central round-topped pane. All other windows on the second floor are 1/1 double-hung sash, with three paired sets toward the south end of the building. The west side first floor has one flat-arch opening with a keystone and a rough-faced stone sill, now filled with a boxy show window. The west side storefront, bearing the address 106 3rd Avenue South, is similar to the north side storefront and also has an awning. All of the trim on the building has been painted lavender.

The Roman Building, which was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900, housed a saloon through at least 1915. The Graham Funeral Home moved into the building in 1914, but moved in 1918 to 509 Chestnut Street. In 1919, the Minnesota Store, a women's clothing store, moved to the Roman Building from its previous location further west on Chestnut Street. The Minnesota Store remained in the building through at least 1967. From the mid-1940s through at least 1967, the Newsette, a popular confectionery and news stand, occupied the rear part of the building. Currently, the building's tenant is Shoes and Things.<sup>32</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Alto's

**Address:** 235 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1911

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, red-brown brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. Its dimensions are 25 by 120 feet. A line of discoloration indicates the historic placement of a cornice near the roofline of the facade. On the second floor, there are two sets of coupled 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storms and stone sills. The first floor features an original recessed storefront with metal-framed plate-glass windows and a glass-and-metal door with a transom light. Ribbed sheet-metal that has been painted blue covers the area below the windows. This storefront wraps around to the west side of the building, and is topped with a striped awning. The west side of the building has a metal cornice that wraps around the northern end of the building. On the second floor, there are twelve original 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows, as well as two sets of coupled windows. The first floor is divided into three bays by brick pilasters. The left bay is white-painted brick. The next bay has a newer recessed storefront with metal-

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framed plate-glass windows and white-painted brick below the windows. Though having the address of 101 Third Avenue North, this storefront is clearly part of 235 Chestnut Street. The third bay, which is larger than the others, consists of an original recessed storefront with metal-framed plate-glass windows and a blue-painted plywood surround. This area is topped with a plexiglass sign.

In 1911, this building was constructed where a saloon had stood since the 1900 fire. The new building, which was documented in early city directories as the New Rooney Building, functioned as a saloon and billiard hall. The rear of the building served as the M.R.R. Passenger Station. By 1921, the building was occupied by a drug store. By 1939, the building was called the Northland Building and housed the Northland Greyhound Lines Bus Depot, the Northern Transportation Company, the Lambert Motor Coach Company, and in the front of the building, the Junnilla Clothing Store. The upper floor housed a number of professional offices. Two years later, only the clothing store and the professional offices remained. The Range Printing Company had moved into the basement by 1948. In 1949, Wilmer Alto purchased the Junnilla Clothing Company, and formed Alto's, a clothing store that remains in the building. The Range Printing Company remained in the basement of the building through at least 1962.<sup>33</sup>

**Historic Name:** Clock Tower

**Current Name:** Clock Tower

**Address:** Northwest corner of Chestnut Street and 3rd Avenue

**Date:** ca. 1980

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

The clock tower consists of four vertical white-painted metal tubes, braced by smaller tubes of similar composition. A rectangular mass is perched within the tower near the top and a clock face adorns each side of this mass. Approximately half-way up the tower, a blue-and-white striped awning extends off each side. Located between the tower and Chestnut Street is a separate sculpture consisting of a long, horizontal, white-painted metal tube that runs parallel to Chestnut Street.

Located on the northwest corner of Chestnut Street and 3rd Avenue, this tower was constructed in the early 1980s as part of a Chestnut Street improvement effort. Smaller sculptures created out of the same white-painted metal tubes are located at various corners of Chestnut Street. Concrete planters are also present along Chestnut Street, presumably as part of the improvement, but the clock tower remains the most prominent of these decorations.<sup>34</sup>

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**Historic Name:** Law Center Building

**Current Name:** Colosimo, Patchim, Aronson & Kearney, Ltd.

**Address:** 301 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1913

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story brick building with a stone foundation and flat roof measures 25 by 120 feet. The parapet features a metal cornice, brick corbel table, and metal coping across its top. The two second-floor windows have a decorative stone surround and consist of original 5/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer paired metal 1/1 sash storm windows, surmounted by an original fixed ten-pane panel. Decorative stone molding runs above and below these windows, and single brick pilasters lie to their left and right. The storefront consists of a recessed entry with newer paired wood doors, and wood tongue-and-groove paneling that continues around to the east side. A column of pitted brick, which may be original, lies to the west of the storefront. The east side of the building has the same decorative details as the south side, with five bays delineated by brick pilasters. Each bay holds a set of three windows. The central set consists of windows like those on the south side of the building, while the other sets consist of stone-silled windows, all with exposed original stone-arched fanlights; most of the bottom portions of these windows are boarded, but those that are exposed are either newer 1/1 metal sash or original 3/1 double-hung wood sash. The first floor is covered with newer brick from the storefront to the third bay. There are three newer metal-framed single-pane windows with stone sills, and one brick-filled, stone-silled historic opening with newer paired, metal-framed single-pane windows. A small area of newer tongue-and-groove paneling covers the northern end of the east wall.

301 Chestnut Street first housed the Shanedling Clothing Company when it was constructed in 1913. In 1926, the building suffered a fire that had started in the DeLuxe Barber Shop located in the basement of the building. Another fire occurred in 1935, when the building was called the Masinter Brothers Clothing Company and the second floor housed several offices and a tailor's shop. The building continued to exist as the Masinter Building and house the Masinter Brothers Clothing Company through at least 1944, but was replaced by Bourgin's Men Clothing by 1948. The building was no longer called the Masinter Building at this point; the second floor continued to house offices. Bourgin's still occupied the building in 1962. Currently, the building is occupied by the law offices of Colosimo, Patchim, Aronson & Kearney, Ltd.<sup>35</sup>

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**Historic Name:** First National Bank Building

**Current Name:** Tini Square

**Address:** 302 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1913

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This five-story brown-brick building was built in 1913. It has a flat roof and concrete foundation. A terra-cotta cornice with acanthus leaves adorns the roofline, except for where a rounded tower projects from the northeast corner of the building. Other decorative details include a wide terra-cotta course under the second-floor windows, and detailed brick pilasters that divide the east facade into six bays and the north side into two bays. The windows on the second through fifth floors appear three per bay; all windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung sash with tripartite terra-cotta sills. The fifth-floor windows are surmounted by terra-cotta arches, while the rest are soldier-arched. The northeast corner tower has three windows per floor; these windows are consistent in style with the rest of the windows on the building. The north storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a recessed paired glass-and-metal door with a single transom, columns with polished pink granite overlay, and green slate-like stone panels between the columns. An overhang that is faced with the pink granite projects over the entry. The east side of the building has three large plate-glass windows and a paired metal-and-glass door with a single transom near the southern end. A possible historic opening in the third bay is evidenced by a slight projection of the terra cotta and crests at the corners.

Prior to this building's construction, the First National Bank occupied another building on this two-lot site. The First National Bank was organized in 1892 as the Bank of Virginia, and became the First National Bank of Virginia in 1902. From at least 1909 through at least 1911, the post office also occupied part of the building. The present building, called the First National Bank Building, was constructed in 1913 by Virginia contractor Andrew Grande. The building housed not only the First National Bank, but also a number of professional offices. By 1915, a local newspaper, the *Virginian Daily Enterprise*, was located in the basement. Canelake's Confectionery, now at 414 Chestnut Street, was also a tenant in the building. In 1941, the building was remodeled. Sometime after 1967, the bank left the building, which was then called Tini Square after prominent Virginia businessman Vincent Tini. The current tenants of Tini Square are a beauty shop, a travel agency, a cafe, and a variety of professional offices on the upper floors.<sup>36</sup>

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**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Consigning Women (305) / vacant (303)  
**Address:** 303-305 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1931  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 50- by 100-foot, one-story, light-brown brick building with a flat roof and concrete foundation was built in 1931. Its parapet is topped with stone coping. The bricks are partially wire-cut with deep mortar joints. Both recessed storefronts, which are flanked by original brick columns, have been remodeled with newer metal-framed plate-glass windows with corrugated-metal surrounds. Each has a glass-and-metal door with transom light, and decorative brick courses above the transom. A striped awning, which may remain original hardware, tops each storefront.

This site was once occupied by a building that contained a saloon, restaurant, and hand laundry. By 1908, the saloon had been replaced by a clothing store, and by 1915, the clothing store occupied the entire building. Palace Clothing was one of the tenants in 1927. In 1931, a fire destroyed the original building, which at the time was occupied by the Palace Clothing Company and the Davis Vogue Shop. After this fire, the present building was constructed immediately and the Palace Clothing Company continued to do business at the same address. From at least 1939 through 1949, the Smart Shop was located in the other half of the building, after which it was replaced by another clothing store, Jarmin's. The Palace Clothing and Jarmin's remained in the building through at least 1967. Currently, the only tenant is another clothing store, Consigning Women; 303 Chestnut Street is vacant.<sup>37</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** White Drug  
**Address:** 306 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story light-brown-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a concrete foundation. The parapet, which features a terra-cotta ornament and simple brick corbel table, is topped with a terra-cotta cap with metal coping. The second-floor windows are flat-arch 1/1 double-hung sash with stone sills. The storefront has been remodeled with three thermopane windows with new brown wire-cut brick below. Brown stucco covers the corner columns and

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transom areas. To the left is a deeply recessed, high-ceilinged entry with a wood door, a screened single-pane transom, a wood surround, and a projecting crown molding. This entry, identified as 306-½ Chestnut Street, provides access to the second floor; there is not an exterior entrance to the first floor, which is connected on the interior to 308-310 Chestnut Street.

This building first appears on Sanborn maps in 1900. For ten years, the building is shown to house a saloon. However, other documentation indicates that the Jereissati Brothers Shop, a women's clothing store, was established in the building in 1901. This business was purchased by Julius and Monroe Shanedling in 1924, and the name was changed to the Quality Shop. By 1939, the Hughes' Store occupied the building and remained there through at least 1944. By 1948, Maurice's Women's Clothing and Maurice's Beauty Salon had started business in the building. Maurice's stayed at this location through at least 1951, but by 1962, the building was vacant. The current tenant is White Drug, which also occupies 310 Chestnut Street.<sup>38</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: White Drug**

**Address: 308-310 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This two-story, 50- by 60-foot brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. The building, constructed in 1900, later received a 46- by 60-foot addition. The parapet features a brick corbel table. The eight second-floor windows, which are grouped in a central mass of four windows flanked by paired windows, are replacement 2/2 combination sash with metal frames and an original wood surround. They are set in soldier-arch openings with a continuous stone sill. Brick detailing runs above this central mass. The storefront has been remodeled with a paired glass-and-metal door with a fixed transom and side lights, four large plate-glass windows, and brown wire-cut brick with white mortar joints. This storefront extends to adjacent 306 Chestnut Street. To the left of the storefront is a recessed wood door with a fixed single pane, set in the original wood surround, with a large fixed transom and a smaller workable transom. The floor of this entry is tiled with pieces of stone and trimmed in marble.

This building, known as Hawkinson Hall, originally contained a hardware store. By 1904, a hardware store, barber, and undertaker were located in the building. A confectionery and the

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hardware store were housed there by 1908, and by 1915, the hardware store had been replaced by a variety store. The 1915 city directory shows one of the building's tenants to be the Minnesota Candy Kitchen, followed by the George Alex and Company Confectionery by 1917. A number of fraternal orders also held their meetings in the building, as evidenced by the city directories from this time period. By 1919, a fire gutted Hawkinson Hall, which at that point was occupied by the Metropolitan Store and the Elite Candy Kitchen. The Marmas Hotel was located in the building by 1927, as was the Shanedling Clothing Company. A fire again damaged the building in 1938, when the building housed the Marmas Cafe. The McLellan Stores Company occupied the building from at least 1939 through at least 1962. Currently, the tenant is White Drug, which also occupies adjacent 306 Chestnut Street.<sup>39</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Ben Franklin  
**Address:** 311 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** ca. 1905  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This 50- by 82-foot, two-story, rectangular, light-tan brick building was constructed in approximately 1905. It has a stone foundation and flat roof, and a 50- by 38-foot addition to the back. The remodeled recessed storefront features metal-framed plate-glass windows, paired glass-and-metal doors surmounted by a single transom light, and a brown-tile surround. An auxiliary wood door with a fixed-pane window lies to the right of the storefront. Cream-colored corrugated aluminum sheeting installed above the storefront obscures the original facade.

This building was constructed by Mr. Shanedling, one of Virginia's prominent retailers. The building's first use was as a restaurant and a saloon. By 1921, the Star Hotel was located on the second floor, and the first floor was occupied by an office supply store. The J.C. Penney Company occupied the building in 1917, and remained there through at least 1967. City directories from the early 1940s indicate that the building was also known as the Mesaba Block. Currently, the tenant is Ben Franklin.<sup>40</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Jue's Restaurant and Lounge  
**Address:** 312 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

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This 25- by 80-foot, three-story, brown-brick-veneer building was constructed in 1900. It has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. At the back of the building, there is a 22- by 40-foot addition. The second and third floors have two sets of paired windows set in concrete-silled openings that are trimmed with dark brown brick headers and top corner blocks. The third-floor windows have been boarded, but the second-floor windows remain 9/1 double-hung sash. The storefront has been remodeled with four fixed nine-pane windows trimmed with red-and-black wood. The deeply recessed entry consists of a red-painted wood door with narrow vertically hung wood siding to the right of the door. Ornamentation includes three turned square motifs on the stepped parapet, and dark brown brick trim along the parapet, on the sides of the building, and around the windows.

According to the 1900 Sanborn map, the "Backus Building" first housed a restaurant. By 1908, the Central Hotel was located in the building, and remained there until the Marmas brothers purchased the hotel. The Marmas Hotel operated until 1928. The Marmas Cafe reopened in 1936 and remained open through at least 1962. Currently, the building is occupied by Jue's Restaurant and Lounge.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Silverfire Jewelers

**Address:** 314 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1911

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 80-foot, two-story, light-brown glazed-brick building with a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation was constructed in 1911. It features a stone-trimmed pedimented parapet with a stone crest, and a metal cornice with flat brackets and dentils. The second floor has two large stone-silled openings that have been fitted with three casement windows in the left opening, and one large single-pane window in the right opening; the transom areas above each window have been filled with plywood. The storefront has a projecting chrome-trimmed show window with a small window to its left and a sloped metal roof above. The glass-and-metal door with sidelights lies to the left of the show window and is set in a detailed metal surround with a broken pediment supported by brackets. Dark-brown brick columns with stone caps and bases flank the building.

This building was constructed for the State Bank of Virginia, which was founded in 1911. The bank remained in this building through at least 1948, but by 1951, the building was

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vacant. Gish Jewelry occupied the building from late 1951 through at least 1967. Currently, the building's tenant is Silverfire Jewelers.<sup>41</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Northeast Technical Services  
**Address:** 315 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This one-story, brick-and-stucco building has a flat roof and stone foundation. The original facade has been completely obscured by a new stucco storefront with geometric plate-glass windows and a recessed entry with a glass-and-metal door. Green aluminum sliding and brown wood trim cover the area between the storefront and the roof.

