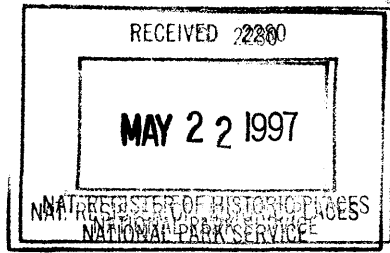


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fairbury Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See attached map not for publication

city or town Fairbury N/A vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Jefferson code 095 zip code 68350

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official (Handwritten signature)

May 12, 1997 Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: [x] entered in the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

[] determined eligible for the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other, (explain):

Edson H. Ball (Handwritten signature)

6/20/97 (Handwritten date)

Signature of Keeper (Handwritten signature)

Date of Action

Fairbury Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 96 | 20 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 1 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 97 | 20 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

GOVERNMENT: post office; courthouse

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

GOVERNMENT: post office; courthouse

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate; Romanesque Revival; Neo-Classical Revival;

Other: Spanish Colonial Revival; Late Gothic;

Commercial Style; 20th Century Commercial

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other TERRA COTTA; STUCCO; GLASS

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1873-1947

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Holland, J.C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location for Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Fairbury City Museum & Fairbury Public Library, NE

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 34.32 acres

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 14 | 654510 | 4444340 | 3. | 14 | 655260 | 4444020 |
| 2. | 14 | 655145 | 4444420 | 4. | 14 | 655290 | 4444145 |

[x] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Barbara M. Kooiman, M.A. & Elizabeth A. Butterfield, M.A.organization Mississippi Valley Archaeology Centerdate 4 April 1997street & number 1725 State Street, 310 North Halltelephone 608/785-6783city or town La Crossestate WIzip code 54601**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

Property Owner

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

name/title See attached list

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Section 7 - Description

Fairbury, the seat of Jefferson County, Nebraska, is located in the southeast section of the state. The city, which boasted a population of 4,335 in 1990, is located approximately sixty-eight miles southwest of the state capital of Lincoln.¹ The landscape surrounding the community consists of rolling hills to the south and flat terrain to the north. Fairbury sits on a slight incline, which descends to the south toward the Little Blue River. Railroad tracks bisect the community at the southern and western sides and stretch in a northwest-southeast direction. A dike runs along the western side of the community and the Little Blue River flows near the south and west borders of Fairbury.

The Fairbury Commercial Historic District encompasses an area spanning approximately ten blocks and 117 properties, contains ninety-seven (97) contributing and nineteenth (19) noncontributing properties. The downtown is abutted by residential buildings on the east and north sides and railroad tracks to the south and west. These railroad tracks serve as a distinct visual boundary for the district, since they were so critical to the exact location of the downtown and the businesses located within it. Thoroughfares in the district include the east-west streets designated as Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth and the north-south streets named C, D, E, and F. Virtually every street within the boundaries of the historic district are paved with brick, which were constructed circa 1916. The district is distinguished by the prominent courthouse square, where the architecturally and historically significant Jefferson County Courthouse sits, between Fourth, Fifth, D, and E streets. The oldest buildings in the district are located around the courthouse square.

Many of the commercial buildings in the Fairbury Commercial Historic District are extremely intact. They retain their original form and ornamentation, particularly in the upper stories. Often, the storefronts and interiors have been altered to accommodate changing businesses. The general appearance of the district displays high integrity and very densely placed historic properties. The modern in-fill in the district totals no more than two buildings per face block. Out of the 117 properties in the district, eighty-three percent are considered to be architecturally and historically significant. The twenty noncontributing buildings include nine that do not meet the fifty-year age requirement of the National Register and eleven that meet the age criteria but lack sufficient integrity.

The Fairbury Commercial Historic District represents a span of architectural periods ranging from the oldest extant, late nineteenth century building displaying false-front construction through turn-of-the-century high styles, to more modern influenced properties. With the exception of the fringe blocks, the buildings within the district are densely packed, and consist mostly of two-story brick commercial buildings interspersed with several one-story buildings and one, three-story example. The largest amount of construction in the district during the period of significance (1873 to 1947) took place between 1900 and 1929.

The following text describes the architectural styles still present in Fairbury. The text addresses the evolution of key styles within the historic district in roughly chronological order. Fairbury's most prominent styles are introduced

¹ Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book, 1994-1995* (Lincoln, NE: Clerk of the Legislature, 1994), 865.

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Section 7 Page 2 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

under each subheading, and descriptions of the best examples in the district are provided. Whenever possible, the highlighted buildings are referred to by their historic names, Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) site numbers, and addresses. For information regarding a building's current or historic name, address, contributing/noncontributing status, legal description, and construction date, please see the property list located in Section 7, Page 7. By cross-referencing with addresses, each building can also be identified on the attached district map and the photograph continuation sheets.

False-front The first generation of buildings constructed in Fairbury's commercial district consisted of frame, false-front properties. The frame construction was easy and quick to build, and the false-front design imparted the impression of a taller, two-story building with the high, vertical facade. Only one false-front building is still extant in the boundaries of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District.

The 1874 **Price Building** (JF04-113), located at 325 D Street, stands one-story tall. This building, which sits across D Street west of the 1873 Jefferson County Courthouse (JF04-054), is the second oldest building in the district. The Price Building has been altered with asbestos siding and modern storefront windows. The most unique original feature of the building is the bracketed wood cornice. In 1997, this building stands vacant.

Italianate In Fairbury, the Italianate style represents one of the earliest high styles of architecture in the community. Derived from the design of Italian villas found in the Mediterranean, the style was very popular as a late-nineteenth century commercial form. All of the Italianate buildings in the Fairbury Commercial Historic District were constructed around the courthouse square.

The circa 1889 **Jenkin's Store Building** (JF04-138) at 402 E Street is one of the earliest high style buildings in Fairbury. This two-story brick building displays a recessed storefront with plate glass windows. A single door located on the south end provides access to the second story. The transom has been covered by a sign. The upper floor exhibits the most ornate detailing on any building in downtown Fairbury. Details include engaged columns, brick pilasters, fanlight windows, and a pressed metal cornice. In 1997, the building houses the north half of the J.D. Graham Paint and Wallpaper Store.

The circa 1889 **Arnold Building** (JF04-165) at 405 Fifth Street displays Italianate features. This two-story brick building spans one storefront. The first floor of the building has been altered with plate glass windows, a recessed doorway, a brick foundation, and modern signage. The second story retains its original appearance. A bracketed metal cornice tops the elevation. Ornate triangular accented lintels hood the windows, which are covered by shutters. A brick string course runs along the bottom of the windows. In 1997, the building is occupied by Korbel Drug.

Queen Anne The Queen Anne style of architecture was most commonly used in the design of residential buildings. Its ornateness reflects the industrial capabilities of late-nineteenth century millwork companies. Though used primarily in houses, features from this style were also used incorporated into the construction of commercial buildings in small trade centers.

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Section 7 Page 3 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

One of the Queen Anne influenced buildings in the district is the circa 1896 **commercial building** (JF04-167) at 413-425 Fifth Street. It stands two-stories tall, extends two storefronts, and displays brick construction. The west side of the first floor exhibits plate glass windows, a modern stone foundation, and a historic transom. The east side also has plate glass windows, however, the foundation is covered with Carrara glass.² The transom on the east side is covered. A centrally located door provides access to the rooms on the upper floor. The second floor of the building has brick corbeling at the cornice, a string course, and two bay windows. The most obvious Queen Anne features, the two bay windows on the second story, are ornamented with organic forms along the base. In 1997, the east storefront of the building stands vacant and the west is occupied by Goeking Plumbing.

The most prominent Queen Anne commercial building in the district is the 1904 **Clarke-Price Building** (JF04-196) at 412-414 Fourth Street. This two-story brick building spans two-storefronts. The first story has been altered, most likely in the historic period, with Carrara glass, plate glass windows, and small tile panels above the storefronts. A metal cornice, pressed with swag ornamentation, lines the top of the building. Two bay windows project from the second story of the building. The swag ornamentation found on the cornice is carried out again in the hood of each bay. A string course runs along the top and bottom of the second floor windows. A name plate, which reads "Clarke Price," is affixed to the center of the facade, below the cornice. In 1997, the building accommodated two businesses, KGMT Radio to the east and The Computer Center Inc. to the west.

Romanesque Revival Around the turn of the century, a large number of two-story retail buildings were erected on the lots facing the courthouse square. Economic prosperity may have encouraged business owners to erect elaborate buildings designed in the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. The Romanesque Revival style invokes a sense of strength and stability, with its classical Roman arches and use of rough-cut stone details. The Romanesque Revival style lends itself to a wide range of variations, many of which are seen in the Fairbury district.

In 1891, construction began on the downtown's most important Romanesque Revival building. The **Jefferson County Courthouse** (JF04-050) was constructed on the public square at 411 Fourth Street. The two-story rusticated stone building features arched windows and doorways, a contrasting stone foundation, hipped roof, and center dome displaying a four-side clock. Classical style statuary is situated on top of the pedimented roofline and each corner features smaller domes with dormer windows. The courthouse's location is indicative of the "county capital" form, with the downtown public square utilized by the county's most important public building. The Jefferson County Courthouse was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 27 November 1972.

The 1893 **Conrad Block** (JF04-053), located at 401-403 D Street, exhibits features of more massive Richardsonian Romanesque design, such as polychromatic color schemes, cut stone entrances, and details to reflect massiveness. The first floor entryways display bulky stone construction. The main entrance is located in the southeast corner of the building. The north side storefront has been altered with plate glass windows and wood panels. Covered arched

² Carrara glass is defined as a type of opaque, colored glass which was popular as a cladding to commercial facades, particularly of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles, in the 1920s through the 1950s. It was often used to "modernize" older commercial facades.

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Section 7 Page 4 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

window openings are located on the first floor. All but three of the second floor windows are also covered. A belt course divides the first and second floors. A parapet extends along the top of the east elevation and a portion of the south elevation. The parapet is ornamented by a stone name plate, which reads "Conrad Block," and a finial tops the northeast corner. In 1997, the building stands vacant.

The **IOOF Temple** (JF04-062), constructed in 1894-1895, is located at 521-523 E Street. This brick building extends two storefronts and stands two stories tall. A parapet ornaments the top of the building and corbeling is located just below. Three pilasters, accented with stone sections, protrude from the center and corners of the facade. Belt courses run below and near the top of the second story windows. These windows display a tall arched design. A stone name plate, which reads "IOOF TEMPLE," is located in the center of the parapet. In 1997, this building is owned by Dr. and Ms. Bruce Ackerman and occupied by offices. On 15 June 1987, this building was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the most unique Romanesque Revival style buildings in the district is the circa 1896 **commercial building** (JF04-192) at 511 Fourth Street. The building, which stands one-story tall, displays a brick, stone, and stucco clad facade. The gable topped belled hip roof displays a sunburst motif in the gable end. Brackets are located below the projecting eaves. A string course decorated with organic relief design runs along the center of the facade. Two plain string courses run below the window. A large arched window with a brick lintel is located on the east side of the facade. A single door, located on the west end of the facade, provides access into the building.

