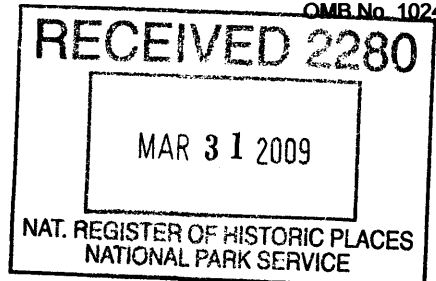


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Nomination 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 Eldora Downtown Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Approximately ten blocks in downtown Eldora around the courthouse square not for publication N/A
city or town Eldora vicinity N/A
state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083 zip code 50627

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.)

Barbara A Mitchell/DSHPO March 23 2009
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Edson H. Beall 5-12-09
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Eldora Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Hardin County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>62</u>	<u>15</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>66</u>	<u>15</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / business

COMMERCE/TRADE / professional

COMMERCE/TRADE / financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE / department store

COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant

SOCIAL / meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / business

COMMERCE/TRADE / professional

COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant

GOVERNMENTAL / courthouse

EDUCATION / school

RELIGION / religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN / Romanesque

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

GLASS

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

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)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1853-1961

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Allen, Truman Dudley
Atkinson, John F.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 of Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

Eldora Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Hardin County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property about 24 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>491760</u>	<u>4690045</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>492040</u>	<u>4689915</u>
2	<u>15</u>	<u>492040</u>	<u>4690010</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>491960</u>	<u>4689915</u>

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 By

name/title Rebecca Lawin McCarley

organization SPARK Consulting date March 9, 2009

street & number 1138 Oneida Avenue telephone 563-324-9767

city or town Davenport state Iowa zip code 52803

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 see continuation sheet

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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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6. FUNCTION OR USE (continued)

Historic Functions

SOCIAL / meeting hall

EDUCATION / school

RELIGION / religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE / theater

HEALTHCARE / hospital

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE / theater

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

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7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification (continued)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Late Gothic Revival
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Commercial Style
OTHER
MIXED

Narrative Description

The Eldora Downtown Historic District is located in the heart of Eldora, centered on the public/courthouse square. The town was named and platted in 1853 as the county seat for Hardin County in north-central Iowa. Despite later legal challenges, it retained its place as the county seat, and the large 1893 Romanesque Revival brick and stone Hardin County Courthouse anchors the center of this historic district. The topography around the square is nearly flat within the Original Town plat. The Iowa River is located about ¾ miles east of the downtown area. The Eldora Downtown Historic District has historically and currently served as the central business district for Eldora, as well as the center of governmental, educational, and religious activity. The district is bordered by residential buildings to the north, east, south, and west, distinguishing it from the adjacent area. The Eldora Downtown Historic District has a total of 80 buildings, consisting of 65 contributing buildings (including three previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and 15 non-contributing buildings. Additionally, three main objects (Civil War monument, Civil War cannon, and World War I gun) are located on the courthouse square and are tabulated as contributing within the district boundary. Finally, the courthouse square itself is tabulated as one contributing site. The earliest extant buildings date to the 1870s, though the majority of the 19th century buildings date to the 1890s. Construction was steady in the 20th century, with peaks in the 1910s and late 1930s to 1940s. The period of significance extends from 1853 to 1961 for the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The 15 non-contributing buildings include eight built after the period of significance.

The Eldora Downtown Historic District is centered within the Original Town plat of Eldora, which was laid out in 1853 as a grid of 25 blocks. The center block was reserved for the public square, and the current Hardin County Courthouse was constructed on the square in 1893. Alleys divide each block into four sections per the plat, crossing in the center of the block. As the town developed, some alleys were abandoned, but the majority of the blocks within the Eldora Downtown Historic District continue to have intersecting alleys. With street renaming in the early 20th century, numbered streets run north-south (addresses from north to south) and numbered avenues run east-west (addresses from east to west). The two named roads in the district, Edgington Avenue and Washington Street, intersect at the northwest corner of the square in the place of 13th Avenue and 13th Street. Commercial buildings face the square, with only the courthouse and civic objects placed on the square itself. The square has sidewalks on each side and diagonal walks from each corner, as well as later landscaping features. The commercial buildings

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within one-half block of the public square and further north on Washington are built near the front lot line. This area historically developed first, with second generation buildings replacing the early construction. Only a handful of empty lots are found within these six half-blocks, primarily resulting from demolitions within the last 20 years. Smaller, later, and specialized buildings are found within the Eldora Downtown Historic District further from the square. One-story 20th century commercial buildings are found further north on 12th Street and Washington Street, and middle of the 20th century buildings are concentrated in the southwest quadrant of the district. These buildings are also constructed near the front of the lot lines, creating consistent façade lines. A handful of vacant lots are also found in these areas, primarily used for parking. No archeological sites have been identified or evaluated to date as part of this nomination project, though the potential may exist on some of these lots, particularly the undisturbed and undeveloped areas around the courthouse and school. The 1917 Eldora Public School sits at the northeast corner of the district, a location previously and currently used as the community school. Churches historically developed near the center of town and the public square, and churches continue to anchor each quadrant of the district.

