

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000482

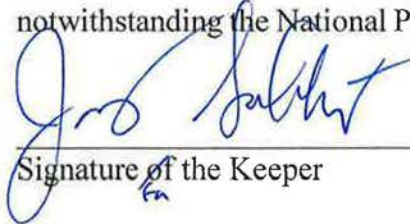
Date Listed: 7/25/2016

Property Name: Crete Downtown Historic District

County: Saline

State: NE

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



Signature of the Keeper

7.25.2016

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2: Street & Number: Amended to read "Roughly bounded by Kingwood Avenue, 11th Street, Norman Avenue, the railroad right-of-way, and 14th Street."

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Crete Downtown Historic District

Other names/site number _____

Name of related multiple property listing _____

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

2. Location

Street & Number See Section 10 for Verbal Boundary Descriptions

City or town Crete

State Nebraska

County Saline

Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D



SHPO/Director

05-31-2016

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____



Signature of Keeper

7-25-2016
Date of Action

Crete Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Saline County, NE
County and State

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>53</u>	<u>14</u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>53</u>	<u>14</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
 See continuation sheet for additional uses

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
 DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
 LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
 MODERN MOVEMENT
 MIXED
 NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STUCCO, CONCRETE, SYNTHETIC Roof

Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE

Name of Property

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Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Crete is the largest community in Nebraska’s Saline County and is located at the northeast corner of the county. Established along the east bank of the Big Blue River, Crete is situated on a level terrace in Crete township (Township 8, Range 4) Sections 29, 33, and 34. During the late nineteenth century, Crete’s business district emerged along the intersection of 13th and Main Streets. Thirteenth Street was later designated as part of Nebraska State Highway 33.

The buildings within the Crete Downtown Historic District are primarily commercial in nature, built for banks, retailers, and service professionals who support the surrounding agricultural industry. The district also includes a limited number of non-commercial buildings, including the Isis Theater, a bowling alley, the Sokol Hall, the city hall, the post office, the Crete Mills, and the Otto Feeken house. In total there are 67 resources in the Crete Commercial; 53 contributing and 14 non-contributing. Additionally, the Sokol Hall was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The Crete Historic District is centered on the intersection of 13th Street and Main Avenue in downtown Crete. This is the commercial center of the community, and both streets are lined with a variety of one and two story commercial, public, and industrial buildings of masonry construction.

Resources in Crete have been surveyed several times over the last 30 years, each time adding to the number of resources considered potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Most recently, the 2015 Saline County Reconnaissance Survey found sufficient integrity in downtown Crete to recommend a district. Information on individual buildings comes from local historian Janet Jeffries, current and former building and business owners and their families, resources available at the Nebraska State Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Office, Sanborn maps and the Saline County tax assessor.

Construction Date and Façade Alteration Dates

Construction dates generally were collected from the assessor, where they are most often attributed to a decade or a half decade, instead of using exact dates. Still, over 50 percent of the buildings within the district date from the 1910s and 1920s. Another third predate this group. Overlaying the original construction are half-a-dozen facade replacements, where the body of the building remained, but a new facade updated its appearance so that it is unrecognizable from the exterior as an older building. The clearest example of this is at 136-140 W. 13th (SA01-375) where the street facade is constructed of modern brick laid in a running bond with a pattern of protruding brick, and the sidewall of the building has brick laid in a common bond with arched window hoods and a brick corbeled cornice. Smaller modernizations can be seen in the 20 mid-twentieth century storefront renovations scattered throughout the district.



Figure 1: Alterations made to front elevation at 135-140 W. 13th (SA01-375). APMA, 2015.

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Architectural Form

Not all buildings have an architectural style, but all buildings have an architectural form. Roughly 35 percent of the buildings in the district are Two-Part Commercial Blocks, in which the first floor storefront design is completely unrelated to the upper story facade design. The Frank Nedela Building (SA01-056) is a good example of this form. At the front elevation, the first and second stories each have a distinct appearance, with the first story boasting large square windows and cast iron columns and the second story containing three smaller, arched window openings grouped together with no regard for how they might relate to the openings below.



Figure 3: Example of a Two-Part Commercial Building, the Frank Nedela Building (SA01-056). APMA, 2015.



A similar form, Two-Part Vertical Block, where the first and second stories are related in design, can also be seen in a handful of buildings in the district. The buildings that reflect this form are the City National Bank (SA01-409) and the commercial buildings at 228 E. 13th (SA01-395) and 120 E. 13th (SA01-389). At 228 E. 13th, the front façade has a uniform appearance with four brick pilasters running vertically from top to bottom, creating identical divisions at the first and second stories.

Figure 2: Example of a Two-Part Vertical Block at 228 E. 13th (SA01-395). APMA, 2016.

Another 28 percent of the buildings in the district are One-Part Commercial Blocks. Buildings that embody this architectural form are modest in scale, and often

appearance, standing one story in height and typically have little detailing except along the roof line. Within the district this building form is utilized for contributing buildings dating from the early to mid-twentieth century. The Crete Plumbing and Heating building (SA01-393) is an example. One story tall, it was constructed in the early 1900s but received a complete remodel in the mid-twentieth century using stone veneer cladding and aluminum storefront windows. The width of one-Part Commercial Blocks can vary, as is exemplified by 1122-1124-1128 Main (SA01-425) and IGA Grocery (SA01-407). Both of these are simple one-story brick buildings with few decorative details. The building at 1122-1124-1128 Main is three bays wide while the IGA Grocery is one-bay wide.



Figure 4: Example of a One-Part Commercial Block, Crete Plumbing and Heating building (SA01-393). APMA, 2015.

Less common forms in the district include center block and wings, brick front, false front and roadside architectural forms. There are two Center Block and Wings buildings in the district – the City Hall (SA01-146) and the individually-listed Sokol Hall (SA01-176). Both of these buildings are defined by their prominent center section, and diminutive flanking wings. The two brick front buildings in the district are, as the name implies, defined by a subdued brick front elevation with virtually no ornamentation. Only one false front building, which has a tall parapet at the front façade to hide the gabled roof behind, exists in the district and it is non-contributing. Four buildings that embody roadside architecture can be found in the district. These buildings are all one story in height, are simply detailed and were designed with the automobile in mind. The former filling station at 201 W. 13th (SA01-487) is the only contributing building in the district that reflects this form.

Architectural Style



Figure 5: The Victorian-era Menke building (SA01-043). APMA, 2015.

Buildings in the district generally cannot be defined as a particular architectural style. However, buildings of Victorian design or those with limited Victorian elements are prevalent enough to be noticeable. Elaborate stone window hoods, metal cornices and wall gables, cast-iron storefront columns and wood storefronts tie the district to its Late Victorian era roots. The Menke Building (SA01-043) and C.W. Havlicek Building (SA01-053) are strong examples of local Victorian architecture. At the Menke building, while the storefront level was remodeled in the mid-twentieth century, the second floor and roofline retain a Victorian appearance with an elaborate cornice and matching window hoods over the second story windows.

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property**County and State***Notable Materials*

While most buildings in the district do not illustrate a clear architectural style, they do exhibit attractive details of brick craftsmanship. In older facades, dog tooth courses, dentil courses, soldier courses, round arched window heads, inset panels, contrasting brick and basket weaving are common facade features. Facades and infills from the mid-twentieth century include 1/3 running bond patterns and stacked bond patterns. The time span of these details implies a strong masonry tradition in the area.

Additionally, approximately 25 buildings exhibit Mid- (1940s-mid 1950s) and Late (late 1950s-1960s) Mid-Century storefront alterations. The progression of aluminum storefronts in the district range from early profiled aluminum stock screwed in place from the exterior, to thinner, square stock with a combination of exposed and concealed fasteners. The former can be seen at 1327 Main (SA01-381) and the latter at 1302 Main (SA01-388). Newspaper articles detailing the storefront alterations as well as trade catalogues helped to identify which storefronts were old enough to be considered historically significant. There is no hard line, however, in the development and application of this material, so where necessary, the evaluation of storefront material was based on flashing, fasteners, placement of the glass within the storefront material and of the storefront material within the opening, as well as the overall appearance of the storefront changes.



Figure 6: Example of a 1960s aluminum storefront. Kawneer Architectural Products, 1960 Catalog, Building Technology Heritage Library, archive.org.

Function

Most of the buildings in the district are commercial in use. However, as with most downtowns, other use types are interspersed among these. Entertainment-related buildings include the Sokol Hall, Isis Theatre, and a former bowling alley at 205 W. 13th. Buildings associated with transportation include a former auto garage at 132 W. 12th, a former wagon and implement store at 136-140 W. 13th, a former wagon repair shop at 145 W. 13th, a former filling station at 201 W. 13th, and the former city fire department garage at 1201 Linden. Public architecture is represented by the City Hall at 13th and Kingwood and the Post Office at 1242 Linden. Both of these brick buildings were built with the assistance of government funding during the Great Depression. In design, they reflect two different styles popular at the time – Art Deco for the City Hall, and Classical Revival for the Post Office.

Industrial uses were also historically located throughout the district. Crete Mills on the north end of the district supported the economic health of the district by attracting surrounding farmers to the area for business purposes and being a major employer for residents of Crete and the surrounding region. Light industry was located throughout the district in buildings that were utilized at times for commercial, retail or light industrial uses. These included cigar manufacturers, harness shops, millinery shops and implement dealerships. Those serving the surrounding agricultural community lasted the longest. Of these the Crete Mills survives.

There is one single family home in the district: the Otto Feeken House (SA01-374). Although residential in nature, it is considered contributing to the district since Feeken specifically located it across from the railroad passenger depot to promote his construction business. In addition to homes, Feeken was also responsible for the construction of the Isis Theater and other, unnamed, commercial buildings.

Non-Contributing Buildings

Most non-contributing buildings in the district lack integrity. While many show signs of the slow erosion of historic material over time, a few have received whole-hearted facade treatments that are too new to be considered historically significant. The latter, for example, is the case with the buildings that now make up 1222 Main. Formerly several separate buildings, they were combined over time on both the interior and exterior, receiving a substantial facade alteration in the 1970s and are thus now non-contributing.

Of the 14 non-contributing properties, two have the potential to be contributing if non-historic materials applied to their primary facades are removed. These are the commercial buildings at 1302 Linden and 131 W. 13th.



The table below summarizes physical and historic information for individual buildings within the district. Where no common historic name was used, the first, or best, known business name was substituted. Information on building history, modifications and dates were procured from a variety of sources, noted in parentheses within the relevant box.

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property

County and State

Photo Address	Historic Name	Significant Dates	Building Materials and Features
State #	Architect / Builder	Architectural Form & Style	
Map #	Area(s) of Significance/Building History		Modifications
Status in District			
 <p>12th & Norman State #SA01-176</p>	Sokol Hall	1915	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Windows: Two-over-two wood double hung</p>
Map #1	<p><i>Areas of Significance:</i> Ethnic Heritage, Social History</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> The Tělocvičná Jednota “T.J.” Sokol Hall has played a major role in preserving Czech culture and sense of Czech “community” for nearly 90 years. The building is locally significant as home to one of the oldest Sokol gymnastic organizations in the state of Nebraska, and as an ethnic community center. The hall has been an important gathering site for numerous Czech heritage activities including Czech language and history classes, Czech language theatre productions, Czech lodge meetings, dances, band concerts, “free thinker” funerals, and dinners since its 1915 completion (Source: National Register Nomination).</p>		Modifications: None
1 Listed			
 <p>132 W. 12th State #SA01-410</p>	Crete F.O.E. Eagles	1915 (Assessor); 2002 (Assessor)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Concrete Block Storefront: Anodized aluminum display windows over brick knee walls Stylistic features: Denticornice</p>
		Enframed Block / No Style	



Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE

Name of Property		County and State	
Map #2	<i>Areas of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Profiled Mid-Century Modern storefront modifications; gable roof addition added to east elevation at unknown date; rear wood addition in 2002.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> In 1923, the building contained an automobile garage with a capacity for 20 cars. Between 1935 and 1942, the building had an auto shop at the front half and a machine shop at the back half. At an unknown date after, the building was used as a bar for many years. In the late 1980s, the building became home to the local Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.) #3909, a use it retains today (Source: Sanborn Maps; Assessor; Janet Jeffries).		
	Commercial Building	bet. 1923 and 1935 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One story Walls: Painted brick Storefront: Mid-Century painted aluminum storefront with recessed entry, mosaic tile vestibule sill and painted transom windows
119 E. 13th			
State #SA01-414		One Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #11	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Mid-Century storefront modifications; Modern tile on bulkhead and painted transom.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Store (1935-1942); Diaz Bros. Barbershop (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
	Commercial Building	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick Windows: At second floor, round arched wood panel transom above one-over-one double hung wood window with stone window heads and sills; First floor similar Doors: (left) Painted plywood infill; (right) Modern fiberglass half lite paneled door Stylistic features:
120 E. 13th			
State #SA01-389		Two-Part Vertical Block / No Style	
Map #12	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Doors and windows altered at an unknown date.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Barber (1909); Store (1923-1942); Royal Prestige (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property	County and State		
 <p>123 E. 13th</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1923 and 1935 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Windows: (left) storm window in painted wood infill; (right) one-over-one painted wood double hung units paired in opening Storefront: Mid-Century anodized aluminum door, transom and display windows over brick bulkhead Doors: (left) older fixed wood transom window over newer operable transom over solid wood door in painted wood frame; (right) older fixed wood transom window over modern one-over-one double hung window unit in painted wood infill panel Stylistic features: Patterned brickwork</p>
State #SA01-415		Two-Part Vertical Block / No Style	
Map #13	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Restaurant, including Coffee Cup and Heidi and Harold's (1935-c.2000); Epicentro (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Janet Jeffries; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Center garage door replaced at an unknown date.</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>124 E. 13th</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1884 and 1889 (Sanborn); 1928 (Assessor)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Mid-century painted aluminum display windows over tile bulkhead Awning: Painted standing seam pent roof Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite with transom</p>
State #SA01-390		Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style	<p>Windows: One-over-one vinyl double hung with window hoods painted on the brick wall and stone sills Stylistic features: Decorative brick panel above second floor window; Decorative brick cornice</p>

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property

County and State

<p>Map #14</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Grocery Store (1889-1909); Masonic Hall at 2nd floor (1889-1897); Hall at 2nd floor (1902); Store (1923); Grocery Store shared with 128 E. 13th (1935-c. 1960s); Ministerios (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Janet Jeffries; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Between 1935 and 1942, a one-story addition was added at the rear of the building. A shared awning added to this building and 128 E. 13th between 1923 and 1935. Cornice removed from building after 1942 (Sanborn Maps). Storefront and windows altered at an unknown date.</p>
<p>I Contributing Building</p>			
 <p>128 E. 13th</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>bet. 1884 and 1889 (Sanborn); 1927 (Assessor)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Mid-century painted aluminum display windows over stuccoed bulkhead and under painted wood panel infilled transom Awning: Mid-century clear finished aluminum flat awning</p>
<p>State #SA01-391</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style</p>	<p>Door: Main - Modern clear finished aluminum full lite; Apt - Modern painted steel half lite Windows: Vinyl 1/1 Stylistic features: Decorative brick panel above second floor windows and decorative brick cornice</p>
<p>Map #15</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Meat Market (1889-1902); Boots & Shoes (1909); Store (1923); Grocery Store, shared with 124 E. 13th, with Bakery at rear (1935-1942); Clothing Store (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Between 1909 and 1923, a one-story addition was added at the rear of the building. A shared awning added to this building and 124 E. 13th between 1923 and 1935. Cornice removed from building after 1942 (Sanborn Maps). Storefront and windows altered at an unknown date.</p>
<p>I Contributing Building</p>			
 <p>130-136 E. 13th Street</p>	<p>Menke Commercial Building</p>	<p>1888</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: South side - Modern painted aluminum display windows surrounded by limestone under a painted wood covered transom; North side - Mid-century clear finished aluminum display windows on brick knee walls under a painted wood covered transom</p>
<p>State #SA01-043</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block /</p>	<p>Awning: South side only -</p>



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		Victorian	Mid-century clear finished flat aluminum Doors: South side - Modern painted aluminum full lite; Apt and North side - Historic painted wood stile and rail Windows: Covered by shutters Stylistic features: Ornament at cornice, window hoods.
Map #16	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: At unknown dates, ornament removed from above storefront level and storefronts altered.
1 Contributing Building	<p><i>Building History:</i> Built as two bays with a shared central stair to each bay's second floor. J. Menke and W. Hamann's names are listed on nameplates at the cornices above the west and east bay, respectively.</p> <p>The East bay housed a saloon from c.1889 until at least 1909. In the 1880s, it was called the Dewey Saloon. In 1923, had a store. Between 1929 and 1964 the Crete News had its newspaper offices here. As of 2015, it is Janet's Shear Design hair salon.</p> <p>The West bay contained a general store in the 1889 and a plumbing store in 1897. Printing took place on the 2nd floor. In the early 1900s the J.H. Benne Hardware Store was at the 1st floor and the Crete Vidette newspaper office was at the 2nd floor. Between 1923 and 1942, there was a store here. In the early 1940s, it contained a jewelry store and possibly the Little Flower Beauty Shop. As of 2015, it is Doctor Howard L. Doty's dentist office. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		
143 E. 13th	Universal Auto Company	1909 (Images of America: Crete); 1978; 2002 (Assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Stucco Windows: Modern painted aluminum fixed units Stylistic features:
State #N/A		Roadside Architecture / No Style	
Map #17	<i>Building History:</i> In 1909, Universal Auto Company, Crete's first automobile showroom, opened out of this building. The building retained an auto function from 1923 to 1942. In 1963, Crete State Bank moved into the building. Today the building houses the local Pinnacle Bank branch (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Crete State Bank 100 Year Anniversary Calendar, "Crete State Bank - A Brief Overview," T.H. Miller and Janet Jeffries, 1997).		Modifications: At unknown dates, the building was clad in stucco and alterations were made to the windows and doors. The corner element was added in 1978. In 2002 the canopy on the building and the canopy at the drive thru were added.
1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)			