This building was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. The building was originally used as a livery and a saloon. By 1915, the saloon had been replaced by a clothing store, and by 1921, a shoe shining shop had replaced the clothing store. The livery was no longer extant at this point. Two unidentified stores occupied the building by 1929. The New Grand and F.S. Kelly Furniture Company were located in the building by 1939, but by 1941, the furniture store was no longer there. By 1943, the Red Owl grocery store had opened for business in the building. Part of the building was vacant by 1951, while the other half housed the Virginia Co-op Clothing Store which remained through at least 1962. Northeast Technical Services is the current tenant.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Salvation Army Thrift Store  
**Address:** 316 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** ca. 1902  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built around 1902, this 25- by 65-foot, two-story, medium-brown-brick building has a 25- by 55-foot brick addition to the back. The building has a flat gravel roof and a concrete basement. The facade is topped with an unsympathetically repointed parapet with a simple brick corbel table. Newer tripartite casement windows and plywood fill each of the two second-floor, stone-silled, wood-framed openings. These openings show evidence of possible historic three-part windows. The storefront features a deeply recessed central entry with

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angled plate-glass windows, a glass-and-metal door with sidelights, black architectural glass above the windows, black slate below the windows, and a wood-shingle awning.

The Eagles Hall first appeared on Sanborn maps in 1904. At that time, it was labeled a grocery. By 1910, the building held jewelry and drug stores and *The Virginian* newspaper office. It was a drug store only by 1915, followed by a laundry by 1921. City directories show that Stevensons, Inc. was the building's tenant by 1939. Regnier's Shoe Store joined Stevensons by 1943, and both businesses remained through at least 1962. At present, the building is occupied by the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Range Office Supply (319)  
**Address:** 317-319 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1907-1909  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This 50- by 85-foot, two-story, brick building with a stone foundation and flat roof was constructed between 1907 and 1909. The parapet is topped with tile coping and features decorative brick courses. The left side of the second floor has three flat-arch 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with stone sills still visible; the right side has been completely covered in cream aluminum siding. Three courses of orange brick run between the second and first floors. The left recessed storefront consists of metal-framed plate-glass windows, a central glass-and-metal door, and to the right, a recessed wood door with a 12-pane window that provides access to the second floor. Newer cream brick fills in the areas below the plate-glass windows. The right storefront has plate-glass windows with newer, rough-textured, light-tan brick below; a central glass-and-metal door; and a wood-and-metal auxiliary door to the left. Both storefronts are flanked by original brick columns and are topped with awnings that may be mounted on original hardware.

This building's original use, shown on the 1908 Sanborn map, was as a hardware store and a saloon. By 1921, the saloon had been replaced by a bakery. By 1939, the G.R. Kinney Company and the Burgher-Williams Office Supply Company occupied the building. Burgher-Williams shared its space with the Range Typewriter Company by 1941. By 1951, the Burgher Office Specialties Company and the Hejda Radio and Appliance Company had opened business in the space once occupied by the G.R. Kinney Company. Burgher-Williams Office Supply and the Range Typewriter Company remained in the other part of the building. McCabe Jewelers, which had been established at 403 Chestnut Street in 1937, moved to 317

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Chestnut Street in the early 1960s. There, McCabe's shared the building with the Range Office Supply and Equipment Company. Range Office Supply currently occupies the entire building.<sup>42</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Pep's Bake Shop

**Address:** 318 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 65-foot, two-story, cream-brick building with a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation was constructed in 1900. It has a one-story, 25- by 15-foot addition to the back. A brick corbel table decorates the parapet, which is topped with ceramic coping. The second-floor segmental-arch, stone-silled openings have been fitted with replacement 1/1 sash windows in purple-painted wood frames. The storefront has been remodeled with thermopane windows in metal frames with recessed vinyl panels below each, a recessed metal door with a single glass pane, a screened transom, and a sidelight. The recessed area's ceiling features tongue-and-groove wood paneling. A large sign covers the storefront transom area. There is a second recessed metal door that provides access to the second floor. All of the building's trim has been painted pink and purple.

This building housed a meat market from the time of its construction in late 1900 through at least 1921. By 1939, city directories showed the National Tea Company occupying the building, until Pepelnjak's Bake Shop took over the location in 1947. The bakery, now known as Pep's Bake Shop, is still in this location.<sup>43</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Virginia Floral Co.

**Address:** 320 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1904

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This 25- by 80-foot, two-story, light-brown-brick building was constructed in 1904. It has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. In 1958, a concrete-block addition, measuring 25 by 40 feet, was added to the back of the building. The second floor is dominated by two rows of four ribbon windows, which are flanked by alternating rows of dark-brown brick at the building's corners. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a recessed

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glass-and-metal door, an auxiliary glass-and-metal door, and a green-and-white vinyl surround. Above the storefront is a cast-iron beam that is probably original. A vinyl cornice and large decorative panel run beneath the second-floor windows.

This building housed a saloon from the time of its construction through approximately 1921, when it is shown on Sanborn maps to house a drug store. By 1939, the Model Pharmacy occupied the building. This drug store remained at 320 Chestnut Street through at least 1951. The Virginia Floral Company is the current tenant.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Somewhere in Time**

**Address: 321 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1904**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1904, this 24- by 83-foot, one-story, brown wire-cut brick building has a flat roof and concrete-block foundation. The parapet features dark brown brick detail and tile coping. The storefront, which is topped by a soldier course, has been remodeled with two plate-glass windows, and a glass-and-metal door with a transom light (currently holding an air-conditioning unit). There are rough wood shingles on the left side of the storefront, and dark-brown corrugated sheet metal on the right and across the transom area. A decorative red-painted metal cornice surmounts the storefront.

This building housed a clothing store from the time it was built in late 1904 through at least 1962. For the first approximately 35 years, J.H. Garon's The Golden Rule Store occupied the building. This business was purchased by Anderson and Curtiss in 1941, and their clothing store operated through at least 1951. By 1962, the store was called Vern Anderson Men's Wear. The current tenant is Somewhere in Time, a gift shop.<sup>44</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Happy Sleeper**

**Address: 322-324 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1905**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 50- by 80-foot, three-story brick building was constructed in 1905. It has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation, as well as a 50- by 40-foot addition to the back. Since its

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construction, the building has been remodeled with brown aluminum siding that covers the second and third floors. The asymmetrically recessed storefront consists of large plywood-filled openings that hold smaller single-pane windows, and two glass-and-metal doors with a center light and fixed transoms. A sign for Ketola's Department Store, once located at 326-328 Chestnut Street, remains painted on the west side of the building.

The 1908 Sanborn map shows this building, known as the Minnesota Block and the Masonic Hall, to contain a clothing store and a dry goods store. By 1915, the building housed a department store, which was likely the Minnesota Dry Goods Store that is documented to have moved out of the building in 1919. In 1925, Ketola's Department Store moved into the Minnesota Block and remained there through at least 1962. The building is now occupied by the Happy Sleeper bed store.<sup>45</sup>

**Historic Name:** Fay Block

**Current Name:** Hub (323) / Schmitt Music (325)

**Address:** 323-325 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, cream brick building was constructed in 1900. It measures 49 by 70 feet, and has a flat roof and stone-and-concrete foundation. The facade has been remodeled with cream brick sometime in the 1940s. Red brick courses decorate the tile-topped parapet, as well as run above and below the four second-floor openings which hold flat-arch 3/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/2 metal-framed storm windows. The left recessed storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a glass-and-metal door, and a white-and-black-painted concrete-block surround. The right storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a glass-and-metal door, light green tile to the sides and above the windows, and black marble below. Both storefronts feature striped awnings and are topped by a common, red-painted metal strip.

This building, historically known as the Fay Block, originally contained a clothing store. By 1908, it had been replaced by a saloon and a meat market, and by 1910, there were two saloons in the building. One of the saloons had been replaced by a barbershop by 1915. A music store and a variety store were housed at this location by 1921. City directories indicate the presence of a jewelry store in 1927. In 1933, Hub Clothiers and Johnny's Apparel Shop were established in the building, and by 1939, they had been joined by the Arrowhead Beauty Shop. A fire nearly destroyed the building in 1940. By 1951, the Arrowhead Beauty

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Shop had been replaced by Ann's Beauty Salon, and by 1962, Ann's had been replaced by Doris's Beauty Salon; Johnny's Apparel Shop remained at this location through at least 1962. Hub Clothiers is still located in this building, and had been joined by Schmitt Music.<sup>46</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: 328 Shoppe**

**Address: 326-328 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1952**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This rectangular-plan, 52- by 90-foot, one-story brick building was built in 1952. It has a concrete basement, a gravel roof, and a 50- by 30-foot addition to the back. A false aluminum-siding facade has been added above the storefront to give the impression of a second floor. The recessed storefront consists of large plate-glass windows and paired glass-and-metal doors with wide sidelights and transoms. Beneath the windows are long blond bricks that match the bricks of 330 Chestnut Street's storefront, as well as red metal panels to the left of the storefront and black metal panels to the right.

This building sits on the site once occupied by the Mesberg Block, which was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. The Mesberg and Lavick Furniture Store and Undertaker were located in this building through at least 1913, when a fire caused minimal damage. In 1915, the Woolworth Company Store was established in the Mesberg Block, and remained there through at least 1962. The 328 Shoppe is the current tenant.<sup>47</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Minnesota State Lottery**

**Address: 327 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1960**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 25- by 112-foot, one-story, glass-and-metal building with a flat roof was constructed in 1960. There is a 25- by 8-foot addition to the back of the building. The plate-glass storefront is recessed approximately five feet behind a decorative blue-green metal veil which features two smaller arches on the left and one larger arch on the right. The larger arch frames a glass-and-metal door.

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Prior to the construction of the present building, the site held a building constructed between 1900 and 1904. That building contained an office and a barbershop. By 1908, the office had been replaced by a millinery. The 1910 Sanborn map shows a drug store, which was joined by an optometrist's office by 1921. By 1939, the building's tenant was the Dotty Dunn Hat Store, which remained through at least 1951. In 1960, Vincent A. Tini constructed a new building for his business, Tini Plumbing and Heating, which remained at this location through at least 1967. The building is currently occupied by the Minnesota State Lottery.<sup>48</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Suzanne's Jewelry**

**Address: 329-331 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1900**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story, light-brown brick building has a stone foundation and flat roof. Decorative details include a central medallion on the parapet and two smaller medallions above the semicircular-arch central entry. The eight newer 1/1 metal-sash, second-floor windows have keystone flat arches and stone sills; original wood-sash windows may be in place behind the newer ones. Both recessed storefronts with awnings have been remodeled with plate-glass windows with newer brick below; the left storefront has paired glass-and-metal doors, and the right storefront has a single glass-and-metal door. The central entry to the second floor consists of a semicircular-arch opening set off by a soldier course and a slightly recessed wood door.

Historically known as the Union Block, this building was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. At first, it contained an unidentified store and a grocery store. Four years later, the unidentified store was labeled a confectionery and a millinery, which were replaced after four years by a saloon. The saloon and grocery remained in the building through at least 1915. Then, the saloon was replaced by a billiards hall and a barbershop. The 1927 city directory shows the Betty-Lou Art Shoppe to be located in the west part of the building at that time. By 1939, the building housed Minnesota Markets, the Virginia Greenhouse and Floral Company (which had been established at another location in 1904) and the Marinello Beauty Salon. By 1943, the Virginia Greenhouse and Floral Company had moved into Minnesota Markets' location, and remained there through at least 1962. Meanwhile, Ray's Liquor Store had joined Marinello Beauty Salon by 1948, followed by Dominic Diuri's Liquors by 1951. The Walt Clothing Store, once at 335 Chestnut Street, and the Trim and Kurl Beauty Salon occupied part of the building next to the Virginia Greenhouse and Floral

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Company by 1962. Part of the building now houses Suzanne's Jewelry; the other part is vacant.<sup>49</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: J.P. Furniture**  
**Address: 330 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1906**  
**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 48- by 90-foot, two-story, brown-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. There is a 30- by 50-foot addition to the back. The storefront, which wraps a few feet around the west side of the building, consists of plate-glass windows and paired glass-and-metal doors. Long, narrow blond bricks fill the space below the north side's windows, and brown bricks lie under the west side's windows. The west side of the building has two brick-filled storefronts that are flanked by brick pilasters punctuated by stone blocks at the base, center, and top. The west side of the building's segmental-arch, stone-silled windows have either been brick-filled or boarded.

Located on the corner of Chestnut Street and 4th Avenue South, this building, designed by Duluth architect Anthony Puck, housed a dry goods store from the time of its construction immediately after the fire of 1900 through at least 1921. Advertisements from 1912 identify the occupant as the Alexander Reid and Company Store. This store remained in the building through the late 1940s. By 1951, the Butler Brothers Department Store occupied the building, followed by Herberger's Department Store, the Carol Hat Company, and the Mono-Rose Beauty Salon by 1962. J.P. Furniture is the present tenant.<sup>50</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: The Bootery**  
**Address: 335 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1900**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story, brick building has been painted cream. It has a stone foundation and flat roof. The parapet features a metal cornice that has been painted to match the rest of the building. On the second floor there are two segmental-arch openings: one with paired 1/1 metal-sash windows and one with a single 1/1 metal-sash window. The storefront, which wraps around to the west side of the building, has been remodeled with plate-glass

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windows, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a wood-shingle awning. To the right of the storefront is an auxiliary wood door with a newer transom light. On the west side of the building, the second floor has four single and two paired 1/1 metal-sash windows set in segmental-arch openings. The first floor has three historic, brick-filled, segmental-arch openings. To their left is a newer glass-and-metal door with a transom light and a wood-shingle awning, followed by a segmental-arch, stone-silled opening with a newer metal-framed window.

This building was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. Originally, the building housed a store, later identified as a drug store. By 1910, a clothing store occupied the building, followed by a saloon by 1915, and then a clothing store again by 1921. City directories show that the building housed Walt's Clothing Store from at least 1939 through at least 1951. By 1962, the Queen City Federal Savings and Loan Association occupied the building. The current tenant is The Bootery.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Norwest Bank

**Address:** 401 Chestnut Street

**Date:** ca. 1980

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This two-story, rectangular, brown-brick building with a flat roof was constructed around 1980. Strips of brown marble divide the facade into nine bays. At the first floor, these strips form columns in front of the recessed plate-glass storefront. Paired glass-and-metal doors appear in the first, sixth, and seventh bays. There are two metal canister lights per bay, and there is a single-pane plate-glass window on the second floor of each bay. The east side of the building is divided into seven bays, with single-pane plate-glass windows in the first and second floors' second through sixth bays. Three windows were under construction at the time of the inventory.