The majority of the buildings within the Eldora Downtown Historic District are commercial buildings. These buildings account for 59 of the 72 historic buildings (built between 1853 and 1961) within the district. Buildings dating to the last quarter of the 19th century and first third of the 20th century are primarily brick, including 48 commercial buildings. Of these buildings, 32 buildings are two stories in height, while 14 are one story buildings. A c.1873 building on the north side of the square stands out as the tallest building in the Eldora Downtown Historic District at a height of three stories (1212-1220 Edgington Avenue, Map #9, State #42-01255, 1930s façade). One other building on the north side of the square has three stories, but it only reaches the height of the adjacent two story buildings (1911, 1282 Edgington Avenue, Map #2, State #42-00485). This building is also uniquely clad in white terra cotta. Storefronts exhibit a variety of materials, including glass, wood, cast iron columns, opaque structural glass, aluminum, brick, and vinyl. The remaining eleven commercial buildings are constructed with hollow tile blocks or concrete blocks, built from the 1930s to 1950s and concentrated in the north quarter and southwest quadrant of the district. A few of these buildings have brick façades. Ten of the buildings are one story in height. Only one building is a small two-story building, constructed with an apartment above retail space (1202 12th Street, Map #22, State #42-01249). The proportion and scale of the buildings throughout the district are similar, with buildings composed of a storefront on the first story and upper story. The buildings are built to the sidewalk line, creating a unified façade line. The non-contributing buildings match the contributing buildings in terms of scale and proportion. The majority of the buildings are in good or excellent condition. The 13 non-commercial historic buildings include the Hardin County Courthouse, Hardin County jail and sheriff's residence, Eldora Public Library, Eldora Post Office, Eldora Memorial Hospital, Eldora Public School, four churches, and three residences. The six public buildings and two churches have brick construction. One 19th century church is built with stone, and one 20th century church is built with concrete blocks. Two of the residences have frame construction, while the parsonage of St. Paul's Lutheran Church has brick construction. These buildings are also in good or excellent condition.

Architectural styles and types within the Eldora Downtown Historic District vary from designed buildings to vernacular structures. The extant buildings constructed in the late 19th century exhibit the strongest architectural styles, including Italianate (three buildings), Romanesque Revival (four buildings), and Queen Anne (five buildings). These buildings tend to have decorative window treatments and metal cornices or cornice details in brickwork. The Classical Revival style was popular in the first two decades of the 20th century (10 buildings). Classical details are featured in window treatments, stone accents, and cornice lines across the parapet walls. Two churches and the library were built reflecting the Late Gothic Revival style, with asymmetrical designs, pointed arch windows, and towers. Two buildings from the 1930s have features of the Mission / Spanish Revival style, accented by clay tile

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roofs. From 1910 to 1945, brick commercial buildings were constructed with simple details, often only accented by brick patterns within the wall surfaces (14 buildings). The vernacular style was even more simplified on other brick buildings, without any notable design details (11 buildings). Hollow tile or concrete block buildings dating to the middle of the 20th century have few architectural details (11 buildings). About half of these commercial buildings have a stepped parapet wall on the façade. The architectural style of other buildings has been obscured by later modifications and façade cladding.

The period of significance extends from 1853 to 1961 for the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The appearance of the district changed through these decades, as initial 19th century buildings were replaced with second generation 19th or 20th century buildings. A number of these buildings were then also remodeled historically, as part of the "remodeling Main Street" ethic. However, uses throughout the district remain similar throughout the entire period. From the original plat in 1853, the public square was designated as the center of the community. Early commercial buildings were constructed facing this square, beginning to be replaced by the late 19th century by more substantial brick buildings. In 1893, the courthouse moved from the east side into the square itself, with the jail and sheriff's residence constructed on the old site. By this date, churches were found on the fringes of the immediate commercial area around the square, with nearly all churches located in close proximity to the downtown. Additionally, in 1878, the public school was built on the site at the northeast corner of the district. With the retail activity remaining near the center of the district, the lots to the north and in the southwest quadrant developed with more service and industrial uses, such as liverys, lumberyards, and manufacturing. When the majority of the extant buildings were constructed in the 20th century, the uses throughout the Eldora Downtown Historic District remained the same. Retail commercial buildings faced the square and extended north on Washington Street. Churches anchored each quadrant of the district slightly outside the immediate retail area around the square, and the new school was built on the same site in the northeast corner. The service and industrial buildings in the north quarter and southwest quadrant were replaced with new service and industrial buildings in the middle of the 20th century, continuing this use pattern. Further information on the historic appearance and development of the Eldora Downtown Historic District can be found in Section 8: Narrative Statement of Significance.

The Eldora Downtown Historic District has had few alterations overall as a district since the end of the period of significance in 1961, and it retains good integrity as a district. It maintains its figurative and actual location in the center of Eldora, and the setting continues to be a downtown area surrounded by primarily residential neighborhoods. Though some demolitions have occurred within the district and a handful of buildings have been replaced with new buildings, the historic appearance of the area generally remains intact. Modifications have been made to some buildings, focused on window and storefront changes. However, the sense of scale, design, and materials remains strong throughout the district, and over 80% of the buildings are contributing to the district. The historic craftsmanship, as well as building construction, remains intact. The condition of the buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District is good. Generally, the buildings are well maintained. Many retain integrity dating to their construction. Others have modifications to the building that are within the period of significance, such as façade and storefront remodeling. Some buildings retain their historic appearance on the upper stories, while the storefront modifications are non-historic. These buildings are considered contributing within the district, unless the later modifications have significantly altered the overall appearance of the building. Seven buildings have later significant changes that have negatively impacted their integrity, and these buildings are classified as non-contributing. Finally, eight non-contributing buildings within the district boundary date to construction after 1961, which are in good condition and complement the district through their commercial and government uses.