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Name of Property	County and State		
 <p>210 E. 13th</p>	Telephone Exchange	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: One story with raised basement Walls: Painted brick Door: Modern clear finished full lite door in painted wood frame with transom Windows: Above - Modern painted aluminum display window; Below - Historic painted wood fixed units Stylistic features: Decorative brick panel above supper window (Cornice and window hoods are painted on)</p>
State #SA01-486		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #18	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> From c. 1909 until at least 1942, this building housed the Telephone Exchange. For many years, a shoe repair shop was located at the basement level. Today it is occupied by Wenz Enterprises, a real estate firm (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Between 1923 and 1925, an addition at the rear doubled the building's size (Sanborn Maps). At unknown dates, the windows in the large picture window opening replaced, brick corbeling and detailing at cornice removed and new brick frame added.</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>220 E. 13th</p>	Crete Plumbing and Heating Company	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps); 1969 (assessor)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Elongated rock faced concrete block in a stacked bond Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite Stylistic features:</p>
State #SA01-393		One-Part Commercial Block / International	
Map #19	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built as two bays. In the early 1900s, home to the Crete Plumbing and Heating Company. In 1909, it had a garage at the West bay and a grocery at the East bay. In 1923, it had stores in each bay. In 1935, it had a vulcanizing shop at the West bay and a restaurant at the East bay. In 1942, it had auto storage with a capacity for 6 cars at the West bay and a store at the East bay. Today it is occupied by the Crete Chiropractic Center. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: At an unknown date, the building's rough stone front façade was replaced with new façade clad in stone veneer and the window and door openings were altered. At an unknown date, possibly at the same time, the decorative cornice was removed.</p>
1 Contributing Building			



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Name of Property	County and State		
 224 E. 13th	Commercial Building	1930 (Assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern painted aluminum 1/1 units above brick bulkhead Door: Modern painted metal half lite door with small transom Awning: Modern painted standing seem hip roof over storefront transom Stylistic features: Decorative brick panels above storefront
State #SA01-394		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	Stylistic features: Decorative brick panels above storefront
Map #20	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Office at front, with Auto and Miscellaneous Storage at rear (1935-1942); Steven J. Reisdorff Law Office (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: Storefront altered at an unknown date.
1 Contributing Building			
 228 E. 13th	Commercial Building	1923 (Assessor)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick Awning: Mid-century clear finished flat aluminum Doors: Main - Modern painted aluminum full lite; Apt - Modern stained full lite Windows: First Floor - Modern painted aluminum display windows; Second Floor - Historic painted wood 1/1 Stylistic features: Brick pilasters
State #SA01-395		Two-Part Vertical Block / No Style	Stylistic features: Brick pilasters
Map #21	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Steam Laundry (1935); Store (1942); Restaurant (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: First floor doors and windows altered at an unknown date.
1 Contributing Building			
 125 W. 13th	Commercial Building	1910 (assessor)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Historic painted wood display windows over wood paneled bulkheads with painted transoms between painted stucco pilasters Doors: Main - Modern clear finished aluminum full lite; Apt - Modern painted flat panel metal door with 10x10 vision lite Windows: Vinyl 1/1 within historic painted wood frame Stylistic features:
State #SA01-401		Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian	Stylistic features:


Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE

Name of Property	County and State		
			Decorative brick cornice and window heads; Raised first floor; Rosettes on painted steel lintel
Map #10	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Printing (1923); Photo and Picture Framing (1935-1942); Crete Glamour beauty shop (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: At unknown dates, 2nd story window openings partially infilled and new windows installed, storefront transoms covered and doors replaced.
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>130 W. 13th</p>	VFW	1915 (Images of America: Crete)	Height: One story Walls: Stone Awning: Modern cloth quarter round Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite Windows: Glass block
State #SA01-376		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #6	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Constructed in two phases. The West portion was built first, in 1915, as the Lyric Theater. It closed between 1935 and 1942, and then the building was used as a shop selling unknown goods. The East portion was built at an unknown date after 1942. The VFW Club moved into the building at an unknown date and retains use of it today. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: At an unknown date, ornament removed from West portion and openings altered, stone cladding added and aluminum window and door with sidelight placed in new openings.
1 Contributing Building			
<p>131 W. 13th</p>	Commercial Building	1920 (Assessor)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick, vinyl Storefront: Covered in vinyl Doors: Painted stile and rail doors - half lite at apart entry
State #SA01-400		Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style	Windows: Vinyl Stylistic features: Decorative brick cornice
Map #9	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Store (1923); Printing (1935-1942) (Source: Sanborn Maps).		Modifications: Vinyl siding and new windows installed after 2012.
1 Non-Contributing (integrity)			
 <p>136-140 W. 13th</p>	McGargar Building	bet. 1889 and 1897 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick - variant on Flemish bond Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum on brick knee walls set in stacked stretcher courses Doors: Modern clear




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Name of Property	County and State	
State #SA01-375		Brick Front Commercial Building / No Style finishes aluminum full lite Windows: Front - Historic 2/2 painted wood; Side - Historic 1/1 painted wood Stylistic features: Decorative brick patterning on front facade; Decorative arched brick hoods on side windows; Corbeled brick cornice on side
Map #5	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce, Transportation <i>Building History:</i> Built as 2 bays, a wider West bay and a narrower East bay. Businesses within the West bay have included: Wagons & Implements (1897-1902); Hall at 2nd floor (1897-1902); Agricultural Implements (1909); Store (1923); Paints & Oils (1935-1942); Crete Martial Arts Academy (2015). Farmer’s Union, an implement store, occupied this bay for many years. It was succeeded by Busboom & Stone, which remained there until 1931. Businesses within the East bay have included: Grocery (1902); Moving Pictures (1909); Store (1923-1942); Crete's Dance Company (2015). In the 1931, Anton Plouzek moved his hardware store into the building after undertaking a complete remodel that combined the two bays, giving them a cohesive appearance at the front and unifying the interior (Source: Sanborn Maps; Bob Machacek; <i>Crete News</i> , “Plouzek Hardware Moved,” June 11, 1931; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).	
1 Contributing Building		
 <p>139 W. 13th</p>	Isis Theatre	1926 (Images of America: Crete) Height: Two story Walls: Brick Doors: Main - Modern clear finished aluminum full lite; Side - infilled Windows: Historic 6/1 painted wood Stylistic features: Decorative brickwork in panels and lines
State #SA01-399		Vault / Art Deco
Map #8	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Construction began in 1925 and was completed in 1926. Owned by Avra Burrus. Designed and built by Otto Feeken, a native of Crete who had worked in the movie industry in California. Designed with many modern features: first building in area to have air conditioning, had equipment installed for sound one year before talking movies introduced. It remains a movie theater today (Source: Thom Reeves, building owner; Images of America: Crete).	
1 Contributing Building	Modifications: Doors altered at unknown dates.	



Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property		County and State	
 <p>145 W. 13th State #SA01-398</p>	Geo. Znamenacek Implement Store	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Non-historic painted plywood surrounding display windows and a recessed door Windows: Modern vinyl 1/1 Stylistic features: Decorative brick cornice; Cast iron lintel above storefront; Stone pilasters at first floor level</p>
Map #7	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Wagon Repairing (1909); Store, with warehouse at rear (1923); Znamenacek Implement Store, Booth's Seed House, and Malone's CPA business (c. 1930); Store with implement warehouse and oils at rear (1935-1942); Vacant (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Between 1923 and 1935, 2-story addition to rear. At unknown dates, windows replaced and storefront altered.</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>201 W. 13th State #SA01-487</p>	Filling Station	bet. 1923 and 1935 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Brick, corrugated metal Door: Modern painted metal half lite Windows: Modern painted aluminum display windows with painted corrugated metal transoms</p>
Map #4	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Filling Station with auto repair at the rear (1935-1942); Sinclair Garage (1941); Napa Auto Parts (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: At unknown dates, cornice area of overhang covered with metal siding; concrete block support wall added at west end of overhang, windows at front elevation replaced.</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>205 W. 13th State #SA01-488</p>	Commercial Building	1927 (assessor)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Stone Door: Modern paneled fiberglass door in recessed entry Windows: Historic painted wood display windows</p>


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Name of Property	County and State	
Map #3		Block / No Style
1 Contributing Building	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Bowling Alley; Walentas Custom Leather (2015) (Source: Janet Jeffries; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>	
 <p>13th and Kingwood</p>	City Hall	1939 (Images of America: Crete)
State #SA01-146	<p>Center Block and Wings / Art Deco</p> <p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Doors: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite Windows: Painted aluminum 1/1 with faux grills Stylistic features: Decorative brick spandrel panels vertically between windows; Brick soldier courses at water table, second floor window lintel and cornice under stone coping; Decorative stone pilaster capitals and bases; stone nameplate</p>	
Map #22	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built during Great Depression with a Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant at site of former city hall. Included offices, meeting spaces, kitchen, storage vaults, and jail. Remains the city hall today. (Images of America: Crete).</p>	
1 Contributing Building		
 <p>1201 Linden</p>	City Fire Department Garage	c. 1912 (Assessor)
State #SA01-489	<p>One-Part Commercial Block / No Style</p> <p>Height: One story Walls: Brick Door: Historic clear finished aluminum full lite; modern painted metal garage dr Windows: Historic clear finished aluminum and historic painted 1/1 wd Stylistic features: Decorative brick panel above front windows and door</p>	
Map #70	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> City Fire Department Garage and Auto Repair facility (1923); Weilage Tractor & Implement Sales and Service (1935-1942); Crete News newspaper office (1964-2016); UFCW Local 293 (2012) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Saline County Roots; Thom Reeves, son of building owners; Google Maps Street view).</p>	
1 Contributing Building	<p>Modifications: In 1964, two garage doors on the east elevation were replaced with windows, many windows were replaced with aluminum windows. At an unknown date, garage door at rear infilled and pedestrian door added.</p>	



Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property		County and State	
1215 Linden	Commercial Building	1987	Height: Two story Walls: Vertical metal siding, brick Windows: Vinyl fixed and sliding Stylistic features: None.
State #N/A		Industrial / No Style	
Map #69	Building History: Courthouse Fitness Center (2012) (Source: Google Maps Street view)		Modifications: Unknown.
1 Non-Contributing Building (age)			
 1242 Linden	Post Office	1931 (Images of America: Crete)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick Doors: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite Windows: Historic painted multilite units under modern painted storms Stylistic features: Stone prostyle portico, Flat arches over windows with stone keystones, Brick quoins at building corners; Stone band at water table and cornice
State #SA01-147		Temple Front / Classical Revival	
Map #68	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Built at a cost of \$65,000 and dedicated on October 11, 1931. Represents Crete's first dedicated post office. Previously it had been located in various storefronts downtown. The building remains in service today. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete).		Modifications: Door and windows modernized at an unknown date.
1 Contributing Building			
1302 Linden	Commercial Building	1920 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Doors: Modern painted aluminum full lite Awnings: Modern painted metal framed awning Windows: Modern painted aluminum fixed units Stylistic features: Decorative brick pilasters between windows and brick panels above windows
State #SA01-392		Central Block and Wings / No Style	
Map #67	<i>Building History:</i> Auto Garage (1923); Auto Sales and Service (1935-1942); Ken's U Save Pharmacy (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: At unknown dates, storefront and awning replaced, insulated wall panels added at west elevation.
1 Non-Contributing (integrity)			
1305 Linden	Filling Station	1998 (Assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Metal Windows: Modern fixed vinyl. Stylistic features: None.
State #N/A		Roadside Architecture / No Style	
Map #66	<i>Building History:</i> Standard Station (unknown –		Modifications: None




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Name of Property		County and State	
1 Non-Contributing Building (age)	c.2010 Sapp Brothers Petroleum (c.2010-2015) (Source: Janet Jeffries; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
	Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co.	1964 (Omaha World Herald)	Height: One story Walls: Brick; Granite panels Awning: Mid-century clear aluminum Windows: Aluminum Stylistic features: Stone
14th & Linden		Modern	
State #SA01-490			
Map #65	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: None.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> The Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company built this new telephone building. It remains owned by that company (Source: Assessor; Omaha World Herald, "New Telephone Building," April 2, 1964).		
1110 Main	Commercial Building	C.1980 (Janet Jeffries)	Height: One story Walls: Brick in 1/3 running bond Awning: Modern painted metal pent roof Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite Windows: Modern clear finished aluminum fixed panes
State #SA01-428		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #64	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Storefront and awning replaced at an unknown date
1 Non-Contributing Building (age)	<i>Building History:</i> Union Bank / Crist Family Chiropractic (2015) (Source: APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
	Commercial Building	after 1942 (Sanborn)	Height: One story Walls: Jumbo Brick Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum storefront Awning: Mid-century clear finished flat awning Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: Decorative coping blocks
1112 Main		One-Part Commercial Block / Art Deco	
State #SA01-427			
Map #63	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Storefront replaced at an unknown date.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Main Street Laundromat (2015) (Source: APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		


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Name of Property	County and State		
 <p>1114 Main</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1935 and 1942 (Sanborn)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Brick in running bond Storefront: Modern black finished aluminum storefront Awning: Modern flat awning Door: Modern black aluminum half lite door</p>
State #SA01-426		One-Part Commercial Block / Art Deco	
Map #62	<p>Area of Significance: Commerce</p> <p>Building History: Ron's Barber Shop (1990-2015) (Source: Commemorative brick at sidewalk; APMA Downtown Crete Survey)</p>		<p>Modifications: Storefront and awning replaced at an unknown date</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>1122 Main</p>	Commercial Building	after 1942 (Sanborn)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern painted aluminum storefront in stucco surround on brick knee wall with recessed entries Awning: Mid-Century clear finished flat aluminum awning Doors: Modern painted aluminum full lite doors Stylistic features: Decorative brick panels in upper facade; Art Deco pilaster capitals and a stone coping</p>
State #SA01-425		One-Part Commercial Block / Art Deco	
Map #61	<p>Area of Significance: Commerce</p> <p>Building History: Three bays wide (1122-24-26 Main); IGA Grocery (c.1950s-1970s; True Value (c.1980s-2000s); Vapor Shop, Nebraska Title Co., Early Learning Center (2015) (Source: Janet Jeffries; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Storefront replaced at an unknown date</p>
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>1132-40 Main</p>	Charles W. Havlicek Drug	1888 (nameplate at cornice)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Mid-century painted aluminum display windows over brick knee wall with recessed entry and painted beadboard side wall; Transom covered with painted bead board Door: Modern full lite hollow metal door Windows:</p>
State #SA01-053		Two-Part Commercial	

Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE



Name of Property	County and State		Stylistic features:
Map #60	Block / Victorian		Stylistic features:
1 Contributing Building	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce; Ethnic Heritage</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Two bay building built by Charles W. Havilcek, jeweler, and Doede Smith, implement dealer. Havilcek ran his jewelry business, and later a music store, out of the North bay until at least the mid-1910s. Thereafter the North bay was used as a store. Smith ran his general store out of the South bay until an unknown date. This bay remained a general store/grocery until c. 1897. It then contained a saloon (1902); hardware store (1909); and store (1923-1942). As of 2015, the North bay is used by Allen Agency, Inc., insurance, and Gilmore & Associates Inc. , engineers and architects; and the South bay is used by Tim Sorensen with Edward Jones Investments (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: At unknown date, decorative cornice removed from Doede Smith portion of building, storefronts modernized.</p>
 <p>1144-1148 Main</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: North side - Modern painted aluminum storefront on stucco; South side - Painted mid-century aluminum storefront on brick knee wall on one side with paneled wood sidewall Awning: Modern pent cloth awning with metal soffit Door: One modern painted and one mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door</p>
State #SA01-052	Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian		<p>Windows: Painted shutters closed Stylistic features: Painted Broken pedimented window hoods</p>
Map #59	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Two bay building. Businesses within the North bay have included: General Store (1909); Store (1923); Drug Store with hall at 2nd floor (1935-1942). From 1934 until his death in the c.1950s, Emil M. Hojer operated his drug store from this bay. After Hojer's death, the pharmacy remained in operation as Hojer Drug until 1991. In 1991 the building and business were sold and became a Hallmark store, retaining that use until c.2000. Businesses within the South bay have included: General Store (1909); Store (1923-1942). As of 2015, the North bay houses Crystal's Bakery and the South bay houses an electronics store (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete;</p>		<p>Modifications: At an unknown date, the cornice was removed and the storefronts were altered.</p>
1 Contributing Building			

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Name of Property

County and State

	<p>Who's Who in Saline County, Nebraska, 1940; Janet Jeffries interview with Jacob and Marilyn Dering; Omaha World Herald, Crete feature, June 30, 1957; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		
 <p>1201 Main State #SA01-409</p>	<p>City National Bank</p>	<p>1910 (stone name plate on bldg)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door and surround in painted wood frame Awning: Modern cloth pent awning Windows: Display window - clear finished aluminum in painted wood frame; First Floor side - glass block with vision panel and clear transom; Second floor - Painted wood one-over-one wood window covered by modern combination storm/screen Stylistic features: Stone water table, stone belt courses at first and second floor window sills, painted brick belt course between first floor window head and second floor belt line, Stone cornice supported by brick dentil band</p>
<p>Map #58</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by C.M. Marcelino to house the City National Bank. City National Bank organized by C.W. Weckbach, F.A. Novak, and several other men. Dr. Charles Tobiska's dental office occupied 2nd floor in the early days. The bank remained in operation until at least 1942. As of 2015, the building houses Le's Nail Spa. (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Lincoln Journal Star, "F.A. Novak, Banker at Crete, To Retire," April 15, 1936, Nebraska State Historical Society Saline County Scrap Book No.2; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Door and windows modernized at an unknown date; 2005 rear wood deck (Assessor).</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>			
	<p>Frank Nedela Building</p>	<p>1885 (assessor)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Historic wood and cast iron with display windows, windows in the bulkhead and faux stained glass in the transoms Door: Front - Historic 3/4 lit stile and rail painted wood door with painted wood transom panel; Side First Floor - Historic painted</p>