The **commercial building** (JF04-133), constructed circa 1904 at 416 E Street, stands two stories tall. It exhibits brick walls with brick pilasters lining the facade's edges. The first floor of the building has been altered with a covered transom. The second story windows, which are set in groups of two and lined with single and paired engaged columns, are covered by an arched window hood. A cornice resides above the arched lintels. Along the roofline, a finial is located above each of the pilasters. In 1997, this building stands vacant.

Late Gothic Revival The Late Gothic Revival was a less common style found in Nebraska communities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is more commonly seen in the design of churches and schools, however, some commercial examples do exist, including two in Fairbury's district. Gothic forms such as lancet windows, battlements, and cornices, as well as turrets are often found in Late Gothic Revival style commercial buildings.

The 1904 **commercial building** (JF04-198) at 402 Fourth Street was influenced by the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. This building stands two-stories tall and displays brick construction. While the first floor has been altered with modern face stone and downsized windows, the second floor is intact. Original ornamentation includes semicircular window hoods, brick quoins, several string courses, and battlements along the roofline.

The 1908 **Bonham National Bank** (JF04-052), located at 425 D Street, displays brick construction and stands two stories tall. It is one of the most eye-catching buildings located within the district. The first floor of the building has been altered with plate glass windows and a stone-faced foundation. However, the corner door is most likely in its

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Section 7 Page 5 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

original location. Rusticated pilasters divide the fenestration. The building is topped by a hipped roof and projecting eaves ornamented with dentils and modillions. The most unique feature on the buildings is a turret located in the northeast corner. The turret exhibits battlements, dentils, modillions, and a fret patterned course. In 1913, an addition was constructed on the west elevation of the building. It displays brick construction and a stepped roofline. In 1997, this building is utilized by the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints.

Neo-Classical Revival Around the turn-of-the-century, founders of financial institutions often erected Neo-Classical Revival buildings to house their services. The Neo-Classical Revival style, much like the Romanesque Revival style, expresses of stability and longevity, exhibited as in the ancient Greek and Roman classical forms incorporated in the design. This design was popular in Fairbury. All of the Neo-Classical Revival designed banks in Fairbury were located around the courthouse square. Another popular use of this style was in the design of governmental buildings, such as the Fairbury Post Office. Although this style was commonly utilized for financial or governmental facilities, features were also carried over to commercial buildings.

The 1904 **Tincher's Clothing Store Building** (JF04-193) at 420 Fourth Street is a two-story brick building. It displays Neo-Classical features such as triangular pedimented window hoods and a projecting cornice with dentils and modillions. A belt course with dentils runs between the first and second floors. In 1997, the building houses Sims Florist.

The 1904 **Harbine Bank** (JF04-057), located at 422 Fourth Street, displays brick construction. Ornamental features on the building include rusticated brick pilasters, arched windows, and concrete belt courses. The most elaborate feature on the building is sculpted terra cotta window and door hoods, which display organic forms, lion heads, and scroll keystones. A projecting cornice with dentils lines the top of the bank. A rear addition was constructed on the south side of the building to provide more space. Although this brick addition lacks many of the ornate features present on the main building, the arched windows on the first floor and the stepped moldings on the second floor windows have been carried through the entire complex. In 1997, the entire building stands vacant.

The 1910-1912 **Fairbury U.S. Post Office** (JF04-051) is located at 503 D Street. This building displays smooth stone construction. Rusticated stone ornaments the building's corners. Broken arched pediments reside above the entryways. Engaged columns line the doorways and divide the windows. A projecting cornice with dentils is located below the hipped roof. Ornamental globe light posts illuminate the east and south elevations. A brick addition, constructed circa 1955, sits to the west of the original building. The classical design is carried through into the architecturally significant interior of this building, with details such as a marble floor, elaborate carved woodwork, brass post boxes, and a denticulated ceiling. In 1997, the building still operates as a post office.

Spanish Colonial Revival Three buildings in the commercial district display the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Even though this style of architecture was not heavily utilized in commercial construction in Nebraska, it is often represented by one or two buildings in downtowns across the state. The Spanish Colonial Revival style was often used to give the impression of romance. While one Spanish Colonial Revival style building was constructed for retail use, the other was designed for entertainment.

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Section 7 Page 6 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

The **Bonham Theater** (JF04-063), constructed in 1926 at 519 E Street, displays a brick facade. Plate glass windows and doors change the original appearance of the first floor. The second floor of the building exhibits arched windows, ornamental brick and concrete work, and a projecting ceramic tile cornice. A neon marquee extends out from the center of the facade, located above the main entrance. In 1997, this building still serves as a theater.

The 1929 **Montgomery Wards Store and Storage Building** (JF04-189; JF04-188), located at 500- 504 Fourth Street exhibit brick construction. While the first floor of the department store has been altered with a metal sign, as well as downsized and blocked-in windows and door, the second floor is intact. Tripartite windows consume a majority of the upper floor. Ornamentation on this level includes glazed terra cotta panels with diamond shapes, rosettes, as well as a relief glazed tile sculpture of a classical Greek woman on the north elevation. The roofline is ornamented with finials and semicircular shaped pediments. The first floor of the storage building, which is attached to the east side of the main building, has been changed with plate glass windows, small tiles, and a vertical metal sheet. However, detailing along the upper floor has been carried over from the department store. Both the glazed terra cotta diamond shaped panels and the rosettes are located on the facade.

Twentieth Century Commercial Vernacular Twentieth century commercial vernacular design was widely used in the early decades of the 1900. Since these years paralleled the period of the highest commercial construction in Fairbury, a large number of buildings erected on the south end of E Street and the east side of the district display this style. A majority of the retail and automobile related buildings constructed after the turn of the century utilized the twentieth century commercial vernacular form. This design was extremely popular in small town commercial centers across the Midwest.

The three-story **Steele Opera House** (JF04-065), erected in 1903 at 404 Fourth Street, is an excellent example of the twentieth century commercial vernacular form. This brick-constructed building displays a first floor altered with concrete panels and plate glass windows divided by thin mullions. Four pilasters, two on the edges and two in the middle, are located on the facade. The second floor windows are covered by flat hoods and the third floor windows are connected by continuous sills. The top of the building is ornamented with diamond shaped brickwork and corbeling. A date and a name plate, which read "1903" and "Steele" are located between the two central pilasters, just below the roofline. In 1997, the building houses the Barber Furniture Company.

The 1929 **H.A. Richardson Building** (JF04-119) at 505-513 D Street stands two-stories tall and displays brick construction. It accommodated two storefronts and a number of apartments on the second floor and in the building's rear. The stepped south, side elevation is a unique feature found in downtown Fairbury. A barrel tile awning extends across the first floor of the east elevation and halfway down the south elevation. Ornamental brickwork serves as belt courses along the top of the building and hoods the second floor windows on the south elevation. Similar ornamentation serves as window hoods on the east elevation. A concrete name plate, which reads "H.A. Richardson 1929" is exhibited in the center of the facade, above the second story windows. In 1997, the status of the H.A. Richardson Building is unknown, however, interior renovations are underway.

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Section 7 Page 7 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

The 1890 **Grand Army of the Republic Hall** (JF04-159) was remodeled by the American Legion in 1935. This building, located at 302 Fifth Street, exhibits brick construction. The facade of the one-story building is ornamented with four pilasters. The pilasters were designed in a stepped pattern, with three pilasters decreasing in size set on top of each other. Between the pilasters are two multi-pane windows. The recessed double doorway is flanked on each side with historic light sconces. A concrete name and date plate is located above the centered doorway. The pilasters and sconces are duplicated from the facade to a small section of the side elevation on the north end. The remaining portions of the side elevations are austere with the exception of brick window sills and two projecting brick string courses running along the roofline.

Modern Broad-Front Modern broad-front buildings were later commercial vernacular additions to the commercial district. Since this building type was conducive to the needs of the automobile industry, it was often used in the design of automobile dealerships and service garages. The modern broad-front was generally constructed with structural steel walls, clad in brick. The steel frame allowed fewer interior support posts which allowed for wider expanses on the interior. Fairbury has several automobile-related businesses which used this form, taking advantage of the open interiors.

A good example of the modern broad-front is the 1915 **Friesen and Company Garage** (JF04-183) at 601 Fourth Street. This brick building, which stands one-story tall, displays a continuous belt course located below the stepped parapet. The parapet is lined with a concrete coping. Plate glass windows covered with transoms are located throughout the entire building. A wrap metal awning, hung on sections of the south and west elevations, is located below several covered transoms. Garage doors present on both the south and west elevations provide vehicle access into the building. In 1997, the building still serves as an automobile dealership.

The **Whittle Auto Company** (JF04-143), which was constructed circa 1931 at 304-306 E Street, is a fine example of a modern broad-front building. This one-story building displays brown brick construction. The garage has been altered slightly with a modern garage door on the facade's east end. Large plate glass windows with thin mullions are located in the center and north side of the facade. Glass block transoms are located above the fenestration. A triangular shaped parapet, lined with concrete coping, hoods the building. Soldier placed bricks are arranged above the transoms to form a string course. In 1997, the building houses Ken's Klassics, Inc.

A physical feature which was added to Fairbury beginning in 1916 were the brick streets. Covering virtually all of the thoroughfares in the historic commercial district, the brick streets continue today to pave 125 blocks in the city. The brick pavers are made of a hard, red brick which was specifically designed for the construction of roads. They were laid by hand, side-by-side, spanning to curbs on both sides of the streets. At street intersections, the pavers were laid diagonally. The overall appearance of the red brick pavers provides a sense of continuity and cohesiveness in the district.

In conclusion, a cohesive built-environment with a high degree of physical integrity is displayed along the streetscapes of downtown Fairbury. A broad span of architecturally significant styles are represented in Fairbury's physical fabric. Similar to many Nebraska communities, the most common form of buildings erected in Fairbury

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was twentieth century commercial vernacular. However, especially around the public square, older styles such as Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Neo-Gothic Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival are represented. The design, materials, and construction dates of the commercial facades in Fairbury provide a historical perspective to the architectural and economic trends of the region. Therefore, it is a fine representation of commercial and architectural development in a community in southeast Nebraska.

On the following page is a list of properties located in the Fairbury Commercial Historic District. The historic names and construction/addition dates for the property list were derived from a variety of sources, including the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Fairbury, Nebraska* (1885-1946), city directories and telephone books, newspaper articles, and *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County, Nebraska*. Site files, containing construction and historic name information, are located in the NeSHPO research room, 1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. For more references regarding these, and other sources, please refer to the Bibliography, Section 9.