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Block by block description and development

The following narrative descriptions are organized in order by map number on the district map on the previous page, and buildings are referenced to this map and to the table following this section. There are a total of 84 resources within the boundary. Overall, 65 contributing buildings (including three previously listed), three contributing objects, one contributing site, and 15 non-contributing buildings are located within the Eldora Downtown Historic District boundary. Of the non-contributing buildings, seven are historic (pre-1961) buildings that do not retain integrity to convey their significance and eight are buildings constructed after the period of significance. Historic images and maps are included within Section 8: Narrative Statement of Significance.

Public square, Map #1

The square includes one contributing site, one contributing building, and three contributing objects. The public square was designated in the original town plat in 1853. This public square shaped the development of downtown Eldora, as commercial buildings were constructed facing the square. In 1893, the courthouse moved from the east side into the square itself, with a new brick and stone Romanesque Revival building. The Hardin County Courthouse continues to be utilized as such today and dominates the square. It is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. Sidewalks extend on each side of the square and diagonally from the corners. Landscape improvement projects date to 1971 and the 1990s, and large trees surround the courthouse. Three significant objects are located on the east side of the square. The Civil War monument and Civil War cannon were placed on the square in 1885 and 1886, though moved to this side in 1893 after the construction of the courthouse. The brick pavilion was built for the cannon around 1995, protecting it from the elements. The World War I naval deck gun was placed here in the 1920s.

North side of square, Map #2-10

Eight buildings in the 1200 block of Edgington Avenue on the north side of the square face the courthouse, while the ninth building is a gable-roof garage that stands separate at the rear of a lot (Map #8). All nine buildings are contributing. Four were built in the late 19th century, but only one retains its Romanesque Revival appearance from this period (1228-1236 Edgington Avenue, Map #7, State #42-01256). The other three have façade remodeling dating from around 1910, 1920, and the early 1930s (Map # 6, 12, 11). The remaining four buildings facing the square date to construction in this period as well, between 1900 and 1928. Four of the buildings on the north side of the square have Classical Revival influences (Map #2, 3, 6, 10), with one turn-of-the-century Queen Anne building that later had its bay window removed (Map #5). The 1911 corner Newcomer Building at the west end is the only building in the downtown clad in white terra cotta (1282 Edgington Avenue, Map #2, State #42-00485). Two of the buildings have simpler 20th century brick designs (Map #4, 9). Overall, this block has perhaps the highest number of stylistic buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District.

Northeast and east sides of square, Map #11-19

The north side of the 1100 block of Edgington has three contributing and one non-contributing buildings, the south side has one contributing building, and the east side of the 1300 block of 12th Street, facing the square, has two contributing and two non-contributing buildings. The northeast corner of Edgington Avenue and 12th Street is defined by the Pythian Building, a two-story, multi-storefront brick building that has historically housed the Grand Theatre in east half and retail stores in the west half (1913-14, 1148-1158 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246). The Grand Theatre has remodeled their space historically and non-historically, and their storefront reflects

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the changing movie trends. Caroline Newcomer and son Carl S. Newcomer accumulated the parcels at the corner for the Pythian Building in 1911-1913, selling the property to the Pythian Company in 1914. The three early 20th century single-storefront one-story brick buildings to the east are simple buildings, with one façade in vinyl siding and thus counted as non-contributing. The three buildings were also owned by the Newcomer family from 1913 into the 1960s-70s. The Bateson Building, constructed in 1933, occupies the historically prominent southeast corner of Edgington Avenue and 12th Street, but cladding in non-historic brick in the 1970s has resulted in the main corner building being non-contributing in the district. The brick building on the east portion of the lot facing Edgington Avenue, also rebuilt by Mrs. H.E. Bateson in 1933 for the post office and a store, retains its integrity and Mission / Spanish Revival influence from 1933 (1123 Edgington Avenue, Map #15, State #42-01247). Both are tall one-story buildings, with pseudo window openings on the upper façades. In the middle of the east side of the 1300 block of 12th Street, the jail and sheriff's residence and Central States Electric Company Building sit as contributing buildings. The Romanesque Revival jail and sheriff's residence dates to 1893, completed following the construction of the courthouse on the square (1309 12th Street, Map #17, State #42-00461). The Central States Electric Company building dates to construction in the early 20th century, but it retains a significant façade remodel from around 1939 that converted the building to an excellent example of the Mission / Spanish Revival (1317 12th Street, Map #18, State #42-01244). The final building on the block is a non-contributing one-story building dating to the late 1970s.

Northeast quadrant, Map #20-25

The northeast quadrant of the Eldora Downtown Historic District consists of three small commercial buildings on the west side of the 1200 block of 12th Street, the Congregational Church on the southeast corner of 12th Street and 12th Avenue, the Eldora Public School in the 1100 block of 12th Street, and the Kramer Implement building at the northwest corner of 12th Street and 12th Avenue. The southern one-story commercial building was built around 1916 for the *Eldora Herald* (Map #20), and the adjacent one-story building to the north dates to construction in 1941 for two doctors (Map #21). Both buildings are simple brick buildings, with the only detail being the patterns in the brickwork. The commercial hollow tile block building at the corner dates to later construction in 1957, and it is even simpler in detail (Map #22). The Congregational Church is a significant 1893-94 Romanesque Revival stone building, and it is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1209 12th Street, Map #24, State #42-00460). The Classical Revival Eldora Public School replaced the 1878 school on this site in 1916-17, and the rear gymnasium-auditorium addition was constructed and connected to the school by two enclosed walkways in 1958-59 (1100 12th Avenue, Map #25, State #42-01158). The Kramer Implement Building was built as an agricultural implement and automobile dealership in 1948 with basic hollow tile block construction (Map #23). It was converted for use by the school in 1953.