The present Norwest Bank Building stands on the site once occupied by the American Exchange Bank Building and the Fitger Block. The American Exchange Bank Building was a one-lot-wide building that was constructed at the corner of Chestnut Street and 4th Avenue North in 1913. It housed the American Exchange Bank, which had been incorporated as a state bank in 1904. It moved to 401 Chestnut in 1913, as did a number of professional offices. The Fitger Block, built between 1910 and 1915, held a variety of professional offices and stores during its reign, including McCabe Jewelers, which was established in the Fitger

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Block in 1937, then moved to 317 Chestnut Street in 1961. The Pickwick Bar operated in the Fitger Block from at least 1939 through at least 1951. The American Exchange Bank Building and the Fitger Block were destroyed sometime after 1967.<sup>51</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Fourth and Main

**Address:** 402 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1907

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 104-foot, three story, cream-brick building has a flat gravel roof and stone foundation. The metal-trimmed parapet is raised at the northeast corner, where there is an oval sign area and a break in the green-painted metal cornice and brick corbel table which adorn the facade and the east side of the building. Stone-silled, keystone segmental-arch openings are present on the third floor. The second floor features stone-silled, brick-keystone flat-arch openings. All upper-floor window openings hold 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The east side of the building's first floor has a doorway with a brick-filled transom, a large brick-filled square window opening, and four openings with fixed single-pane windows and brick filler. These openings are flat-arched with brick keystones and have stone sills. The storefront has been remodeled with newer brick on the north side and northeast corner, and by the east entry. Five fixed single-pane windows are located on the east side. On the north side, there are four full-arch openings with fixed single-pane windows with orange panels above and below. Entries include a full-arch entry with glass-and-metal door on the east side and a similar entrance at the northeast corner.

This building was constructed in 1907 as the European Hotel. City directories show that the Savolainen Cut Glass Company was located in the building in 1912. By 1915, the Montroy Hotel occupied the building, followed by the Matthews Hotel by 1921. By 1927, the Arrowhead Hotel operated in the building. The Arrowhead, Mell's Liquors, and the Solberg Tavern occupied the building together from the 1930s at least through 1951; by 1962, the Solberg Tavern was no longer there. Mell's Liquors continued through at least 1967. Currently, the Fourth and Main Bar occupies the building.<sup>52</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Suzie's Sassy Balloons(404)/Sakrison's Hobby & Craft Center(406)

**Address:** 404-406 Chestnut Street

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**Date: 1906-1909**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This rectangular, two-story, blond-brick building with a flat gravel roof and stone foundation was built in two sections between 1906 and 1909: the 25- by 74-foot section of 404 Chestnut Street was built in 1906 and has a back addition of 25- by 30-feet, and the 25- by 74-foot section of 406 Chestnut Street was built in 1909 and has a 25- by 42-foot back addition. The parapet is rounded over the second-floor bay windows, which feature a central fixed pane flanked by 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Between the bay windows are two sets of newer paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows set in wood-framed flat-arch openings with stone detailing at the top corners. A shared stone sill runs beneath these windows. Three-pane transoms top each window, and brick detailing surrounds the openings. The left storefront consists of plate-glass windows, a wood-siding surround, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a wood auxiliary door. Of note is a black and white tile area that leads from the sidewalk to the center of this storefront, indicating a possible historic entry. The right storefront, which continues to 408 Chestnut Street, consists of new multicolored brick, wood siding in the transom area and above the glass-and-metal auxiliary door, and plate-glass windows. However, there is no store entrance at this storefront.

The Johnson Block housed the *Virginia Enterprise* printing office from 1908 to 1912. The interior of this building was destroyed by a fire in 1911, but the structure itself was not damaged. By 1912, the city directory referred to the building as the Enterprise Building; this name held through at least 1917. By 1915, the building was occupied by a billiards hall and a clothing store, possibly the Gately Supply Company listed in the 1927 city directory. The J.C. Penney Company was also located in this building in 1927. By 1939, Sapero's Women's Clothing had replaced the J.C. Penney Company. Sapero's remained through at least 1962, and Gately's remained through at least 1967. Suzy's Sassy Balloons and Sakrison's Hobby and Craft Center, present since 1965, currently occupy the building.<sup>53</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Eldorado**

**Address: 407 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1902**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Constructed between 1900 and 1904, this 25- by 85-foot, two-story, light-brown brick building has a stone foundation and flat roof. A brick corbel table adorns the roofline. The

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storefront has been entirely remodeled with rough uncoursed stone and wood trim, as well as a recessed wood door with a single-pane window. The second-floor, flat-arch window openings, which have stone sills and lintels, have been filled with red brick. Examination of the back of the building reveals that only the facade of the second floor remains.

This building was originally occupied by a meat market. By 1915, the building housed a saloon, followed by a printing shop by 1921. City directories show the tenant to be the Queen City Sweet Shop by 1924, which remained through at least 1927. The Red Owl grocery store occupied the building by 1939. The grocery moved to 315 Chestnut Street in the early 1940s, and Savolainen Jewelry was subsequently a tenant in the space. By 1962, Savolainen's had been replaced by the Fleck Company grocery store. The building has been occupied by the Eldorado Bar since at least 1982, when a fire destroyed the second floor.<sup>54</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Sakrison's Hobby (408)/Andrew's Cameras (410)/Arrowhead Bar (412)

**Address:** 408-410-412 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1907

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1907, this 74- by 75-foot, two-story, brown-brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. There are two additions, 25- by 35-feet and 25- by 19-feet, to the back. Brick pilasters divide the facade into three bays, and the parapet is raised slightly over the central mass. On the second floor, each bay holds two stone-silled openings with stone lintels; the left bay has paired casement windows and the central and right bays have 1/1 double-hung sash windows with metal trim set in wood frames. A brick corbel table runs between these windows and the parapet. This building has three storefronts. The left storefront, which extends east to 406 Chestnut Street, consists of plate-glass windows, multicolored brick below the windows and on columns, a slightly recessed glass-and-metal door, a recessed glass-and-metal auxiliary door, and wood siding. The central storefront features plate-glass windows, black and beige architectural glass, and a recessed wood door fronted by a glass-and-metal combination screen door. The right storefront has large single-pane windows, a brown-and-blond brick surround, a metal door with small single pane, and a black-painted plywood transom area.

This building, called the Karon Block in 1909 through 1917 city directories, first contained a clothing store, a saloon, and a furniture store. Henle's Cafeteria was established in the western third of the building in 1910, and remained there through at least 1951. Meanwhile,

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a dry goods store had opened in the eastern third of the building by 1915. By 1921, the dry goods store had been replaced by a millinery and an optometrist's office, and the saloon had been replaced by a clothing store. A couple of small shops and the Coast-to-Coast Store had joined Henle's by 1939. The smaller shops changed frequently over the next several years. By 1948, the Singer Sewing Machine Company had replaced the Coast-to-Coast Store. By 1962, the Arrowhead Bar and Hotel were located where Henle's Restaurant had been. The present occupants are Sakrison's Hobby and Craft Center, which also occupies 406 Chestnut Street, Andrew's Cameras, and the Arrowhead Bar.<sup>55</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Hair on Main**

**Address: 409 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1905**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 25- by 60-foot, two-story, light-brown brick building is rectangular in plan. It has a post foundation, flat roof, and a 25- by 14- by 9-foot addition to the back. The parapet is topped with metal coping and features a simple brick corbel table. The second-floor flat-arch openings have been boarded behind newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a white vinyl-siding surround. Above the plate-glass windows are five newer stained-glass ribbon windows. Original brick is still visible along the sides and bottom of the facade.

According to Sanborn maps, this building was constructed between 1904 and 1908. At first, the building was occupied by a saloon. This was followed by a bakery, as shown on the 1921 Sanborn map. By 1939, Bonato's Bootery was housed in the building, and it remained in this location through at least 1962. Hair on Main is the current tenant.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Jim's Flowers & Gifts**

**Address: 411 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1912**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Constructed in 1912, this two-story, light-beige brick building has a rectangular plan of 25 by 109 feet. It has a stone foundation and flat roof with stone coping atop the parapet. The second floor features five flat-arch, stone-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with

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newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. Single brick pilasters topped with brick accent squares stand between the windows, while paired pilasters stand to the far left and right. Above the windows is a metal cornice. The recessed storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a glass-and-metal door, a cream vinyl-siding surround with brown trim, and a striped fabric awning. On the left side of the storefront there is a brown-painted wood door that provides access to the second floor.

This building originally contained a barbershop and saloon, which had been replaced by a public library reading room by 1921. From at least 1939 through at least 1962, the building was occupied by Gamble Stores, a hardware store chain. Jim's Flowers & Gifts currently occupies the building.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Eye Clinic North

**Address:** 413 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1900

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 24- by 30-foot, two-story, flat-roofed, dark-brown brick building has a post foundation and flat roof. The parapet is protected by stone coping. Below the parapet, there are two flat-arch, stone-silled openings with a soldier course surround, each of which holds paired 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The storefront has been remodeled with brown-stained wood siding and a recessed wood door, which features decorative panels and a single-pane window and is flanked by narrow sidelights. On the right side of the storefront is a wood door that provides access to the second floor, and to the right of this door, there is a column of original brick. A wood-shingled awning runs above the storefront.

This building was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. The building first contained a saloon, but was soon thereafter occupied by a grocery store. By 1910, a jewelry store and an office were housed there. By 1915, the jeweler had vacated the premises, but the space wasn't filled again until a barber moved in by 1921. Historic photographs show that there was a change in the building's facade sometime between 1912 and the 1930s. In the earlier photograph, the building has a tall parapet with a large cornice and there are three narrow windows on the second floor. The later photograph shows part of one of the window openings as they now appear. By 1939, Hanks News had taken over occupancy, followed by Roberts News by 1941. Frank Preiner News and the Fay Beauty Shop were the tenants by

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1948. By 1951, Sadie's Beauty Shoppe occupied the building. Jim's Flowers and Gifts replaced Sadie's by 1962. Sometime before 1967, Chase's Shaver Shop and Gourmet Treasures moved into the building. The current tenant is Eye Clinic North.<sup>56</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**  
**Current Name: Canelake's Home Made Candies**  
**Address: 414 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1916**  
**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 25- by 92-foot, one-story, brown-brick building with a flat gravel roof and stone foundation was constructed in 1916. It features a stone-trimmed parapet that is raised at the ends and in the center, where a brick medallion is located. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows; long, blond, striated bricks below the windows; a recessed glass-and-metal door; and a large white-painted asphalt-shingle awning consuming most of the space above the storefront.

Prior to the construction of the present building in 1916, a saloon that was built in 1900 stood on this site. The present building is shown to have housed a confectionery. The Virginia Candy Kitchen occupied the building from at least 1924 through at least 1944. It is possible that this business is the same confectionery shown on the 1921 Sanborn map. By 1948, the Canelakes Confectionery, which was established in 1905 at another location, was the building's tenant. Canelakes continues to occupy the building.<sup>57</sup>

**Historic Name: Maco Theater**  
**Current Name: vacant**  
**Address: 415 Chestnut Street**  
**Date: 1921**  
**Eligibility: Contributing**

Constructed as a theater in 1921, this 50- by 120-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and stone-and-concrete foundation. It was redesigned in the 1930s by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Liebenberg and Kaplan, which was well known for their work with theaters. The remodeling included a Moderne-style facade of cream terra cotta and an illuminated marquee with giant letters spelling out the theater's name, "Maco." A glass-brick area stretches across the second floor. On the first floor, three plate-glass showcases, two of which are topped with three metal lamps, lie between a pair of wood exit doors on the left

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and a plate-glass ticket window. To the right of the ticket window, there is a recessed main entrance which consists of paired wood doors with three triangular glass panes each. Two more showcases are mounted to the right of the entrance.

Prior to the theater's construction, the double-lot site held a building that housed a variety of stores, including the Canelake Brothers Confectionery, now located at 414 Chestnut Street. At first, the building housed the Garrick Theatre. By 1939, the building had been remodeled and was called the Maco Theater, which remained in operation through at least 1962. This building is currently vacant.<sup>58</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Busy Bee / B.J. Designs  
**Address:** 416 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1900  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, red-brown-brick building has a flat roof. The two second-floor, keystone segmental-arch openings have been fitted with three replacement casement windows each. The area above the windows has been filled in. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, brown plastic panels below the windows, two recessed glass-and-metal doors with transom lights, and signs over the transom areas. The original cast-iron columns that remain on both sides of the entry have raised lettering that reads "National Iron Works, Duluth, Minn." To the right is an auxiliary yellow-painted metal door with a tall fixed transom light of newer materials. Modern concrete tuckpointing detracts from the building's appearance.

Constructed immediately after the fire of 1900, this building was originally occupied by a saloon. By 1908, it housed a dry goods store, and by 1915, a saloon was once more its tenant. In 1918, photographer B.O. Pedersen opened his studio in the building and by 1921, a jewelry shop was also located there. It is possible that the jewelry shop was Sandberg Jewelers, which was present by 1927, but no longer at this location by 1939. By 1941, Pedersen's was joined by Nature Rival Beauty Shop, and both businesses remained in the building through at least 1951. Pederson's Photography Studio and the Card Shop occupied the building by 1962. Currently, the tenants are Busy Bee Yarns and Crafts Store and B.J. Designs.<sup>59</sup>

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**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Mariucci (417) / Maco News (419) / Wayne's (421) / Wessman's (421)**

**Address: 417-419-421 Chestnut Street**

**Date: ca. 1912**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 50- by 57-foot, one-story, cream wire-cut brick building was constructed between 1910 and 1915. It has a post foundation and flat roof. The raised parapet features brick detailing and is covered with metal coping. Between the parapet and the storefronts is a simple brick corbel table. The four storefronts have what appear to be replacement plate-glass windows, but have retained the original brick surround. The two left storefronts have been fitted with replacement wood-and-glass doors, and a soldier course runs above the storefronts. A green-shingled awning tops the right-most storefront.

This two-lot wide building has been comprised of four storefronts since its construction. At first, the building contained two offices, a lunchroom, and a hand laundry. By 1921, there was one office, a confectionery, a tobacco shop, and a hand laundry. City directories show that one of the earliest tenants was Edward Williams Confectionery, which was present through at least 1924. The Maco News, which still occupies part of the building, was present in 1939, as were the Eddy Dray and Fuel Line, and the Garrick Cafe. These three businesses remained in this building through at least 1951. By 1962, the Maco News and Eddy Fuel Line were joined by two optometrists' offices and the J & A Hamburgers Restaurant. The current tenants are Mariucci Video Arts, Maco News, Wayne's World of Holograms and Things, and Wessman's Cafe.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: vacant**

**Address: 418 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1941**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 25- by 120-foot, one-story, brown-brick building was constructed in 1941. It has a flat gravel roof and a concrete foundation. Almost its entire facade has been covered with yellow and brown metal panels and a large sign. The storefront consists of a single large opening that has been boarded up, and a recessed metal door with three glass panes. Examination of the back of the building reveals concrete-block south and east walls.

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This building stands on the site once occupied by a building that held a saloon from the time of its construction in 1900 to the mid-1920s. After that point, the building's tenant was an electrical supply store, followed by a bottling company by 1929. Just before the present building's construction, Bernard Dorfman's Liquor Store was the building's tenant. The Queen City Bottling Company occupied the present building from at least 1943 through at least 1951. By 1962, Bob's Pickwick Bar was the tenant. The building is now vacant.<sup>60</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Range Academy of Dance  
**Address:** 420 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** ca. 1909  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 120-foot, two-story, red-brick building has a flat gravel roof and stone foundation. The white paint that covered the building is now flaking badly and nearly completely gone in areas. On the second floor, there are three boarded windows with stone sills and stone lintels, and a brick corbel table is above the windows. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows with black metal panels below, and a slightly recessed glass-and-metal door. Metal siding and a large sign cover the original storefront transom area.