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Name of Property	County and State		
1202 Main			wood stile and rail; Side second floor - Modern painted metal panel with painted aluminum storm door Windows: All Historic; Front - 1/2 painted wood double hung; Side Second floor - 2/2 painted wood double hung; Side First Floor - 2/2 round arched painted wood double hung
State #SA01-056		Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian	Stylistic features: Stone and brick window hoods; Decorative brick at cornice; Brick dentil between first and second floor windows.
Map #57	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce; Ethnic Heritage <i>Building History:</i> Built by Frank Nedela for his saloon, and later a drugstore. His son, who trained as a pharmacist, later took over the drug store business. The building remained a drug store until c. 1923. Later uses included: store with sausage factory (1935) and store (1942). As of 2015, it contained Grammy and Gramp's Corner, a used furniture and appliance store. In December 2015, the building was for sale. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete, APMA Downtown Crete Survey)		Modifications: At mid-20th century, flat metal awning added. At an unknown date the transoms were painted over and the second floor side door replaced.
1 Contributing Building			
1206 Main	Commercial Building	1915 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum storefront on modern brick knee walls Awning: Modern pent cloth awning with clear finished aluminum soffit Doors: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: None
State #N/A		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #56	<i>Building History:</i> Built as two separate buildings. Both contained stores from 1923-1943. As of 2015, the building contained a clothing store, which was in the process of closing. (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: Between 1935 and 1942, small addition added to rear of South portion. At unknown date, cloth awning added across entire building above storefront, replaced with new awning after 2012. Storefronts modernized at unknown recent date.
1 Non-Contributing (integrity)			



Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property	County and State		
 <p>1209-1211 Main State #SA01-408</p>	<p>Kuncl Furniture Company</p>	<p>c.1930 (Saline County Roots and Genealogies, xxvi; Sanborn)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Clear finished mid-century aluminum storefront display windows over brick bulkheads with painted steel transoms and angled recessed doorways Awning: Flat clear finished aluminum mid-century awning Doors: (1) Painted wood full lite stile and rail door centered in each bay Windows: Painted steel center pivot sash Stylistic features: Building framed by contrasting brick; stepped parapet; Basket weave brickwork in two panels in upper facade surrounded by contrasting brick</p>
<p>Map #55</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce; Ethnic Heritage</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Kuncl Furniture and Undertaking used building from 1930 until mid-1940s. In mid-1940s, remodeled and rented to J.M. McDonald Company. Caskets for the funeral home (which had moved to house at 131 W. 12th Street) were still stored at 2nd story. As of December 2015, the building contained a thrift store called New Beginnings (Elizabeth Spencer, "Czech Town Builders," 11-12; Breitreutz, Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies, xxvi; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Storefront modernized in mid-20th century.</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>			
 <p>1215 Main State #SA01-407</p>	<p>IGA Grocery</p>	<p>1910 (assessor)</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Clear finished aluminum display windows with decorative aluminum trim at top Door: Clear finished aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: Brick corbeling at cornice; Brick panel above storefront</p>
<p>State #SA01-407</p>	<p>One-Part Commercial Block / No Style</p>		


Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property	County and State		
Map #54	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Store (1923-1942). IGA Grocery Store located here in early 1940s. More recently it contained Red Wing Shoe Store. As of December 2015, the building was vacant. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>1217 Main</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1909 and 1923 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Painted vertical wood siding surrounding wood trimmed display windows Awning: Quarter round modern cloth awning over historic metal framed transom Doors: Main door - Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door; Apartment entry - Painted paneled steel door with sm lite and wood framed transom Windows: Vinyl slide-by windows in reduced openings Stylistic features: Stepped parapet framed by brick pilasters resting on brick imposts; Brick dentil course running between pilasters</p>
State #SA01-406		Two-Part Commercial Block / No style	
Map #53	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Store (1923-1942); Metz Beer (1941); Antojitos Guatemalecos restaurant (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps, Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>1221 Main</p>	Rademacher Annex	1885 (nameplate on building)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Painted wood trim surrounding clear finished aluminum framed display windows Awning: Modern quarter round fabric awning Door: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door Windows: Painted wood one-over-one round arched window units Stylistic features: Painted stone round arched window hoods; Painted flat stucco</p>
State #SA01-405		Two-Part Commercial Block / No style	



Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property	County and State		
			cornice
Map #52	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce, Ethnic Heritage</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by Frank J. Rademacher as an addition to his building at 1225 Main, built in 1880. Housed Rademacher's furniture store. Remained a furniture store until at least 1909. Then an unspecified store from 1923 to 1942. As of December 2015, used as a clothing store, La Princesa. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Nameplate at building cornice; Gregory, Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Decorative cornice removed at an unknown date; storefront altered at an unknown date</p>
1 Contributing Building			
1222 Main	Ben Franklin	1916, 1921 (assessor); c. 1970 Facade altered	<p>Height: One story</p> <p>Walls: Brick, covered with brick siding panels at top half.</p> <p>Storefront: Mid-century clear finished aluminum storefront on modern brick knee walls</p>
State #SA01-413		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	<p>Awning: Clear finished aluminum flat awning</p> <p>Doors: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door</p> <p>Stylistic features: None</p>
Map #51	<p><i>Building History:</i> Ben Franklin Store (1934-1996); K.H. Sport Shop (2015) (Source: Commemorative brick at sidewalk; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Around 1969, new brick panels added to top portion of three bays to give them a uniform appearance. Storefront alterations occurred in the 1970s.</p>
1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)			
 <p>1225 Main</p>	Rademacher Block	1880 (nameplate visible in Google Maps street view, 2012)	<p>Height: Two story</p> <p>Walls: Brick</p> <p>Storefront: Stucco surrounding clear finished aluminum display windows and transom</p> <p>Awning: Large modern pent cloth awning</p> <p>Door: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door</p>
State #SA01-404		Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style	<p>Windows: Modern one-over-one double hung units with round arched transoms</p> <p>Stylistic features: Decorative painted stone window hoods; flat stucco painted cornice</p>

Crete Downtown Historic District

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Name of Property	County and State	
<p>Map #50</p> <p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce, Ethnic Heritage</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by Frank J. Rademacher for his furniture store. Remained a furniture store until at least 1909. Then an unspecified store from 1923 to 1942. As of December 2015, used as a grocery store, Super Latine Market. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Google Maps Street view; Gregory, Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>	
 <p>1228 Main</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p> <p>bet. 1889 and 1897 (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete)</p>	<p>Modifications: Decorative cornice removed at an unknown date; storefront altered at an unknown date; nameplate removed from building after 2012 (Google Maps Street view).</p> <p>Height: Two story</p> <p>Walls: Brick</p> <p>Storefront: Modern painted aluminum storefront on modern brick knee walls with painted wood covered transom</p> <p>Awning: Mid-century clear finished aluminum flat awning</p> <p>Doors: Storefront - Recessed modern painted aluminum full lite door; Apartment - Modern painted hollow metal door with 10x10 lite</p> <p>Windows:</p> <p>Stylistic features:</p>
<p>State #SA01-054</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian</p>
<p>Map #49</p> <p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Saloon (1897-1909); Store (1923-1942); Jean's Creative Sewing (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>	
 <p>1229 Main</p>	<p>Kopetzky's Jewelry Store</p> <p>1888 (Images of America: Crete)</p>	<p>Modifications: Facade modernized at an unknown date. Storefront modernized at recent unknown date.</p> <p>Height: Two story</p> <p>Walls: Brick</p> <p>Storefront: Modern painted aluminum storefront on brick bulkhead; transom covered by signage</p> <p>Doors: Modern painted aluminum full lite door</p> <p>Windows: (2) Pairs of one-over-one double hung units covered by modern storms</p> <p>Stylistic features: Decorative brickwork bands above second floor windows and at roof line</p>
<p>State #SA01-403</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style</p>
<p>Map #48</p> <p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce, Ethnic Heritage</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by Joseph Kopetzky for his jewelry store. Later uses included: vacant (1897); Millinery (1902-1909); Store (1923-1942); Quality Cleaners (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>	

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 <p>1230-36 Main</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>c.1884 (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern painted storefront on modern brick knee walls; One entry recessed, one eliminated. Transoms covered. Awning: Mid-century flat clear finished aluminum awning</p>
<p>State #SA01-412</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian</p>	<p>Doors: Storefront - Modern painted aluminum full lite door; Apartment entry - Modern flat panel painted wood door in painted wood frame Windows: North side - 2/1 round arched painted wood double hung windows; South side - Modern 1/1 painted aluminum double hung with round arched transom in historic painted wood frame Stylistic features: Decorative brick cornice that continues detail from building to north; Brick dentil course between storefront transoms and second floor window sills</p>
<p>Map #47</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Two bay building. Businesses within the North bay have included: Jewelry, Books and Stationery (1884-1902); Jeweler (1909); Store (1923-1942). Businesses within the South bay have included: Saloon (1884-1889); Bakery (1897); Saloon (1909); Store (1923-1942) (Source: Sanborn Maps).</p>		<p>Modifications: Storefront modifications at an unknown date.</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>bet. 1884 and 1889 (Sanborn Maps)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Mid-century painted metal transom and display windows over brick bulkhead surrounding angled, recessed entry Doors: Main Door - Painted wood three quarter lite stile and rail door; Apartment entry - Painted wood half lite stile and rail door</p>
 <p>1235 Main</p> <p>State #SA01-402</p>		<p>Enframed Window Wall / Craftsman</p>	<p>Windows: (2) Pairs of mid-century one-over-one double hung units inset into older</p>

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			frames and covered with modern storm windows Stylistic features: Decorative brickwork surrounding windows in contrasting brick color; Decorative brick cornice in contrasting brick colors
Map #46	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Facade modernized at an unknown date before 1977 (Janet Jeffries 1977 photo).
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Saloon (1889-1909); Store (1923); Restaurant (1935-1942); Salon La Petit (c.1977-2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Janet Jeffries 1977 photo; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
 1238-44 Main	Commercial Building	c.1884 (Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete)	Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: North half - Clear finished aluminum storefront on brick knee walls with angled recessed entry and transom covered by painted plywood; South half - Painted black wood storefront over faux stone knee walls with angled recessed entry and mosaic tiles in transoms Awning: North - flat clear finished mid-century awning; South - modern quarter round cloth awning Doors: Full lite aluminum doors in storefront matching finishes in each side; Center apartment entry - wood painted stile and rail with transom Windows: Historic 2/2 arched top double hung units on north; Modern 4 lite units with round arched transoms on south Stylistic features: Decorative painted stone window hoods; Decorative brick cornice and brick dentil course over first floor storefront
State #SA01-411	Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian		

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<p>Map #45</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Two bay building. Businesses within the North bay have included: Drug Store with Offices at 2nd floor (1884-89); Store with Offices at 2nd floor (1897); Grocery with Offices at 2nd floor (1902); Billiards (1909); Store (1923-1935); Restaurant (1942); Vacant (2015). Businesses within the South bay have included: H.M. Cole general store (1885); Restaurant (1889); Millinery (1897); Jewelry (1902); General Store (1909); Store (1923-1942); Vacant (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete, APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Historic Mid-century storefront on north; Modern storefront and windows on south.</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>			
 <p>1239 Main</p>	<p>Wolf & Baltzey's Commercial Building</p>	<p>bet. 1884 and 1889 (Sanborn Maps)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Wood trim surrounding vinyl siding on brick bulkheads; Clear finished aluminum framed display windows and recessed doors Doors: Modern painted aluminum full glass Windows: Unknown (shutters closed)</p>
<p>State #SA01-048</p>		<p>Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian</p>	<p>Stylistic features: Painted brick corbeled and dentil belt course above first floor storefront; Painted round arch window hoods; Painted decorative brick cornice with stone cap</p>
<p>Map #44</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Meat market (1889); Grocery (1897); Dry Goods and Grocery (1902); Billiards (1909); Store (1923-1942); Pool hall (1977); Beauty Salon (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Janet Jeffries 1977 photo; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: Storefront modernized at an unknown date after 1977 (Janet Jeffries 1977 photo).</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>			
 <p>1241 Main</p>	<p>Wolf & Baltzey's Commercial Building</p>	<p>c. 1884 (Sanborn Maps)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Wood trim surrounding vinyl siding, display windows and recessed doors Doors: Main door modern painted aluminum full glass; Apartment entry door painted half lite wood stile and rail door Windows: Unknown (shutters closed)</p>



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Name of Property	County and State		
State #SA01-047		Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian	Stylistic features: Painted brick corbeled and dentil belt course above first floor storefront; Painted round arch window hoods; Painted decorative brick cornice with stone cap
Map #43	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Had interior access to a two-story portion at the rear that faced onto W. 13th Street and was attached to 1245 Main. Businesses have included: Dry Goods and Clothing (1884-1889); Vacant (1897); Dry Goods (1902); Jeweler (1909); Store (1923-1942); Insurance agency (1974-2016) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey; Janet Jefferies).</p>		Modifications: Storefront modernized at an unknown date after 1977 (Janet Jeffries 1977 photo).
1 Contributing Building			
 <p>1245 Main</p>	First National Bank	c.1881	<p>Height: Two story</p> <p>Walls: Brick</p> <p>Storefront: Infilled at Mid-century with brick with aluminum display windows</p> <p>Door: Inset with wood shingle surround and mid-century aluminum door</p> <p>Windows: Second floor windows are painted on. First floor windows are modern replacements.</p>
State #SA01-022		Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style	Stylistic features: Cornice and window hoods are painted on.
Map #42	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by John Lanham for the Citizen's Bank at a cost of \$7000. The First National Bank occupied the building until 1897. In 1897, Crete State Bank organized and moved into the building. The bank remained until 1929, when it moved to 1302 Main. From 1935 to at least 1942, the building housed a store. As of December 2015, the building contains a bar, Someplace Else) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; Crete State Bank 100 Year Anniversary Calendar, "Crete State Bank - A Brief Overview," T.H. Miller and Janet Jeffries, 1997).</p>		Modifications: At unknown date before 1977, ornamentation removed at cornice and around windows; storefront modernied. At unknown date windows infilled or replaced (Janet Jeffries 1977 photo).
1 Contributing Building			

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Name of Property	County and State		
 <p>1246 Main</p>	Miller Block	c. 1870 (Images of America: Crete); 1902-1909 (Sanborn)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows on painted brick knee walls Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door Windows: Vinyl 1/1 with round arch transom Stylistic features: Painted stone window hoods; Painted brick corbeling at cornice</p>
State #SA01-055		Two-Part Commercial Block / Victorian	
Map #41	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Built by T.H. Miller. In 1870s and 1880s, home to Jordan and Ruffner store. At this time, Saline County Post newspaper operated from 2nd story. From 1897 until 1920, building housed Steidl Drug. Later, the building was used by the Plouzek-Pflasterer and Buchann drugstores (Source: Images of America: Crete).</p>		<p>Modifications: Two-story addition added to rear of building between 1902 and 1909. At unknown dates, storefront modernized, stucco panels added to first floor of north elevation, and windows replaced.</p>
1 Contributing Building			
1301 Main	Great Western Bank	1980 (Assessor)	<p>Height: One story Walls: Brick, stucco Door: Modern painted aluminum full lite door Windows: Modern painted aluminum display windows Stylistic features: None</p>
State #N/A		Roadside Architecture / No Style	
Map #40	<p><i>History:</i> This site once contained the Band's Opera House Building. It was demolished in 1979 so that a new bank could be constructed at the site.</p>		<p>Modifications: None</p>
1 Non-Contributing Building (age)			
 <p>1302 Main</p>	State Bank of Nebraska	1878 and c. 1884 (Images of America, Sanborn); c. 1935; c. 1964-1966	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Mid-century clear finished aluminum angled recessed entry on brick knee walls Door: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite door</p>
State #SA01-388		Two-Part Commercial Block / No Style	<p>Windows: Front - Most historic two-over-two painted wood window units; Side - Modern one-over-one painted wood window units set into historic wood frames Stylistic features: Painted window hoods and murals</p>

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<p>Map #39</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p>		<p>Modifications: In c. 1909, a one-story addition was added to the east of 1306 Main. In c. 1935, 1302 Main was radically altered - chamfered southwest corner entrance squared off and entrance moved to the west elevation, all architectural ornament removed, faced with new brick, window openings modified. In the 1950s or early 1960s, 1306 Main given a similar treatment, and the buildings received a joint entry at the storefront level. Around 1964-1966, new owner Mark Stalhut installed aluminum display windows on the west facade of the joined buildings and at the west corner on the south facade of 1306 Main (Source: Images of America: Crete; Sanborn maps; Ray Sueper, son of Jim Sueper).</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p><i>Building History:</i> Historically two separate buildings, 1302 Main and 1306 Main. 1302 Main was built in 1879. 1306 Main was built in c. 1884. The south building's (1302 Main) main historic function was as a bank. The west half of the building served as a bank from 1879 until 1963. A frame structure housing the State Bank of Nebraska occupied the site from 1872-1879, at which time it was replaced by a brick building. The succession of banks within the new building is as follows: State Bank of Nebraska (1879, crashed in 1892), First State (1892 to 1929, when it merged with Crete State Bank), Crete State Bank (1929-1963, when it relocated to 143 E. 13th Street, the present site of Pinnacle Bank). The east half of the building served a variety of uses: post office (c. 1884 to c. 1897); printing shop (c. 1897-1902), music store (c. 1902-c. 1909), bank offices (c. 1909-c. 1942).</p> <p>The north building (1306 Main) had the following functions over the years: general store (1884); boots and shoes (c.1889-1897); confectionary (1902); confectionary and news at west half and ice cream factory at east half (1909), store (1932), restaurant (1935), store (1942); shoe store (1950s).</p> <p>When the bank left in 1963, Stalhut Drug, run by Mark Stalhut, relocated into both 1302 and 1306 Main from the non-extant Band Opera House building across the street. At an unknown date after 1957 Jim Sueper purchased the drug business and ran his own pharmacy from here until the early 2000s. More recently, the building contained the Super Mercado grocery store. Today it is houses Main Avenue Furniture. (Sources: Crete State Bank 100 Year Anniversary Calendar, "Crete State Bank - A Brief Overview," Images of America: Crete; Ray Sueper, son of Jim Sueper; Omaha World Herald, Crete feature, June 30, 1957; Sanborn Maps; Google maps).</p>		
 <p>1314-16 Main</p>	<p>Crete Mercantile</p>	<p>bet. 1889 and 1897 (Sanborn Maps)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Painted mid-century aluminum storefront over brick knee walls with recessed angled entries Doors: Mid-century clear finished aluminum full lite doors Windows: Historic one-over-one arched top painted wood windows Stylistic features: Round arched rowlock brick window hoods; Dog tooth</p>
<p>State #SA01-387</p>	<p>Two-Part</p>		