Northwest quadrant, Map #26-36

The northwest quadrant includes the buildings at 1306 11th Avenue and in the 1100 block of Washington Street. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Late Gothic Revival building constructed in 1928, sits at the southwest corner of Washington Street and 11th Avenue (Map #26). Its educational wing addition stretches to 12th Street on the east, built in 1958. The 1931 gable-front Foursquare brick parsonage sits immediately south of the church on the east side of Washington Street (Map #27). Both contribute to the district. The south half of this block is a non-contributing 1974 apartment complex, on the site of an earlier lumberyard. The 1951 hollow tile block Eldora Ideal Laundry sits slightly west of the northwest corner of Washington Street and 11th Avenue, and it is a contributing building in the district (Map #29). The west side of the 1100 block of Washington Street consists of seven buildings, four of which are contributing. The 1946 one-story concrete block Maltby Welding building sits at the southwest corner of Washington Street and 11th Avenue (contributing, Map #30). A newer 1990 building for the veterinarian

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sits immediately to the south, replacing an earlier building (non-contributing). The gable-roof hollow tile block building at the rear of the lot to the south was built as a warehouse for Schaa Produce around 1950, later converted for use by the veterinarian as kennels (Map #32). Two small 1930s brick buildings are the next buildings to the south – the one-story dairy of Ned Fagg (Map #33) and a two-story building for a plumbing, and later electrical, company (Map #34). Both buildings have simple brickwork details. The two 19th century two-story brick buildings at the south end of the block are counted as non-contributing, as the first was remodeled in the 1980s and clad in vinyl siding obscuring all historic details (Map #35) and the second was remodeled around 1975 and clad in stucco, also obscuring historic details (Map #36).

1200 block of Washington Street, Map #37-47

The 1200 block of Washington is immediately north of the northwest corner of the square, and it has historically been a strong commercial building block. It retains ten contributing buildings and one non-contributing building. A number of extant buildings were constructed on the west side in the 1890s and on the east side in the 1910s. Leading businessmen partnered to develop the north half of the east side in the 1910s, resulting in the construction of the H.W. Emeny Auto Company (a 1912 large two-story brick building at the corner, Map #37), the Dr. H.W. Emeny office building (a 1912 two-story brick building with brick patternwork details, Map #38), and the Larson Building (a c.1915 two-story double-storefront brick building with contrasting brickwork, Map #39). The one-story building with a basic brick façade to the south was constructed in 1957, replacing an earlier building (Map #40). Julius and Ida Landis built the two-story building to its south around 1911, serving as her millinery store (Map #41). On the west side of the block, three storefronts have been demolished at the north end. The building to the south is a 1870s two-story brick building that was completely clad in vinyl siding in 2007, and it is the only non-contributing building on the block. The 1894 two-story, double-storefront building to the south retains a decorative cornice, and its bay windows were historically removed and replaced in the 1940s (Map #43). Four buildings are found on the south half of the west side: a one-story brick building with simple façade details (Map #44), an 1891 two-story brick building with decorative cornice and window hoods (Map #45), an 1890-91 two-story double-storefront brick building clad in new façade brick around 1961 (Map #46), and the corner 1917 Classical Revival two-story brick First National Bank with a later first floor conversion to a retail storefront (Map #47).

1300 block of Edgington, Map #48-51

The 1300 block of Edgington includes two buildings in the east half that are at the rear of lots facing Washington Street and two buildings in the west half. The building at the rear of the First National Bank on the north side was built around 1913 by Nathan S. Carpenter, and its second story bay window was later removed (Map #48). The 1939 Eldora Post Office sits at the northeast corner of Edgington Avenue and 14th Street, and it was previously determined to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Map #49). Both buildings on the south side are non-contributing. The H.J. Janssen Implement building was remodeled and reduced in height to one story in the 1980s, and the one-story brick veneer building to the east was constructed around 1978.

West side of square, Map #52-59

Seven buildings face Washington Street on the west side of the square, and one faces 14th Avenue at the rear of the south lot. The c.1978 one-story brick veneer building at the north end is the only non-contributing building. The c.1896 two-story double-storefront brick building in the middle of the north half of the block retains its decorative cornice with finials and one oriel window (Map #53). The other oriel window was removed and replaced by the early 1950s. The five buildings on the south half of the block include the c.1920 one-story basic brick building used as a pool hall (Map #54), the 1887 Italianate two-story brick building first used as the post office (Map #55), the 1892 two-

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story Queen Anne brick building originally used as a meat market (Map #56), the c.1879 two-story double-storefront brick building remodeled with new façade brick and brickwork details in the 1920s (Map #57), and the c.1904 two-story Classical Revival building first used for the post office, which moved from down the block (Map #58). At the rear of this corner post office lot, the Eldora Mutual Telephone Office constructed their two-story brick Classical Revival building in 1908 (Map #59).