This building was constructed as the Grand Theater sometime between the drawing of the 1908 and 1910 Sanborn maps. City directories indicate that the Grand remained at this location through at least 1915, possibly 1921 if the picture theater on the 1921 Sanborn map refers to the Grand Theater. By 1929, the building was occupied by two unidentified stores. The National Barber Shop and the Alguire Electric Shop occupied the building by 1941 and remained for the next couple of years. Around 1947, Gish Jewelry was established in the building, which was also occupied at the time by Edblom Refrigeration Service and Johnson Electric. The Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store had joined Gish Jewelry by 1951, but Gish Jewelry left the building a few months later. By 1962, the Coast-to-Coast Store was the only occupant of the building. At present, the Range Academy of Dance is the building's tenant.<sup>61</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Airbrush (A) / vacant (B)  
**Address:** 421A-421B Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1956  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

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Built in 1956, this one-story, cream-colored brick building has a rectangular plan of 16 by 57 feet. It is built on a concrete foundation and topped with a flat roof. The parapet features a simple brick corbel table that matches the corbel table of adjacent 417-421 Chestnut Street. The single storefront consists of paired plate-glass windows and two slightly recessed glass-and-wood doors, one on each side of the window group. The current tenant in 421A Chestnut Street is Airbrush; 421B Chestnut Street is vacant.

**Historic Name: Milavetz Building**

**Current Name: The Card Shop**

**Address: 422 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1954-1955**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

Built between 1954 and 1955, this 25- by 120-foot, one-story, brick and concrete-block building has a flat gravel roof and a concrete foundation. Near the roofline, there is a small name block that reads "Milavetz." Metal coping tops the parapet. The facade features long, dark-brown bricks along the sides and top of the facade, and lighter bricks above and within the storefront, which has been remodeled with plate-glass windows and a slightly recessed glass-and-metal door with sidelights and a louvered-glass transom. A large sign covers most of the area above the storefront.

A 1951 fire destroyed the building that once occupied the site where the Milavetz Building now stands. Up until Fleck's Main Street Market was established in 1940, the building housed a saloon. Fleck's Market continued to operate in the present building through at least 1951, according to city directories. By 1962, Von Fischer Rexall Drugs was the new building's tenant. The Card Shop now occupies the building.<sup>62</sup>

**Historic Name: Frank Klink Block**

**Current Name: Bass Gambling Supplies, Inc. (425) / Copy Magic (423)**

**Address: 423-425 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1911**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 44- by 68-foot, three-story, brown brick building has a flat roof and stone-and-concrete foundation. Stone coping tops the parapet. A brick cornice near the roofline spans the front width of the building. The second- and third-floor windows are stone-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The two remodeled recessed

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storefronts consist of plate-glass windows and glass-and-metal doors, with newer cream-colored brick surrounds. The wood sign above the storefront extends to 427-429 Chestnut Street. Above the storefronts is a stone building marker that reads "Frank Klink Block 1911."

The Klink Block was constructed in 1911 on the site of a one-story commercial building that had been built immediately after the fire of 1900. The first floor of the Klink Block contained a grocery store and a saloon. The Person Grocery and Meat Market moved into part of the building in 1934, while the other part of the building stood vacant. By 1948, the other part was occupied by the Alguire Electric Shop. The two stores remained through at least 1951, but were replaced by the Range Music Center and Robert's Women's Clothing by 1962. Bass Gambling Supplies, Inc. and Copy Magic are the current tenants.<sup>63</sup>

**Historic Name:** Matheson Block

**Current Name:** The Newsette (424) / vacant (426)

**Address:** 424-426 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1912

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1912, this 50- by 120-foot, three-story, brown-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. Stone coping tops the parapet, below which is a large metal cornice with brackets and dentils. Below the cornice is a building marker that reads "Matheson Block," as well as detailed brickwork. The eight third-floor windows are grouped in twos with shared stone sills and brick surrounds. The eight second-floor windows are similarly grouped but with a single stone sill that runs beneath the windows. All the windows appear to be replacement 1/1 double-hung sash. The storefronts have been remodeled with plate-glass windows and recessed glass-and-metal doors with transom lights. The left storefront (424 Chestnut Street) has a newer large sign in the transom area. The right storefront (426 Chestnut Street) has detailed plastic sheeting in the storefront's transom area and below the windows. A deeply recessed, boarded entrance with a long sidelight and a large fixed transom lies between the storefronts. Above the entrance, there is a single smooth brick with an illegible inscription. Notable on the east side of the building are two lightwells with paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows and white asphalt shingle siding.

This building stands on a site that was occupied by a livery from 1900 through at least 1910. When the present building, the Matheson Block, was constructed, it housed a variety store and a dry goods store. By 1921, the building's tenants were a jewelry store and another

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unidentified store. The Virginia Pharmacy operated in the building from 1923 through 1961. By 1939, the Quality Shop, a woman's clothing store run by the Shanedling brothers, also occupied part of the building. This store remained in the Matheson Block through at least 1962, by which point the Virginia Pharmacy had been replaced by the Zenith Photo and Record Shop. Currently, the Newsette, which was established at a different location in 1942, is the only building's tenant; the other part of the building is vacant.<sup>64</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Arrowhead Tobacco Gourmet Coffee (427) / Sports Page Bar (429)**

**Address: 427-429 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1931-1932**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

This 45- by 68-foot, two-story, brown brick building was constructed between 1931 and 1932. It has a flat roof and stone-and-concrete foundation. A 41- by 22-foot addition extends from the back. The second-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash, set in flat-arch openings with stone sills. Brick detail below the windows separate them from the storefront area. Both recessed storefronts have been remodeled with plate-glass windows and cream-colored brick surrounds. Each has a glass-and-metal door. The large wood sign over the right storefront continues across the facade of 423-425 Chestnut Street. The left storefront is topped with a smaller sign with neon overlay. Between the storefronts is a slightly recessed glass-and-metal door that provides access to the second floor.

This building stands on the site once occupied by the Opera House Block and part of the Fay Opera House. After the present building was constructed in the early 1930s, it contained the Peoples Cafe and the Klinx Buffet from at least 1939 through at least 1944. By 1948, Lauley's Women's Clothing had replaced the Peoples Cafe, and Klinx Buffet had become Klinx Bar and Lounge. Packy's Billiards, which had been established in 1915, joined the bar and clothing shop by 1948. By 1962, the building's tenants were Robert's Women's Clothing and the Klinx Bar and Lounge. Arrowhead Tobacco Gourmet Coffee and the Sports Page Bar currently occupy the building.<sup>65</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Wolf Dry Cleaners**

**Address: 428 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1908**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

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This 25- by 103-foot, two-story, brown-brick building was constructed in 1908. It has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. Its facade features a pedimented parapet and large metal cornice with dentils below the projection, brackets at the ends, and a smaller projecting course below. The second-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung sash flanked by narrow fixed single-pane windows, each section with transom lights, set within keystoned flat-arch openings with a brick soldier course surround. The recessed storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, green-painted metal panels below the windows, a brown-metal screen door, a green architectural-glass surround, and a large Art Deco-style sign that reads "Wolf." Original ground-level stone sections are visible behind the facade, and an auxiliary entrance of a newer light-brown wood door with transom lies to the right.

This building was constructed by Henry Sigel to house the Bijou Theater, one of Virginia's first theaters. Sanborn maps from 1921 show the building to house a meat market and the Salvation Army Hall, which remained at this location through at least 1924. The building stood vacant from at least the late 1930s through the mid-1940s, when the Wolf Shoe Repair and Wolf Cleaners, the current tenant of the building, moved into it.<sup>66</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Subway**

**Address: 430 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1991**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

Built in 1991, this one-story brick and concrete-block building has a flat roof with an arched parapet that is inscribed with the date "1991." The northwest corner of the building has a diagonal wall with a glass-and-metal door with sidelights and transom lights. A beige stucco cornice adorns the north and west walls, but breaks for the arched parapet over the northwest corner entrance. The storefront, which wraps around the north and west walls, is comprised of mottled-brown brick, plate-glass windows with two recessed wood panels below each window, and the previously-described corner door. The south wall is comprised of gray concrete blocks and a brown metal service door.

The present building occupies a site that originally held a building that contained saloons and the Moose Hall through at least 1915. This building was followed by another building by 1921 that housed the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. City directories show that by 1939, the bank was no longer at this location, and the building was occupied by Bill's Tavern and the *Queen City Sun* newspaper office. By 1941, the V and B Liquor Store had joined the two

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businesses, but by 1943, Bill's Tavern, the *Queen City Sun* office, and Ben's Off-Sale Liquors were the building's occupants. The Brown Drug Company and the Walgreen Agency had moved into the building by 1948. The Walgreen Agency remained in the building through at least 1951, but by 1961, the Brown Drug Company was the only business housed there. In 1991, the present building was constructed on the site. The Subway Sandwich Shop is the tenant.<sup>67</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Plesha Chiropractic / Ahrens Thompson (101 5th Avenue North)**

**Address: 431 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1957**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 20- by 90-foot, two-story, brown-brick building was constructed in 1957. It has a concrete foundation and flat roof. The two second-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The recessed storefront consists of a nine-pane window with metal muntins and a glass-and-metal door. The brick surround, which wraps around to the west side of the building, has over-filled joints. The west-side storefront area has a 15-pane plate-glass window. The second floor of the west wall has ten stone-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. At the northern-most end of the west side of the building, there is another storefront with plate-glass windows and a glass-and-metal door. Between this storefront and the front storefront, there is a brick-silled 1/1 double-hung sash window. Looking at the north elevation, the building appears to wrap around the north side of neighboring 427-429 Chestnut Street.

Prior to the construction of this building, part of the Fay Opera House stood on this site. The Fay Opera House was destroyed sometime after 1929 and by 1939, Larsen's Service Station occupied the site. The Virginia Story indicates the presence of the C.T.M. Service Station at this location from 1942 through the date of the book's publication, 1949. However, city directory evidence shows that Larsen's Service Station was replaced by the Best Gas and Oil Company by 1943. A few years later, the site was occupied by Larsen's Conoco Service Station, which remained through at least 1951, but by 1962, had been replaced by Bergstedt's Interiors. Plesha Chiropractic is the current tenant. Ahrens Thompson is located at the back of the building, which uses the address 101 5th Avenue North.<sup>68</sup>

**Historic Name: Coates Hotel**

**Current Name: Coates Hotel**

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**Address:** 500 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1950-1951  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Built between 1950 and 1951, this rectangular-plan building consists of a 109- by 122-foot, one-story, limestone first floor, surmounted by a 50- by 122-foot, four-story, light-brown brick section on the east portion of the building. There is a cornerstone at the southeast corner that reads, "Project of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, A.D. 1950." There are twelve windows per floor on the east side and five windows per floor on the north side; all upper-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. The north-side storefront has a recessed entry that now holds six-pane fixed-sash windows with marble pieces below, two openings with six-pane fixed-sash windows surrounded by maroon-colored glass tiles, a glass-and-metal door with cantilevered metal canopy, three 12-pane fixed-sash windows, and one small opening filled with glass brick. On the east side, there are four 12-pane fixed-sash windows, a main entrance of paired glass-and-metal doors with a large cantilevered metal canopy above, two six-pane fixed-sash windows with marble pieces below, and an opening with a six-pane fixed sash window with maroon colored glass tiles below (as on north side). Each storefront window is topped with a bulbous blue-fabric awning, and at ground level, there is a course of marble tiles. To the south of the building is a separate, non-contributing, three-story section connected to the main building by a three-story walkway.

The Coates Hotel stands on the site once occupied by the Fay Hotel, which was constructed immediately after the fire of 1900. The Fay Hotel was razed by a fire in March 1943. Plans for the new hotel were revealed in February 1943 as part of a post-war construction plan, and in June 1948, a drawing of the new \$600,000 structure by Virginia architects, Damberg and Damberg, appeared in the *Duluth News-Tribune*. By late June 1950, construction of the Coates Hotel had begun. By May 1951, the building had been completed. The Coates Hotel remains in operation at this location.<sup>69</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Queen City Federal  
**Address:** 501 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** ca. 1970  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This two-story, rectangular, light-brown brick building with a flat roof was constructed around 1970. A roof-level canopy covers the projecting entrance, which consists of a brick

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front wall and plate-glass side walls with two glass-and-metal doors on each side. A metal sign is mounted on the front wall. A row of tiles of unknown composition runs along the roofline of the entire building, including the porte-cochere. Toward the back of the building is a plate-glass skyway that extends from the western facade to neighboring 509 Chestnut Street. Below the skyway is a drive-through teller area of the bank which features a large plate-glass window in the western wall of the main building.

Prior to the construction of the Queen City Federal Bank Building, a number of buildings had stood on the four-lot-wide site. Immediately after the fire of 1900, a Presbyterian church was rebuilt on the corner lot and part of the adjacent lot. This church was in place through at least 1904, while the third and fourth lots remained vacant. By 1908, the church was no longer extant and a domicile appeared on the third lot. By 1921, the Northern Oil Company Filling Station had been built on the two lots nearest the corner, and a small addition to the back of 509 Chestnut Street extended into the fourth lot. City directories from the early 1920s indicate that contractor Oliver Torseth was located at 505 Chestnut Street, the building next to the filling station. By 1929, a larger auto sales building appeared behind the filling station. By 1939, the Radio Sandwich Shop and the Radio Cab Company occupied the building next to the filling station, and by 1941, Tony's Coffee Shop had replaced the Radio Sandwich Shop. The Wallin Company had joined these two shops by 1943. By 1948, Agnes Anshus had opened her restaurant at 503 Chestnut Street, which appears to have been in front of the Northern Oil Building in a 1950s photograph. There is no evidence to indicate when the buildings on the first four lots of this block were destroyed. The Queen City Federal Bank continues to occupy the present building.<sup>70</sup>

**Historic Name:** Lyric Building

**Current Name:** vacant

**Address:** 506-510-514 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1911

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Constructed in 1911, this 75- by 120-foot, brown-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a concrete foundation. The second floor features a metal cornice with flaking orange-yellow paint, a brick corbel table, and decorative brick coursework above the windows that are 1/1 double-hung sash set in flat-arched, stone-silled openings. The openings are joined sill-to-sill by a decorative projecting brick course. The left storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and long cream bricks below the windows. The right storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a recessed glass-and-metal

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door, and a brick surround that does not quite match the original brick, as well as a three-pane, wood-framed window under the left window. Between the storefronts is a recessed auxiliary entrance that consists of a wood-and-glass door with a transom, and a wood surround. Alleys run along the east and west sides of the building.

This building, constructed by Henry Sigel, originally housed the Lyric Theater as well as an electrical goods store and the Christian Science Hall on the upper floor. By 1927, Halseth's Jewelry and the YMCA had joined what was by this point the State Theater in the building. Professional offices occupied the upper floors. One of the professional offices was the Olson Insurance Agency, which had been established in 1909. The Larson Photography Studio also occupied part of the building during the late 1920s. By 1939, the building's tenants were the State Theater, Halseth Jewelry, Micka Electric, and Costello's Ice Cream Store. These businesses were joined by the VFW Hall by 1948. Halseth Jewelry and the State Theater remained at this location through at least 1951, at which point the building also housed the Sandin Confectionery. By 1962, most of the building was vacant, the VFW Hall and Pizza Bill's Pancake House being the only occupants. The building is currently vacant.<sup>71</sup>

**Historic Name:** Graham Block  
**Current Name:** Mirage  
**Address:** 509 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1914  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1914, this 25- by 120-foot, two-story, light-brown brick building has a concrete foundation and flat-roof. The words "Graham Block" are visible on the metal cornice. The second floor has two identical, blue-painted metal bay windows with three window openings each; the center opening holds newer stained glass panels, while the side openings hold single-pane windows. Each bay window has two recessed lamps in its base. The storefront has been remodeled with variegated brown brick and a recessed 15-panel wood door. A large sign with neon overlay covers the area between the top of the storefront and the bay windows. The east wall has two newer wood-framed windows set in soldier-arched, brick-silled openings, and one full-size, newer 1/1 metal-sash window set in a brick-silled opening. Below this is a brick-filled historic opening. A skyway from neighboring 501 Chestnut Street attaches to 509 Chestnut Street at the mid-point of its east wall.