The list is summarized as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| C= Contributing Properties: | 97 |
| NC= Noncontributing Properties: | 20 |
| Total Resources: | 117 |

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**Fairbury Commercial Historic District
Property List**

| NeSHPO Survey # | Address | Historic Name | Current Name/Use | Const. Date | Blk/Lot | NR Status C/NC |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| JF04-523 | C, D, E, F, 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th | Brick Streets | Brick Streets | 1916 | ----- | C |
| JF04-202 | 400 C St. | Warehouse | Garage | c1931 | Blk 24, S ½ Lt 16 & S 1/3 Lt 17 | C |
| ----- | 512 C St. | Office Bldg. | USDA Soil Cons Serv | c1970 | Blk 19, Lts 8-9 | NC |
| JF04-199 | 300-310 D St. | Rasse Wholesale Grocer Co. | Storage Bldg. | 1924 | Blk 32, Lts 13-15 | C |
| JF04-055 | 321 D St. | Commercial Bldg. | Tooley's Saloon | c1889 | Blk 33, S1/2 Lt 6 | C |
| JF04-113 | 325 D St. | Price Bldg | Vacant | 1874 | Blk 33, N1/2 Lt 6 | C |
| JF04-050 | 411 4th St. | Jefferson County Courthouse | Jefferson County Courthouse | 1891-1892 | Blk 25 | C; NRHP 11-27-72 |
| JF04-053 | 401-403 D St. | Conrad Blk | LaVon's Hse of Beauty | 1893 | Blk 24, E 2/3 Lts 1-2 | C |
| ----- | 405 D St. | Goeking Plumbing | Museum | rem 1960-63 | Blk 24, Lt 3 | NC |
| ----- | 407 D St. | Fairbury Daily News | Museum | 1964-65 | Blk 24, Lt 4 | NC |
| JF04-114 | 409-411 D St. | H.L. Clarke Bldg. | Pal's Antiques & Fabric Manor | 1905 | Blk 24, Lt 5-6 | C |
| JF04-115 | 413 D St. | Commercial Bldg. | Tecumseh Bldg & Loan | c1889 | Blk 24, Lt 7 | C |
| JF04-282 | 415 D St. | Commercial Bldg | Artist Connection | c1885 | Blk 24, Lt 8 | C |
| JF04-116 | 417 D St. | Becker's Confectionary | Vacant | c1925 | Blk 24, Lt 9 | C |
| JF04-117 | 419 D St. | Lily Cleaners & Shoe Repair/Lee Barber Shop | Sheri's Antiques & Quam Realty | c1936 | Blk 24, Lt 10 | C |
| JF04-118 | 421 D St. | Commercial Bldg. | Layton Print Shop | c1896 | Blk 24, Lt 11 | C |
| JF04-052 | 425 D St. | Bonham Bank | Church of Jesus Christ & Latter Day Sts. | 1908/1913 addn. | Blk 24, E 2/3 Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-122 | 500-506 D St. | W.S. Bilby Bldg. | Vacant | 1925 | Blk 18, N 1/3 Lots 7-8 | C |
| JF04-051 | 503 D St. | U.S. Post Office | U.S. Post Office | 1910-12 | Blk 19, Lts 1-2 | C |
| JF04-119 | 505-513 D St. | H.A. Richardson Bldg. | Vacant | 1929 | Blk 19, N 2/3 Lt 3 | C |
| JF04-066 | 510 D St. | Majestic Theater | Denny Chilen Law Office | c1912 | Blk 18, Lt 6 | NC |
| JF04-123 | 516 D St. | Commercial Bldg. | Jeff Center | c1912 | Blk 18, S ½ Lt 5 | C |
| JF04-120 | 515 D St. | Made-rite Cafe | Pla-Mor Cafe | 1948 | Blk 19, S ½ Lt 4 | C |
| JF04-121 | 517 D St. | Pla-Mor Lanes | Pla-Mor Lanes | 1948 | Blk 19, N ½ Lt 4-5 | C |
| JF04-283 | 523 D St. | E.C. Trindel Station | Garage | 1948 | Blk 19, Lt 6? | C |
| JF04-124 | 520-528 D St. | Bud's Cut Flower Shop/Johnson Photography | Jeff Center/Linda's Attic/Corner Cobbler | c1921 | Blk 18, W 1/3 Lt 4, W 1/3, N ½ Lt 5 | C |
| JF04-144 JF04-280 | 302 E St. | Commercial Bldg. | Garage | c1896/addn. c1912 | Blk 31,,W 2/3 Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-143 | 304-306 E St. | Whittle Auto Company | Ken's Klassic Inc. | c1931 | Blk 31, Lt 11 | C |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| JF04-142 | 308 E St. | Commercial Bldg. | Anything Electric | c1904 | Blk 31, S ½ Lt 10 | C |
| JF04-141 | 310 E St. | Commercial Bldg. | Anything Electric | c1912 | Blk 31, N ½ Lt 10 | NC |
| JF04-140 | 312-314 E St. | Fairbury News | Cycle Shop | c1910 | Blk 31, W 2/3 Lt 9 | C |
| JF04-139 | 400 E St. | Harbine Bldg. | JD Graham Paint & Wallpaper | 1875 | Blk 26, Lt 15 | C |
| JF04-138 | 402 E St. | Jenkin's Store | JD Graham Paint & Wallpaper | c1889 | Blk 26, Lt 14 | C |
| JF04-137 | 404 E St. | Davis Bldg. | Ideal Fashions | 1902 | Blk 26, Lt 13 | C |
| JF04-136 | 406-410 E St. | Steele Bldg. | JB Book & Shop/Painter Paul/Arla's Custom Quilting Plus | 1888/reconst. 1928 | Blk 26, Lts 10-12 | C |
| JF04-135 | 412 E St. | Goodrich Bros. Banking Co. | Lily's Flower & Gifts | 1902 | Blk 26, Lt 9 | C |
| JF04-134 | 414 E St. | Cross Bldg. | Polly's Shoe Store | c1889 | Blk 26, Lt 8 | C |
| JF04-133 | 416 E St. | Commercial Bldg. | Russ Miller's Hardware | c1904 | Blk 26, Lt 7 | C |
| JF04-132 | 418 E St. | Childers Bldg. | State Farm Insurance | 1931 | Blk 26, S ½ Lt 6 | C |
| ----- | 422 E St. | Skultety Bldg. | Jf. EDC/Behav Clinic/Sass & Casson Atty. | 1968 | Blk 26, Lts 5-6 | NC |
| JF04-131 | 424 E St. | Globe Rexall Drug Store | Globe Rexall Pharmacy | 1914 | Blk 26, Lt 4 | C |
| JF04-130 | 500-506 E St. | Golden Rule Store | Golden Rule Store | 1924 | Blk 17, Lts 11-12 | C |
| ----- | 505-511 E St. | First Nat'l Bank Addn. | First Nat'l Bank Addn. | c1910/rem. 1972 | Blk 18, N ½ Lt 18 & N ½, E ½ Lt 17 | NC |
| JF04-129 | 508-510 E St. | Hested Store | Stagecoach Mall | 1925 | Blk 17, Lt 10 | C |
| JF04-128 | 512 E St. | Commercial Bldg. | Harvest Outreach Church | c1931 | Blk 17, S ½ Lt 9 | C |
| JF04-064 | 513-515 E St. | Masonic Temple | First Federal/Kettlehut Real Estate | 1916 | Blk 18, Lt 1 | C |
| JF04-063 | 519 E St. | Bonham Theater | Bonham Theater | 1926 | Blk 18, Lt 2 | C |
| ----- | 518 E St. | Fairbury Gas & Electric Co. | Peoples Natural Gas | c1927 | Blk 17, N ½ Lt 9 | NC |
| ----- | 520 E St. | Scott Burr's Variety Store | Dollar General Store | c1931 | Blk 17, S 2/3 Lt 7-8 | NC |
| JF04-062 | 521-523 E St. | IOOF Temple | Ackerman & Johnson Opt/ Blue Valley Mental Health | 1894-95/addn. 1947 | Blk 18, E 2/3 Lt 3 | C NRHP 6-15-87 |
| JF04-127 | 528 E St. | Lambert's Cleaning & Dye Works | Union Bank & Trust Co. | c1927 | Blk 17, N 1/3 Lt 7 | C |
| JF04-126 | 600 E St. | Edwall Service Station | Vacant Gas Station | c1927 | Blk 12, W 1/3 Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-125 | 608 E St. | O.C. Brickell Co. | Vacant Garage | c1927 | Blk 12, W 2/3 Lt 11 | C |
| JF04-145 | 301 F St. | Ellsworth Livery Barn | B & D Paper & Chemicals | c1910 | Blk 31, Lt 1 & S ½ Lt 2 | C |
| JF04-146 | 307-311 F St. | Melander Taxi Co & Garage | Vacant | c1931 | Blk 31, N ½ Lt 2-3 | C |
| JF04-147 | 315 F St. | Schwab Animal Clinic | Schwab Animal Clinic | rem. 1953-54 | Blk 31, S 2/3 Lt 4 | NC |
| ----- | 321 F St. | Owl Lunch | The Stable | c1927 | Blk 31, N 1/3 Lt 4 & S1/3 Lt 5 | NC |
| JF04-149 | 515 F St. | Catlin's Auto Hospital | Gill Insurance Service | c1931 | Blk 17, S ½ Lt 4 | C |
| JF04-150 | 517 F St. | Wyatt's Sheet Metal Shop | UNL Cooperative Ext. | c1927 | Blk 17, N ½ Lt 4 | C |
| ----- | 523 F St. | First Natl Fairbury Drive-In | First Natl Fairbury Drive-In | 1971 | Blk 17, E 2/3 Lots 5-6 | NC |
| JF04-281 | 511 3rd St. | Blacksmith Shop | Lofing | c1896 | Blk 31, W 1/5 Lt 12 | C |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| JF04-203 | 311 4th St. | Garage | Garage | post 1946 | Blk 24, Ctr 1/3 Lts 17-18 | NC |
| JF04-201 | 311 4th St. | Filling Station | Kim's Hair Affair/ Kendall GT1 | c1946 | Blk 24, S1/3 Lts 17 & 18 | C |
| JF04-200 | 315 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Vacant | c1912 | Blk 24, W 1/3 Lts 1-2 | C |
| JF04-054 | 400 4th St. | Old Jefferson Co Courthouse | Griffey's | 1872-1873 | Blk 32, Lt 12 | NC |
| JF04-198 | 402 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Commercial Bldg | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 11 | C |
| JF04-065 | 404 4th St. | Steele Opera House | Barber Furniture Inc. | 1903 | Blk 32, Lts 9-10 | C |
| JF04-197 | 408 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Riverside Gallery | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 8 | C |
| ————— | 410 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Southside Prof Bldg. | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 7 | NC |
| JF04-196 | 412-414 4th St. | Clarke-Price Bldg. | The Computer Center/KGMT | 1904 | Blk 32, Lts 5-6 | C |
| JF04-196 | 412 4th St. | Tin Shop | Garage | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 6 | C |
| JF04-195 | 416 4th St. | Weisel Bldg. | JC Wesch DDS | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 4 | C |
| JF04-194 | 418 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Johnson Electric | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 3 | C |
| JF04-193 | 420 4th St. | Tincher's Clothing Store | Sim Florist | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 2 | C |
| JF04-057 | 422 4th St. | Harbine Bank | Vacant Bldg. | 1904 | Blk 32, Lt 1 | C |
| JF04-189 JF04-188 | 500-504 4th St. | Montgomery Wards Store & Storage Bldg. | Courtyard Square/Friese Photography | 1929 | Blk 31, W 1/3 Lts 7-8 | C |
| JF04-187 | 506-508 4th St. | Raschko Grocery | Larry's Electric | c1931 | Blk 31, Ctr Lts 7-8 | C |
| JF04-186 | 510 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | McLaurin's Shoe Service | c1912 | Blk 31, E 1/5 Lts 7 | C |
| JF04-192 | 511 4th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Vacant | c1896 | Blk 26, E 1/5 Lt 14-15 | C |
| JF04-185 | 512 4th St. | Allen & Davis Bldg. | Fairbury Glass | 1910 | Blk 31, W 1/5 Lts 4-6 | C |
| JF04-191 | 513 4th St. | Wooster Bldg. | Chuckles Bar | 1908 | Blk 26, W 1/2 Lt 16 | C |
| JF04-190 | 515 4th St. | Smith Bldg. | Chamber of Commerce | c1904 | Blk 26, E 1/2 Lt 16 | C |
| JF04-184 | 520 4th St. | Page Bldg. | Bundy's Auto Supply | 1915 | Blk 31, E 1/3 Lt 6 | C |
| JF04-183 | 601 4th St. | Friesen & Co. | Chev. Olds. Cad. Buick, Pontiac, Inc. | 1915 | Blk 27, Lts 7-8 | C |
| JF04-182 | 611 4th St. | Howe Auto Company | Riverside Chev. Park | c1931 | Blk 27, Lt 9 | C |
| JF04-181 | 613 4th St. | Petitt & Moon Monument | Moon & Sun Monument | 1916 | Blk 27, Lt 10 | C |
| JF04-524 | 213 5th St. | Farmer's Coop Co Elevators | Farmer's Coop Co Elevators | 1947 | Blk 20, S 1/2 Lts 9-10 | C |
| JF04-524 | 213 5th St. | Shed | Shed | 1947 | Blk 20, N 1/4 Lt 8 | C |
| ————— | 213 5th St. | Shed | Shed | c1970 | Blk 20, N 1/4 Lt 9 | NC |
| JF04-155 | 215-217 5th St. | Collier Office & Lumber Yard | Fairbury Planing Mill | c1921 | Blk 20, Lt 11 | C |
| JF04-157 JF04-158 | 218-224 5th St. | Farmers Coop Co. | Farmer's Coop Co. | c1936/rear addn. c1951 | Blk 23, N 1/2 Lt 1 & N 1/3 Lt 2 | C |
| JF04-156 | 219-221 5th St. | Fairbury Planing Mill | Fairbury Planing Mill | c1912/addn. c1921 | Blk 20, Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-159 | 302 5th St. | GAR/American Legion | American Legion | 1890/rem. 1935 | Blk 24, W 1/2 Lt 15 | C |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----|
| JF04-160 JF04-215 | 308 5th St. | Fairbury Steam Laundry | Crystal Palace Antiques | c1904/addn. c1920s | Blk 24, Lt 13 | C |
| JF04-161 | 311-315 5th St. | C.G. Catlin Co. | Parklane Offices | c1921/rem c1931 | Blk 19, E ½ Lts 10-12 | C |
| JF04-162 | 318 5th St. | Stilwell Printery | Schultis & Son, Inc. Real Estate | c1921 | Blk 24, W 1/3 Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-163 | 401 5th St. | Bilby Bldg. | American Family Ins. | 1925 | Blk 18, S 2/3 Lt 7 | C |
| JF04-164 | 403 5th St. | LeRoy's Jewelry | Elder Jewelry | c1927 | Blk 18, S ½ Lt 8 | C |
| JF04-165 | 405 5th St. | Arnold Bldg. | Korbel Drug | c1889 | Blk 18, Lt 9 | C |
| ----- | 407 5th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Shipman Jewelry | c1885 | Blk 18, Lt 10 | NC |
| JF04-166 | 411 5th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Factory Outlet | c1889/rem. c1931 | Blk 18, Lts 11-12 | C |
| JF04-167 | 413-415 5th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Goeking Plumbing | c1896 | Blk 18, Lt 13 & 14 | C |
| JF04-168 | 417 5th St. | McLaurin's Harness Shop | Starr-Buckow Ins. | c1889 | Blk 18, Lt 14 & 15 | C |
| ----- | 419 5th St. | First Nat'l Bank Annex | First Nat'l Bank Annex | c1889/rem. 1972 | Blk 18, S 2/3 Lts 15-16 | NC |
| JF04-169 | 421-425 5th St. | First Nat'l Bank | First Nat'l Bank | 1923 | Blk 18, S ½ Lts 17-18 | C |
| JF04-170 | 515 5th St. | Fairbury Journal | Fairbury Printing | 1905 | Blk 17, W 1/3 Lts 1-2 | C |
| JF04-172 | 516 5th St. | Paul's Market | Fairbury Journal News | 1950 | Blk 26, W ½ Lt 2, E ½ Lt 3 | NC |
| ----- | 517 5th St. | American Cleaners/Shoe Repair | Thrift Shoppe | c1921 | Blk 17, Ctr 1/3 Lts 1-2 | NC |
| JF04-173 | 520 5th St. | Commercial Bldg. | Smitty's Bakery | c1921 | Blk 26, E ½ Lt 2 | C |
| JF04-171 JF04-148 | 519-521 5th St. | Juhnke & Bell Garage/Skelley Station | Philips 66 Gas Station | 1915/rem. 1930 | Blk 17, E 1/3 Lts 1-2 | C |
| JF04-174 | 524 5th St. | Holtz & Lewis Maching Shop/Garage | Vacant | 1910 | Blk 26, Lt 1 | C |
| JF04-175 | 601 5th St. | F.C. Friesen Garage | C & O Garage | c1927 | Blk 16, Lt 7 | C |
| JF04-176 | 605 5th St. | Kleen Klose Shop | Kleen Klose Shop | c1931 | Blk 16, W 1/3 Lt 8 | C |
| JF04-177 | 607 5th St. | Blue Bird Cafe | T-L Center Pivot Irrigation | c1931 | Blk 16, E 2/3 Lt 8 | C |
| JF04-153 | 408 6th St. | Williams Motors | Moser Motor Service | 1948 | Blk 18, E 2/3 Lt 4 & E 2/3, N ½ Lt 5 | C |
| JF04-152 | 503 6th St. | Greasing Station | Vacant Garage | c1946 | Blk 12, Ctr 1/3 Lt 12 | C |
| JF04-151 | 515 6th St. | Becker & Chancellor Service Station | Buehlers PLG-HTG | c1927 | Blk 12, E 1/3 Lts 11-12 | C |