South side of square, Map #60-66

Six buildings comprise the south side of the square in the 1200 block of 14th Avenue and one building is located at the southeast corner of 14th Avenue and 12th Street. All seven buildings are contributing buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The southeast corner building is the First Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1891 and remodeled in 1929-30 in the Late Gothic Revival style (Map #60). The two-story brick Eldora Memorial Hospital was constructed in 1939 at the southwest corner, with a rear addition in 1949 (Map #61). The Eldora Public Library was built in 1902-03 in the Late Gothic Revival style with a gift of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie (1209 14th Avenue, Map #62, State #42-00471). It is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. Four commercial buildings are located on the west half of the block, including a 1930 one-story double-storefront brick building (Map #63), the 1890 Italianate building constructed for the Y.M.C.A. and also used as the earlier library location (Map #64), a 1910s two-story brick building (Map #65), and a 1936 two-story double-storefront brick building (Map #66). With the exception of the Y.M.C.A. building, these buildings feature simple brick design, with design details only evident in the brick patternwork. The Y.M.C.A. building retains iron storefront columns, decorative second story window hoods, decorative brickwork, and a deteriorating metal cornice (1233 14th Avenue, Map #64, State #42-00472).

Southwest quadrant, Map #67-80

The southwest quadrant of the Eldora Downtown Historic District features 20th century commercial architecture, including ten contributing and four non-contributing buildings. Three buildings and a parking lot are found on the east side of the 1400 block of Washington Street. The middle building dates to construction in the 1910s, with a 1940s brick façade added to the building with basic brick patternwork raising its apparent height to that of the adjacent two-story building (Map #68). This two-story brick building to its north was built in 1921 with basic brick patternwork (Map #67). A non-contributing 1980s building sits to the rear of these lots. At the northeast corner of Washington Street and 15th Avenue, Thomas Larson built a one-story brick garage with two retail storefronts for the Fowler Buick Company in 1921 (Map #70). This is one of two historic garages remaining in downtown Eldora. The west side of the 1400 block of Washington Street has non-contributing buildings at either end, the 1967 First National Bank and the 1985 Eldora City Hall. The c.1946 concrete block H.H. Nazett Auto Company building is found at the southwest corner of Washington Street (Map #73), with the 1947 concrete block Emmert Locker Service building slightly to the west on 15th Avenue (Map #74). The concrete block Eldora Gospel Tabernacle was also completed in 1946 at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 14th Street, the last of four extant churches in downtown Eldora (Map #75). Two small earlier 1890s houses remain at the northwest corner, which appear to have primarily been used as rental properties historically. Two 1947 concrete block buildings are found on the east side of the 1400 block of 14th Street (Map # 78, 79). A fourth 1947 building is located around the corner on the south side of 14th Avenue, though later façade modifications have made it non-contributing to the district.

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List of buildings in the district

The Eldora Downtown Historic District is composed of 84 resources, including 65 contributing buildings (including three previously listed), three contributing objects, one contributing site, and 15 non-contributing buildings. Of the non-contributing buildings, seven are historic buildings that do not retain integrity to convey their significance and eight are buildings constructed after the period of significance. The Hardin County Courthouse, Eldora Public Library, and Congregational Church were previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and they contribute to the district. No additional buildings, structures, or objects warrant individual tabulation within the district. There are 31 key or exceptional buildings that have been identified in the Eldora Downtown Historic District, which are noted below with an asterisk (*). These buildings provide a key element to the historic district and have strong significance. These buildings generally have a high degree of integrity that reflects the historic nature of this district. They also reflect certain trends in the history of the district. All buildings noted as contributing are significant historically (as noted with Criterion A) and/or architecturally (as noted with Criterion C) in relation to the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Building history and information was collected in 2008 during the development of this nomination by Rebecca Lawin McCarley (SPARK Consulting), the Hardin County Historic Preservation Commission (Don Hirt, Tim Hoy, Rod Scott), City of Eldora (Deb Crosser), and several local volunteers (Leola Babcock, Marcia Brownlee, Donna Leonard, Carrie Noe, David Rubow).

Address <i>(Historic address/es)</i> State #, Map # ~ district status	Historic name Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses	Date, Style/type	Height, Wall cladding Architectural information Modifications
1215 Edgington Avenue (1215 Edgington Avenue) State #42-00486 Map #1 ~ 1 contributing building* (Listed – 1981), 1 contributing site, & 3 contributing objects (A & C)	Hardin County Courthouse Square (square, courthouse, monument, cannon, gun) Owner at construction: Hardin County Hardin County Courthouse 1860s-70s: public square 1880s: public square 1890s: Hardin County Courthouse; Civil War Statue moved to present location - crafted in 1886 1900s-2000s: Hardin County Courthouse, square, etc.	1853, 1885, 1893, 1920s Romanesque Revival	Height: Two story with basement Walls: brick with stone accents Windows: Some arch windows - aluminum windows (1970s) Architectural details: corner towers, clock tower on north, stone accents on brick walls Architect/Builder: Allen, T.D. (architect, Minneapolis); Atkinson, J.F. (contractor, Marshalltown) Modifications: Historic: 1921-22 - repairs from nearby fire - clock tower, tower
1282 Edgington Avenue (1244-1246 Edgington Avenue; 101 E. Marion; 208 Marion) State #42-00485 Map #2 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Newcomer Building Owner at construction: Newcomer, Jay general offices 1910s: J.D. Newcomer 1920s: J.D. Newcomer Company Office, Landy Law Office (1923-1938) 1930s: Eureka Confectionary (1939 explosion), Landy Law office (upper, 1923-1938), 1933 – Thrift Shoppe 1940s: Eureka Café (Louis Darze - 1927-46), Coffee Den 1950s: Riggert's Paint and Wallpaper (1949-)	1911 Classical Revival	Height: Three story (2 story height) Walls: terra cotta (white) Storefront: brick/glass - c.1980 Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Beaux Arts details, "Newcomer Building" on parapet Architect/Builder: Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson (architect, Des Moines) Modifications: Historic: c. 1930? - storefront remodel to incorporate large glass windows and corner entry Non-historic: c.1980 - storefront remodel - entry moved from corner to center, new brick