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		Commercial Block / No Style	course at upper storefront
Map #38	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		
1 Contributing Building	<p><i>Building History:</i> Two bays wide with no internal partitions historically. Crete Mercantile occupied building in 1890s. Owned by M.E. Haight and sold clothing, housewares, furniture, and provided undertaking. Joseph Kuncl, founder of Kuncl Furniture and Undertaking, worked here for many years. In 1914, Kuncl partnered with Joseph Vavricka and purchased the business, changing the name to Mercantile Furniture and Undertaking Co. In 1930 Kuncl moved his business to 1209-1211 Main. Later became J.C. Penney store. As of December 2015, housed Moser Accounting at North half and Felsing Chiropractic & Rehab at South half (Source: Images of America: Crete).</p>		
 <p>1318-1324 Main</p>	Commercial Building	bet. 1884 and 1889 (Sanborn Maps)	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: North side - Painted historic metal cornice over painted wood storefront surrounding clear finished aluminum display windows on brick knee walls; South side - Painted modern flat metal cornice over mid-century aluminum storefront on contrasting brick knee walls Doors: Both commercial doors are recessed clear finished full lite aluminum doors; Apartment door - Flat panel painted metal door with 10x10 vision panel below a transom infilled with painted wood siding Windows: North second floor windows covered in wood shingles; South second floor windows modern combination units with operable casements in historic painted wood frames Stylistic features: Round arched pilasters frame the second floor windows</p>
State #SA01-385	<p>Arcaded Block / Victorian</p>		



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Name of Property	County and State		
<p>Map #37</p>	<p><i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce</p> <p><i>Building History:</i> Two bays wide. Business in the North bay have included: Drug Store (1889); Post Office (1897-1909); Store (1923-1935); Restaurant (1942); Turkey Creek Realty (2015). Businesses in the South bay have included: Boots & Shoes (1889); Dry Goods (1897); Grocery (1902); Kozlik Shoe Store (1920s); Store (1923-1942); dance studio (2015). (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey)</p>		<p>Modifications: Between 1890 and 1920, projecting bays at 2nd story removed. By 1950s, openings altered, storefront modernized (Images of America: Crete).</p>
<p>1 Contributing Building</p>	<p>Paved Lot</p>		
<p>1323 Main</p>			
<p>State #N/A</p>			
<p>Map #N/A</p>			
<p>N/A</p>			
<p>1325 Main</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>c. 1920 (Assessor); 1979</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: Wood siding, brick Storefront: Clear finished mid-century aluminum display windows on brick knee wall Awning: Asphalt shingled pent roof Door: Clear finished modern aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: Pent roof over storefront; Stick framing on upper storefront body</p>
<p>State #N/A</p>		<p>One-Part Commercial Block / No Style</p>	
<p>Map #36</p>	<p><i>Building History:</i> Store (1923-1942); Staffing Services, Inc. (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).</p>		<p>Modifications: In 1979, when the Band Opera House building to the south was being demolished, the building lost its second floor. An unknown date, changes to exterior cladding and storefront materials (Janet Jeffries).</p>
<p>1 Non-contributing Building (integrity)</p>			
	<p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>1912 (assessor)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: Brick Storefront: Early painted metal storefront with display windows on glazed brick knee walls and patterned colored glass transoms and bulkhead windows Doors: Both main and apartments entry doors are stained wood full lite doors Windows: (2) pairs of one-over-one painted wood double hung units Stylistic features: Accent stones at base, capital and in</p>
<p>1327 Main</p>			
<p>State #SA01-381</p>			




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			a panel within the piers flanking the storefront; Stone supports under stone window sills and at stone band at roof line; Gabled stone parapet with decorative brick medallion below; Soldier course bands at top of storefront and top of second floor windows; Glazed tile accents in upper storefront body
Map #35	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: None
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Store with brick oven at rear (1923); Store with bakery at rear (1935-1942); Office (2016) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Janet Jeffries).		
 <p>1328 Main</p>	Carpenter Shop	c. 1870	Height: One story Walls: Pressed tin Storefront: Painted wood half-lite door flanked by painted wood display windows over pressed tin clad knee walls. Stylistic features: None.
State #SA01-384		False Front / No Style	
Map #34	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: At unknown date, pressed tin siding added to building.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Oldest commercial building in downtown Crete. In early years used for a carpenter shop. From 1870-1871 the rear portion of the building was utilized as a school. Later uses have included: Barber (1884); Cigar factory (1889); Barber (1897); Cigar Factory (1902-1923); Store (1935-1942). As of December 2015 appears vacant but Kathryn's Kurl Shop vinyl lettering at front window. (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey)		
 <p>1331 Main</p>	Commercial Building	1945 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Clear finished mid-century aluminum display windows over brick knee walls Door: Clear finished mid-century aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: None
State #SA01-380		Brick Front Commercial Building / No Style	


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Name of Property		County and State	
Map #33	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: None
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Hanson, Hroch & Kuntz Law Offices (2015) (Source: APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
 1334 Main	Commercial Building	bet. 1909 and 1923 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows over brick knee wall with recessed entry Awning: Modern cloth quarter round awning Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door flanked with glass block sidelites and trimmed with painted wood Stylistic features: None
State #SA01-383		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #32	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Unknown.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Store (1923-1942); Hair Dimensions (2015). (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
 1335 Main	Commercial Building	after 1942 (Sanborn)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern painted aluminum display and transom windows over brick kneewalls with recessed entry Door: Stained wood stile and rail full lite door with glass block sidelights and painted wood panel transom Stylistic features: Contrasting brick panel in upper storefront body; Contrasting brick wythe under stone at cornice
State #SA01-379		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	
Map #31	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Rear additions in 1955 and 1975; Modern aluminum storefront installed sometime after 1990 (Janet Jeffries).
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Prochaska Tax Service / Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors (2015) (Source: APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		
 1339 Main	Commercial Building	bet. 1923 and 1935 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Modern clear finish aluminum display and transom Door: Modern clear finish aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: Contrasting brick panel in upper storefront body; Contrasting brick wythe
State #SA01-378		One-Part	


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		Commercial Block / No Style	under stone at cornice
Map #30 1 Contributing Building	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> Store with Dry Cleaning at the rear (1935)-1942); L & L Nail Creations (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: Modern aluminum storefront at an unknown date
1341 Main	Commercial Building	1920 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Concrete block with asphalt shingles at front. Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows and transom surrounded by painted vertical wood siding Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door Awning: Asphalt shingled pent roof over storefront
State #SA01-377		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	Height: One story Walls: Concrete block with asphalt shingles at front. Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows and transom surrounded by painted vertical wood siding Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door Awning: Asphalt shingled pent roof over storefront
Map #29 1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)	<i>Building History:</i> Store (1923-1942); Ligia's Office (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: Changes made c. 1970.
 1344 Main	Commercial Building	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One story Walls: Brick Storefront: Painted wood trim around display window and within bulkhead Door: Painted stile and rail wood door with multiple lites Awning: Wood shingled pent roof
State #SA01-382		One-Part Commercial Block / No Style	Stylistic features: Corbeled brick cornice
Map #28 1 Contributing Building	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce <i>Building History:</i> An early tenant was Bepalec Heating and Plumbing. Other uses have included: Garage (1909); Post Office (1923); Store (1935); Printing (1942) Carl's Boot & Shoe Repair (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; Images of America: Crete; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: At unknown date, pent roof added.
1345 Main	Commercial Building	bet. 1902 and 1909 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One story Walls: Vertical painted wood siding Storefront: Modern clear finished aluminum display windows over vertical painted wood sided bulkhead Awning: Stained wood
State #N/A			Awning: Stained wood


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			shingled pent roof Door: Modern clear finished aluminum full lite door Stylistic features: None.
Map #27	<i>Building History:</i> Photo (1909-1923); Store (1935-1942); Fly Gear Pressing (2015) (Source: Sanborn Maps; APMA Downtown Crete Survey).		Modifications: Changes made c. 1970.
1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)			
1322 Norman Ave	Gable Front Building	1910 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Corrugated tin Door: Modern painted steel garage door Windows: Painted wood trimmed fixed windows Stylistic features: None
State #N/A		Gable Front / No Style	
Map #26	<i>Building History:</i> Tractor & Implement Store (1935-1942) (Source: Sanborn Maps).		Modifications: At unknown dates, non-historic siding added, and windows /doors replaced.
1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)			
1332 Norman Ave	False Front Building	1910 (assessor)	Height: One story Walls: Painted vertical wood siding Storefront: Painted wood trimmed storefront surrounds clear finished aluminum display window over painted vertical wood siding bulkhead Door: Flat panel painted wood door with 10x10 vision lite Stylistic features: False Front
State #N/A		False Front / No Style	
Map #25	<i>Building History:</i> Carpenter Shop (1923); Auto Spray Painting (1935-1942) (Source: Sanborn Maps).		Modifications: At unknown dates, storefront altered, non-historic siding added above.
1 Non-Contributing Building (integrity)			
	Otto Feeken House	bet. 1923 and 1935 (Sanborn Maps)	Height: One and one-half stories Walls: Stucco Windows: Painted historic one-over-one or one-over-three double hung hunts Stylistic features: Clay tile roof, round arched openings
1346 Norman			
State #SA01-374		Bungalow / Spanish Mission	

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Map #24	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: None
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Local builder Otto Feeken built this residence for himself and his new wife. Located south of the railroad tracks and the Crete Mills, it served as an example to the community of his design and construction capabilities, as well as an example of Spanish Mission style, a building style which he subsequently used when designing homes for local citizens. (Images of America, Crete; Thom Reeves, owner of Isis Theater, interview with Feeken's elderly daughter).		
	Crete Mills	1913	Height: Varies. Walls: Concrete, typical. Windows: Glass block, non-historic sliding windows. Stylistic features: None.
NWC 14th and Norman			
State #SA01-491			
Map #23	<i>Area of Significance:</i> Commerce		Modifications: Various.
1 Contributing Building	<i>Building History:</i> Crete Mills moved to this site in 1913. Over the years they've expanded operations to accommodate production and storage needs. Various buildings and structures at site, many of which are attached and of concrete construction, include the following: grain elevator (1913, 1937); grain storage tanks (1922, 1928, 1934, 1937); feed mill (bet. 1923&1935); flour mill (1919) feed warehouse with offices (1930); feed ware house & shipping (1919, 1937); warehouse & shipping (1938); bag warehouse (bet. 1935 & 1942); flour warehouse (bet. 1935 & 1942). (Source: Sanborn Maps).		

Integrity

None of the buildings in the district have been moved. Thus they all retain integrity of location.

While the setting of individual buildings has altered over time, it has changed incrementally and many of those adjacent alterations are now historic, exhibiting architectural details and forms that range from those typical in the 1890s to those common in the 1950s. From a wider perspective, although it is now part of the larger string of commercial and industrial enterprises along State Highway 33, this district projects a solid core that is separate from the newer developments on either side.

As noted above, the materials and workmanship in the construction of these buildings is notable. The brickwork throughout the district shows the continued dedication to craftsmanship by local masons through the existence of detailed brickwork and the changes to those details over time. Further, many of the storefront alterations are now old enough to be considered historic and typify the changes that occurred in commercial buildings in the mid-century. The combination of brickwork and aluminum storefront illustrates the efforts of many business owners to present a modern image to customers and follow current trends.

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In conclusion, the overall feeling and association with the downtown remains that of a strong and ever growing community where older individuals can recognize many buildings from their childhood and youth and feel a connection to their past.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCE

ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance

1871-1966

Significant Dates

1871

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Otto Feeken

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Crete Downtown Historic District is significant on a local level under **Criterion A** in the area of Community Planning and Development for the influence that first the railroad, and later state highways, played in bringing people to Crete and in propelling the development of downtown. The district is also locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of Commerce as a regional hub where Crete residents, those living in nearby rural areas, and travelers could find their retail, lodging, and entertainment needs met at the variety of purveyors located downtown. Additionally, the district is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of Czech and German Ethnic Heritage for the influence that immigrants from these parts of Europe played in shaping downtown Crete through the operation of businesses and the construction of buildings. Crete's history can be traced back to 1863, when the first settler arrived, but it was not until the railroad came through in 1871 that the town really took off and began to experience fast paced development.

The period of significance begins in 1871, when Crete was officially established and the railroad arrived, and ends in 1966, fifty years from the present.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Establishment of Crete

Jesse C. Bickle was the first Euro-American to make a claim on the land that eventually became the town site for Crete. Bickle, a native of Ohio who farmed in Illinois and Iowa before moving to Nebraska, came in the summer of 1863. Seeing the advantages of the land and the proximity to a strong water source, the Big Blue River, others soon followed and the town began to take shape. In 1868, Bickle was appointed postmaster of the area, with the post office located in his cabin. He named the post office Crete, in honor of his wife's hometown of Crete, Illinois.¹



Figure 7: Jesse C. Bickle.
Crete Historical Society.

In the summer of 1870, Bickle set aside a site on the southern portion of his land and laid out a town, which he called Blue River City. A few months later, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Town Company purchased land directly north and east of Blue River City and platted a town that would be adjacent to their new railroad line from Lincoln. The railroad named the town Crete after Bickle's Post Office, and because it fit with their desire to name the towns along the line in alphabetical order. Tension arose between the competing towns and the railroad nearly relocated its town, which would have isolated Blue River City.² However, before this happened a compromise was reached and the two towns combined under an act of the Nebraska Legislature in March 1871.³

Community Planning and Development

Since its founding, Crete's development has been intricately tied to the construction and endurance of various transportation modes, which brought people, businesses, and materials to the city. The city's success and growth as an early frontier town in Nebraska is directly tied to advantages afforded it by the coming of the railroad in June of 1871, when the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad (B&MR) completed the first rail line through town.⁴ In that same year a bridge for vehicular travel was constructed over the Big Blue River that made Crete an easy stopping point for settlers looking to restock their supplies as they headed west. These transportation mechanisms aided in Crete's development as both a regional agricultural trade center and a supply point.⁵

During the late nineteenth century, the railroad remained the main driver behind Crete's growth. Realizing the advantages a second railroad route would bring to their city, Crete's leaders provided the Missouri Pacific with a \$35,000 grant to direct their line into Crete, rather than going through another town.⁶ In exchange, in 1888, the Missouri Pacific Railroad completed a branch line that entered the town from the southwest and then ran parallel to the Burlington and Missouri route. These lines provided essential transportation for agricultural commodities in this portion of the state and led to the development of notable early manufacturing businesses including Crete Mills and Fairmont Creamery.

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Jesse C. Bickle House, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 77000838; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

² Ibid.; Janet Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 7.

³ A.T. Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 7.

⁶ Robert R. Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*. In *Who's Who in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Press Association, 1940).

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In addition to transporting goods, the railroad lines moved people to and from Crete. To serve these passengers, both the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad and the Missouri Pacific Railroad constructed passenger depots. The B&MR's depot went up in the 1870s along their lines north of downtown. In 1905, this outdated depot was demolished and a new brick building was constructed one block east, near Norman Avenue. The new depot (not extant) boasted steam heat, electricity, restrooms, and various service and lounge areas.⁷ The Missouri Pacific's depot went up along their lines south of downtown. The depot opened in 1889 on a site at the west side of Main Ave, south of 10th Street and one block outside the district boundaries. It contained five rooms, including separate men's and women's waiting rooms, and the interior was finished in Arkansas Pine. In 1950, with the decline in passenger traffic, the building was torn down and replaced with a smaller building that contained an office and freight room for use by railroad employees. This smaller building was removed in the 1980s or 1990s and today the site contains a parking lot.⁸

For travel within Crete and to nearby towns not served by rail, Crete's early citizens either depended upon their own two feet or horses to transport themselves and their goods. In addition to a healthy horse population, horse drawn vehicles required regular maintenance or improvement, as well as lodging for the horses. To serve these needs, a number of businesses downtown sprung up. By 1890, these included 4 blacksmiths, 3 harness manufacturers, 4 liverys, and 1 carriage works.⁹

After 1920, while the railroad remained vital for its ability to ship freight effectively, businesses related to horse-drawn vehicles began to disappear completely from Crete's downtown. As the automobile became more affordable and widespread, it took over to serve personal transportation.

In 1909, the city's first automobile showroom, Universal Auto Company, opened at the southwest corner of 13th and Linden (extant but non-contributing to the district). Some of the city's first automobiles were sold from this one-story brick building, which had large plate glass windows at the north end to show off the cars housed within.¹⁰ In 1916, Crete's first gas station, no longer extant, opened at the northwest corner of 13th Street and Norman Avenue, giving local automobile owners a place to refuel right in the city.¹¹ By 1923, an additional filling station was present at the northwest corner of 13th and Linden. There was also a filling station located at the corner of an auto garage on the northwest corner of 14th and Linden, just outside the historic district.¹²

The 1920s was a point at which the melding of the two vehicular modes was still visible on the downtown streetscape. Horse-drawn conveyance had not yet been totally replaced by automobiles, though it was on the demise. While only a handful of horse-conveyance businesses remained by this point, two of them were located within buildings that also contained automobile businesses. One of these, at 1334 Linden, contained an auto repair shop in its front half and a wagon shop within an addition to the east. The other, at 1220 Linden (not extant), contained a blacksmith at its front half and an auto repair shop at its back half. Other automobile related businesses within the downtown core by this date included 1 auto repair shop, 2 auto showrooms, each with integrated auto repair shops, and 7 large capacity auto storage garages.¹³



Figure 8: Main Avenue in late 1880s, looking north from 12th Street. Crete News Collection.