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Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Fairbury Commercial Historic District meets the requirements of the National Register under two criteria. Both criteria are detailed separately in Section 8 under the subheadings of Historic Background and Architecture. The period of significance spans from 1873, when the earliest extant commercial building in Fairbury was constructed, to the end of the historic period dating 1947, fifty years prior to present. The district is historically significant under Criterion A for its association with the commercial development of Fairbury and Jefferson County. Fairbury's development and growth as a trade and shipping center were closely linked to its position on important railroad lines, as well as the prosperous surrounding agricultural community. Compared to other communities in Jefferson County, Fairbury is the largest commercial retail and wholesale center. The next largest community in the county, Plymouth, with a peak population of 506 in 1980, featured only three blocks of commercial development, in comparison to more than ten blocks of downtown commercial development in Fairbury.

The Fairbury Commercial Historic District is also significant under Criterion C for its grouping of buildings representing an array of architectural styles and forms which were popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These buildings, enhanced by the accompaniment of brick streets throughout the district, display extremely intact exteriors and serve as fine examples of styles commonly erected in communities throughout eastern Nebraska. Significant expansion and construction in the historic district took place between the years of 1900 and 1929. This span of years correlated with the height of railroad activity. The architectural character of the district includes continuity of design, a high level of integrity, and densely placed buildings. The ten block area consists of ninety-seven (97) contributing buildings and twenty (20) noncontributing buildings, totaling 117 properties within the district boundaries.

Historical Background

Fairbury is located in the south central portion of Jefferson County in southeastern Nebraska. The Little Blue River, which runs northwest to southeast through the county, passes Fairbury on the south and west edges. Major thoroughfares providing access through Fairbury include U.S. Highway 136, which runs east-west, and State Highway 15, which extends north-south.

County Seat and Commercial Center

Although this area received early Euro-American exposure due to its location on the Oregon Trail, the coming of the railroads prompted the development of Fairbury. In 1869, James B. Mattingly and Woodford G. McDowell combined efforts to plat a town on the expected route of a railroad. With a joint claim of 160 acres, Mattingly and McDowell laid out a community with its center block reserved for public use. McDowell's hometown in Illinois became the namesake for the new community. In November of 1871, Fairbury was elected as the county seat and two months later it was incorporated.¹

¹ Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1992), 71; Levi Boyd, comp., *Egress of the Old West; the Beginning of Fairbury and its Founders* (Fairbury, NE: Holloway Publishing Co., 1963).

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Shortly after the original platting of Fairbury, initial commercial development of the community occurred around the public square. As early as 1870, Sidney Mason erected a hotel and Horace Clark operated a blacksmith shop in Fairbury. Just one year later, the economy of the community supported three hotels and five blacksmith shops along its streets.²

One of the first major impacts on commerce in Fairbury was the arrival of the railroad. As early as 1872, the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad (also known as the St. Joseph and Grand Island under the authority of the Union Pacific) laid tracks into Jefferson County. As a result, Fairbury became a shipping center with the construction of a roundhouse (not extant) and related facilities. In the first half of 1873, the importance of the railroad was substantiated by the fact that Fairbury shipped 255 cars of grain and received 143 cars of lumber.³

The commercial district grew in the 1870s due to increased farming and shipping in Jefferson County. One year after the arrival of the railroad, in 1872-1873, the first brick building (JF04-054) in Fairbury was erected to serve as the courthouse.⁴ During the same year that the courthouse was completed, construction work in the community totaled \$42,300. By 1874, forty-four businesses operated in the commercial hub and serviced six hundred people. One of these new businesses was a hardware store operated by John Price in a false-front building (JF04-113) at 325 D Street.⁵ One year later, in 1875, Colonel Harbine anchored the east side of the square with the construction of a brick building (JF04-139) at 400 E Street in downtown Fairbury. *The Fairbury Gazette* dated 31 July 1875 noted that it was "the finest edifice in town."⁶

At the end of the decade, in 1879, Fairbury's downtown experienced a setback. A significant fire swept through the south side of the commercial hub and created a substantial loss reaching approximately \$50,000. It included damage to approximately fourteen buildings, as well as stock. An article in *The Fairbury Gazette* noted, "the loss of our principal business houses is a serious one and will fall heavily on many of the owners yet it will no doubt in the end prove a benefit. A row of frame buildings is always unsafe and the south side of the square which was the worst range in town will doubtless now be rebuilt with brick."⁷

Fairbury business people quickly rebounded from the fire with the construction of new buildings and the introduction of a broader range of merchandise. Servicing a county-wide population of eight thousand, Fairbury functioned as a trade center for residents living in at least a twenty-five-mile radius. An article in an 1880 issue of *The Fairbury Gazette* describes the growing commercial hub of Fairbury with the construction of fourteen

² Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1992), 71.

³ Estaline Carpenter, comp., *Friendly Fairbury; A History of Fairbury, Nebraska* (Fairbury, NE: Jefferson County Historical Society, 1981), 20; Charles Dawson, *Pioneer Tales of the Oregon Trail and of Jefferson County* (Topeka, KS: Crane & Co., 1912), 339-340.