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<p>1274 Edgington Avenue (1240-1242 Washington; 1233 Edgington Avenue; 103 E. Marion; 209 Marion)</p> <p>State #42-01260 Map #3</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Larson Hardware (Ellsworth Drug Co.)</p> <p>Owner at construction: Ellsworth, Dero y and D.V. c.1872 - Ellsworth Drug Company 1860s-70s: Ellsworth Drug Company (Edgington, 1872), Ellsworth Grocery Company (Washington, 1872) 1880s: Ellsworth Drug Company (Edgington), Ellsworth Grocery Company (Washington) 1890s: Ellsworth Drug Company 1900s: Ellsworth Drug Company (1872-1904) 1910s: Larson Hardware 1920s: Larson Hardware 1930s: Larson Hardware (1904-1936) 1940s: Tull & Probasco Hardware Co (1936-1956) 1950s: Bekmeier Hardware (1956-?)</p>	<p>c.1872, c.1910 Classical Revival (simplified)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: glass/structural glass - c.1930 Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung with decorative transoms Architectural details: Building is L-shaped around corner building - storefronts on two streets, applied cornice lines, pedimented parapet wall Modifications: Historic: early 1910s - new façade brick/style, c.1930 - storefront remodel with structural glass at base</p>
<p>1266 Edgington Avenue (1236-1238 Edgington Avenue; 105 E. Marion)</p> <p>State #42-01259 Map #4</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building (A & C)</p>	<p>Marks Drug Store</p> <p>Owner at construction: Marks (1928) 1928 - Marks Drug Store (1890s-1900s: E.E. Winchester & Co, druggist) (1910s: John D. Reed Drugs and Wallpaper) 1920s: Marks Drug Store (bought building in 1928 after fire) 1930s: Marks Drug Store 1940s: Marks Drug Store 1950s: Marks Drug Store (1928-1987)</p>	<p>1928, 1948 20th century brick commercial</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: glass/metal (1948, 1992) Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Simple styling and openings Modifications: Historic: 1928 major fire - building bought by Marks Drug, gutted, remodeled, new façade, lowered height; January 1948 - fire - interior remodel and storefront</p>
<p>1258 Edgington Avenue (1232-1234 Edgington Avenue; 107 E. Marion; 211 Marion)</p> <p>State #42-01258 Map #5</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Brown Dry Goods</p> <p>Owner at construction: Smith, J.H. c.1900 - Brown Dry Goods Company 1900s: Brown Dry Goods 1910s: Brown Dry Goods 1920s: Enoch Larson Clothier, Dr. J.A. Staads chiropractor (2nd) 1930s: Burrows Clothier 1940s: St. Clair/Leutholds Clothing, The Peoples Store (late 1940s) 1950s: Star Clothing</p>	<p>1900 Queen Anne (modified)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: glass/structural glass (late 1940s?) Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Metal cornice with "1900" and brackets Modifications: Historic: c.1950 - bay window removed and small window installed, storefront remodel Non-historic: 1990s - brick painted</p>
<p>1242-1250 Edgington Avenue (1224-1230 Edgington Avenue; 109-111 E. Marion; 212-213 Marion)</p> <p>State #42-01257 Map #6</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Citizens Savings Bank</p> <p>Owner at construction: Hardin, J.F. 1902 - Citizens Savings Bank 1900s: Citizens Savings Bank (organized 1902), D. Wills Undertaking and Furniture 1910s: Citizens Savings Bank, furniture 1920s: Citizens Savings Bank, C.M. Haas Dry Goods Co., Dr. E.H. Jones (2nd), Hardin Co. Abstract (2nd), C.L. Haus Law Office (2nd), county attorney (2nd) 1930s: Citizens Savings Bank, C.M. Haas Dry Goods Co., Dr. E.H. Jones (2nd), Hardin Co. Abstract (2nd) 1940s: Star Shoes, Leutholds Clothing 1950s: Star Shoes, Leutholds Clothing</p>	<p>c.1902 Classical Revival (simplified)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: glass/structural glass/metal, transoms (late 40s?) Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Brick corbeling under stone cornice line, also storefront cornice, stepped parapet wall Modifications: Historic: c.1930 - reduced center of parpet to one step, c.1945 - rear addition, storefront remodel</p>