Figure 9: Universal Auto Company Building. Crete Historical Society, Kerst Collection.

⁷ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 40, 42.

⁸ Dr. William Rapp, "Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot," Data from Crete News, July 20, 1950 in Railroad Station Historical Society Bulletin, January-February 1968; Janet Jeffries, email message to author, February 17, 2016.

⁹ Saline County NEGenWeb, "1890 Crete Business Gazette," <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaline/misc/1890gaz1.htm>; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Crete."

¹⁰ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 33.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 46.

¹² Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1923.

¹³ *Ibid.*

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To accommodate for the increased use of automobiles, and to reflect prevailing trends in streetscape design, Crete installed its first stoptlight in 1920, at the intersection of 13th and Main (then Maine) Avenue. The old, tall streetlight poles that had lit the city since the late nineteenth century were also replaced by shorter ones topped with globes.¹⁴ Just one year before these improvements, in 1919, the downtown business district finally received hard surface paving, something that had been desired by many citizens for a number of years. Class A vitrified brick was utilized for the paving. The contract for installing the paving, curbs and storm sewer was given to the Lincoln-based Roberts Construction Co. Contracts for smaller parts of the project were given to local men – Joseph Kersenbrock was employed to dig the water and sewer trenches and lay the sewer pipe and C.F. Baker, a plumber, was secured for laying the water service pipe.¹⁵



Figure 10: Main Avenue in the 1920s, looking south from near 14th Street. Kuncel Family Collection.

As automobile use within Crete remained on the rise, and related businesses continued to open, Crete benefited from the completion of Nebraska State Highway 33 through the city in 1926.¹⁶ Nebraska Highway 33, which connects U.S. Highway 6 to U.S. Highway 77 as it passes through Dorchester and Crete, both in Saline County, follows the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks between the two cities. In the coming decades, more and more roads would be constructed throughout Nebraska to serve automobile travel. These routes made getting around by car increasingly easy and spelled the doom for passenger railroad service.

Crete gained its second state highway, Nebraska Highway 103, in the midst of the Depression. The highway, which primarily ran north-south, was established in 1936. From Highway 6 fourteen miles north of Crete, it meets up with Nebraska Highway 33 at the northeast edge of Crete, shares a road with that older highway through the city, and then turns southwest of Crete, connecting it to the Saline County seat in Wilber. By 1974, Highway 103's advantages increased exponentially when Interstate 80, a major inter-state arterial, was completed through Nebraska and Highway 103 joined with it 2 miles north of Highway 6.¹⁷

In 1971, the final passenger train ran through Crete.¹⁸ While the railroad remained an important mover of goods, it was no longer needed when most residents now had at least one vehicle per family to get themselves from one destination to the next. During this time the movement of goods was supplemented with the overland trucking industry. As this mode of transportation grew in the latter half of the twentieth century, it began relying on state highways 33 and 103 through Crete, helping the town remain a commercial center.

Today, downtown Crete remains a vital part of the city, with businesses continuing to fill the commercial bays and a notable manufacturer, the Crete Mills, remaining a strong presence at the north end. However, the automobile has changed the face of development in Crete, as it has in many towns and cities throughout the United States. Since the mid-twentieth century, more manufacturers and retailers have increasingly set up shop on the outskirts of Crete along major arterials and less development has occurred downtown, especially in comparison to Crete's early years when new buildings were going up every year.

Commerce

Even before the railroad reached the town, Crete began to take shape. Industrious early settlers saw the need for manufacturing and industrial enterprises to facilitate building construction and surrounding agricultural production. Others set up a variety of businesses to provide local residents with jobs, goods, services, and a roof over their heads. In 1869, a water-powered saw mill was built in the vicinity of the town along the Big Blue River. Known at the time as Mapleton Mills, this saw mill later evolved into the Crete Mills, the longest running industrial business operating in the city. A year after the saw mill was constructed, a flour mill went up at the same site.¹⁹ By August of 1870, Crete boasted 2 general stores, 2

¹⁴ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 16.

¹⁵ *Omaha World Herald*, "Crete's Mayor Makes Suggestions for Year," May 1, 1912; *The Crete Vidette-Herald*, "Paving for this City is the Big Question," March 14, 1918; *The Crete News*, "Paving Contracts Let," June 12, 1919.

¹⁶ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1909, 1923, and 1935.

¹⁷ Chris Geelhart, "Nebraska Highways," <http://www.dm.net/~chris-g/ne100up.html#NE-103>; Nebraska Department of Roads, "The Interstate in Nebraska," <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/i-80-anniv/>.

¹⁸ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 40.

¹⁹ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete;" Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 8.

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groceries, 1 blacksmith shop, 3 boarding houses, 1 drug store, and 1 lawyer's office.²⁰ One of the general stores, Valentine, Tidball & Co., sold merchandise out of a large frame building. A saloon run by Richard Carter was also in operation by this time, selling liquor to thirsty railroad workers out of a shanty structure.²¹ Despite all the improvements, some of the town site was still being used to cultivate corn and oats. There were about 400 people living in Crete at the time.²²

To educate the children of early settlers, a one-room, 16-foot square school was established in 1870 in a portion of a new downtown building that also housed a carpenter's shop. This building was used for educational purposes for less than a year. By the next school year, the school moved to another location east of downtown and in the coming decades, as Crete's population grew, more schools were added throughout the city.²³ The front of the short-lived school building later became Prucha's Cigar Store. It remains today at 1328 Main, notable as the oldest extant commercial building in downtown Crete.²⁴

The construction of railroad lines, two of which were completed by the end of 1871, incited the establishment of businesses to serve railroad builders and town residents. That year, the city's business offerings grew to include 2 hotels, 2 restaurants, 1 bakery, 3 general stores, 1 grocery, 2 drug stores, 2 tin shops, 1 agricultural depot, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 wagon shop, 1 shoemaker's shop, 1 harness store, 1 millinery store, 1 furniture shop, 2 billiard halls, 3 saloons, 1 wholesale liquor house, 1 meat market, 1 flouring-mill, 1 sawmill, and 2 livery-stables. A hotel, livery-stable and clothing store would soon open.²⁵ Additionally the city's first newspaper, *The Saline County Post*, went to print in 1871 with Charles Little as the editor. It was the first newspaper in the county. Two years later, the *Post* was sold to new owners, Henry Hoyt and H.M. Wells, who moved its offices to the second floor of the Miller Block (1246 Main Avenue). At the time the Jordan and Ruffner dry goods and grocery store was located at the ground floor of this building.²⁶ The *Post* later evolved into *The Crete News*, which remains in operation today at 1201 Linden Avenue.²⁷



Figure 11: Schoolteacher, Charles Bowlby, and two former students in front of the short-lived school at 1328 Main in 1916. Crete Historical Society.

Early in the 1870s, Crete benefitted from the founding of Doane College, a stalwart fixture in the community that, in the coming decades, played a role in Crete's population growth and its economic stability. This college is the oldest liberal arts college in Nebraska and, according to Janet Jeffries, was founded to give "pioneer children on the prairie...the same educational advantages as children from more civilized areas."²⁸ The college incorporated in 1872; its founders were settlers who came to Crete from New England and were members of the General Association of Congregational Churches. With the assistance of Colonel Thomas Doane, chief civil engineer for the Burlington Missouri River Railroad and the school's namesake, the founders secured 600 acres of land donated by the railroad on which to lay out the campus. The campus site is located atop a hill eight blocks southeast of the downtown center.²⁹

The college's early administrators worked hard to integrate themselves into the local community life. Thomas Doane gained a leadership position at the State Bank of Nebraska, located in downtown Crete, and the college's first president learned Bohemian in order to communicate more effectively with the sizable number of Czech students and their families.³⁰ In the coming decades, Doane College and downtown Crete would remain closely aligned. Some downtown businessmen took on leadership roles at Doane College. For example, Earl Talhelm, the manager of Crete Mills in the late 1940s, served as chairman of the Doane College Board of Trustees Executive Committee for a number of years.³¹ Additionally, downtown

²⁰ Annadora Foss Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: State Journal Printing Company, 1937), 37-38.

²¹ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

²² Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 54.

²³ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 61, 65; Val Kuska, Sandra J. Breitreutz, ed., *Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies* (The Saline County Genealogical Society, 1997), 35.

²⁴ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 18. Breitreutz, *Saline County Roots*, 35; Alice Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff (Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988), <http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/crete/>.

²⁵ Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 39.

²⁶ Breitreutz, *Saline County Roots*, xiii-xiv; Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 38.

²⁷ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 38.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 61.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 7, 61-63; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

³⁰ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 61.

³¹ *Omaha World Herald*, "Earl Talhelm, Crete, Fatally Stricken at 62," November 22, 1947.

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Crete, with its array of stores, provided Doane College faculty, students and staff with access to a variety of goods and services over the years.

By the early 1870s, the variety of new businesses, job opportunities, and the easy accessibility provided by the railroad brought many new residents to Crete. Between 1871 and 1874, Crete's population more than doubled, to 916 people. This exponential growth meant that the fledgling town exceeded the 800 persons required by the state to qualify as a city of the second class, and so in 1873 Crete officially acquired that designation.³²

As Crete and surrounding areas within Saline County were in the midst of notable success and growth, a dispute commenced that pitted Crete and a handful of other towns against one another in a 71-year fight over the location of the county seat. Crete made multiple bids for the seat, with the first taking place in 1871 and the second in 1877. The 1877 vote resulted in the removal of the county seat to Wilber, Nebraska, where it remains today. As a result of losing both of these bids, and another in 1920, Crete never gained distinction as the county seat. However, Crete's strong economy, advantageous location adjacent to the railroad, and the presence of the respected Doane College, meant that this loss did little to adversely affect the city's survival. Instead the city continued to prosper throughout the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century.³³

In these fledgling years, a commercial district arose that centered on the intersection of Main (then Maine) Avenue and 13th Street, just a few blocks southeast of the railroad. The first commercial buildings constructed in Crete were of wood construction. Many stood just one story tall with false fronts to give them a more substantial appearance. Their wood construction made them more susceptible to fires, and to the risk of whole blocks being destroyed because the city did not yet have access to a steady supply of water. Until the 1880s, when a city water system was introduced, firemen were forced to put out fires using well water retrieved with buckets. According to Annadora Foss Gregory, a number of fires occurred in Crete during the 1870s. In July 1880, a fear that the downtown could be destroyed by an unruly fire led city leaders to pass Ordinance 130, which made it illegal to build wooden or frame buildings in blocks 1, 127, or 143, where much of the commercial district was, and remains, concentrated.³⁴



Figure 12: Brick and frame false front buildings along Main Avenue in the 1880s. Marti Ator Williams Collection.

Even before the introduction of Ordinance 130, certain businessmen had begun to construct buildings of more fireproof materials. In 1876, construction started on the city's first brick building, which went up at the northwest corner of 13th and Main. Built by Dr. Charles Band, the Band Building (no longer extant) contained two retail bays at its first story and an opera house with a capacity for 800 people at its second story.³⁵ In 1879, the three-story brick Cosmopolitan Hotel (no longer extant) went up at the northeast corner of 14th Street and Main Avenue, an advantageous location just two blocks from the railroad depot.³⁶ In the coming decades, more brick buildings followed.

City services, including the city hall, post office and library, lacked permanent homes during Crete's early decades as a city. Instead, each of these services was located in a variety of locations within existing commercial buildings. For example, during the 1880s, the post office was located in the east half of the Crete State Bank building (1320 Main). Between 1889 and 1897, it moved from the center of that block to 1324 Main. The city hall was the first of these city services to receive a permanent home. In 1890, a two-story frame building that had formerly served as the high school was moved to a prominent location at the corner of 13th Street and Kingwood Avenue and was altered for use as the city hall. A brick jail was later added behind the civic building. Forty years later, these buildings were demolished to make way for a new city hall. The library and post office would not receive dedicated buildings until 1915 and 1931, respectively.³⁷ In the meantime, at their temporary or altered locations, all of these institutions offered locals easy access to government services they routinely utilized.

³² Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete;" Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 54; Nebraska Legislature, "17-101. Cities of the second class, defined; population; exception," <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=17-101>.

³³ J.W. Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858* (Dewitt, NE, 1962), 147-154.

³⁴ Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 72.

³⁵ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 9-30; Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns*; Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 68.

³⁶ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 21.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 35.

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At the time of the 1880 decennial census, Crete's population had risen to 1,870 residents, which quickly grew to 2,310 by the 1890 census. Over the course of these two decades, more and more businesses appeared in the commercial district, allowing Crete residents and those from nearby areas to meet many of their needs without having to travel a great distance and, in many cases, giving them a variety of choices between suppliers. Main (then Maine) Avenue and 13th Street became almost solidly lined with 1- and 2-story buildings. A number of these buildings, such as those built by J. Menke and W. Hamann at the east end of downtown, were ornamented with decorative window hoods and cornices that showed off the prosperity of their builders. According to nameplates at the cornice level, J. Menke and W. Hamann constructed their buildings in 1888. The two-story one-bay brick buildings are adjacent to each other at 130-136 E. 13th Street and were given the same façade treatment so that they appear as a singular building.

By 1890, downtown businesses included 2 banks – First National Bank and the State Bank of Nebraska; 6 grocery stores; 2 druggists; 6 general merchandise stores; 2 furniture stores; 2 jewelers; 7 clothing stores; 2 restaurants; 3 meat markets; 6 saloons; and the opera hall.

Also during this period, manufacturing within Crete generally took place on the outskirts of the commercial district, near the railroad or the Big Blue River. In 1881, the water-powered saw and grist mill at the southwest end of the city became Crete Mills. Eight years later, the fledgling Fairmont Creamery opened its first plant outside of its home base of Fairmont, Nebraska, taking over the site formerly occupied by the Crete Creamery, at 18th Street and Boswell Avenue.³⁸ By 1890, the city also had a foundry, a soap manufacturer, a wind mill manufacturer, a mineral water maker, 3 lumber yards, 3 grain elevators, 2 coal yards, 2 breweries, and an Anheuser-Busch Beer Depot.³⁹ While none of these operated within the downtown, the large labor force needed to work in these industries helped to support the downtown businesses. More directly, a handful of small manufacturing enterprises were located within commercial buildings downtown, including two cigar factories and a broom factory.⁴⁰ None of the buildings associated with these enterprises are extant.



Figure 13: Miller Block (SA01-055) after Steidl Drug opened there in 1897. Saline County Historical Society.

As the 1890s came to a close, Crete was on its way to recovering from an economic depression that had struck the nation in 1893. New businesses were opening up downtown, including the Steidl Drugstore, which moved into the Miller Block in 1897 and remained in operation there until 1920.⁴¹ The city was also swiftly approaching the modern age in which technology would bring with it new types of entertainment, transportation, communication, and even architecture.

The dawn of a new age might best be exemplified by a two day event that took place at Band's Opera House in August of 1898. In an effort to attract a dwindling audience, the opera house, once a center of community activities, was briefly made over into a cinema palace, offering showings of an Edison motion picture for the first time in Crete.⁴² Within thirty years, the city would have three movie theaters, including one at the Band building, and automobiles could be found throughout the city and beyond.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Crete experienced a small population decline of 4.8 percent, likely linked to the financial crisis of the early 1890s. As the city advanced into the new century, however, it managed to overcome these momentary hardships and acquire more residents and businesses. By the 1920s, Crete's population had grown by 11 percent and it continued to increase, reaching 2,865 by 1930. The town continued to be an important agricultural trade center until the Great Depression. It was a place where farmers could come to purchase farm equipment, sell their grain, milk, eggs and other raw materials, and purchase clothing and various necessities. The railroad made it easy to ship and receive crops or seeds, and the presence of businesses such as the Crete Mills and Fairmont Creamery meant a ready buyer for items produced and grown on

³⁸ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 41

³⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1889; Saline County NEGenWeb, "1890 Crete Business Gazette;" Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁴⁰ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1884, 1897.

⁴¹ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 11-12.

⁴² Douglas O. Street, "Band's Opera House, the Cultural Hub of Crete, 1877-1900," *Nebraska History* (1979), 71-73.

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the farms. Fairmont Creamery moved its operations closer to downtown and the railroad in the first decade of the 1900s, taking over two-thirds of a city block two blocks north of the downtown core.⁴³

Throughout the city, there was a turnover in building stock in the first decades of the 1900s, which reflected Crete's continued growth and success as a city. The edges of the commercial district, those blocks that branched off of the dense core along Main Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, were slowly becoming more filled in with new buildings constructed on previously empty lots. Interestingly, three dwellings were built within the downtown area, where none had been previously, two on Main Avenue south of 14th Street and one on 13th Street between Main and New Hampshire. The appearance of these residences is unknown and none are extant today.

As downtown continued to fill in, many new establishments opened that reflected the forward pace of the modernizing city. The city's first automobile showroom, Universal Auto Company, opened in 1909.⁴⁴ By 1910, the city had three banks within a two block radius of one another after the two-story City National Bank Building went up at the northwest corner of 12th Street and Main Avenue. Built by C.M. Marcelino, the bank boasted a fire- and burglar-proof vault. A dental office occupied the second story in its early days.⁴⁵ Also by this point, the city had a cement block factory and a patent stone factory downtown, which likely provided the construction materials for the handful of non-brick buildings in the downtown core.⁴⁶

The employees of Crete Mills, and other nearby manufacturing and industrial businesses, helped support the downtown businesses. As of 1939, Crete Mills employed two hundred men and women and shipped an average of 11 carloads of flour, cornmeal, cereals, and mixed feeds on the railroad daily.⁴⁷ The company had relocated to a site at the northwest end of downtown in 1913, following a fire at one of its elevator buildings on the Big Blue River. The new site, where the mill continues to operate today, is adjacent to the railroad and two blocks northwest of 13th Street and Main Avenue. With the move, mill operations switched from a dependence upon water power to electricity. In 1919, the mill constructed a modern daylight plant using profits from flour sales secured during World War I. Built of reinforced concrete and steel, the plant was of fire-proof construction and had large window openings and good ventilation. It is one of only 10 daylight mill plants constructed in Nebraska and was the first flour mill in the United States to install air conditioning.⁴⁸ Nearby, concrete elevators were constructed that could accommodate much heavier loads than their wooden counterparts. In the coming decades, the daylight plant was added onto and the mill thrived, benefitting from its adjacency to the railroad and its proximity to fertile agricultural lands.⁴⁹



Figure 14: Aerial view of Crete Mills (SA01-491) in 1941. Crete Historical Society, Krebs Collection.