⁴ Though this building remains extant, it has been significantly altered, and is noncontributing in the historic district.

⁵ Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1992), 72; Charles Dawson, *Pioneer Tales of the Oregon Trail and of Jefferson County* (Topeka, KS: Crane & Co., 1912), 340; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 40.

⁶ "New Brick Store," *The Fairbury Gazette* 31 July 1875.

⁷ "Destructive Conflagration," *The Fairbury Gazette* 4 October 1879.

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brick and/or stone buildings. While thirteen of the new buildings extended two stories tall, only one stood one-story in height.⁸

By the mid part of the decade, the 1885 *Sanborn Map* displayed every lot on the south side of the square occupied with a commercial building. While the west and north sides were three-quarters filled, only one-quarter of the east side lots displayed buildings. Additional commerce was located on D and E streets south of Fourth Street. These businesses radiated toward the railroad tracks to the south. Buildings in the district stood between one and two-stories tall and displayed a mix of frame and brick construction. Common businesses operating on the ground floor included restaurants, hotels, general stores, grocery stores, bakeries, saloons, clothing shops, drug stores, banks, hardware stores, agricultural implements, lumberyards, and a livery stable. The second floors were often utilized by photographers, fraternal halls, and offices.⁹

Rock Island Reaches Region

Prosperity and growth continued in Fairbury during the 1880s and 1890s. Between 1886 and 1887, the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad (aka Rock Island Railroad) entered Fairbury. The Rock Island served as one of the strongest forces to influence Fairbury's history. This new line designated Fairbury as its western division point because it sat at the crossing of the north-south and east-west railroad lines. Population statistics of Fairbury confirmed the impact of the Rock Island Railroad. Between 1880 and 1890, the population of Fairbury rose by 110 percent, from 1,251 to 2,630. Fairbury quickly dealt with the demands placed on it as a railroad destination and trade center, as well as by a growing urban population supplemented by Rock Island employees.¹⁰

These demands resulted in new construction in the late 1880s, with almost every lot around the public square occupied by a building. Based upon an 1889 *Sanborn Map*, only one lot on the west side of the square remained open. Residents of Fairbury were now able to purchase unique goods and services in a variety of specialty shops operating around the square.¹¹

The changing economic conditions of Fairbury, due to local railroad activity, resulted in a strong financial presence downtown. In 1882, the bank started by Colonel Harbine in 1874 was incorporated as the Harbine Bank of Fairbury (original building not extant). One year later, in 1883, First National Bank (original building not extant) was organized. Both the Harbine Bank and the First National Bank were sufficiently entrenched in

⁸ Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book, 1890-1891* (Lincoln, NE: Clerk of the Legislature, 1890), 783; "Fairbury in 1880," *The Fairbury Gazette* 1 January 1881.

⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1885).

¹⁰ Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1992), 72; Estaline Carpenter, comp., *Friendly Fairbury: A History of Fairbury, Nebraska* (Fairbury, NE: Jefferson County Historical Society, 1981), 20-21.; Bradley H. Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Inc. 1985) 245; Carol Ahlgren, *Fairbury Rock Island Depot & Freight House National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 21 June 1996.

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1889).

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the community to withstand the financial crisis of 1893, which swept across the country.¹² The fact that both these banks survived indicates the strength and primacy of Fairbury as a regional financial center.

During the final decade of the nineteenth century, the physical transformation of the downtown confirmed Fairbury's role as a regional commerce center. In 1890, the population of Jefferson County reached 14,850, which was fifty-five percent greater than the previous census. The growth and prosperity of the region were represented in the county's governmental hub by the construction of a new courthouse (JF04-050, listed NRHP 1972) on the vacant public square. In 1891, construction began on the stone courthouse based upon plans designed by J.C. Holland of Marysville, Kansas. The 1896 *Sanborn Map* shows all of the lots facing the courthouse filled with commercial buildings. The footprint of the courthouse exhibits that it was constructed two stories tall with a basement, contained steam heaters, and displayed a dome in the center of the roof.¹³ The integrity of this building has remained virtually unchanged since its initial construction.

Besides the typical commercial ventures found in downtown, fraternal lodges were often housed in the upper stories of Fairbury commercial buildings. Fraternal lodges, which formed in the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, provided social interaction for people with similar backgrounds and interests. These groups offered a sense of companionship, and provided financial and emotional support to the community's infrastructure. Donations to medical facilities, scholarships, and public improvements--as well as insurance policies for members--comprised some of the projects undertaken by fraternal organizations. The largest increase of fraternal groups in the Midwest occurred in the period after the Civil War until the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. Most of the fraternal organizations in Jefferson County were organized during this time.¹⁴

Prior to the turn of the century, fraternal activity in Fairbury flourished. Indicative of the prominence of these organizations, many constructed their own meeting halls. As early as 1890, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) constructed a hall (JF04-159) in Fairbury at 302 Fifth Street. The construction firm of Houghtelin and Kanode contracted to build the lodge. Four years later, in 1894, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (aka IOOF) began constructing a two-story, two-storefront wide brick building (JF04-062, listed NRHP 1987) at 521-523 E Street in Fairbury. Commercial space was available in the first floor and the IOOF had their meeting rooms on the second floor. On 26 April 1895, the Odd Fellows held a dedication ceremony for their new

¹² Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1992), 72; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 5,16; "The First National Bank...", *The Fairbury Gazette* 21 July 1883; "Harbine Bank One of Pioneer Banks of State, Founded 1874," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 12 June 1930; "First National Bank Observing 70th Anniversary of Founding," *The Fairbury Journal* 8 October 1953.

¹³ Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book, 1990-1991* (Lincoln, NE: Clerk of the Legislature, 1990), 783; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 4; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1896).

¹⁴ Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 3 vols. (Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Social and Political, 5-1 to 5-4.

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building.¹⁵ An article from *The Fairbury Gazette* noted that, “the beautiful temple which they dedicate is a monument to the zeal and enterprise of the Fairbury lodge.”¹⁶

At the onset of the next century, the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons (aka Masons) of Fairbury, who had originally organized in 1871, purchased a lot along the west side of E Street, one lot away from the IOOF Temple. In 1916, the Masons constructed a building (JF04-064) on the site at a cost of \$20,000. On 20 April 1917 the lodge conducted a dedication ceremony. Following World War I, social organizations were still active in Fairbury. This was represented by the fact that the American Legion gained ownership of the GAR Hall. In 1935, the legion remodeled the building to its current appearance.¹⁷

Conflagration Influenced New Century

Following the turn of the century, another disaster struck the commercial district. In 1903, the largest fire in Fairbury’s history destroyed almost the entire block south of the square. The only salvageable building was the old Jefferson County Courthouse (JF04-054) at 400 Fourth Street. By the next year, based upon the 1904 *Sanborn Map*, the entire block was again filled with buildings. Brick served as the main construction material for all of the buildings. Eight of the buildings stood two stories tall, one was three stories, and another was one-story. Businesses along the south side of the courthouse square included general stores, clothing shops, drug stores, as well as a hardware store, meat market, grocery shop, jewelers, boot and shoe shop, restaurant, opera house, and bank. Three of the buildings identified on the *Sanborn Map* include the Steele Opera House (JF04-065) at 404 Fourth Street, the Clarke-Price Building (JF04-196) at 412-414 Fourth Street, and the Weisel Building (JF04-195) at 416 Fourth Street.¹⁸

One of the most ornate buildings constructed on the south side of the square after the fire was the 1904 Harbine Bank (JF04-057) at 422 Fourth Street. During the same decade, Isaac Bonham of Kansas laid the groundwork for another bank in Fairbury with the purchase of property at the southwest corner of D and Fifth streets. In 1908, construction began on the Bonham Bank (JF04-052) at 425 D Street. In 1912, Bonham Bank bought out First National Bank and continued operating under the latter name.¹⁹

Heightened railroad activity and population growth spurred additional commerce in the downtown. The largest census growth of Fairbury was reported at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. Figures rose from 3,140 people in 1900 to 5,294 people in 1910, an increase of nearly sixty percent. During this same census, Jefferson County reported its peak population of 16,852. The growing populations brought more money into

¹⁵ “Town and County,” *The Fairbury Gazette* 27 September 1890; “Town and County,” *The Fairbury Gazette* 19 April 1895.

¹⁶ “The Beautiful Temple...,” *The Fairbury Gazette* 27 April 1895.

¹⁷ “Masons Purchase a Lot,” *The Fairbury Gazette* 11 August 1900; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 27, 43.

¹⁸ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 18; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1904).

¹⁹ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 16, 21; “Harbine Bank One of Pioneer Banks of State, Founded 1874,” *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 12 June 1930.

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the regional trade center of Fairbury. This allowed merchants to feel secure in their financial status and divert money to the construction of substantial commercial buildings. While retail and service businesses such as the 1902 Davis Building (JF04-137) at 404 E Street, the 1902 Goodrich Brothers Banking Company (JF04-135) at 412 E Street, and the 1905 H. L. Clarke Building (JF04-114) at 409-411 D Street were constructed around the square, several communication-related facilities were erected one block away from the courthouse.²⁰

The history of Fairbury's local newspapers nearly dates back to the founding of the community. In 1870, one year after the Fairbury plat was completed, George Cross started the *Fairbury Gazette*. By 1891, besides the *Gazette*, the *Fairbury Enterprise*, the *Liberator*, and the *Fairbury-World* operated in the city. One year later, the *Fairbury Journal* was published. In 1905, the *Fairbury Journal*, under the direction of W.F. Cramb, constructed its own building (JF04-170) at 515 Fifth Street. Three years later, in 1908, a building used to facilitate communications was constructed. The Wooster Building (JF04-191), built at 513 Fourth Street, housed the local telephone company.²¹ Another building (JF04-140) was erected circa 1910 for a local newspaper. It was located at 312-314 E Street and utilized by the *Fairbury News*.

The entertainment industry flourished in Fairbury in the twentieth century. The construction of the 1903 Steele Opera House (JF04-065) at 404 Fourth Street represents one of the oldest extant buildings in the district constructed for the purpose of entertainment. Although the opera house stood empty for several years, in 1920, a group of Rock Island employees reopened it with new projectors and screen, as well as a better ventilation system. The Majestic Theater (JF04-066)²² was constructed circa 1912 at 510 D Street and added to the entertainment choices of Jefferson County residents. With the increasing popularity of motion pictures, theater owners began erecting architecturally significant buildings to offer an enchanting atmosphere to patrons. These motion picture houses were usually located in the heart of the commercial district. The 1926 Bonham Theater (JF04-063) stands as a fine example of this new type of entertainment facility. Located at 519 E Street, the theater was constructed at a cost of \$100,000. In 1929, the first talking picture was shown in the Bonham. Undoubtedly the owner of the Bonham had marketing of his business in mind when, in 1940, he hired Hanns Teichert of Chicago to remodel the interior of the theatre.²³

During the second decade of the century, the commercial district began to expand at least one block in every direction from the courthouse square. Prominent new buildings erected during this period were primarily located

²⁰ Addison E. Sheldon, ed., *The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register 1920* (Lincoln, NE, December, 1920), 392; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book, 1990-1991* (Lincoln, NE, Clerk of the Legislature, 1990), 783; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 10; "The New Clarke Building..." *The Fairbury Gazette* 29 July 1905.