This building is first identified in city directories as the Mattson Block. By 1915, the building appeared on Sanborn maps as an undertaker's place of business. In 1918, the

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Graham Funeral Home moved into the building and remained there until Pepelnjak's Meats, Groceries and Bakery transferred into the building in 1931. City directories indicate that the building was then known as the Graham Block, as well as the Steve Kapetas Block. By 1939, the building housed the Granada Shoppe in addition to the Pepelnjak Grocery. The Granada Shoppe was no longer at this location by 1943, but the Pepelnjak Grocery remained through at least 1951. By 1962, the building was occupied by Dostal Electric and an artist, Thomas Rohn. The current tenant is the Mirage Bar.<sup>72</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Senior Citizen Center

**Address:** 511 Chestnut Street

**Date:** ca. 1990

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

Constructed around 1990, this one-story, rectangular-plan building has a flat roof. It has a light-brown stone base, stone trim, and brick facade. The west wall is covered with green-painted corrugated sheet metal. The storefront consists of four plate-glass windows with metal muntins. Stone trims the windows. On the left side of the facade is a recessed entry with a glass-and-metal door with transom light and sidelight; the entry is topped with a smaller plate-glass window. Above the windows is a projected strip of metal that runs the full width of the facade. On the west wall, there are five second-floor, single-pane windows and four larger first-floor single-pane windows.

The present building stands on the site once occupied by the Granada Theater, which was constructed in the 1930s. By 1943, the building also contained an optometrist's office, which had been replaced in the 1950s by the Range Electric Shaver Shop, later known as Chase's Shaver Shop and Gourmet Treasures. The shaver shop remained at this location through the mid-1960s. The Granada Theater was destroyed after 1967, though a more precise date is not known. The present building is occupied by the Senior Citizen Center.<sup>73</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building (razed)

**Current Name:** vacant lot

**Address:** 515-517 Chestnut Street

**Date:**

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

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The Elks Building stood on this 50- by 120-foot vacant lot from 1912 through 1982, when it was destroyed by fire. In its early years, the building housed a hardware shop, the Bill Dodge Garage, and the printing shop of a local newspaper, the *Daily Virginian*. By the early 1940s, the F.S. Kelly Furniture Company was located in the building, followed by the Rupp Furniture Store by 1962. At the time of the fire, the Elks Building was occupied by the Ringer's Athletic Sports Store.<sup>74</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Virginia Youth Center  
**Address:** 516 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1908  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 25- by 80-foot, two-story, cream-brick building was constructed in 1908. It has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. A large metal cornice with a strip of dark-colored molding below it is mounted at the base of the parapet. The three second-floor windows, which are 1/1 double-hung overlapping sash with four-pane storms, are set in stone-silled flat-arch openings surmounted by a decorative course that extends across the facade. A simple brick corbel table lies between the windows and the cornice. The remodeled recessed storefront consists of plate-glass windows, a wood-and-glass door, black architectural glass above and below the windows, and white plastic panels on the side columns. On the far right side of the storefront is a wood-and-glass door that provides access to the second floor.

For several years after its construction, this building contained city offices, among them the Water and Light Department. The building also housed the Virginia Club. By 1939, the upper floor of the building provided meeting space for the American Legion. Braman's Music Company was opened in the building in 1949, and later its name was changed to the Beddow Music Company. This business remained in the building through at least 1962, despite damage by a 1946 fire. Currently, the building houses the Virginia Youth Center.<sup>75</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Sherwin Williams (518) / Goodwill (520)  
**Address:** 518-520 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1947-1948  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

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Constructed between 1947 and 1948, this 50- by 120-foot, one-story, brownish-red wire-cut-brick building has a flat gravel roof and concrete foundation. There is metal coping on the parapet. Both the left and right storefronts angle slightly toward the center and feature plate-glass windows with yellow tiles below them and a glass-and-metal door. Between the storefronts is an area of smooth yellow brick.

The present building stands on a site that was partially occupied by a domicile for the first couple of decades after the fire of 1900. By 1929, however, the two-lot site appeared on Sanborn maps as an auto sales yard. This designation remained on the 1944 Sanborn map. City directories from the early 1940s show that the present building first housed the Reliance Motor Company, which had occupied the building to the west since 1921. By 1951, it appears that the Reliance Motor Company had expanded its business to also occupy part of the building to the east, 516 Chestnut Street. Reliance was not longer at this location by 1962. By then, Hejda's TV and Record Center had moved into the building. Currently, the building's tenants are Goodwill and Sherwin Williams.<sup>76</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Supreme Court / Arrowhead Apt Mgmt Agcy / North State Bank

**Address:** 519-521 Chestnut Street

**Date:** ca. 1922

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, dark-brown brick building has a flat roof and concrete foundation. It is rectangular in plan, covering an area of 75 by 120 feet. Brick columns divide the building into four bays. On the second floor, each bay holds a set of newer paired plate-glass windows flanked by single plate-glass windows, set in a stone-silled opening. A three-course brick corbel table runs above each set of windows. The first floor appears as follows: the left-most bay has a storefront with plate-glass windows and a glass-and-metal door; the second bay has plate-glass windows, but no entry; the third bay consists of a recessed entry that is covered with wood paneling and features paired orange 18-panel wood doors; and the fourth bay has a glass-and-metal door with two paired plate-glass windows on either side. Two brick medallions mark the upper corners of the buildings and orange-painted metal coping tops the parapet.

This building was constructed between the drawing of the 1921 Sanborn map and the occupancy of the building by the Boyle and Mather Automobile Agency in 1923. Boyle and Mather moved from Eveleth, Minnesota to Virginia in 1921. Originally located at 103-105

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Chestnut Street, the business moved to 519-523 Chestnut Street in 1923. By 1967, the same company was still located in the building, but had changed its name to Herb Anderson Motors. The building is currently occupied by the Supreme Court (an athletic facility), the Arrowhead Apartment Management Agency, and the North State Bank.<sup>77</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building  
**Current Name:** Queen City Sports Palace  
**Address:** 523-525 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1924  
**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This two-story, brick building with a concrete foundation and flat roof was constructed in 1924. It has an addition of 50 by 45 feet to the back of the building. The facade has been remodeled with dark-brown brick, and corrugated metal siding has been applied to the second floor. A large illuminated sign has been mounted above the recessed entry, which consists of paired glass-and-metal doors with a sidelight to the right. The west wall, which is visible above neighboring 529-531 Chestnut Street, is comprised of light-brown brick.

This building was constructed by the Loyal Order of Moose in 1924, and has since been recognized as the Moose Hall. In the late 1930s, the Jenia Brothers Company occupied the building. By 1941, the Hoover Company had joined Jenia Brothers. Then, both businesses were replaced by a hardware store, the Central Supply and Appliance Company, by 1948. The hardware store remained through at least 1962. Queen City Sports Palace is the current tenant of the Moose Hall; lodge meetings continue to be held in the upper levels.

**Historic Name:** Garage  
**Current Name:** G.W. Tucker Photographic Studio  
**Address:** 524 Chestnut Street  
**Date:** 1915  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 50- by 120-foot, one-story, dark-brown wire-cut-brick building with a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation was constructed in 1915. Metal coping tops the parapet, which has several courses of smooth replacement brick close to the roofline. Below the parapet is a light-colored stone building marker that reads "Garage." The single storefront has been remodeled with large plate-glass windows, a recessed glass-and-metal door, newer brick

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below the windows, and a blue corrugated-metal-covered transom area. To the left and right are single columns of long, light-colored bricks.

This building was originally constructed as a garage. In 1921, the Reliance Motor Company moved into the building and remained there through at least 1951. By 1962, it appears to have been occupied by the Virginia Plumbing and Heating Company and the Lindsay Soft Water Company. Currently, the building's tenant is the G.W. Tucker Photographic Studio.<sup>78</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Rocket Liquors

**Address:** 528 Chestnut Street

**Date:** 1917

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1917, this 75- by 120-foot, dark-brown wire-cut-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. The building now features a deeply recessed storefront at its northwest corner. A brick corbel table and stone coping decorate the parapet. All twelve flat-arch stone-silled window openings on the second floor's north side have been filled with glass brick, as have the eighteen flat-arch stone-silled openings on the second floor of the west side of the building. The first floor of the west side has a large car-sized bricked-up entry with a wood-filled opening above it, two small six-pane fixed-sash windows with stone sills, three concrete-silled openings that have been filled with wood (these three openings appear to be alterations as they show evidence of cut brick), and a smaller wood-filled entry that may still be functional at the south end. The northwest corner of the first floor is deeply recessed, creating a drive-through for cars. The recess holds a storefront, which consists of single-pane windows with a cream-colored aluminum-siding surround, as well as two glass-and-metal doors, a garage door at the west end, and columns to support the overhanging second floor. A wood-shingled fixed awning is mounted on the north side of the building only.

The present building stands on the site where the Troy Laundry was located until 1913, when it moved to 521 1st Street South. By 1921, the Central Auto Company occupied the new building, which was constructed as a garage in 1917. By 1929, a filling station had been established at the site. City directories indicate that the Brandt Oil Company was housed in the building by 1939, and was joined by Range Auto Parts by 1941. These two businesses remained through at least 1944, but had been replaced by the Virginia Oil Company by 1948. By 1949, the McKenzie Welding Supply Company operated a service station in the

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building, but was likely a part of the Virginia Oil Company, as that business was still listed in the 1951 city directory. Havesto's Drive In Liquors and Havesto's Motor Town Gas Station were the building's tenants by 1962. Presently, Rocket Liquors occupies the building.<sup>79</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: vacant**

**Address: 529-531 Chestnut Street**

**Date: 1939-1946**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Constructed between 1939 and 1946, this one-story building has stuccoed walls and a flat roof with a slight eave. Its irregular plan, rounded corners, and slight eave reflect the Streamline Moderne style. There are two large garage doors, one on the west side and the other in the middle of the south side. The east end of the building has a wood door with fixed single-pane and transom light. On each side of this door, there is a 12-part fixed plate-glass windows with aluminum muntins. The southwest corner of the building, which may be a later addition evidenced by a change in roof construction, features plate-glass windows. A free-standing canopy covers the area where gas pumps were once located.

Prior to the construction of this gas station, a domicile had occupied the site since at least 1908. The gas stations's construction began in 1939, at which point it housed Steve Dassers' Service Station. By 1941, the building was occupied by Minnesota Markets and the Petroleum Products Company. The Petroleum Products Company remained through at least 1943, but had been replaced by the Downtown Cities Service Station by 1948. Between 1951 and 1962, the Mordini and Plutt Gas Station took over occupancy of the building. At present, the building is vacant.

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: Engman Agency (201) / Mr. Jeff's (203)**

**Address: 201-203 1st Street South**

**Date: ca. 1905**

**Eligibility: Non-contributing**

This 50- by 78-foot, two-story, brick-and-stucco building has a flat roof and concrete foundation. A wood cornice appears on the south and east walls. The second-floor windows are either paired or tripled 6/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The south facade has two

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doors at the western end of the building with a decorative wood area above the entries, indicating the possible location of historic transom lights. The western-most storefront has a double-paned plate-glass window and a slightly recessed glass-and-metal door. The eastern-most storefront has large plate-glass windows that wrap around to the east side of the building, where there is a recessed storefront entry with a glass-and-metal door. The recessed walls are covered with red architectural glass. Punctuated by six brick pilasters with stone bases, the east facade features a central brick-silled historic opening, with three brick-silled openings with newer metal-framed windows to its right. There is also an auxiliary glass-and-metal door. A prominent fabric awning with lighting beneath runs the length of the east facade and across the top of the south facade's east storefront.

Sanborn maps indicate that this building was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1908. Prior to the fire of 1900, a domicile was located on this site. By 1904, a smaller boarding house had been built on the site. In July 1906, Mrs. M. Westling opened the Merchants Hotel at 201-203 1st Street South. By 1908, the building shown on the Sanborn map is larger than the building shown in 1904, and is presumably the building that now stands at that location. The Merchants Hotel continued to operate at this site until at least 1929. In 1932, the *Virginia Daily Enterprise*, a local newspaper, moved into the building at 201-203 1st Street South. The 1939-1940 city directory lists the Enterprise Apartments at 203-½ South First Street, and the Enterprise Building at both 201-203 1st Street South and 105-115 Second Avenue South, thus referring to the building once occupied by the Merchants Hotel and the smaller building north of the hotel. At this time, The Enterprise Printing and Publishing Company and the *Virginia Daily Enterprise* occupied the building. By 1948, the *Mesabi Daily News* and the Prin Variety Store had replaced the *Virginia Daily Enterprise*. The Prin Variety Store was replaced by the *Range Facts* newspaper by 1951. Both the *Range Facts* and the *Mesabi Daily News* offices remained at this location through the early 1960s. The Enterprise Printing and Publishing Company remained there until at least 1967. Currently, the tenants are the Engman Agency at 201 1st Street South and Mr. Jeff's Hair Salon at 203 1st Street South.<sup>80</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Italian Bakery

**Address:** 205 1st Street South

**Date:** 1911

**Eligibility:** Contributing

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This 40- by 68-foot, two-story brick building with a flat roof and stone-and-concrete foundation was constructed in 1911. There is a 36- by 52-foot addition to the back of the building. The second floor of the facade has four stone-silled window openings with newer 1/1 metal-sash windows. Above these windows is a blank building marker, set off by decorative brick coursing. A metal cornice runs along the roofline. The first floor has newer sliding plate-glass windows and a glass-and-metal door, with a small glass-brick area between them. The stuccoed west side of the building has several windows on its second and first floors, mostly segmentally arched openings with newer 1/1 metal-sash windows. There is also a newer three-pane bay window on the front floor, close to the front of the building. A garage is attached to the rear of the building.

After the fire in 1900, a smaller building containing a bakery was built on the site currently occupied by 205 1st Street South. In 1911, the present building, which also housed a bakery, was constructed. From at least 1939 through sometime in the 1950s, the Star Bakery occupied the building. The Italian Bakery, Inc. has occupied the building since at least the early 1960s.