Figure 15: Otto Feeken House (SA01-374). Marilyn Feeken Reiss Collection.

As Crete's population grew in the first part of the 1900s, so too did its residential building stock, surrounding the downtown core on the east, south and west. In an effort to acquire some of that residential building work, contractor Otto Feeken built a Mission-style bungalow for his family on the southeast corner of 14th Street and Norman Avenue, at the northwest end of the district.⁵⁰ Though far from the city's residential neighborhoods, it is located just one block south of where the railroad's passenger depot was situated, thus allowing Feeken to show off his design and construction capabilities to arriving passengers and potential clients.⁵¹ The endeavor certainly paid off as Feeken is known locally for both his commercial and residential work, many examples of which are extant, including the Isis Theater located one block south and within the historic district. His personal house, however, is the only residential building in the district.

⁴³ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 41.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 33.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 22.

⁴⁶ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1909.

⁴⁷ *Omaha World Herald*, "Crete Mills is 70 Years Old," May 28, 1939.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*; Thomas R. Buecker, "Nebraska Flour Mill Buildings, Structure and Style, 1854-1936," *Nebraska History* 66 (1985), 160-61.

⁴⁹ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 44-45.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 84.

⁵¹ Janet Jeffries, Email from Crete resident and Lyric Theater owner Thom Reeves, who interviewed Feeken's daughter before her death, January 6, 2016.

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The tumultuous events of the mid-twentieth century, most notably the Great Depression and World War II, impacted Crete as they did all parts of the nation. However, Crete had the advantage of strong, stalwart industries that helped the city to weather the Depression and thrive into the coming decades. Additionally, the city benefited from the relative stability of Saline County's agriculture industry, the county's most important financial driver.⁵² During the Depression, 1934 was the toughest year for the county's agriculture industry, with 93 percent of the county's farms reporting crop failure.⁵³ However, the crop situation improved thereafter. In 1936, C.D. Blauvelt, then editor of the *Crete News*, told reporters that crop production was on the rise in the area surrounding Crete.⁵⁴

Notably, none of the city's three banks failed during the Depression, although two did consolidate in 1929 when the First State Bank became a part of Crete State Bank.⁵⁵ Smaller businesses did fail, but it appears they were often quickly replaced by new businesses. In September of 1933, Crete had six empty business buildings. Three months later, all of these had been filled.⁵⁶ By 1936, the editor of the *Crete News*, C.D. Blauvelt, boasted that, "There isn't a vacant store in town and it is almost impossible to rent a house."⁵⁷

All of the city's major employers, including Doane College, Crete Mills, Fairmont Creamery, and Douglas Manufacturing survived the Depression and were crucial sources of employment during these years. Other avenues for employment included work on public and private construction projects. In 1931, Crete experienced almost \$500,000 worth of building projects, which a newspaper reporter noted would help to "alleviate the unemployment situation of the past winter."⁵⁸ Various building projects would continue throughout the 1930s, providing employment, even if only temporary, for those in need of jobs.

Government-backed projects added five civic and educational buildings, including two downtown, during the Depression. Another government-sponsored project financed the construction of a new city sewage disposal plant. These projects provided jobs to local residents while at the same time adding diversity to the city's building stock and providing much needed services to citizens. For example, in 1933, projects facilitated by the job creation programs Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Public Works Administration (PWA), employed over 79 men in Crete.⁵⁹

The two government-backed projects downtown were a new post office and city hall. The post office was built under President Hoover's administration for a cost of \$65,000 and dedicated on October 11, 1931. The two-story building was designed in the Neo-Classical Style with a portico at its entry topped by a pediment and supported by columns.⁶⁰ Eight years later, in 1939, Crete received a grant from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to replace the old city hall with a new brick building. In addition to offices for city employees, the two-story Art Deco building contained garages and workshops for the fire department and city vehicles, community meeting spaces, a kitchen, storage vaults and a jail.⁶¹ Both the post office and city hall are contributing buildings to the district.

A handful of private construction projects also occurred during the Depression, as did improvements to certain downtown businesses by owners who had the funds to make exterior or interior alterations. In 1933, a privately-funded project to build a brewery at the west end of town employed 35 men. This brewery was short lived, but during its existence it was a notable job creator, employing 50 people in 1934.⁶² In 1936, the Crete Mills undertook an addition to their 12-story plant at the northwest end of downtown, reflecting the continued success of this important local business, even in times of economic uncertainty.⁶³ In 1938, the city's third movie house, the Times Theatre, opened in two former retail bays at the first floor of the Band Building. The second floor dance hall had recently failed and the owner was looking for a financially viable entertainment option to fill the building. In tandem with the interior alterations, an illuminated marquee was added and the exterior was

⁵² *Omaha World Herald*, "Saline County Holds Record for Nebraska," November 11, 1931.

⁵³ 1940 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁵⁴ *Omaha World Herald*, "Goodwill Trip is Gay but Zephyr Has Trouble," June 14, 1936.

⁵⁵ *Omaha World Herald*, "Change Court Filing in Crete Bank Case," May 29, 1931.

⁵⁶ *Omaha World Herald*, "No Empty Stores at Crete," December 16, 1933.

⁵⁷ *Omaha World Herald*, "Goodwill Trip is Gay but Zephyr Has Trouble."

⁵⁸ *Omaha World Herald*, "Crete's \$500,000 Building Plans Now Under Way," April 2, 1931.

⁵⁹ *Omaha World Herald*, "No Empty Stores at Crete."

⁶⁰ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 39.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 35.

⁶² *Omaha World Herald*, "Dr. George Miller Quits Presidency of Crete Brewery," June 18, 1934.

⁶³ *Omaha World Herald*, "Goodwill Trip is Gay but Zephyr Has Trouble."

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covered with stucco in an effort to update the 1870s building to popular architectural styles of the day. This new venture at the Band building proved more successful, and the theater remained in operation for the next 30 years.⁶⁴

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In the midst of these physical changes, Crete's population grew in the 1930s and into the coming decades, even while Saline County as a whole lost residents. Some of these new residents were former farm dwellers who moved into town looking for job opportunities. Others were attracted there by Doane College, which experienced a steady rise in student enrollment from the 1930s onward.⁶⁵ The city's population growth shows that even during trying times, Crete benefited greatly from her strong business connections, transportation advantages, and institution of higher education. Between 1930 and 1940, census figures show that the city gained 173 new residents, amounting to a 6 percent increase.

America's entry into World War II following the Pearl Harbor bombing on December 7, 1941 brought a dramatic end to the Great Depression as every citizen was called upon to mobilize for the war effort. Many business owners and farmers who had struggled during the lean years of the 1930s were suddenly overcome with requests for a variety of products needed by the enlisted and civilians alike. In particular, big businesses, which had the capacity to produce items on a large scale, benefitted greatly during the war.⁶⁶ One of Crete's main industries, Fairmont Creamery, employed nearly four times as many workers during the war as it did during peacetime in order to maintain a pressing schedule that including producing 15,000 pounds of dried eggs daily.⁶⁷ The demand for workers at places like Fairmont Creamery caused Crete's population to jump a dramatic 21.5 percent between 1940 and 1950.

However, not all businesses in Crete thrived during the war. Instead, a newspaper article notes how the end of the war actually "served as a stimulus to business in Crete." About two months after the war ended, the city no longer had any vacant business houses. Additionally, Crete gained the following businesses: two jewelry stores, a tool manufacturing firm, a barber shop, electric and painter's shops, a second-hand store and a radio sales and service company.⁶⁸

In the two decades after the war, the local economy continued to thrive. By 1957, the variety of businesses within Crete included: Crete State Bank, City National Bank, Cinx's IGA Super Market, Bob Wanek Furniture and Apparel, Bud's Cleaners, Dorsey's Café, Behren's Photography Studio, Kuncel Funeral Home, The Crete News, Stahlhut Drug Co., Wissenburg & Pfisterer Drug, Hojez's Pharmacy, Ben Franklin, J.C. Penney Co., and Crete Cleaners.⁶⁹

Crete's population dipped slightly between 1950 and 1960, falling by 4 percent. By the next decade it regained itself, jumping 25 percent, to 4,444 people, by 1970. During this time, many of Crete's downtown buildings underwent improvements

to take care of deferred maintenance and to modernize their appearance to increase their consumer appeal. The Crete State Bank building at 1302 Main and the Crete Martial Arts Academy building at 136-140 W. 13th were both completely stripped of their ornamentation, faced with new brick and received new window openings at their primary facades. The Crete Plumbing and Heating Company building at 220 E. 13th Street also received new cladding, in this case pink stone veneer, and aluminum storefront windows and double doors were then added. A similar dramatic alteration occurred to the Kopetsky Jewelry Store building at 1229 Main, which was faced in new brick, given new window openings at its second story, and a flat metal canopy above its storefront level. The storefront itself was remodeled again at a more recent unknown date.

By the 1960s, Crete's economy continued to rely primarily on agriculture but it was also becoming increasingly diverse. This broadening of the economic base led to changes in how the city was organized. In the coming decades, commerce and industry would be less concentrated on the historic downtown core as the town began to attract a number of national manufacturing and service industries that constructed buildings on the outskirts of the city adjacent to the two highways.



Figure 16: Main Avenue looking north in the 1950s. Kuncel Family Collection.

⁶⁴ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 14; Street, "Band's Opera House, The Cultural Hub of Crete, 1877-1900," 75.

⁶⁵ Doane College, Historical Enrollment Figures, data provided by Janet Jeffries.

⁶⁶ Marilyn M. Harper, "World War II and the American Home Front: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study," National Historic Landmarks Program, October 2007, <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/themes/WWIIHomeFront.pdf>.

⁶⁷ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 41; Jean Lampila, "Fairmont Creamery received wartime production award in 1943," *Crete News*, November 14, 2013.

⁶⁸ *Omaha World Herald*, "End of War Boosts Business at Crete," October 31, 1945.

⁶⁹ *Omaha World Herald*, Crete, Nebraska advertisement, June 30, 1957.

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Although these new businesses located further from the downtown center than previous large-scale businesses had, they were important employment providers for the city and their presence helped the local economy and therefore the downtown core to remain strong. Today, many of the buildings constructed during Crete's early years remain along Main and 13th Streets, their very presence often one of the last physical reminders of the enterprises that helped Crete to grow and thrive in the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries.

Ethnic Heritage

Since its beginning, Crete, and Saline County generally, has attracted a sizable number of first- and second-generation immigrants, who were drawn to this part of Nebraska by the promise of good, affordable land to farm; available jobs with the railroad or in manufacturing; and the opportunity to pursue their own business interests. Saline County's first wave of settlement in the 1870s represented a mix of nationalities. Many came following the arrival of the first rail line, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, to Saline County in 1871. While a number of these early settlers were long time Easterners who had decided to try their fortune further west, there were also many recent immigrants from Europe. Of this latter group, English, Irish, German, and Czech natives dominated in the early years.⁷⁰ As with other early immigrant groups who settled the United States frontier in the late nineteenth century, word of mouth, newspaper advertisements, and railroad pamphlets distributed in the United States and Europe attracted these settlers.⁷¹

In the coming decades, Germans and Czechs in particular became a prominent presence throughout much of the county. While Germans did not settle here in as large of numbers as they did elsewhere in Nebraska, such as nearby Lancaster, Seward, and Gage Counties, Czech settlers came to Saline County in droves.⁷² In her study of Czechs in Nebraska, Rose Rosicky notes that Saline County "contains the largest Czech rural colony of any in Nebraska."⁷³ As of 1890, there were 1,088 Germans and 2,043 Czechs, far more than any other ethnic group. For example, the next highest number of immigrants in that year came from Canada and numbered 333 persons.⁷⁴ Numbers for each group declined in the coming decades, as less people emigrated from their native countries and inter-marriage with non-Czechs and non-Germans occurred, but each group nevertheless maintained a strong presence amongst the ethnic groups represented in Saline County.⁷⁵

Germans settled in or near Crete, DeWitt, Dorchester, Swanton, Tobias, and Western in sizable numbers and Czechs settled in or near Crete, Wilber, Dorchester, Swanton, Tobias and Western.⁷⁶ Czechs settled in greatest number in the southeast part of the county, along the valleys of the Blue River, near Crete and Wilber. Wilber is perhaps the best known town in all of Nebraska for its association with Czech heritage. Today it has earned the title of the "Czech capital of Nebraska" for its notable Czech presence.⁷⁷ However, as the largest city in Saline County, Crete also attracted a notable number of Czechs, as well as Germans.

In 1880, 28 percent of Crete's population was foreign-born, with the largest number of people coming from Germany (122 persons) and Bohemia⁷⁸ (131 persons). A smaller number of immigrants came from Prussia, Austria, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Prince Edward Island, Turkey, West Indies, Sweden and Denmark.⁷⁹ A number of these immigrants, particularly those from German and Czech lands, ran businesses and other enterprises that helped Crete thrive and that led to the growth and evolution of Crete's downtown.⁸⁰ In 1882, 38 of Crete's 96 business men were first generation Americans.⁸¹ Downtown, these foreign-born businessmen ran a variety of enterprises, including general stores, saloons, furniture stores, and jewelry stores.

⁷⁰ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

⁷¹ Dr. John A. Habenicht in Rose Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, Czech Historical Society of Nebraska (Omaha, NE: National Printing Company, 1929), 19-31; Janet Warkentin Rife, *Germans and German-Russians in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Center for Great Plains Studies, 1980), 5; Frederick C. Luebke, "Ethnic Group Settlement on the Great Plains," *The Western Historical Quarterly* 8, no. 4 (1977).

⁷² Rife, *Germans and German-Russians in Nebraska*, 6-7.

⁷³ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70.

⁷⁴ Wayne Wheeler, *An Almanac of Nebraska: Nationality, Ethnic, and Racial Groups* (Omaha, NE: Park Bromwell Press, 1975), 224-225.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*: Luebke, "Ethnic Group Settlement on the Great Plains."

⁷⁶ Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture Incorporated, "Reconnaissance Level Survey for Saline County," Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, 2015.

⁷⁷ Helen Novak Baer, "Nebraska Czechs Incorporated," in *Czechs and Nebraska*, edited by Vladimir Kucera and Alfred Novacek (Ord, NE: Quiz Graphic Arts, Inc., 1967), 388-389.

⁷⁸ Ethnic Czechs hail from the Eastern European Czech (or Bohemian) crownlands of Bohemia, Moravia, and Austrian Silesia. Early Czech immigrants were often referred to simply as Bohemians. Josef Opatrny, "Problems in the History of Czech Immigration to America in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century," *Nebraska History* 74 (Fall-Winter 1993): 120. http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/fulltext/Czech_03_Migration.pdf.

⁷⁹ Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 54-56.

⁸⁰ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 8.

⁸¹ Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 131.

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Recent immigrants were also often involved in cultural organizations that allowed them to pursue common interests, form or maintain relationships, as well as preserve ties to their homeland through a common language and customs. In Crete both the Germans and the Czechs organized themselves into groups focused upon particular interests. One German cultural group in Crete was Maennerchor, which cultivated local Germans musical talents.⁸² Societal and bureaucratic pressures during World War I and II forced Germans in Crete, and throughout the country, to downplay their own heritage in favor of emphasizing their “American”-ness.⁸³ This likely led to the loss of German heritage groups that may existed in Crete historically.

Czechs, on the other hand, never faced such extreme pressure to discard their heritage and they were thus able to better maintain a strong tradition of organizing themselves into groups dedicated to fraternity, benevolence, athletics, community, education and entertainment. Some such organizations that existed in Crete included a unit of the athletic and educationally-minded Sokol society, along with at least two fraternal groups – a Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek (ČSPS, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society) and a Západo-Česko-Bratrská Jednota (ZČBJ, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association). There were also a number of Czech bands that played in Crete and throughout the region.⁸⁴

In downtown Crete, the heritage of these two ethnic groups remains most visible in the buildings constructed by various German and Czech businessmen, or the businesses they operated out of existing buildings. One building within the district remains standing as a symbol of Crete’s Czech heritage generally - the Sokol Hall at the northeast corner of 12th and Norman. This hall was constructed in 1915. The two-story brick building with a raised basement contained an auditorium for gymnastics, dances, and theatrical performances along with meeting spaces and dining facilities. As with other Sokol Halls, the Crete Sokol group did not limit the use of their building to just their own organization or even their own ethnic group. Instead, since its opening, the hall has been a place where local Czech fraternal groups could meet and where non-Czech community members could host a variety of activities.⁸⁵

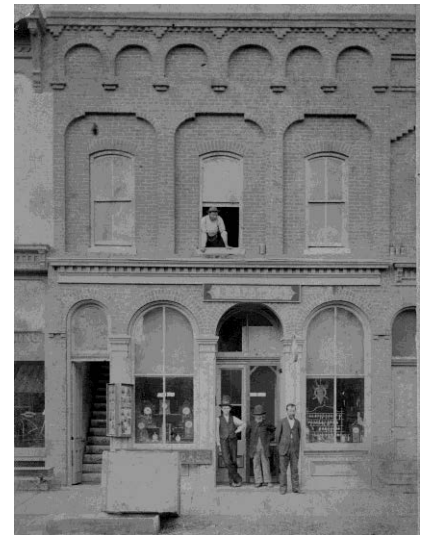


Figure 17: Czech immigrant Joseph Kopetzky in front of his jewelry store at 1229 Main Avenue (SA01-403). Crete Historical Society.