²¹ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 33; "History of the Fairbury Journal-News..." *The Fairbury Journal-News* 19 May 1971; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 35.

²² The Majestic Theatre at 510 D Street is a noncontributing building in the historic district due to unsympathetic alterations, however, it helps to the story of the entertainment industry in Fairbury.

²³ "New Movie House to Open," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 13 May 1920; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 27; Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 6-7; "Redecoration of Bonham to Start Early Next Week," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 12 September 1940.

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on the periphery of the square.²⁴ In 1910, excavation began for the new Post Office (JF04-051) at the northwest corner of D and Fifth streets. After \$9,000 of the appropriated \$70,000 was used to purchase the site, the remainder went toward hiring a contractor and furnishing the completed building. By the summer of 1912, the new federal building was operating in Fairbury.²⁵ In 1915, the Page Building (JF04-184) was built at 520 Fourth Street. Divided into three storefronts, this building once housed a pool hall, a wallpaper and paint store, and a confectionary. During the same year, on the northeast corner opposite from the Page Building, Friesen and Company began excavating land for the construction of a new building (JF04-183). In September of that year, the company of Becker and Chancellor operated a garage in the new Friesen and Company Building. One year later, in 1916, the Pettitt and Moon Monument Company constructed a building (JF04-181) at 613 Fourth Street, to the east of the Friesen and Company Building. The monument company had been in operation in Fairbury under several different names since 1886.²⁶

The growth of the commercial district of Fairbury during the 1910s and 1920s is strongly linked to the fact that these were the peak years for the Rock Island Railroad. Approximately fourteen passenger trains on Rock Island tracks passed through Fairbury each day. As a result of the heavy traffic, the Rock Island constructed a two-story brick depot (JF04-047, not in district, listed on NRHP 1996) in the community between 1913 and 1914. The depot was located only four blocks to the southeast of the commercial district. Besides passengers, the Rock Island also shipped raw materials and other freight to and from Fairbury. Strategically, many of the industrial buildings in Fairbury were located on both sides of the tracks, extending to the south and west of the commercial district.²⁷

Twentieth Century Diversification

Industrial and warehouse properties, located on the fringe of downtown, benefitted from customers utilizing Fairbury as a regional trade center. Furthermore, they often supplied their wholesale goods to local retailers. These businesses positioned their operations adjacent to the railroad tracks to provide a strong transportation link to larger Midwest markets along Rock Island lines.

The Fairbury Planing Mill had²⁸ a long production history in Fairbury starting as early as 1886 under the direction of O. G. Collier. During that year, Collier established both the Fairbury Planing Mills and the Collier Lumber Company. Products constructed by Collier's business included bee keeping supplies, horse tanks, and building materials such as porch posts, doors, and stairs. In 1907, the business was incorporated with Collier as manager. The Fairbury Planing Mill relocated its operations circa 1912 to a building (JF04-156) on the east side of the

²⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1912).

²⁵ "Excavating Begun," *The Fairbury Gazette* 22 December 1910; "Post Office Built for \$70,000," Subject File: Fairbury Post Office, Fairbury City Museum, Fairbury, NE

²⁶ "Began Work," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 25 March 1915; "Excavating For New Building," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 20 May 1915; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 38; "New Garage," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 9 September 1915; "Moon and Sun Monuments Homemade From Start To Finish," File: *Moon and Son* Located at the Fairbury City Museum.

²⁷ Carol Ahlgren, *Fairbury Rock Island Depot & Freight House National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 21 June 1996.

²⁸ In 1997, an outgrowth of the company, known as FPM Inc., and located at 224 Sixth Street, is still in operation under the direction of the Gasper Family.

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commercial district, located at the northwest corner of C and Fifth streets. Due to increased business, a new Collier Lumber Yard and Office (JF04-155) and an addition to the rear of the Fairbury Planing Mill (JF04-156) were constructed by 1921. In 1934, following the death of the last Collier to manage the facility, it was reincorporated with the assets of the former company.²⁹

Besides the Fairbury Planing Mill, the Rasse Wholesale Grocer Company was located at the south end of downtown. Although these operations were located in different directions from the heart of downtown, they both sat adjacent to the diagonal running railroad tracks. In 1915, L.S. Rasse and Son located their company on the 100 block of Third Street (JF04-457, not located in district), a building previously occupied by the Fairbury Planing Mill. In 1924, due to a growing and profitable business, the owners of the Rasse Company constructed a new warehouse (JF04-199) at the south end of D Street east of the railroad tracks.³⁰ The importance of railroad shipping to this warehouse is evident by the building's design. A loading dock on the southwest corner of the building curved with a track spur of the Rock Island.

By the third decade of the century, Fairbury's financial institutions endured pivotal changes. In 1922, First National Bank experienced a fire and constructed a new building (JF04-169) in 1923 on the same location at 421-425 Fifth Street. By the end of the decade, in 1929, a Minnesota financial corporation purchased both the First National Bank and the Harbine Bank and combined the two to make the First National Bank of Fairbury. Thereafter, excluding Lincoln and Omaha, First National Bank of Fairbury became one of the leading financial institutions in Nebraska. After the merger, in 1930, officials of the First National Bank remodeled its building on the northwest corner of E and Fifth streets to include two neighboring storefronts. A decade later, in 1940, Luther Bonham and Cecil J. Bachoritch of Fairbury secured authority over the bank.³¹

Prior to the Great Depression, Fairbury's commercial district was enhanced with the construction of several large retail store buildings. In 1924, the Golden Rule Store (JF04-130) was erected at 500-506 E Street. Four years earlier, this store was established in Fairbury under the direction of Bert Kiesel. It was originally located on the west side of the square.³² In 1925, the Hested Five and Dime Store (JF04-129) moved into the new building at 508-510 E Street, just north of the Golden Rule Store. In 1909, H.J. Hested opened his first store in Fairbury. An early location for this business was the Steele Building (JF04-136) at 406-410 E Street. By 1945, the Hested Stores Company boasted forty-seven stores in central United States, including branches in Colorado and Wyoming.³³ Four years after the construction of the Hested Store, in 1929, one of Fairbury's most ornate

²⁹ Elizabeth Gasper, "Fairbury Planing Mills History," February 1997. Site Files: JF04-155, JF04-156, Located at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, NE.

³⁰ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 42.

³¹ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 5,16, 21; "First National Bank Observing 70th Anniversary of Founding," *The Fairbury Journal* 8 October 1953; "Harbine Bank and First National Bank Merger Will Be Completed Money; A \$4,000,000 Institution," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 12 June 1930; "Local Men Purchase First National Bank," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 28 November 1940.

³² "B.K. Co. To Continue Its Headquarters Here," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 20 June 1935.

³³ "Hested Stores Co. Adds Store No. 47 at Rocky Ford Colo.," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 30 August 1945; "Opening of Hested Store," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 12 November 1925; *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 31;

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department stores was completed. Montgomery Ward and Company constructed a department store (JF04-189) and storage building (JF04-188) at 500-504 Fourth Street. This store operated in the same location throughout the historic period.³⁴

Transition in Transportation

With the rapidly increasing popularity of the automobile nationwide in the early twentieth century, Fairbury recognized the need for durable streets. As early as 1915, city officials started a campaign to promote the paving project. During that same year, the city's efforts were benefitted by an act passed by the state legislature. Withstanding a majority of objections from property owners, city officials were allowed to designate a paving district funded by the proprietors. The first district declared by the Fairbury City Council included the downtown streets of D, E, Fourth, and Fifth. By the next year, the brick paving project around the public square was initiated. In subsequent years, brick pavers (JF04-523) eventually extended north to Fourteenth Street; east to L Street; south to Second Street; and west to the City Park. In 1997, the brick pavers (JF04-523) cover every street in the district and contribute to the historical character of the downtown.³⁵

The automobile industry also impacted the types and styles of buildings in downtown Fairbury. Prompted by travelers as well as local residents, garage and service station owners constructed new buildings for their establishments. However, in some instances, implement stores, livery stables, and blacksmith shops were converted into auto-related businesses to accommodate the changing needs of technology. The 1921 *Sanborn Map* displayed seven garages, three tire repair shops, one auto transfer store, one auto top repairing shop, and a battery station in the district boundaries. Three garages, with a total capacity of seventy-five cars, provided service on Fifth Street within a block from the public square. Included in the list were the circa 1921 C.G. Catlin Company Garage (JF04-161) at 311-315 Fifth Street; the 1915 Juhnke and Bell Garage (JF04-148; JF04-171) at 519-521 Fifth Street; and the 1910 Holtz and Lewis Machine Shop and Garage (JF04-174) at 524 Fifth Street. Two garages were also located at the south end of downtown, near the tracks. A twenty-car capacity garage (JF04-144), built circa 1896 at 302 E Street, had been converted from an implement store. Across the alley to the east, sat another twenty-car capacity garage (JF04-145), which had originally served as the circa 1910 Ellsworth Livery Barn.³⁶

Throughout the late 1920s and 1930s, automobile related-businesses continued to be one of the most predominant building types constructed in the district. Based upon the 1931 *Sanborn Map*, approximately ten garages, three filling stations, two auto repair shops, one tire shop, one auto tire and service station, and one auto sales and service business operated within the district boundaries. Auto-related buildings which were added to the district during this period include the circa 1927 F.C. Friesen Garage (JF04-175) at 601 Fifth Street, the

"Residents Remodeling Two Empty Downtown Buildings," Site File: JF04-129, Located at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, NE.

³⁴ *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 35-36.

³⁵ "How Pavements Pay Dividends," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 13 May 1915; "Paving Ordinance," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 3 June 1915; Estaline Carpenter, comp., *Friendly Fairbury: A History of Fairbury, Nebraska* (Fairbury, NE: Jefferson County Historical Society, 1981), 13.

³⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1921).

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circa 1931 Melander Taxi and Garage (JF04-146) at 307-311 F Street, the circa 1931 Whittle Auto Company Garage (JF04-143) at 304-306 E Street, and the circa 1931 Howe Auto Company (JF04-182) at 611 Fourth Street. The northeast corner of Sixth and E streets became a prime auto stop with the addition of three garages (JF04-125; JF04-151, one not extant) and a filling station (JF04-126). Besides new construction, in 1930, the 1915 Juhnke and Bell Garage was remodeled into a Skelley Super Station. Located at the northwest corner of Fifth and F streets, this service station sat on a prominent corner in the commercial district.³⁷

During World War II, construction in downtown Fairbury significantly decreased. Building materials throughout the country were redirected to help the war effort. The War Production Board (WPB) was organized to oversee the use of a variety of resources. In 1945, the WPB challenged Fairburians to cut down on their use of power. Furthermore, based upon a national ban, Fairbury merchants were prohibited from turning on display window lights. Only interior lights were permitted by the ban. Display light exceptions were only allowed in situations where the public's safety was jeopardized.³⁸

Once construction materials were again made available for commercial construction after the war, three new buildings were erected in Fairbury at the north end of the downtown. In 1948, the Made-rite Cafe (JF04-120) at 515 D Street, the Pla-Mor Lanes (JF04-121) at 517 D Street, and the E.C. Trindel Station (JF04-283) at 523 D Street were added to the downtown. These buildings add an important historical component to the district regarding the atmosphere of construction in the 1940s. The construction styles and integrity of these buildings, as well as their placement within the downtown visually blends them into the overall character of the district. Despite being seven months short of the fifty year old age criteria, their location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District.