**Historic Name:** Troy Laundry  
**Current Name:** Greiners Troy Laundry  
**Address:** 519-521 1st Street South  
**Date:** ca. 1913  
**Eligibility:** Contributing

This two-story, brown, glazed-brick structure was built around 1913. Dimensions of the original section of the building are 120- by 66-feet. The first-floor windows on the south side consist of three, two-part sliding windows surrounded by horizontal wood siding. On the west side of the first floor, six window openings with slightly projecting sills have been altered by filling with five randomly placed modern windows, horizontal wood siding, and signage. Plate-glass windows flank the angled southwest corner entry. Second-floor window openings contain 6/1 double-hung sash and have projecting sills. Five ornamental metal balconies, anchored by large chains to the wall, project from the second floor. Three of the balconies, those on the west side and the center one on the south side, are accessed by paired French doors flanked by windows. All first-floor door materials have been replaced, although the locations appear to be original. The south side storefront probably had large plate-glass sections originally. Detailing includes the name block on the center of the south side parapet with "Troy" in recessed letters. Terra cotta trims the name block, serves as the cornice and corbel table and is used for coping. A tall, one-story addition, with dimensions of 88- by 26-

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feet, was built around 1924 on the east side. The brick addition has a large garage door opening on the east side of the south facade, and an altered window opening with industrial windows and wood siding on the west half.

The Troy Laundry was established in 1896, and by 1898 was located at the southeast corner of Chestnut Street and 6th Avenue. It remained at this location after the fire of 1900, until the present building at 519-521 1st Street South was constructed for the laundry business. The Troy Laundry, though it has changed ownership over the years and suffered a fire in 1931, remains at this location as Greiner's Troy Laundry.<sup>81</sup>

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building (razed)

**Current Name:** vacant lot

**Address:** 95 2nd Avenue North

**Date:**

**Eligibility:** Non-contributing

This vacant lot was once the site of a brick and stucco building constructed around 1909. The 1910 Sanborn map shows the building to be occupied by a tailor, a cobbler, and a barber, all of which remained through at least 1921. City directories show the building's tenants to have been a variety of small businesses from 1939 through at least 1951. By 1962, however, the building was no longer extant.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** H&R Block(104)/Throwin' Heat(106)/Leiviska Ins(112)/Karlene's(114)

**Address:** 104-106-108-110-112-114 2nd Avenue South

**Date:** 1910

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built in 1910, this two-story, brown-brick building has a flat gravel roof and a stone foundation. The building consists of two sections: a 56- by 25-foot block to the south (104-106-108 2nd Avenue South), and a 64- by 25-foot block to the north (110-112-114 2nd Avenue South). The parapet has been covered with metal coping. The north section has seven replacement stone- or concrete-silled 1/1 double-hung sash windows on the second floor, and two remodeled storefronts. The left storefront has a tripartite sliding window with smooth blond brick below, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a metal-and-vinyl entrance to the second floor. This storefront area has been covered with gray vinyl siding and rough-textured blond brick located between the auxiliary entrance and the store entrance. The right

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storefront has two tripartite windows with brown-painted brick below, a recessed glass-and-metal door, and a metal-and-vinyl auxiliary door on the left. This storefront area has also been covered with gray vinyl siding. There is no decorative brickwork on the north section of the building. However, the south section has a simple brick corbel table that runs above the six second-floor, segmental-arch window openings with brown-painted stone or concrete keystones and sills. Each of these openings holds a single replacement 1/1 double-hung sash window, except for the second and third openings whose windows are paired replacement 1/1 double-hung sash. The storefront has been covered in gray vinyl siding with blond brick below, and there are two entrances to the retail area: one single-pane metal-and-vinyl door on the left and one glass-and-metal door on the right. Windows include four three-pane basement windows set in the blond brick area, a fixed single-pane window on each side of the left door, and a tripartite sliding window on each side of the right door. To the left of the storefront is a full-arch entry with a keystone. Set within this entry is a recessed pair of white-metal-and-vinyl single-pane doors. The south side of the building has an added one-story, blond-brick entryway with single-pane metal-and-vinyl door that faces west. The second-floor windows are single fixed pane on the left and 1/1 double-hung sash on the right, both with segmental arches and keystones. The left window is topped with a white metal awning.

This building, known as the Turnquist Block since its 1910 construction, originally housed three saloons, a confectionery, and a photography studio. Over the years, the Turnquist Block has played host to a number of businesses, some short-lived, others long-standing. By 1915, it was occupied by two confectioners, a photography studio, an office, and a tailor's shop. The 1921 Sanborn map shows the tenants to be a restaurant, a barbershop, a photography studio, and a millinery. By 1927, the Tenhunen Insurance Agency and Iver's Barber Shop were two of the building's occupants. City directories show that the Arrowhead Insurance Agency and the White Pastry Shop had joined Tenhunen's and Iver's by 1939. By 1941, Ida's Hat Shop, the Malenfant Supply Company, and the Duluth and Iron Range Life and Health Insurance Company were also among the Turnquist Block tenants. Ida's Hat Shop had moved out of the block by 1943, but the other businesses remained. By 1948, Tenhunen's Insurance Agency was no longer present. New businesses included the Clothing Exchange and Lindeman's Shoe Repair Shop. By 1951, Cvek's Paint and Paper had joined the other businesses, as well as a piano teacher, Dorothea Tomes, and Solderholm's Real Estate Company. By 1962, the long-standing White Pastry Shop was no longer operating in the Turnquist Block. Currently, the building is occupied by H & R Block, Throwin' Heath Sports Cards, the Leiviska Insurance Agency, and Karlene's Glamourworks.<sup>82</sup>

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**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Paul Wellstone (105) / Biss Repair Shop (107) / (109)

**Address:** 105-107-109 2nd Avenue South

**Date:** 1923

**Eligibility:** Contributing

This 42- by 49-foot, two-story, brown brick building with a flat roof and concrete foundation was built in 1923. A wood cornice and tile coping decorate the parapet. On the second floor, there is a central mass of three historic openings now holding newer 1/1 wood-sash windows, each topped with a brick-filled area. Coupled 3/1 wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows lie on each side of the central mass. The first floor features two newer plate-glass storefronts and an auxiliary recessed entry on the left, all flanked by brick columns. The north wall has 3/1 double-hung wood sash windows on the second floor, and 2/1 double-hung wood sash windows on the first floor. There are also boarded brick-silled historic openings and a wood door.

Prior to the fire of 1900, this site was occupied by a domicile. After the fire, the site remained vacant until a small building containing a cobbler shop appears on the 1910 Sanborn map. The current building does not appear on Sanborn maps until 1929, when it is shown to be occupied by a sign printing shop and other unidentified stores. This building was identified as the Enterprise Building, with the address of 105-115 2nd Avenue South, in the city directories from 1939 through 1944. It is probable that the Enterprise Building comprised not only the building currently identified as 105-107-109 2nd Avenue South, but also the building adjacent to its south side, once the Merchants Hotel. Directory listings at the Enterprise Building indicated occupancy by individuals, professional offices, and stores, including the Biss Repair Shop which remains at 107 2nd Avenue South. By 1948, the Enterprise Building was listed only at 107 2nd Avenue South. The building continued to house a variety of stores and professional offices through at least 1962. Current tenants include the office of Senator Paul Wellstone (105) and the Biss Repair Shop (107). It appears that 109 2nd Avenue South may be the address used for apartments on the second floor.

**Historic Name:** Commercial Building

**Current Name:** Buttons & Bows

**Address:** 107 4th Avenue North

**Date:** ca. 1912

**Eligibility:** Contributing

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This 45- by 50-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and concrete-block foundation. A brick corbel table decorates the roofline. The windows on the second floor, which have a continuous stone sill running beneath them, are 6/1 double-hung wood sash with newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. The center window has a segmental arch. The first floor features two recessed storefronts with plate-glass windows, an original glass-and-wood door, and decorative tiling in the entry. A wood door with decorative wood post-and-lintel trim separates the two storefronts. Above the storefronts runs a newer, wood-shingled, fixed awning that wraps a few feet around the north and south sides of the building.

This building was constructed sometime between the drawing of the 1910 and 1915 Sanborn maps. Prior to its construction, a smaller commercial building, whose tenants varied through the years, occupied the site. By 1915, a plumber and a sporting goods store had moved into the building. By 1921, a sign printing shop had replaced the sporting goods store. From at least 1939 through at least 1951, Royal Cleaners occupied the building. By 1962, the building was vacant. Currently, Buttons and Bows is the building's tenant.

**Historic Name:** P.A. Coffey Building

**Current Name:** Credit Bureau, Inc.

**Address:** 103 5th Avenue North

**Date:** ca. 1920

**Eligibility:** Contributing

Built around 1920, this 25- by 58-foot, two-story, brick building has a flat roof and stone foundation. At the roofline, there is a decorative metal cornice with the shadow of lettering reading "P.A. Coffey." The second floor has three brick-silled, 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows with newer 1/1 metal-sash storms. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, dark-brown brick, and a recessed glass-and-metal door. To the right is a newer wood auxiliary door with transom light. The south wall, which has been painted beige, features three second-floor segmental-arch openings with 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows, the first two of which have newer 1/1 metal-sash storms. Beyond these windows is a historic segmental-arch opening that has been filled with brick, and is partially overlapped by a flat-arch opening with a 1/1 double-hung wood-sash window and newer 1/1 metal-sash storm window. The first floor has two brick-silled, segmental-arch openings with 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows and newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. On the east side of the building, there is a newer two-story addition with white aluminum siding on the second floor and wood siding on the first floor. Some segmental-arch windows with 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows are still visible on each side of this addition. The north side of the

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building has three windows, two of which have brick-silled, segmental-arch openings with 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows and newer 1/1 metal-sash storm windows. A third window is obscured by a neighboring building.

Before the present building occupied this site, there was a domicile, documented by the 1900 Sanborn map. By 1915, the lot was vacant. The present building, which was at one point called the P.A. Coffey Building, was first identified as a plumbing store constructed sometime between 1915 and 1921. The Virginia Plumbing and Heating Company occupied the building from at least 1939 through at least 1951. By 1962, the building's tenant was the Downtown Launderette. Currently, Credit Bureau, Inc. occupies the building.<sup>83</sup>

**Historic Name: Commercial Building**

**Current Name: The Dugout**

**Address: 106 5th Avenue South**

**Date: 1906**

**Eligibility: Contributing**

Built in 1906, this 24- by 102-foot, two-story building is constructed of dark-red brick. The building has a flat gravel roof and stone foundation. Along the face of the parapet, there are detailed stone brackets with a simple brick corbel table below. The three second-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung sash with metal-framed combination windows mounted on the outside, with stone lintels and sills. The storefront has been remodeled with plate-glass windows, a white architectural-glass surround, black architectural-glass around the bottom of the storefront, and a recessed wood-and-glass door. Green-and-white tiles surround the door. Above the door, the name "Ecklund's" has been painted in green. An auxiliary wood-and-glass door located on the right side of the storefront provides access to the second floor. On the north side of the building, part of the parapet is missing, and several openings appear; on the second floor, there are eleven 1/1 double-hung sash windows with lintels and sills, and on the first floor, there are five openings with stone lintels and sills. Three openings appear to have been added at a later date or modified. A 1/1 double-hung sash window with brick sill and a 1/1 double-hung sash window with concrete sill flank a central wood door. The northeast corner of the building is angled.

This building sits on a lot that was occupied by a domicile from the time immediately after the fire of 1900 through at least 1904. The present building was constructed in 1906 as an "electric theatre," later identified as the Orpheum Theatre. By 1915, the theater was no longer at this location, and the building stood vacant. However, a confectionery and fruit

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shop were housed there by 1921. In 1946, the Tot Shop opened in the building and remained there through at least 1962. Presently, the building's tenant is the Dugout Sports Cards Shop.<sup>84</sup>

NOTES

1. The bulk of information on each building was drawn from material on file at the Iron Range Research Center (IRRC), located in Chisholm, Minnesota, and the Virginia Area Historical Society in Virginia, Minnesota. Data was also gathered during a field survey of each property. Historical city assessor's records, entitled "Platted Real Property Assessment," are found at the IRRC and were valuable to this study. The following Sanborn Insurance Maps also provided information: 1897, 1900, 1904, 1908, 1911, 1915, 1921, 1929, and 1929 (correction record 1944). Also important were the following Virginia city directories: 1899, 1901, 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1910-1911, 1912-1913, 1915, 1917, 1922, 1924, 1927, 1939-1940, 1941-1942, 1943-1944, 1948, 1951, and 1962. Additional sources will be noted in the description of each property as appropriate.
2. *The Virginia Story* (Virginia, MN: n.p., 1949), 50.
3. Jeff Damm and Frank Miro, *On the Scene: Virginia Fire Department, A Century of Firefighting* (N.p.: Jostens Publishing Co., 1993), 40; *The Virginia Story*, 54, 58.
4. *The Virginia Story*, 50, 59; *Range Facts*, 12 February 1948; *Mesabi Daily News*, 18 April 1978.
5. *The Virginia Story*, 56.
6. Damm and Miro, 72.
7. *The Virginia Story*, 64.
8. *Ibid.*, 49.
9. *Ibid.*, 64.
10. *Ibid.*, 55.

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11. Ibid., 50, 56; *Historical Souvenir Booklet of the 1892-1967 Virginia Diamond Days Celebration* (Virginia, MN: Diamond Jubilee Celebration Publication Committee, 1967), 46.
12. *The Virginia Story*, 62.
13. Ibid., 53.
14. Ibid., 53, 58; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 51.
15. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 52.
16. Ibid., 51.
17. *The Virginia Story*, 55; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 51.
18. *The Virginia Story*, 54; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 46; Damm and Miro, 79.
19. *The Virginia Story*, 51.
20. Ibid., 63.
21. Ibid., 64; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 46.
22. *The Virginia Story*, 51, 61.
23. Ibid., 51.
24. Ibid., 56, 59; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 51.
25. *The Virginia Story*, 61.
26. Ibid., 53, 61; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 51.
27. *The Virginia Story*, 51.
28. Ibid.; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 54; Damm and Miro, 40; photographs, "Chestnut Street ca. 1920" and "Chestnut Street ca. 1940," at the Iron Range Research Center,

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Chisholm, MN.

29. Damm and Miro, 55.
30. *The Virginia Story*, 51.
31. Ibid., 54.
32. *The Virginia Story*, 51, 54; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 54.
33. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48.
34. Lora Lee Curtis, *Virginia Centennial Album* (N.p., 1992), 19.
35. Damm and Miro, 38, 42.
36. *The Virginia Story*, 49; Walter Van Brunt, ed., *Duluth and St. Louis County Minnesota: Their Story and People* (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1921), 2:597; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 53; photograph, "First National Bank, Virginia, Minnesota, ca. 1939," at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN; *Range Facts*, 30 March 1951.
37. Damm and Miro, 40; *The Virginia Story*, 51, 57; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 46, 50.
38. *The Virginia Story*, 50.
39. Damm and Miro, 33, 44; photograph, "Metropolitan Stores, November 29, 1921, Virginia, Minnesota," at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN.
40. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 54; *The Virginia Story*, 64.
41. *The Virginia Story*, 51; Van Brunt, 597; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 52-53.
42. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48.
43. *The Virginia Story*, 54.

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44. Ibid., 55.
45. Ibid., 53; *Historical Souvenir Bulletin*, 48, 54; Supplement to *The Virginian*, 30 August 1907.
46. *The Virginia Story*, 50, 57, 59; *Historical Souvenir Bulletin*, 46; Damm and Miro, 45.
47. Damm and Miro, 29; *The Virginia Story*, 63.
48. *Historical Souvenir Bulletin*, 46.
49. *The Virginia Story*, 53.
50. *Virginia in the Great State of Minnesota* (N.p., 1912), n.p.
51. *The Virginia Story*, 57, 63-64; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48, 53.
52. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48.
53. Ibid., 53; Damm and Miro, 26.
54. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48; *The Virginia Story*, 61; Damm and Miro, 75.
55. *The Virginia Story*, 54.
56. Photograph, "Fourth of July Parade, Virginia, Minnesota, looking east on Chestnut Street from Fifth Avenue, 1912," at Virginia Area Historical Society; photograph, "400 block Chestnut Street looking east, Virginia, Minnesota," at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 50.
57. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 47.
58. David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, *A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977), 210; photograph, "Chestnut Street, Virginia, Minnesota, ca. 1920," at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN.
59. *The Virginia Story*, 50, 55.