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<p>1228-1236 Edgington Avenue (1216-18-20 Edgington Avenue; 113-115 E. Marion; 214-215 Marion) State #42-01256 Map #7 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Ezra Nuckolls Jewelry and City State Bank Building Owner at construction: Porter, William S.; Nuckolls, Ezra 1892 - First National Bank, Ezra Nuckolls Jewelry 1890s: Ezra Nuckolls Jewelry (1892-1913), City State Bank (1892-1896), Enterprise printing (2nd, 1893), First National Bank (1896-). 1900s: Ezra Nuckolls Jewelry (1892-1913), First National Bank, Dr. Horton - dentist (2nd) 1910s: Ezra Nuckolls Jewelry (1892-1913), First National Bank, Lundy Law Firm (2nd), Huff Attorney (2nd) 1920s: Leslie Jewelry (1913-1940s), Busy Bee Café (c.1920-1942) 1930s: Leslie Jewelry (1913-1958), Busy Bee Café (c.1920-1942 - DeBaggio) 1940s: Leslie Jewelry, D & H Firestone Store, Modern Fashion Shop (1944-? - sold in 1954) 1950s: Leslie Jewelry (1913-1958), C.O. Rubow Realtor, Fidelity Abstract, D & H Firestone Store</p>	<p>c.1892 Romanesque Revival</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: brick/glass - 1970s (1938 remodel as well) Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Brick pilasters, arches, and corbeling Modifications: Non-historic: 2000 - new upper windows (replaced 1970s windows), 1970 - storefront remodel</p>
<p>1236 (rear) Edgington Avenue (1220 Edgington Avenue) State #(42-01256) Map #8 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Garage Owner at construction: Stauffer, C.F. 1930s: unknown 1940s: unknown 1950s: Goodyear Tire Store (1949-1953)</p>	<p>1930s Utilitarian</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: hollow tile block Architectural details: Steep gable roof, large garage doors on both ends (north-south), north door is modern</p>
<p>1212-1220 Edgington Avenue (1210-12-14 Edgington Avenue; 117-119 E. Marion; 216-217 Marion) State #42-01255 Map #9 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)</p>	<p>Masonic Temple (Porter and Moir's Block) Owner at construction: Porter, John and Moir, W.J. 1870s - stores, music/opera hall 1875 - Bowdle & Newcomer Abstract, New York Store 1880s: grocery, dry goods (Putzel & Co. moved into 9-1879), china, opera house (3rd) 1890s: 1893 - E.F. Gaines (grocery/china), F.A. Kilbourne (boots & shoes, dry goods), hall (3rd) 1900s: Scurry Grocery Co., Hillis Fannon Groceries, Ed & John Lockey general store, Masonic Temple 1910s: Scurry Grocery Co, Diamond Theatre 1920s: Scurry Grocery Co, Home Bakery, Masonic Lodge (2nd, 3rd), Eldora Community Club (2nd), N.W. Carpenter Law Office (2nd) 1930s: Scurry Grocery Co, Eldora Bakery (1930 - JC Melcher bought from Anna McCusker), Dr. John Reed - vet (2nd), Masonic Lodge (2nd, 3rd - 1920-1988) 1940s: Schumacher Grocery, Eldora Bakery 1950s: Schumacher Grocery, Hardin Co. Abstract (1960), Eldora Bakery, Masonic Temple (1920-1988)</p>	<p>c.1873, early 1930s 20th century commercial</p>	<p>Height: Three story Walls: brick Storefront: brick/glass - c.1900 Windows: Aluminum 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: "Masonic Temple" in attached red letters near top Modifications: Historic: early 1930s - new façade brick (Masonic Temple borrowed money - owned 1920-1981) Non-historic: c.1990 - storefront remodel</p>

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<p>1202 Edgington Avenue (1200-04-06 Edgington Avenue; 121-123 E. Marion; 219 Marion) State #42-00487 Map #10 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Hardin County Savings Bank Owner at construction: Hardin County Bank c.1890 - Hardin County Bank 1890s: J.M. Furman grocery, Hardin County State Bank, J.F. Hardin - lawyer/abstracts/insurance (2nd) 1900s: Hardin County State Bank; office of Albrook & Lundy, attorneys 1910s: Hardin County National Bank, H.W. Fannon Dry Goods 1920s: Hardin County National Bank, Davis Law Office (2nd), Dr. F.H. Herrald - dentist (2nd) 1930s: Hardin County National Bank 1940s: Hardin County Savings Bank, Hardin Co. Abstract (2nd) 1950s: Hardin County Savings Bank, Hardin Co. Abstract (c.1945-1960, 2nd)</p>	<p>1920 (c.1890), 1940 addition Classical Revival</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick, stone Storefront: brick/stone/glass - connected to c.1920 façade Windows: Wood 1/1 double hung, centered arch window Architectural details: Neoclassical stone façade added c.1920, new exterior brick and stone details, 1963 - corner sign Modifications: Historic: c.1940 - rear addition Non-historic: some window replacements</p>
<p>1148-1158 Edgington Avenue (1132-1146 Edgington Avenue; 201-203-205 E. Marion) State #42-01246 Map #11 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Pythian Building Owner at construction: April 1914 - Pythian Company bought property from Caroline (wife of J.D.) and Carl S. (son) Newcomer who accumulated parcels in 1911-13 (owned until 1944) 1914 - Knights of Pythian (2nd), Grand Theatre 1910s: Grand Theatre, Brown Department Store (1913-1933?) 1920s: Grand Theatre, Brown Department Store, Knights of Pythian Club Room (2nd), Central States Electric (2nd), Geo. Ward law (2nd), Frank Diehl insurance (2nd) 1930s: Grand Theatre, Wehrman & Andrie furniture, Bond's Ready to Wear Clothing (1933-34), Bibby's Ready to Wear Ladies Clothing (1934-?), Red Ball Grocery & Meat, Eldora Club Room (2nd), Central Finance (2nd), Haase & Prommrehn, insurance (2nd) 1940s: Grand Theatre, Andrie & Creps Furniture Store 1950s: Grand Theatre, Pipers Café, Andrie & Creps Furniture Store, C.W. Hasse - insurance (2nd), Sara Diehl - insurance (2nd)</p>	<p>1913-14 Classical Revival (simplified)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: glass/metal - covered transoms on two west - divided into two stores on west in 1933 Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Stone accents on brick walls, theater marquee Architect/Builder: Hunter, Harry Edgar (architect, Cedar Rapids) Modifications: Historic: 1930s storefront remodel - west two Non-historic: 1960s storefront for theater (east)</p>
<p>1134 Edgington Avenue (1126 (1132) Edgington Avenue) State #42-01252 Map #12 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Western Union Office Owner at construction: Newcomer, Jay S. (1924-28), family owned from 1913 to 1972 (8-1921 fire - badly damaged previous building on site) 1920s: 1926 - Western Union (1132) 1930s: 1931 - Western Union Telegraph Office (1132) 1940s: unknown 1950s: 1952 - Holesher Shoe Repair</p>	<p>c.1925 20th century commercial</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: brick Storefront: tan brick / glass Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s wood shake awning, transom above entry covered</p>