Today, Czech and German ancestral ties remain strong throughout Saline County and in towns such as Crete and nearby Wilber, with more than half of the county’s residents claiming association with one of these two groups. As of the 2010 U.S. Census, 38 percent of residents identified as having German heritage and 24 percent identified as having Czech heritage. In Crete, while the German cultural heritage is less visible, the Czech culture has maintained a relatively strong presence, although it is not nearly as dominant as it was around the turn of the twentieth century when many first generation Czechs lived and worked in the city’s vicinity. Presently, Czech bands continue to play at various events, including funerals and celebrations. The Sokol also remains a community hub where Czechs and non-Czechs gather for dances, funerals, gymnastics and other events.⁸⁶

In Crete, a few of the notable immigrants who operated businesses within the downtown district historically include:

German

Frank J. Rademacher was a German immigrant who arrived in America in 1868 and settled in Crete in 1870. A furniture maker, he opened one of the first shops in Crete in July 1870. By May 1871, he acquired a business partner and opened a furniture store, Nave and Rademacher. In 1880, Rademacher constructed the building at 1225 Main (SA01-404). Five years later, he constructed an “annex” to this building, at 1221 Main (SA01-405), that adjoined the original at its east wall and had a similar massing and appearance. Rademacher’s business continued to prosper in the coming decades, and expanded to include a mail order service for settlers in western Nebraska as well as branch stores in the Saline County towns of Wilber

⁸² Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 108.

⁸³ Rife, *Germans and German-Russians in Nebraska*, 6-7.

⁸⁴ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97, 351-363.

⁸⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Tělocvičná Jednota T.J. Sokol Hall, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 03001214.

⁸⁶ Janet Jeffries, email message to author, April 3, 2016.

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and Friend. He also opened a large furniture outlet with his sons in York, Nebraska by 1912. At his Crete store, Rademacher also had an undertaking business.⁸⁷

Peter Buenger was born in Germany and came to America in 1866. He arrived in Crete sometime in the 1870s. In 1876, he went into the saloon business after purchasing a saloon and billiard hall in Crete. In 1882, he constructed a building for his business along 13th Street.⁸⁸

William Kersenbrock was born in Germany. He came to America with his brother Henry at an unknown date and settled in Saline County.⁸⁹ Kersenbrock was a saloon owner and also the town constable at one time. His saloon was located in a two-story brick building on E. 13th Street.⁹⁰

Theodore H. Miller was born in Germany in 1846 and arrived in America in 1866. He moved around the United States before settling in Crete in 1871, settling on a homestead. In 1874, he opened a general store downtown. His business proved successful and he became involved in the development game, constructing three brick buildings downtown, as well as a number of residences. Miller served as the city's mayor in the 1880s. In 1897, he co-founded Crete State Bank, formerly known as First National Bank and served as bank president until c.1926. During Miller's tenure, this bank was located at 1245 Main (SA01-055).⁹¹

Czech

Joseph Franc was born in Bohemia in 1824. He came to America around 1851 and settled in Wisconsin. Franc was one of the first Czechs to enter Nebraska, doing so in 1854 while on his way west to California in search of gold. In 1869, he returned to Nebraska, securing a homestead in Saline County. In 1870, he constructed a general store at the corner of 12th and Main. He died five years later, while on a journey to California. His family remained in Crete, and his son Ernest Franc had a successful business downtown.⁹²

Ernest Franc was born in America to first generation Czech immigrants, Joseph Franc and his wife Antonia. He operated a paint and home improvement store on Main Avenue near 12th Street (not extant). According to Janet Jeffries, "in addition to painting and wallpapering, the Franc's did artistic work with stenciling and decorative painting." They were well known throughout town for this work.⁹³

Vaclav Aksamit, a native of Bohemia, immigrated to the United States with his wife in 1867 and was living in Saline County by 1870. He first settled on a homestead south of Crete. Aksamit came from a long line of blacksmiths and around 1871 he built a blacksmith shop in Crete at the northeast corner of 11th and Main (not extant). Aksamit was a member of the ČSPS, and served as Vice President when this group organized in 1879.⁹⁴

Joseph Kopetzky was a Czech immigrant who came to Nebraska in 1864. He was a jeweler by trade and around 1869 he opened a combination general store and jewelry store halfway between the town sites of Crete and Wilber. In 1871, he moved his store into Crete. In 1888 the success of his business allowed him to construct a new two-story brick building at 1229 Main Avenue (SA01-403), into which he located his jewelry store at the storefront level. Kopetzky dabbled in other business interests as well. He was a

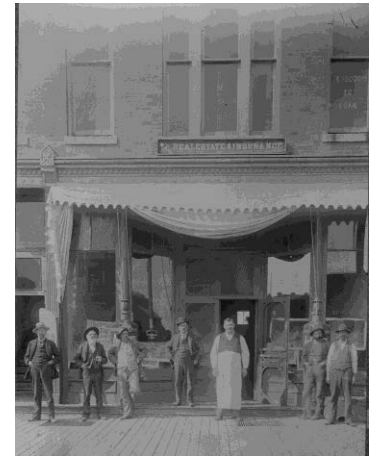


Figure 18: William Kersenbrock in front of his saloon on E. 13th Street. Kersenbrock Family Collection.

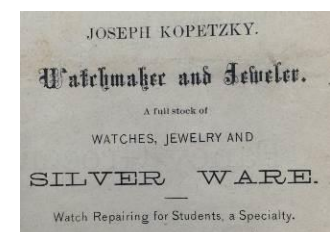


Figure 19: Kopetzky Jewelry Store Advertisement. *Doane Owl*, December 10, 1879.

⁸⁷ Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 37, 39; National Register of Historic Places, Frank J. Rademacher House, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register #80002460; Google Maps Streetview, July 2012, Nameplate on building at 1225 Main that is no longer visible.

⁸⁸ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁸⁹ Joan L. Kersenbrock, granddaughter of William Kersenbrock, conversation with Janet Jeffries, February 11, 2016; Crete State Bank 100 Year Anniversary Calendar, "Crete State Bank - A Brief Overview," T.H. Miller and Janet Jeffries, 199.

⁹⁰ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 24.

⁹¹ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete;" Gregory, *Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska*, 154.

⁹² Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 33-46.

⁹³ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 19.

⁹⁴ Elizabeth Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders in Crete, Nebraska, 1870-1900," Summer Undergraduate Research Project, Doane College (2004), 8.

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shareholder in the Blue River Steamboat Company, a sightseeing enterprise along the Big Blue River, which was founded in 1884 and comprised of bankers, merchants and lawyers originally from New England as well as German merchants. Kopetzky maintained close ties with his Czech heritage, serving as the first treasurer for the ČSPS. He also taught his brother-in-law, and fellow Bohemian, Charles W. Havlicek, the jewelry trade.⁹⁵

Charles W. Havlicek was born in 1865 in Wisconsin to Czech parents. His family moved to Crete in 1866. As a boy, he apprenticed under Kopetzky and learned the jeweler's trade. In 1887 he opened his own store. In 1888 he partnered with Doede Smith, a local implement dealer, to construct a two-bay wide two-story brick building at 1132-1140 Main Street (SA01-053) and moved his store there. In 1911, he shifted his focus and began to operate a music business out of his downtown storefront. Havlicek and his family were actively involved with the Crete Sokol unit. He and his wife were both members of the men's and women's drill team, respectively.⁹⁶

Frank Nedela was born in Bohemia and immigrated to the United States in 1867. He came to Nebraska, after first briefly settling in Chicago, and secured a homestead. In 1870 he opened a shoe repair shop in downtown Crete. Railroad men made up the majority of his clientele and his business prospered. In 1875 he opened a saloon in a rented building. In 1880 he built a new building at 1202 Main (SA01-056) and moved the saloon there. By 1895, Nedela decided to try his hand at the pharmacy trade and he opened a drug store in the same building as his saloon, hiring others to actually run the enterprise. His son later trained as a druggist and took over operating the drug store. In addition to his various business enterprises, Nedela was a talented musician and he was a member of a popular Czech band that played throughout the region.⁹⁷

Jan Svoboda was born in Bohemia in 1844. He immigrated to America with his family as a young man. He moved to a variety of Midwest towns before settling with his wife on a homestead in Saline County. In addition to being a farmer and businessman, Svoboda was an influential leader of Saline County's Czech immigrants. At a building on his farm, he hosted early Czech cultural gatherings, including the Czech Reading Society, led by his neighbor Josef Jindra. The reading society was the first official Czech group in Nebraska. In 1870, Svoboda opened Crete's first hotel, the Farmer's Hotel, downtown. In 1881, after that building burned down, he built a new brick hotel building on Main Avenue. He had a general store, called M. Svoboda Store, at the front of the building. In 1891, he sold the store to fellow Czech immigrant Frank Kuncl. Svoboda was involved in both Czech and non-Czech organizations, and was a member of the Bohemian Turners Society and Bankers Union of the World.⁹⁸

Frank Joseph Kuncl was born in Bohemia in 1869 and immigrated to American in 1888, coming directly to Crete. He first worked as a clerk in Jan Svoboda's general store. As noted above, he went on to purchase this store and operate it for many years. After his death in 1912, his son Frank, Jr. took over the business. Kuncl was an active member of the Crete Sokol and the ZČBJ, and involved with the non-Czech groups Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of the World.⁹⁹

Joesph Kuncl was Frank Kuncl's brother. He was born in Bohemia in 1873 and immigrated to the United States in 1890. After coming to Crete, he worked at M.E. Haight's Crete Mercantile Co., a furniture store and undertaking business located at 1314-16 Main (SA01-387). Kuncl worked his way up to manager of the store's furniture department. In 1914, after learning the undertaking business in Omaha, Kuncl partnered with Joseph Vavricka and purchased Haight's business. The new partners changed the name to Mercantile Furniture and Undertaking Co. In 1920, Kuncl bought out his partner and renamed the business Kuncl Furniture and Undertaking. Kuncl's son, Robert, joined the family business in 1928. In 1930, the business moved into a new two-story building at 1209-1211 Main. In the 1930s, after Joseph's death, his son moved the funeral business into a house at 131 W. 12th Street, where it remains in operation today, just outside the historic district. The furniture store remained in operation until the 1940s, after which it was remodeled and rented to the J.M. McDonald Company. Caskets for the funeral home continued to be stored at the second story even after this change in use.¹⁰⁰

Joseph Jelinek, Jr. was the son of one of the first Czech settlers of Saline County. Jelinek studied at Doane College for two years, and then became involved in the buying and selling of horses. In 1891, he took over his uncle's saloon business. In 1893, he opened the Homestead Saloon in an 1871 frame building at the southwest corner of 12th and Main, which had

⁹⁵ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 8. Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 20.

⁹⁶ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 12; Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 13; Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

⁹⁷ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 9-10; Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 13.

⁹⁸ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 10-11.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 11-12; Breitreutz, *Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies*, xxvi.

Crete Downtown Historic DistrictSaline County, NE**Name of Property****County and State**

originally been a hotel.¹⁰¹ This building was moved in 1940 to the east end of Main, between 9th and 10th, and again in 1976 to 820 Juniper, where it presently serves as an apartment house.¹⁰²

Ignatius L.F. Steidl was born in Southern Bohemia and immigrated to America in 1861. By 1874, he was living in Crete and operating a harness shop along Main Street. He maintained this business for about the next 30 years. Steidl was heavily involved in the local Sokol unit and was an early trustee for that group.¹⁰³

Edward Steidl was the son of Ignatius L.F. Steidl and his Czech wife. He was born in Missouri in 1864. He attended Doane College before going to Philadelphia to attend pharmacy school in 1885. Upon graduation in 1888, he returned to Crete to work in a local drug store. He went on to become the owner of his own drug store, Steidl Drug, located at the southeast corner of 13th and Main (1245 Main, SA01-022). His business was known to cater to the specific needs of its Czech and German customers, and even had a cash register that could print receipts in English, Czech and German. He operated his business for many years before selling it in 1920. Steidl was involved with the non-Czech fraternal society, the Crete Masonic Lodge.¹⁰⁴

Emil M. Hojer was born in Crete in 1906 to Czech parents who were early pioneers to Saline County. He received a Bachelor's of Arts from Doane College. In 1933 became a licensed pharmacist in Nebraska. In 1934, he opened a drug store in Crete, at 1144 Main (SA01-052). He ran this drug store his death at an unknown date in the 1950s or early 1960s. He was a member of the Sokol, and of the ZCBJ located in Dorchester.¹⁰⁵

Additional Context: Crete after 1966

In the succeeding decades, Crete has continued to mature, adding new buildings and renovating or removing older ones to accommodate its growing population and continued commercial success. In 1979, Band's Opera House, the city's first brick commercial building, was removed so that a new bank could be constructed on the site.¹⁰⁶ In 1983, the Cosmopolitan Hotel, later called the Crete Hotel, was demolished after having served as a tire storage facility for many years. The lot was thereafter used for tire storage.¹⁰⁷

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of residents in the city rose from 4,841 to 6,960. Many of these new residents are recent immigrants from Central and South America who work at the manufacturing plants that now make up the bulk of Crete's employment base. They and other residents also work in retailing, livestock, farming, education, healthcare, the service industries, or run their own businesses. In 1990, only 84 people identifying themselves as Hispanic were recorded as living in all of Saline County. By 2010, 2,870 Hispanics lived in the county, and the majority lived in Crete. As of 2010 Crete contained 2,484 residents of Hispanic origin, who make up 38 percent of the city's total population.¹⁰⁸

In recent decades, Hispanic-owned restaurants, clothing stores and other businesses have begun to fill many of the storefronts within the city's historic commercial core.¹⁰⁹ This recent surge of a strong ethnic presence downtown closely mirrors what occurred in Crete more than a century ago when first-generation Americans, many of them German and Czech, arrived to the city in search of opportunity and a better life, and helped to create a thriving community through their business endeavors and social interests.

¹⁰¹ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 13.

¹⁰² Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 18.

¹⁰³ Spencer, "19th Century Czech Town Builders," 13-14.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 14-15; Jeffries, *Images of America*, 11-12.

¹⁰⁵ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County, Nebraska*; ¹⁰⁵ Janet Jeffries, Email to author, discussing interview with Jacob and Marilyn Dering, owners and operators of Hojer Drug from 1965 to 1991, April 12, 2016.

¹⁰⁶ Jeffries, *Images of America: Crete*, 86.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, 21; Breitreutz, ed., *Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies*, xxix.

¹⁰⁸ United States Census Bureau, "Population: Race," 1990, 2000, 2010.

¹⁰⁹ Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns*; City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan;" University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communication, "Strategic Discussions for Nebraska: Immigration in Nebraska," 2007, <http://www.prairiefirenewspaper.com/files/201301-immigration-in-nebraska.pdf>.

Crete Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

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Crete Downtown Historic District

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository) _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Multiple, see table in Narrative Description Section.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____ USGS Quadrangle _____

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: See continuation sheet, page 62

- | | | | | |
|----|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 2. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 3. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 4. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |

OR

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): _____

___ NAD 1927 or ___ NAD 1983

- | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 2. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 3. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 4. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at Main Avenue and the northeast most edge of the property line of 1400 Norman Avenue, the district boundary extends south to E. 14th Street, then moves east to Linden Avenue. Here it runs south for half a block, turning east at the alley between E. 13th and E. 14th Streets. It runs east for a half block of the alley, turning south at the east parcel boundary of 228 E. 13th Street. It then crosses E. 13th Street and extends east, then south, to encompass the City Hall parcel at the southwest corner of Kingwood Avenue and 13th Streets. From here, the boundary extends west along the north line of Crete City Park before turning south at Linden Avenue. It then turns west at E. 12th Street, before running south for one block at the alley between Main Avenue and Linden Avenue. At E. 11th Street, the boundary turns west to Main Avenue,

Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE

Name of Property

County and State

then runs north for one block to W. 12th Street. At W. 12th Street, it extends west for one block to Norman Avenue, then runs half a block north to the alley between W. 12th and W. 13th Streets. Here it turns east to encompass two parcels, turning north at the west parcel line of 205 W. 13th Street. At W. 13th Street, the boundary then runs west to Quince Avenue, where it turns north and then immediately northeast to encompass the northeast line of the parcel at 1400 Norman Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Crete Downtown Historic District encompasses those commercial, institutional and industrial buildings located within the downtown business district that developed historically and retain integrity today.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caitlin Kolb and Jennifer Honebrink

organization Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture date May 16, 2016

street & number 1516 Cuming Street telephone 402-341-1544

city or town Omaha state Ne zip code 68102

email ckolb@alleypoyner.com & jhonebrink@alleypoyner.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Crete Downtown Historic District

City or Vicinity Crete County Saline State Nebraska

Photographer Chris Jansen, Caitlin Kolb Date Photographed As noted.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. Photograph 001: Main Avenue at 13th Street. Looking North. March 29, 2016.
2. Photograph 002: Main Avenue at 13th Street. Looking South. March 29, 2016.
3. Photograph 003: 13th Street at Main Avenue. Looking Northeast. March 29, 2016.
4. Photograph 004: 13th Street at Main Avenue. Looking West. March 29, 2016.
5. Photograph 005: Main Avenue at 13th Street. Looking Northwest. February 11, 2015.
6. Photograph 006: Main Avenue at 14th Street. Looking Southeast. February 11, 2015.