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60. Damm and Miro, 45.
61. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 52.
62. Damm and Miro, 54; *The Virginia Story*, 60-61.
63. *The Virginia Story*, 61, 64.
64. *Ibid.*, 50-51; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 51, 54.
65. *The Virginia Story*, 58-59.
66. *Ibid.*, 59.
67. Van Brunt, 598.
68. *The Virginia Story*, 57.
69. Damm and Miro, 37, 47-48; *Duluth News-Tribune*, 27 June 1948; *Range Facts*, 30 June 1950; *Mesabi Daily News*, 12 May 1951.
70. Photograph, "Chestnut Street, ca. 1948," at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN.
71. *The Virginia Story*, 50-51, 54, 59, 61; *Mesabi Daily News*, 13 September 1961; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 46-47.
72. *The Virginia Story*, 51, 54.
73. *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 50.
74. *Ibid.*; Damm and Miro, 515-517.
75. *The Virginia Story*, 60; Damm and Miro, 51.
76. *The Virginia Story*, 59; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 46.

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77. *The Virginia Story*, 50; *Historical Souvenir Bulletin*, 49.
78. *The Virginia Story*, 59.
79. *Ibid.*, 54, 58; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48.
80. Marvin Skaurud, "A History of Virginia, Minnesota" (M.A. thesis, University of Minnesota, 1941), Chapter 1, p. 4; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 53.
81. *The Virginia Story*, 58; *Historical Souvenir Booklet*, 48; Damm and Miro, 40.
82. *The Virginia Story*, 55, 58.
83. *The Virginia Story*, 50, 57, 59; *Range Facts*, 12 February 1948; *Mesabi Daily News*, 18 April 1978.
84. *The Virginia Story*, 50.

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### Architect/Builder (continued)

Puck, Anthony W.

Damberg, Paul S. and Damberg, Reuben

### Statement of Significance

#### Introduction

Virginia is located in northern Minnesota on the Mesabi Range, the most prolific iron ore mining region in the country. Discovery of the mineral in the late nineteenth century stimulated the establishment and growth of Virginia and a string of other towns along the ore veins. The area claimed another natural resource, vast virgin forests containing valuable stands of white pine. Hence, lumbering also propelled the area's development. A framework for understanding how these forces affected the early evolution of Virginia's commercial district is provided by the statewide contexts "Minnesota's Iron Ore Industry (1880s-1945)" and "Northern Minnesota Lumbering (1870-1930s)." With the decline of these industries, the reforestation of cut-over land, and the rapid rise of automobile ownership in the United States, tourism began to play a more prominent role in sustaining Virginia's economy. This activity can be assessed within the context of "Minnesota Tourism and Recreation in the Lake Regions (1870s-1945)."<sup>1</sup> Since the 1950s, intermittent demand for lower-grade ore for taconite production has continued mining's influence on the city's development. Today, Virginia's downtown serves as a representative example of an early twentieth-century commercial district, and as a unique reflection of the city's past. The Virginia Commercial Historic District is thus eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, with significance in the area of Commerce.

#### Virginia is Born

In the late nineteenth century, before the discovery of the state's iron ranges, large areas of northern Minnesota were owned by lumber concerns. Their speculation on the future value of the area's virgin white pine forests earned a substantially higher return than anticipated when mining companies rushed to acquire the land's mineral rights.<sup>2</sup>

Ore deposits were first shipped from the Vermilion Range, northeast of the Mesabi Range, in 1884. In 1892, the Mountain Iron Mine was the first to produce ore from the Mesabi

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Range. In the same year, iron ore deposits were discovered in the hills near present-day Virginia, and Alfred E. Humphrey, who owned large tracts of land in the area, came to examine his holdings. He and a group of speculators quickly platted the original townsite of Virginia. The grid of rectangular blocks occupied relatively flat terrain between the future site of the Missabe Mountain Mine, on the east, to a pond, later christened Silver Lake, on the west.<sup>3</sup>

A sawmill established in September 1892 began turning trees chopped from the village site into lumber, but was unable to keep up with the demand. Equipment for a larger mill, however, could not be delivered until December, when the rough trails providing the only access to the remote site were supplemented by railroad tracks. The railroad spurred Virginia's growth by offering relatively quick and easy transport of labor and supplies to the town. By June 1893, the population had reached nearly 5,000. In April 1895, Virginia was incorporated as a city.<sup>4</sup>

Even more importantly, the railroad efficiently exported mined ore to Lake Superior docks for shipment to Eastern steel mills. Production on the entire Mesabi Range jumped from 4,245 tons of ore in 1892 to 613,620 tons in 1893, then tripled to 1.79 million tons in 1894. The following year, the Mesabi shipped more iron ore than any other range in the United States, and the amount of ore extracted continued to climb for many years. The largest group of mines on the Mesabi was clustered near Virginia. By 1895, mining authority Horace V. Winchell noted that the town had become "the metropolis of the range."<sup>5</sup>

Not surprisingly, this galloping growth was accompanied by problems. In June 1893, a fire destroyed the tinderbox town. Coupled with a nationwide financial panic in that year, population declined and did not recover until after the turn of the century. The community rebuilt itself with timber supplied by the burgeoning local lumber industry, only to watch most of the commercial district burn again in 1900.<sup>6</sup> Ironically, the fire sowed the seeds for Virginia's commercial success.

### Queen City of the Range

Wary of what another fire would mean to the city's future, the city council passed an ordinance declaring that all buildings on Chestnut Street, the main commercial thoroughfare, be built of solid brick or faced with brick veneer. The downtown district, as a result, appeared to be more permanent and imposing than was typical of communities in the region,

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which helped to ensconce Virginia as the leading commercial center for both the Mesabi and Vermilion ranges.<sup>7</sup>

Chestnut Street's role as the axis of commercial activity was well established before the fire. In 1894, it was the first street to be illuminated, with fifteen arc lights creating a "white way" between 1st and 6th avenues. That same year, wooden sidewalks were built along both sides of the street. Due to heavy traffic and harsh weather conditions, however, the unpaved roadway was often nearly impassable. Finally in 1906, Chestnut Street was lined with creosoted wood blocks, becoming the first paved road in the city.<sup>8</sup>

The handsome brick Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific Depot (listed in the National Register in 1979), built in 1913, provided a focal point at Chestnut's western terminus. The Duluth, Missabe and Northern Station (demolished) was on Chestnut east of 1st Avenue. These stations accommodated two of the four railroads that stopped in Virginia by 1907, making it the only city north of Duluth to boast such service.<sup>9</sup>

One- to three-story buildings filled most blocks between the two stations during the first decades of the twentieth century. Development initially concentrated on the eastern end of Chestnut Street, moving west as lots filled. The Phoenix (127 Chestnut), the Svea Block (201-203 Chestnut), and the Medical Block (216-218 Chestnut) exemplify the types of buildings constructed immediately after the fire. The Trampush Block (113 Chestnut), the Roman Building (234 Chestnut), and 404-406 Chestnut are typical of buildings erected later that decade. Buildings characteristic of those constructed during the second decade of the twentieth century include the Roman Block (204-206 Chestnut), the Frank Klink Block (423-425 Chestnut), and 528 Chestnut. In general, these buildings are architecturally unpretentious. Ornamentation is primarily limited to name and date blocks, shallow pilasters, and cornices of metal or corbeled brick. While some of the storefronts might once have displayed decorative features, virtually none of the original storefronts remain.<sup>10</sup>

The rapid reconstruction of the downtown after the conflagration in 1900 was stimulated by the economic impact of one of Virginia's periodic booms, with the population rocketing from 2,962 at the time of the fire to 10,473 by 1910. This 254 percent surge was the largest witnessed by any Minnesota city in that decade.<sup>11</sup> The growth was driven, in part, by tremendous expansion in the lumber industry. Virginia was headquarters for the Virginia and Rainy Lake Company, controlled by lumber barons Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Edward Hines. By 1909, the company's Virginia sawmill was the largest processor of white pine in the world. At its peak, the lumber industry's work force sometimes exceeded that of mining,

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which also had a seemingly insatiable need for laborers.<sup>12</sup> Before the turn of the century, experienced workers from Michigan mines, typically of English and Scottish descent, migrated first to the Vermilion Range and then to the Mesabi, where they became the upper class of mine labor, claiming the positions of foremen, shift bosses, and mining captains. More recent immigrants began at the bottom, performing physically demanding, and sometimes dangerous, tasks. Immigrants were also employed in the lumber mills. In the early twentieth century, Virginia's population was almost evenly split between American and foreign born: of the city's 6,056 inhabitants in 1905, 3,059 were immigrants. The largest group, numbering almost 1,200, came from Finland. Swedes were a distant second at 557, with an additional 296 from Norway. Germans and Austrians totalled 120 and 136, respectively. Nearby Canada contributed 337 residents to Virginia. Denmark, Ireland, England, Russia, Poland, and a variety of other countries each had less than 100 representatives in the city. As one observer noted: "The crescent shaped hills surrounding the community resounded with the babel of more than thirty alien tongues during this period."<sup>13</sup>

This diverse customer base, plus the needs of the mining and lumber companies, were served by the downtown business district that emerged from the ashes of the 1900 fire. Harness and livery operations in the 100 block of Chestnut were displaced by automobile sales and repair shops in the 1910s. Further west, restaurants, saloons, clothing retailers, tailors, confectioneries, and other merchants filled street-level storefronts. Professional offices, meeting halls, repair and other service businesses, and lodgings occupied the upper stories.

Particularly manifold among the Chestnut Street businesses in the early twentieth century were the saloons. A saloon had been one of the first buildings erected in Virginia when the railroad arrived, quickly earning a place as a community center. As the population grew, so did the number of saloons. These establishments offered far more than liquid refreshment for tired, homesick laborers. Typically, each saloon catered to a single ethnic group, providing a place where immigrants could speak in their mother tongue, exchange information and seek aid. According to one historian, "saloon owners were often advisors to their customers, helping them to find jobs, assisting with money transactions, and locating legal help if necessary. As the immigrants got established, the saloons had the function of housing political meetings, wedding parties, [and] ethnic gatherings." The same was true for grocery stores, some of which "looked more like a gathering of friends than a place to shop."<sup>14</sup>

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Some business owners leased space on Chestnut Street, while others erected buildings for their own use and for rental. The most notable of the early twentieth-century developers was Marcus L. Fay, a businessman with mining interests, who reinvested his earnings in the city. After the fire in 1900, Fay was an advocate of fireproof materials for new construction. He demonstrated his faith in Virginia by building three new brick structures: the Fay Hotel, the Fay Opera House, and the Fay Block. Of these, only the Fay Block (323-325 Chestnut) is still standing, although its facade has been completely altered.<sup>15</sup>

Jewish businessmen were also prominent in rebuilding the fire-ravaged downtown. Jews began moving to Virginia when the mines opened; by 1910, 121 Jews lived in Virginia, comprising 1.2 percent of the total population. Unlike other ethnic groups, few labored in the mines. According to historian Marilyn Chiat, "the majority of Jewish wage earners on the Range were merchants. Clothing and drygoods were the most popular stores, followed by grocery, furniture, hardware, and jewelry."<sup>16</sup> This proclivity is evident in downtown Virginia. Julius and Morris Shanedling developed the Shanedling Building (226 Chestnut, built 1904), the Mesaba Block (311 Chestnut, built 1905), and, in 1913, the building at 301 Chestnut that originally housed the Shanedling Clothing Company. Just down the block at 321 Chestnut, Joseph Garon opened the Golden Rule, another clothing store, when the building was completed in 1904. The Milavetz family was also involved with retail operations and building development, and David Milavetz established the Arrowhead News Company in 1919. Joseph Roman erected the Roman Building at 234 Chestnut in 1904, and the Roman Block at 204-206 Chestnut in 1914, embellishing both buildings with plaques bearing his name.<sup>17</sup>

The city's largest ethnic group, the Finns, were also leaders in the business community. An historian writing in 1941 observed that "some of the most progressive business houses in Virginia are in the hands of Finnish merchants, thoroughly Americanized." He added: "The Finns have entered with zest into the American contest of money making." One of the most successful in Virginia was John Ketola, who came to the United States as a young boy. He worked throughout his school days, then labored on harvest gangs in the Dakotas. He finally landed in Virginia where, in 1905, he founded Ketola and Company, a general store selling furniture, clothing, household wares, and groceries. Ketola's brothers and, later, his sons, helped manage the store at 322-324 Chestnut Street, as well as a branch in International Falls and a separate furniture shop in Virginia. By 1955, the stores grossed \$1 million and employed a staff of 91. Ketola had a number of competitors including, by the 1920s, Koski's Hardware and Furniture at 128-130 Chestnut Street. Koski was at some point a partner with Kalle Pelto, one of the earliest Finnish merchants in Virginia, who highlighted

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his ethnicity by naming his business the Finnish Hardware Store. Savolainen Jewelers, located at 222 Chestnut Street, maintained a \$35,000 inventory by the late 1910s. The Savolainen brothers operated a branch store at 407 Chestnut during the 1940s and 1950s.<sup>18</sup>

A different cohort of Finnish immigrant society was devoted to socialism, organized labor, and the cooperative movement. The Workmen's Trading Company was established in 1909; it was rechristened the Virginia Cooperative Society in 1936. The group's first store was apparently on Chestnut Street, but was soon moved to a less expensive space nearer "Finntown," an ethnic enclave. City directories list the Virginia Co-op Clothing Store at 315 Chestnut during the 1950s, and the Range Co-operative Federation Automobile Dealership, a Studebaker affiliate, at 102 Chestnut in the early 1940s.<sup>19</sup>

The vitality of all businesses in Virginia was largely linked to the prosperity of the lumbering and mining industries. Lumbering's contribution essentially stopped with the closing of the Virginia and Rainy Lake sawmill in October 1929. Historian Agnes Larson described the finale: "As the last log was cut, a long blast from the plant whistle sounded a requiem for an industry that had been to a great extent the life of the community."<sup>20</sup> Activity at the iron mines fluctuated in response to the health of the nation's steel industry, which diminished markedly with the onset of the Depression. Improvements in technology also decreased the size of the work force. Steam shovels, for example, which required an operating crew of 80, were replaced in 1923 by electric shovels, each employing only five men. It was estimated that "in 1910, mines produced 152 tons of ore for every man employed. In 1920 this was increased to 2651 tons, and in 1930 to 4237 tons."<sup>21</sup> Given this vulnerable economic base, Virginia boosters increasingly looked to tourism to help them weather mining industry downturns.