At the end of World War II, the railroad industry began experiencing a decrease in passenger traffic. Two decades later, the Rock Island Western Division Headquarters pulled out of Fairbury. By 1980, the Rock Island stopped servicing Fairbury entirely. During these declining years, the population of the city mirrored the railroad activity.³⁹ Due to its changing status, commercial construction in Fairbury also declined. Thus, only eight percent of buildings in the district were constructed or significantly remodeled outside the historic period.

The Fairbury Commercial Historic District physically represents a strong commercial history dating back to the early 1870s. By the next decade, one of the most significant impacts to the downtown was the designation of Fairbury by the Rock Island Railroad as a western division point. By the turn of the century, every lot around the public square was filled with prospering businesses. This physical sign of prosperity confirmed Fairbury's

³⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Fairbury, Nebraska* (New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., 1931); *The Fairbury Journal-News*, comp., *A Pictorial History of Jefferson County Nebraska* (N.p., n.d.), 34; "Remodel Garage Building," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 24 April 1930; "To Complete Super Service Station By the First of July," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 19 June 1930.

³⁸ "Fairbury Lights to Dim Tonight," *The Fairbury News and the Fairbury Gazette* 1 February 1945.

³⁹ Carol Ahlgren, *Fairbury Rock Island Depot & Freight House National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 21 June 1996.

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role as a regional trade center. Fairbury's economy continued to grow during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Adapting to the changing needs of its clientele, the downtown underwent a transition with the construction of large retail stores and automobile-related businesses by the 1920s. The general historical overview of Fairbury provides a clear understanding of the significance of the downtown to the region. Specific building and business examples cited in this narrative substantiate the impact of retail, banking, communication, industrial and warehouse operations, as well as the automobile industry on Fairbury. Although Fairbury no longer serves as a railroad division point, it still functions as a trade center for area residents. In 1997, a majority of the commercial buildings in downtown Fairbury, which exhibit high physical integrity, are still occupied by businesses. As a result, a bustle of activity continues to occur around the courthouse square.

Architectural History of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District

The architectural character of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District exhibits high integrity in a variety of styles, materials, and construction methods. This densely packed district displays highly intact exterior elevations. The buildings in the district represent architectural development trends typical of Nebraska commercial centers. Most of the commercial buildings in the downtown stand one to two-stories tall and were constructed of brick. Fine representatives of Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Late Gothic Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and twentieth century commercial vernacular architectural styles and forms are located within the district.

The first generation of buildings constructed in Fairbury, dating to the 1870s, was primarily made up of frame, false-front, one and two-story buildings. These buildings were predominantly constructed around the public square. Due to their extended vertical facades which provided an illusion of taller, more elaborate buildings, false-fronts were often constructed in newly platted commercial centers.⁴⁰ All but one of the false-front buildings in the Fairbury Commercial Historic District have been replaced with second generation brick buildings. The 1874 Price Building (JF04-113) located at 325 D Street, is a one-story frame false-front building which still retains its historic form.

In the last few decades of the nineteenth century, the architectural character of the commercial district began to change when smaller, frame buildings were replaced with high style buildings. These high styles, such as Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival, were mainly constructed on the lots facing the public square where the courthouse now stands.

Italianate features are represented on several buildings in downtown Fairbury. Italianate style storefronts, constructed primarily from the 1870s through the 1880s, were most often built of brick. Ornamental features include metal cornices with bold brackets, centered doorways, window surrounds, flat roofs, multi-pane windows, and pilasters. These buildings were often erected from mill cut materials.⁴¹ Metal cornices and ornamental window hoods serve as some of the most identifiable features on the seven Italianate style buildings

⁴⁰ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 244-245.

⁴¹ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 239.

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identified in downtown Fairbury, such as the circa 1889 Jenkin's Store Building (JF04-138) at 402 E Street and the circa 1889 Arnold Building (JF04-165) at 405 Fifth Street.

The architectural character of the commercial district changed around the turn of the century with the introduction of styles rooted in classical design. Romanesque Revival style buildings were typically adorned with arched entrances and fenestration, flat roofs, string courses, elaborate cornices, and art glass. This style, which was mainly constructed of brick or stone, was often used in the design of financial institutions and government buildings to give a sense of stability and protection.⁴² Seven Romanesque Revival style buildings were identified in the commercial district. Fine examples of this style include the 1891-92 Jefferson County Courthouse (JF04-050) at 411 Fourth Street, the 1893 Conrad Block (JF04-053) at 401-403 D Street, the 1894-1895 IOOF Temple (JF04-062) at 521-523 E Street, the circa 1896 commercial building (JF04-192) at 511 Fourth Street, and the circa 1904 commercial building (JF04-133) at 416 E Street.

The Queen Anne style of architecture, dating around the turn of the century, is characterized by balconies, towers, bays, ornate brickwork, and multicolored elevation materials. Although this style was most commonly represented in the design of single family dwellings, it was also used in the construction of commercial buildings in smaller business districts.⁴³ Five buildings in downtown Fairbury utilize Queen Anne features. Queen Anne ornamented buildings in the district include the circa 1896 commercial building (JF04-167) at 413-415 Fifth Street and the 1904 Clarke-Price Building (JF04-196) at 412-414 Fourth Street.

Late Gothic Revival is a more conservative style derived from its earlier High Victorian predecessor. Irregular massing and stone construction are common characteristics. Gothic features include steeply pitched roofs, asymmetrical form, battlements, turrets, and lancet windows. This style was popular in the early decades of the twentieth century. Late Gothic Revival was often used in the design of churches, schools, and commercial buildings.⁴⁴ Three buildings in downtown Fairbury reflect elements of this style, such as the 1904 commercial building (JF04-194) at 418 Fourth Street, the 1904 commercial building (JF04-198) at 402 Fourth Street, and the 1908 Bonham National Bank (JF04-052) at 425 D Street.

Buildings incorporating the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture were also erected in Fairbury around the turn of the century. Similar to the Romanesque Revival style, this design was also commonly used for public facilities. Typical Neo-Classical Revival style features include full-height classical columns, symmetrical facades, balustrades, pediments, and ornate cornices.⁴⁵ Neo-Classical Revival style details on the Fairbury buildings include elaborate cornices, pedimented doorways, rusticated first floor materials, and classical columns. In the Fairbury commercial district, five buildings display Neo-Classical Revival characteristics. The 1904 Harbine

⁴² Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 246.

⁴³ Marilyn W. Klein and David P. Fogel, *Clues to American Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Starrhill Press, 1986), 28-29.

⁴⁴ Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* vol. 2 (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Architecture 2-30; Marilyn W. Klein and David P. Fogel, *Clues to American Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Starrhill Press, 1986), 20-21.

⁴⁵ John J.G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture* (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1981), 68-69; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 342-345.

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Section 8 Page 13 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Bank (JF04-057) at 422 Fourth Street and the 1910-1912 Fairbury Post Office (JF04-051) at 503 D Street stand as fine representative examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style.

Spanish Colonial Revival style, constructed in the 1920s in Fairbury, is characterized by red tile roofs, arched openings, cornices, and parapets. Exterior materials include brick, terra cotta, and stucco.⁴⁶ Two buildings in Fairbury's downtown display this style, such as the 1926 Bonham Theater (JF04-063) at 519 E Street and the 1929 Montgomery Wards Store and Storage Facility (JF04-189; JF04-188), located at 500-504 Fourth Street.

Twentieth century commercial vernacular design was widely used in the early decades of the 1900s. Since this period paralleled the highest commercial construction in Fairbury's downtown, a large number of buildings on the periphery of the square display this form. Twentieth century commercial vernacular forms generally exhibit rectangular-shaped elevations. Variations on the exteriors of this building form are exhibited in fenestration, materials, and affixed ornamentation. Common features found on these buildings include brick construction, large plate glass windows on the first floor, decorative cornices, corbeling, pilasters, belt and string courses, and transoms. When erected in a row, these buildings often share common walls.⁴⁷ An array of examples of twentieth century commercial vernacular designed buildings include the 1903 Steele Opera House (JF04-065) at 404 Fourth Street, the 1929 H.A. Richardson Building (JF04-119) at 505-513 D Street, and the 1890/1935 GAR Hall/American Legion Lodge (JF04-159) at 302 Fifth Street.

Modern broad-front buildings, often built on the border streets of a downtown, were later commercial vernacular additions to the district. This form consists of a wide storefront braced with steel supports. The front elevations on these one-story buildings usually display two end piers, plate glass windows divided by thin mullions, transoms, and terra cotta panels.⁴⁸ Since this architectural form was conducive to the needs of the automobile industry, it was often used in the design of automobile dealerships and service stations. Several garages in Fairbury display the modern broad-front form such as the 1915 Friesen and Company Garage (JF04-183) at 601 Fourth Street and the circa 1931 Whittle Auto Company Garage (JF04-143) at 304-306 E Street.

At approximately the same time Fairbury's downtown began to reflect modern architectural styles for automobile-related property types, the streets took on a more modern appearance as well. In 1915, city officials initiated a funding program to pave the city streets with brick pavers. The laying of red brick pavement (JF04-523) began in the downtown the following year. The brick streets continue--to the present (1997)--to add to the architectural character of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District with very high integrity, as they cover all streets within the district.

⁴⁶ John J.G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture* (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1981), 8-9; Marilyn W. Klein and David P. Fogel, *Clues to American Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Starrhill Press, 1986), 49.

⁴⁷ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 240-241.

⁴⁸ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 249.

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Section 8 Page 14 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

In conclusion, the Fairbury Commercial Historic District is representative of architectural styles utilized in the evolution of a typical Nebraska regional trade center. This district exhibits densely placed historic buildings, displaying high integrity. Furthermore, the brick pavement, which fills virtually all of the district's thoroughfares, contributes to the architectural cohesiveness of the downtown area. Commercial trends in the district are represented by styles and property types found in typical Nebraska business districts. The period of significance of the district, which dates between 1873 and 1947, is supported by Fairbury's location along the former Rock Island Railroad main line. The growth and prosperity of Fairbury are represented by an abundance of early high style commercial buildings such as Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Late Gothic Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival.

The district exhibits a healthy construction atmosphere throughout the first four decades of the twentieth century, and retains a significant number of these buildings. Between 1900 and 1929, a total of sixty-four buildings were constructed. These properties comprise fifty-five percent of the buildings in the district. One of the strongest construction periods occurred during the 1920s, with the construction of twenty-five buildings. After World War II, the business district began to reflect the slow decline of the Rock Island Railroad until it pulled out of Fairbury completely in 1980. Furthermore, the development of the commercial hub was slowed by the establishment of a strip mall on the northeastern edge of the community. However, the Fairbury commercial district has withstood these setbacks. In 1997, with well-maintained commercial buildings, thoroughfares, and sidewalks, Fairbury's commercial center is prospering with a variety of specialty shops, offices, restaurants, and even a movie theater. Based upon the above-referenced information, the Fairbury Commercial Historic District meets the National Register Criteria A and C as an excellent example of a regional commercial center in Nebraska.