Crete Downtown Historic District

Saline County, NE

Name of Property

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7. Photograph 007: Main Avenue at 13th Street. Looking Southeast. December 21, 2015.
8. Photograph 008: 13th Street at Linden Avenue. Looking Northwest. March 29, 2016.
9. Photograph 009: 13th Street at Norman Avenue. Looking East. March 29, 2016.
10. Photograph 010: Norman Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. Looking Northwest. February 11, 2015.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6 Page 61

Crete Downtown Historic District

Name of Property
Saline County, Nebraska

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

6. Function or Use CONTINUED

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Auditorium

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

GOVERNMENT: City Hall

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

INDUSTRY: Communications Facility

HEALTH CARE: Medical Business/Office

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

United States Department of the Interior
Here
 National Park Service

Crete Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

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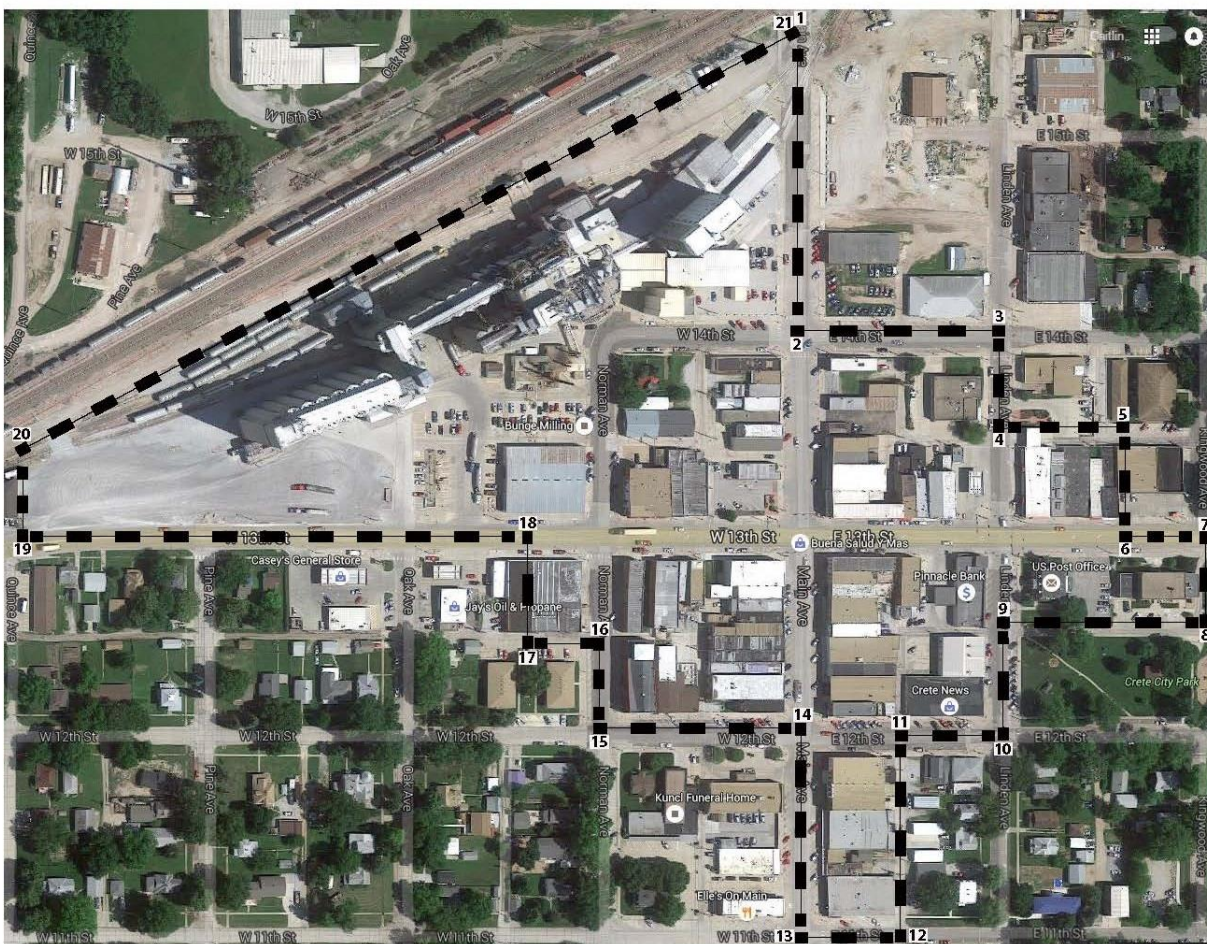


Figure 1: Crete Downtown Historic District Map.
 Dotted line indicates district boundaries. Source: Google Maps, 2016.

0 65 130 Ft



Latitude/Longitude	
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#2. 40.626130, -96.961513	#12. 40.623421, -96.960906
#3. 40.626130, -96.960279	#13. 40.623421, -96.961502
#4. 40.625731, -96.960279	#14. 40.624311, -96.961502
#5. 40.625731, -96.959589	#15. 40.624311, -96.962703
#6. 40.625237, -96.959589	#16. 40.624771, -96.962703
#7. 40.625237, -96.959066	#17. 40.624771, -96.963143
#8. 40.624805, -96.959066	#18. 40.625235, -96.963143
#9. 40.624805, -96.960271	#19. 40.625235, -96.966188
#10. 40.624329, -96.960271	#20. 40.625605, -96.966188
	#21. 40.627498, -96.961513

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

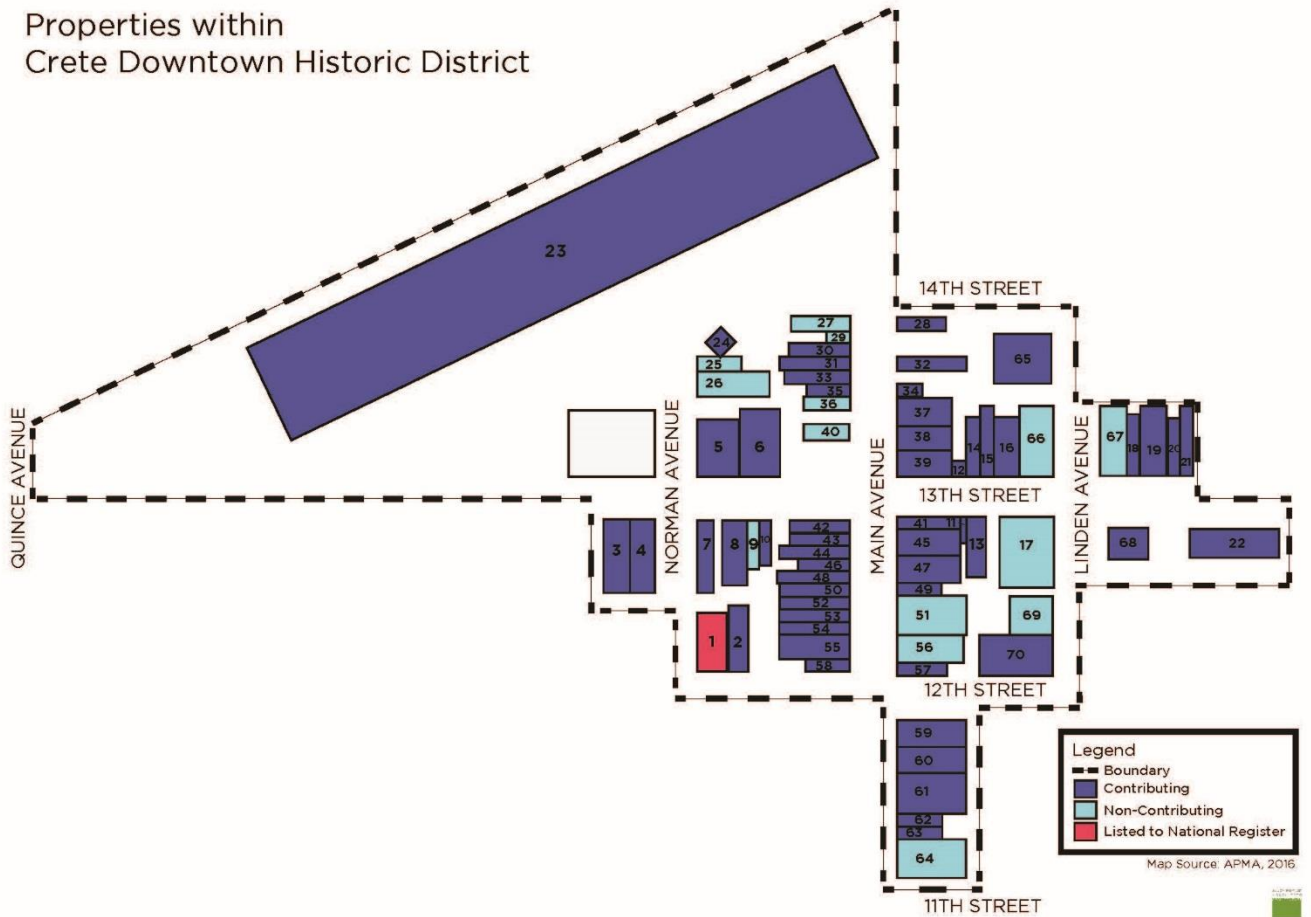
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Properties within
Crete Downtown Historic District



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

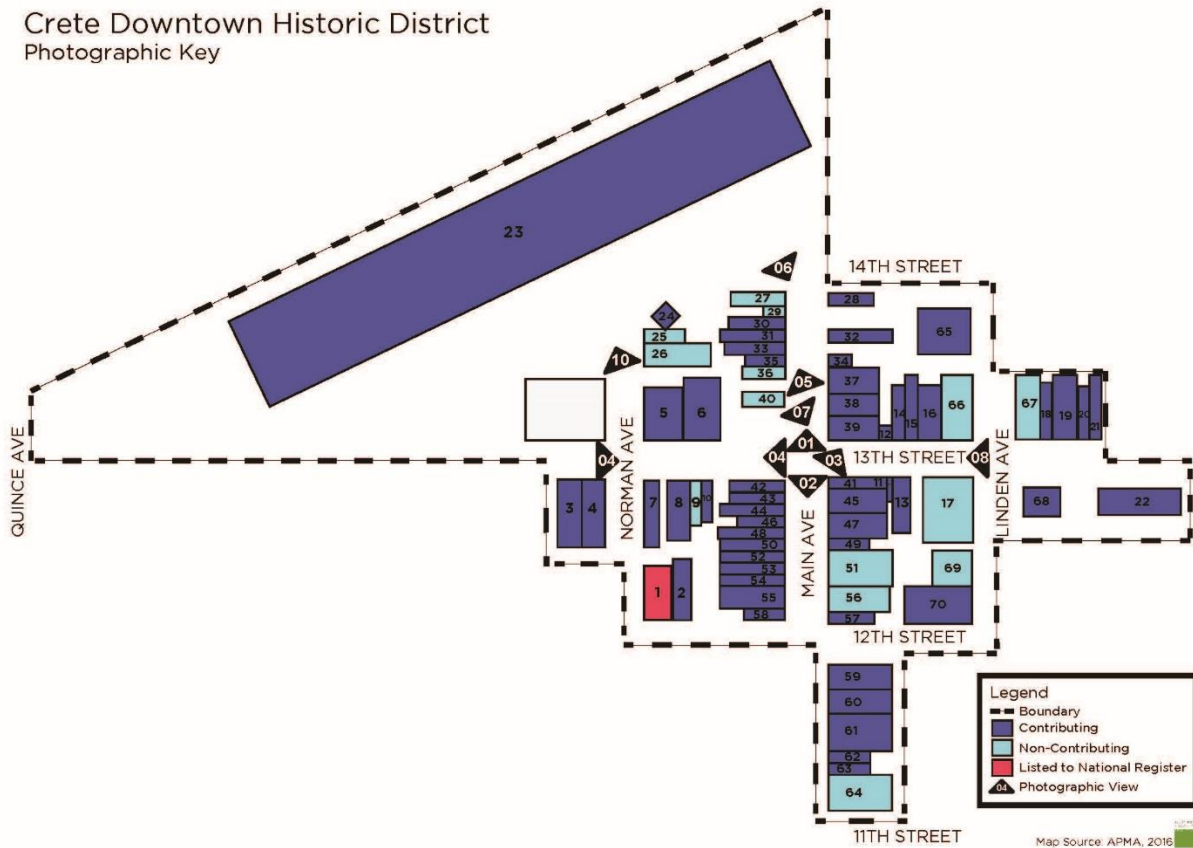
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Crete Downtown Historic District Photographic Key



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Extant Buildings Constructed by 1889
Crete Downtown Historic District

Map Source: 1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheets 2, 3 & 4 Combined
(Note: No extant Non-Contributing buildings constructed by 1888)

Legend

- Boundary
- Contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Crete Downtown Historic District
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Section number Additional Documentation

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Extant Buildings Constructed by 1923
Crete Downtown Historic District

Map Source: 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheets 2, 3 & 5 Combined

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Crete Downtown Historic District

Name of Property

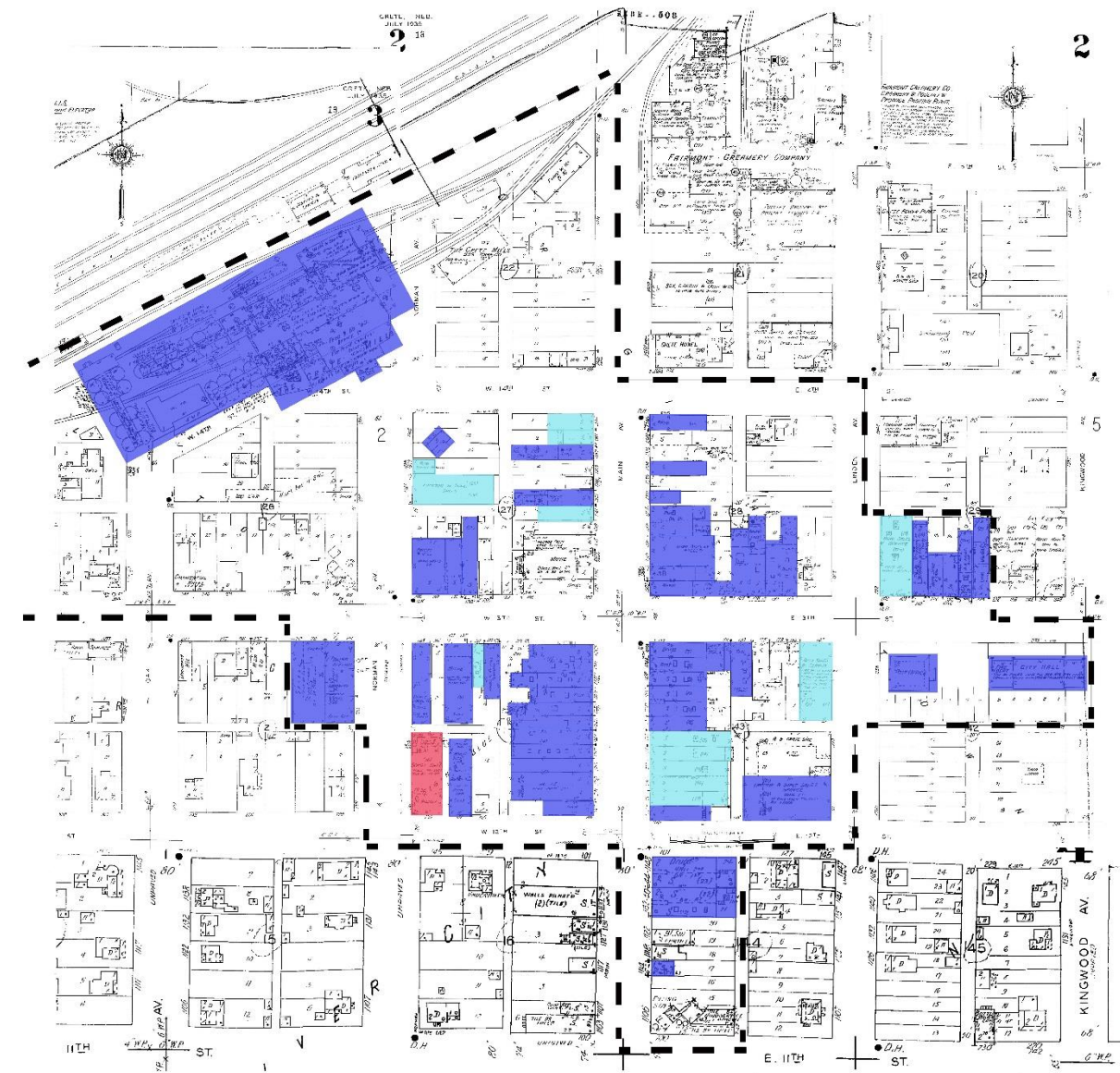
Saline County, NE

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

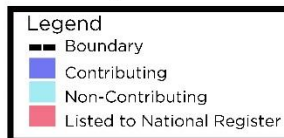
Section number Additional Documentation

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Extant Buildings Constructed by 1942
Crete Downtown Historic District

Map Source: 1935-1942 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheets 2, 3 & 4 Combined



 Great Western Bank

Great Western Bank



13th ST

FURNITURE
WHEELS
APPLIANCES

SUPER MERCADO
Las Brisas
CASA DE COCINA
79 West of 8th Avenue



Small yellow sign with illegible text, possibly a business advertisement.



City Bank sign visible on a building in the distance.



ER'S APOTHECARY



Think Local

53



13th ST

MAIN AVE

Great Western Bank

CENTER LANE ONLY

VALLEY POST NO. 4959

FOREIGN BORN STATES





UEBLES
OR MENOS



PARAISO

PEPSI
SPORTS BAR
948-8111







VETERANS
and
Friends

ZOOPIA
7

Think
local
shop local
be local



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Crete Downtown Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Saline

DATE RECEIVED: 6/17/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/02/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000482

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.25.2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally Sig RR + Commercial 1 century

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gubler DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



April 9, 2016

Daniel Delahaye
Federal Preservation Officer, USPS
PO Box 23317
Washington, DC 20026-3317

Dear Mr. Delahaye:

We are pleased to announce that the State Historic Preservation Review Board will consider the **Crete Downtown Historic District** for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed historic district includes the United States Post Office at 1242 Linden Ave, Crete, NE, as a contributing building to the district.

The State Historic Preservation Review Board will also consider the **Downtown Schuyler Historic District** for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed historic district includes the United States Post Office at 119 E 11th St., Schuyler, NE 68661, as a contributing building to the district. This post office was previously nominated to the National Register May 11, 1992 (NPS # 92000476).

Enclosed with this letter are copies of the most recent draft of the Crete Downtown Historic District and Downtown Schuyler Historic District nominations. You may comment to the Board by letter at the address listed on this letterhead; all comments will be transmitted to the Board at the time of the meeting. The Board will meet at 1:00 pm on Friday, May 13, 2016, at the Beatrice Public Library, 100 North 16th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

The enclosed notices explain the results of listing in the National Register of Historic Places in greater detail and describes the rights and procedures by which an owner may comment on or object to listing in the National Register.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the State Historic Preservation Board meets, please contact the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office at (402) 471-4787.

Sincerely,



L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org



RECEIVED 2280

JUN 17 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

June 10, 2016

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Crete Downtown Historic District
Centered on Maine and 13th Streets, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ruben A. Acosta
National Register and CLG Coordinator
Nebraska State Historical Society

Enclosure

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PO Box 82554
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