### Gateway to the Great North

Tourism was an important aspect of Virginia's economy from at least the early 1920s. While lumbering and open-pit mining metamorphosed lush landscapes into eerie moonscapes, many pristine natural areas remained in northern Minnesota, drawing visitors from significant distances. In 1922, the Virginia Commercial Club was reorganized and became the Chamber of Commerce. Among its responsibilities was the promotion of the city and the Iron Range to potential tourists throughout the country. The group soon initiated a substantial publicity effort, including the distribution of promotional brochures touting Virginia as "the logical entrance to Minnesota's Northern Playground."<sup>22</sup>

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During the 1930s, despite the Depression, efforts to attract tourism dollars intensified. In 1935, advertisements for Virginia and the Mesabi Range were aired on radio stations in the Twin Cities and Chicago. Billboards promoting Virginia were put up throughout the state. In cooperation with the Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce, 50,000 folders advertising the region were sent out in 1938. Area leaders also tried to capitalize on year-round tourism. At a 1932 conference in Virginia, over 140 attendees discussed ways of promoting winter recreation activities.<sup>23</sup>

Tourists frequented some of the businesses, such as saloons and confectioneries, that had originally been established to serve miners and lumbermen. New ventures appeared specifically catering to the tourism industry, most occupying existing buildings or locating outside of the downtown business area. A brochure issued by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce gushed: "Large complete stocks of the right merchandise, presented courteously and at standard prices are the reasons for Virginia's rise to leadership as the important source of food, apparel, cottage, fishing, hunting and automobile supplies for the vacationist."<sup>24</sup> The only building on Chestnut Street directly related to tourism, the Coates Hotel, was erected between 1949 and 1951, after the close of the downtown's period of historical significance. The hotel was developed by a group of civic leaders to replace the Fay Hotel, which burned down in 1943.

### On the Verge of Transition

In 1941, on the eve of World War II, Virginia continued to serve as a regional trade center, claiming several hundred retail establishments and the second-largest population in the Range area. The region's natural resources drew a substantial tourist trade. The Missabe Mountain retained its title as the world's largest single iron-ore mine in production. By this time, though, the best ore had been removed. Although defense efforts demanded steel at almost any price during the war, justifying the continued operations at mines around Virginia, new techniques for utilizing lower-grade ore were needed to maintain the industry after the Armistice. Breakthroughs in taconite refining in the late 1940s saved northern Minnesota's mining industry, but it never returned to the vigor of the early twentieth century. The onset of World War II in 1941 thus appears to be an appropriate end to the downtown's period of historic significance.<sup>25</sup>

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### NOTES

1. The contexts are described in "Historic Context Outlines: The Post-contact Period Contexts," part of "Minnesota History in Sites and Structures: A Comprehensive Preservation Planning Process," issued by the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, August 1985.
2. *The Industrial Number*, supplement to the *Virginian*, 30 August 1907; Marvin Skaurud, "A History of Virginia, Minnesota" (M.A. thesis, University of Minnesota, 1941), chapter 1, pp. 23-24.
3. Dwight E. Woodbridge and John S. Pardee, eds., *History of Duluth and St. Louis County: Past and Present* (Chicago: C.F. Cooper & Co., 1910), 2:655-656; Skaurud, chapter 1, pp. 28-32.
4. Duane Krenz, "Northern Timber," *Range History* 4 (June 1979): 2; Walter Van Brunt, ed., *Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota* (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1921), 2:602; Hans R. Wasastjerna, ed., *History of the Finns in Minnesota*, trans. Toivo Rosvall (Duluth, MN: Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society, 1957), 416-417.
5. Horace V. Winchell, *The Iron Ranges of Minnesota, prepared for the Third Annual Meeting of the Lake Superior Mining Institute held in Duluth, Virginia and Tower, March 1895* (N.p.: Published by the Institute, 1895), 9, 22; G.O. Virtue, "The Minnesota Iron Range," *Bulletin of the U.S. Bureau of Labor* (N.p., September 1909), 340.
6. Van Brunt, 2:602.
7. "Ordinance No. 25," *Virginia Enterprise*, 15 June 1900; Van Brunt, 2:574; Woodbridge, 2:687.
8. Skaurud, chapter 2, pp. 10-11; chapter 3, p. 20; chapter 4, p. 32.
9. Skaurud, chapter 6, p. 15.

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10. Some of the storefronts were updated in the 1930s and 1940s, and are now of some architectural interest in their own right. Most, however, were given facelifts in recent decades.
11. Marilyn J. Chiat, "Jewish Settlers on Minnesota's Iron Ranges, 1889-1924," in Michael G. Karni, ed., *Entrepreneurs and Immigrants: Life on the Industrial Frontier of Northeastern Minnesota* (N.p.: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, 1991), 66.
12. Agnes M. Larson, *History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1949), 400; "An Epoch of Progress in Northern Minnesota," supplement to the *Daily Virginian*, 3 December 1915, n.p.
13. Quote from Skaurud, chapter 5, pp. 16-17; see also Virtue, 344.
14. Quotes are from Branko M. Colakovic, "Croats and Serbs on Minnesota's Iron Range," in Michael G. Karni, ed., *Entrepreneurs and Immigrants: Life on the Industrial Frontier of Northeastern Minnesota* (N.p.: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, 1991), 89; see also Wasastjerna, 414-415, 443-445.
15. Skaurud, chapter 6, p. 3.
16. Chiat, 67.
17. For information on Jews in Virginia, see Chiat, 65-73; W. Gunther Plaut, *The Jews in Minnesota: The First Seventy-five Years* (New York: American Jewish Historical Society, 1959); and John Syrjamaki, "Mesabi Communities: A Study of Their Development" (Ph.D. diss., Yale University, June 1940), 128-129.
18. Quote from Skaurud, chapter 5, pp. 22-23; see also Wasastjerna, 447-448.
19. Wasastjerna, 443-447.
20. Larson, 235, 400.
21. Skaurud, chapter 5, pp. 3-4.

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22. The brochure is illustrated on page 7 of *The Broadcaster*, the official publication of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, vol. 1 (August 1922). Information on the group's promotional efforts are on page 17 of the same issue.

23. Skaurud, chapter 6, pp. 63-64.

24. Virginia Chamber of Commerce, *Virginia in Minnesota's Arrowhead . . . on the Great Mesaba Iron Range* (Published by the Chamber, ca. 1936), at the Virginia Area Historical Society, Virginia.

25. *The WPA Guide to the Minnesota Arrowhead* (Chicago: A. Whitman, 1941; reprint, St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1988), 154-157.

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**UTM References (continued)**

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
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6	<u>15</u>	<u>535099</u>	<u>5263115</u>	9	<u>15</u>	<u>534672</u>	<u>5263099</u>
7	<u>15</u>	<u>535099</u>	<u>5263240</u>	10	<u>15</u>	<u>534617</u>	<u>5263098</u>

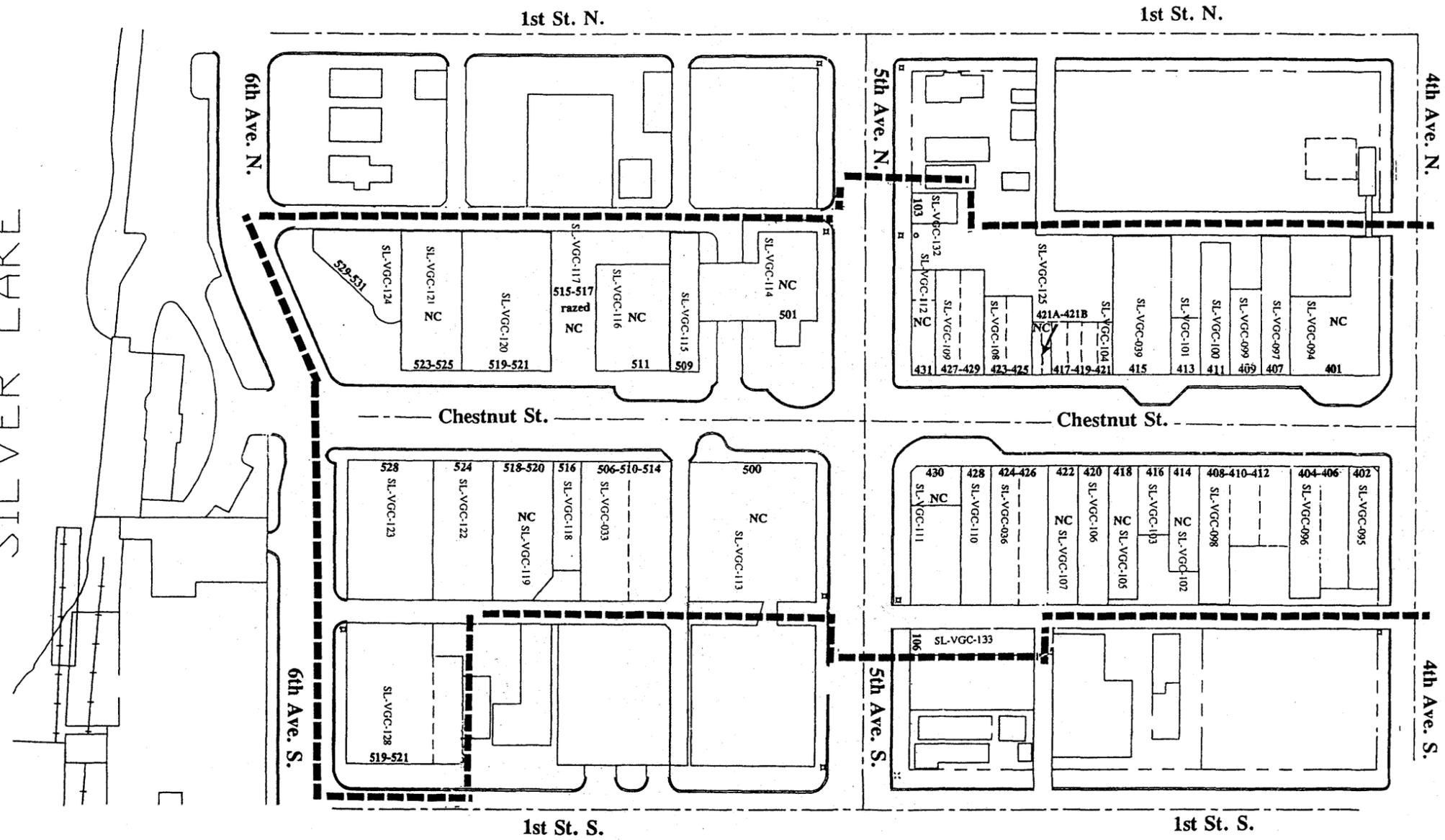
**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Virginia Commercial Historic District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying maps entitled "Virginia Commercial Historic District."

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses all buildings along Chestnut Street between 1st and 6th Avenues. Properties within one-half of a block north and south of Chestnut, along with contiguous commercial buildings on 1st Street South and 2nd Avenue South, are also included. These buildings have served as Virginia's main business center since the turn of the century, and represent a unique and well-defined period of the city's history.

SILVER LAKE



**FIGURE 6: VIRGINIA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
VIRGINIA, SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

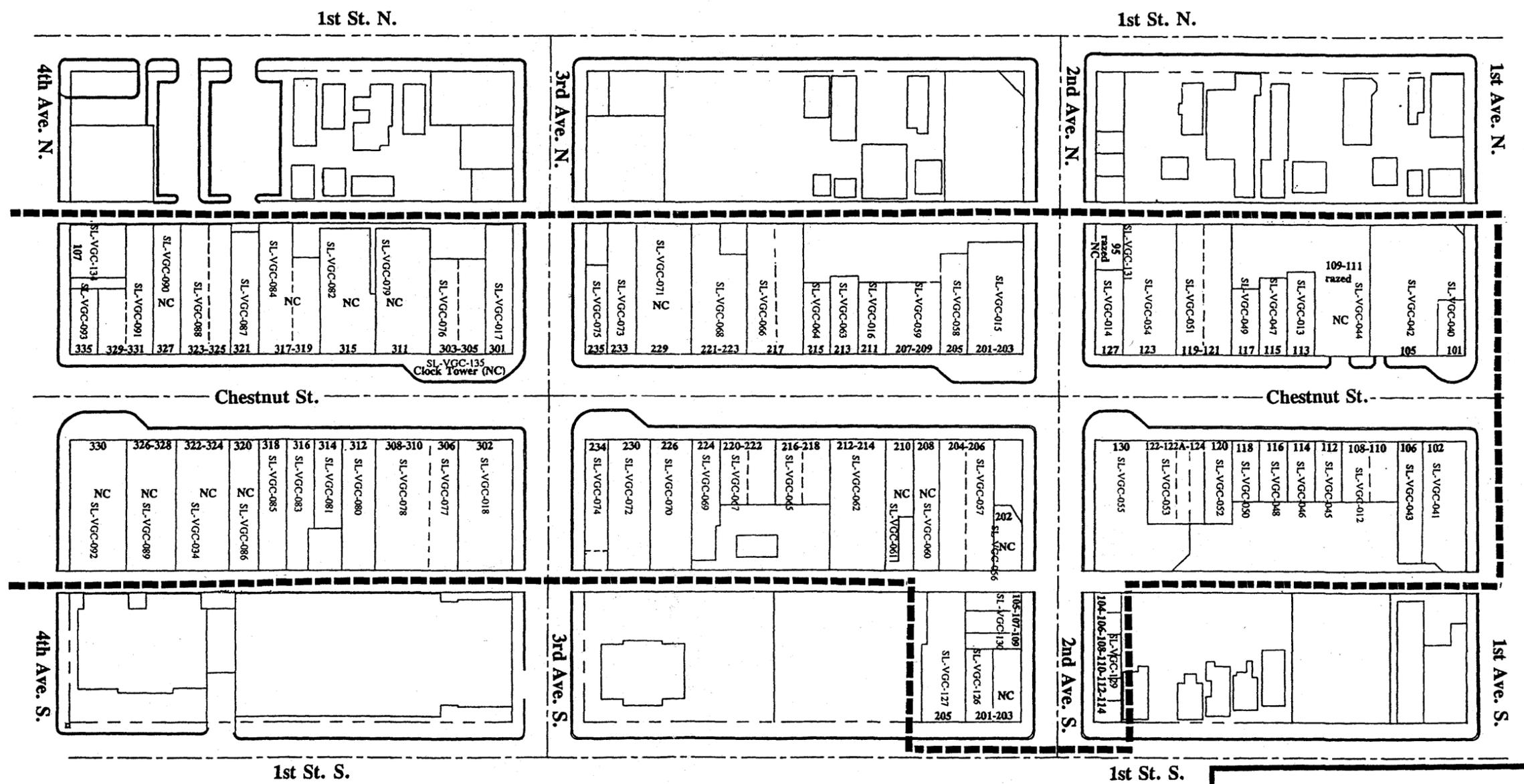
WEST SECTION, 4th Avenue to 6th Avenue

Approximate Scale: 1" = 25'

NC = Noncontributing Element of Historic District  
SHPO Identification Number = SL-VGC-###

Hess, Roise and Company July 1996

Adaptation of Department of Public Utilities Map  
(City of Virginia, 1995)



**FIGURE 5: VIRGINIA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**VIRGINIA, SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**  
EAST SECTION, 1st Avenue to 4th Avenue  
Approximate Scale: .2" = 25'  
NC = Noncontributing Element of Historic District  
SHPO Identification Number = SL-VGC-###  
Hess, Roise and Company July 1996  
Adaptation of Department of Public Utilities Map  
(City of Virginia, 1995)