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Section 10 Page 1 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Section 10 - Geographical Data

UTM References-continuation

E 1/4 6/5/5/2/2/0 4/4/4/4/4/2/5
Zone Easting Northing

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

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the district starts at the most southeast point, at the southeast corner of Third and F streets. It heads north on F Street, on the east, curb side of F Street, to Fourth Street. It then turns east on Fourth Street, continuing east on the south, curb side of Fourth Street to the southeast corner of 613 Fourth Street. It then turns north, and continues north along the east lot line of 613 Fourth Street to the alley of Block 27. It then turns west, and heads west down the center of the alley of Block 27 to F Street. It then turns north, and continues north along the east, curb side of F Street to the southeast corner of F and Fifth streets. It then turns east and continues east along the south, curb side of Fifth Street until it reaches the southeast corner of 611 Fifth Street. It then turns north and continues along the east lot line of 611 Fifth Street to the alley of Block 16. It then turns west and continues down the center of the alley of Block 16 until it reaches F Street. It then turns north and continues north along the east, curb side of F Street until it reaches the corner of F and Sixth streets. It then turns west and continues west along the north, curb side of Sixth Street until it reaches the alley of Block 12. It then turns north and continues north and continues down the center of the alley of Block 12 until it reaches the northeast corner of 608 E Street. It then turns west and continues along the north lot line of 608 E Street. It then turns south and continues south along the west, curb side of E Street to the corner of E and Sixth streets. It then turns west and continues west along the north, curb side of Sixth Street until it reaches the alley of Block 19. It then turns south and continues south down the center of the alley of Block 19, until it reaches the northeast corner of 512 C Street. It then turns west and continues west until it reaches C Street. It then turns south and continues south along the west, curb side of C Street until it reaches the alley of Block 20. It then turns west and continues west through the center of the alley of Block 20, until it reaches the current Union Pacific Railroad tracks. It then turns southeast, and continues southeast along the easterly side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks until it reaches Third Street. It then turns east and continues east along the south, curb side of Third Street until it reaches the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Fairbury Commercial Historic District include the core business district of Fairbury. These boundaries were selected based upon visual continuity of a grouping of buildings with architectural and historic integrity. The district is abutted by residential buildings to the north, east, and the railroad tracks to the southwest, with light industrial buildings which were non-historic to the south.

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FAIRBURY COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Photographs by Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (Barbara Kooiman)

Photographs taken March 1997

Negatives at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska

The above information applies to all of the following photographs:

Photo # 1 of 56

400 block of Third Street, north side facing northeast
300-310 Third Street

410 Fourth Street

408 Fourth Street

404 Fourth Street

402 Fourth Street

400 Fourth Street

Photo # 2 of 56

500 block of Third Street, north side facing northeast

Left to right:

509 Third Street

511 Third Street

Photo # 8 of 56

400 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northeast

411 Fourth Street, Jefferson County Courthouse

Photo # 3 of 56

500 block of Third Street, north side facing northwest

Left to right:

509 Third Street

511 Third Street

301 F Street

Photo # 9 of 56

400 block of Fourth Street, south side facing southwest

Left to right:

422 Fourth Street

420 Fourth Street

418 Fourth Street

416 Fourth Street

412-414 Fourth Street

410 Fourth Street

408 Fourth Street

404 Fourth Street

402 Fourth Street

400 Fourth Street

Photo # 4 of 56

300 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northeast

311 Fourth Street

Photo # 5 of 56

300 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northeast

315 Fourth Street

Photo # 6 of 56

300 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northwest

Left to right:

400 C Street

315 Fourth Street

401-403 D Street

Photo # 10 of 56

500 block of Fourth Street, south side facing southeast

Left to right:

520 Fourth Street

512 Fourth Street

510 Fourth Street

506-508 Fourth Street

500-504 Fourth Street

Photo # 7 of 56

400 block of Fourth Street, south side facing southeast

Left to right:

422 Fourth Street

420 Fourth Street

418 Fourth Street

416 Fourth Street

412-414 Fourth Street

Photo # 11 of 56

500 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northeast

Left to right:

400 E Street

511 Fourth Street

513 Fourth Street

515 Fourth Street

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Section Photos Page 2 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Photo # 12 of 56
500 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northwest
Left to right:
513 E Street
515 E Street

Photo # 13 of 56
500 block of Fourth Street, south side facing southwest
Left to right:
520 Fourth Street
512 Fourth Street
510 Fourth Street
506-508 Fourth Street
500-504 Fourth Street

Photo # 14 of 56
600 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northeast
Left to right:
601 Fourth Street
611 Fourth Street
613 Fourth Street

Photo # 15 of 56
600 block of Fourth Street, north side facing northwest
Left to right:
601 Fourth Street
611 Fourth Street
613 Fourth Street

Photo # 16 of 56
200 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northwest
Left to right:
211 Fifth Street (elevator)
215-217 Fifth Street
219-221 Fifth Street

Photo # 17 of 56
200 block of Fifth Street, south side facing southwest
218-224 Fifth Street

Photo # 18 of 56
300 block of Fifth Street, south side facing southeast
Left to right:
318 Fifth Street
308-310 Fifth Street
300-302 Fifth Street

Photo # 19 of 56

300 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northeast
311-315 Fifth Street

Photo # 20 of 56
300 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northwest
Left to right:
311-315 Fifth Street
503 D Street (Post office)

Photo # 21 of 56
300 block of Fifth Street, south side facing southwest
Left to right:
425 D Street
318 Fifth Street
308-310 Fifth Street
300-302 Fifth Street

Photo # 22 of 56
400 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northeast
Left to right:
401 Fifth Street
403 Fifth Street
405 Fifth Street
407 Fifth Street
411 Fifth Street
413-415 Fifth Street
417 Fifth Street
419 Fifth Street
421-425 Fifth Street

Photo # 23 of 56
400 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northwest
Left to right:
401 Fifth Street
403 Fifth Street
405 Fifth Street
407 Fifth Street
411 Fifth Street
413-415 Fifth Street
417 Fifth Street
419 Fifth Street
421-425 Fifth Street

Photo # 24 of 56
500 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northeast
Left to right:
500-506 E Street
515 Fifth Street

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Section Photos Page 3 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

517 Fifth Street

Photo # 25 of 56

500 block of Fifth Street, south side facing southeast

Left to right:

524 Fifth Street

520 Fifth Street

516 Fifth Street

425 E Street

Photo # 26 of 56

500 block of Fifth Street, south side facing southwest

524 Fifth Street

520 Fifth Street

516 Fifth Street

Photo # 27 of 56

500 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northwest

Left to right:

515 Fifth Street

517 Fifth Street

Photo # 28 of 56

600 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northeast

Left to right:

601 Fifth Street

605 Fifth Street

611 Fifth Street

Photo # 29 of 56

600 block of Fifth Street, north side facing northwest

Left to right:

601 Fifth Street

605 Fifth Street

611 Fifth Street

Photo # 30 of 56

400 block of Sixth Street, south side facing southeast

Left to right:

520-528 Fifth Street

408 D Street

Photo # 31 of 56

400 block of Sixth Street, south side facing southwest

Left to right:

521-523 E Street

408 Fifth Street

Photo # 32 of 56

500 block of Sixth Street, north side facing northeast

Left to right:

600 E Street

503 Sixth Street

513 Sixth Street

Photo # 33 of 56

500 block of Sixth Street, south side facing southeast

Left to right:

523 F Street

528 E Street

Photo # 34 of 56

500 block of Sixth Street, south side facing southwest

523 F Street

Photo # 35 of 56

400 block of C Street, east side facing northeast

Left to right:

218-224 Fifth Street

400 C Street

Photo # 36 of 56

500 block of C Street, east side facing northeast

512 C Street

Photo # 37 of 56

300 block of D Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:

321 D Street

325 D Street

Photo # 38 of 56

300 block of D Street, west side facing southwest

Left to right:

321 D Street

325 D Street

Photo # 39 of 56

300 block of D Street, east side facing southeast

Left to right:

400 Fourth Street

300-310 D Street

Photo # 40 of 56

400 block of D Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:

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Section Photos Page 4 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

401-403 D Street
405 D Street
407 D Street
409-411 D Street
413 D Street
415 D Street
417 D Street
419 D Street
421 D Street
425 D Street

Photo # 41 of 56

400 block of D Street, west side facing southwest

Left to right:
401-403 D Street
405 D Street
407 D Street
409-411 D Street
413 D Street
415 D Street
417 D Street
419 D Street
421 D Street
425 D Street

Photo # 42 of 56

500 block of D Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:
503 D Street
505-513 D Street
515 D Street
517 D Street

Photo # 43 of 56

500 block of D Street, west side facing southwest

Left to right:
503 D Street
505-513 D Street
515 D Street
517 D Street
523 D Street

Photo # 44 of 56

300 block of E Street, east side facing northeast

Left to right:
312-314 E Street
310 E Street
308 E Street

302 E Street

Photo # 45 of 56

300 block of E Street, east side facing southeast

Left to right:
500-504 Fourth Street
312-314 E Street
310 E Street
308 E Street
302 E Street

Photo # 46 of 56

300 block of E Street, west side facing southwest

422 Fourth Street

Photo # 47 of 56

400 block of E Street, east side facing northeast

Left to right:
424 E Street
422 E Street
418 E Street
416 E Street
414 E Street
412 E Street
408-410 E Street
404 E Street
402 E Street
400 E Street

Photo # 48 of 56

500 block of E Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:
421-425 Fifth Street
505-511 E Street
513-515 E Street
519 E Street
521-523 E Street

Photo # 49 of 56

500 block of E Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:
505-511 E Street
513-515 E Street
519 E Street
521-523 E Street

Photo # 50 of 56

600 block of E Street, east side facing northeast

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Section Photos Page 5 Fairbury Commercial Historic District, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska

Left to right:
608 E Street
600 Sixth Street

Photo # 51 of 56
300 block of F Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:
301 F Street
307-311 F Street
315 F Street
321 F Street

Photo # 52 of 56
300 block of F Street, west side facing southwest

Left to right:
301 F Street
307-311 F Street
315 F Street
321 F Street
520 Fourth Street

Photo # 53 of 56
400 block of F Street, west side facing southwest
524 Fifth Street

Photo # 54 of 56
500 block of F Street, west side facing northwest

Left to right:
519-521 Fifth Street
515 F Street
517 F Street

Photo # 55 of 56
500 block of F Street, west side facing southwest

Left to right:
519-521 Fifth Street
515 F Street
517 F Street
523 F Street

Photo # 56 of 56
Brick streets of E Street, 300 block, facing north

Fairbury Commercial Historic District

Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska
Map prepared by Mississippi Valley Archeology Center
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

March 1997



Key:

- Contributing
- Non-contributing

District Boundaries

*Note: All of the streets within the district are brick, and contribute to the district as a single structural system.