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1128 Edgington Avenue (1124 (1128) Edgington Avenue) State #42-01253 Map #13 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Eldora Café	c.1925 20th century commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Newcomer, Jay S. (1924-28), family owned from 1913 to 1963 – sold to DeBaggio's (8-1921 fire - badly damaged previous building on site), 1926 - unknown 1930s: 1931 - Eldora Café (1128) 1940s: unknown 1950s: 1952 - Berkstrand's (appliance repair, hair dressing)? 1952-57 - DeBaggio's Café		Storefront: brick / glass Architectural details: concrete coping Modifications: Non-historic: transom above entry covered
1120 Edgington Avenue (1122 (1126) Edgington Avenue) State #42-01254 Map #14 ~ 1 non-contributing building	American Railway Express	c.1919 20th century commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick / vinyl siding
	Owner at construction: Newcomer, Carl S. (1913-1923), family continued to own until 1974 (1921 - express office here - front damaged by 8-1-21 fire) 1920s: 1926 - American Railway Express (1126) 1930s: 1931 - Eldora Cleaners (1126) 1940s: unknown 1950s: 1952 - Jay Newcomer (office)		Storefront: vinyl siding / glass Modifications: Non-historic: 1980s - vinyl siding added to façade, window/door resized
1123 Edgington Avenue (1125-1129 Edgington Avenue) State #42-01247 Map #15 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)	Bateson Post Office Building	1933 Mission / Craftsman	Height: One story (tall) Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Bateson, Ella M. (and son Rex R.) 1933 - rebuilt after 11-1932 fire for post office and store 1930s: post office (1933-39), Scurry Fruit Store 1940s: Doctor office of D.M. Nyquist, J.J. Shurts, and D.H. Glenn 1950s: Doctor office of D.M. Nyquist, J.J. Shurts, and D.H. Glenn; dentist office of Dr. Burke		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: pseudo openings covered in paneling (historically?) Architectural details: tile pent roof above second story windows, tile on parapet, stone quions Architect/Builder: Boeke, Eugene (architect, Iowa Falls)
1301-1305 12th Street (1301-1309 12th Street) State #42-01245 Map #16 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Bateson Building	1933, c.1979	Height: One story (tall) Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Bateson, Ella M. (and son Rex R.) (1892 - Wisner Opera House built) (1921 - fire - first Bateson Building constructed - fire in 1932) 1930s: site of annual <i>Herald-Ledger's</i> cooking school, Eldora Cash Grocery (Lester Glass) (1934-1937?) 1940s: Foodland Market (1937-1948) 1949-1959: Whink Products, Inc. (HCHS 1981: 48)		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: pseudo openings covered in paneling (historically?) Architect/Builder: Boeke, Eugene (architect, Iowa Falls) Modifications: Non-historic: c.1979 - brick veneer with random protruding bricks, storefront, window openings clad in shutters
1309 12th Street (1319-1323 12th Street; 106 S. Jefferson; 423-424 Jefferson) State #42-00461 Map #17 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Hardin County Jail and Sheriff's Residence	1893 Queen Anne / Romanesque	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Hardin County 1893 - Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1900s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1910s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1920s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1930s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1940s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence 1950s: Hardin County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Residence		Windows: wood? 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Two story centered brick bay window with stone details, triangular pediment, brick corbelling Architect/Builder: Atkinson, J.F. (contractor, Marshalltown) Modifications: Historic: 1915-1920 - rear addition, 1931 renovations Non-historic: 1970s? - entry vestibule, 1968 - glass block in some windows

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1317 12th Street (1327 12th Street; 110 S. Jefferson) State #42-01244 Map #18 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Central States Electric Company	c.1913, c.1939 Mission / Spanish Revival	Height: Two story Walls: stucco on brick
	Owner at construction: Jensen, Peter; façade remodel by Central States Electric – possession in March 1939 1910s/20s - Eldora Creamery 1920: electric office (Jensen), Eldora Creamery, millinery (2nd) 1930s: Central States Electric Company office, Eldora Creamery Co (Herb Soballe – sold to Central States Electric Co in 1939) 1940s: Central States Electric Co / Iowa Electric Light & Power Co 1950s: Eldora Light and Power		Storefront: art tile under storefront windows, tile entry roof Windows: Wood 6/6 double-hung Architectural details: Clay tile roof with brackets across parapet; iron "balcony" rails on second story Modifications: Historic: c.1939 - remodel to Spanish Revival (photo in scrapbook at HCHS)
1327 12th Street State #42-01243 Map #19 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Building	c.1977	Height: One story Walls: brick
			Storefront: brick/glass Non-historic: c.1977 - rebuilt (or remodel?)
1218 12th Street (1220 12th Street; 113 N. Jefferson) State #42-01251 Map #20 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Eldora Herald Building	c.1916 20th century brick commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Moffett, Howard bought in June 1916 1920 - printing - Moffett ran Eldora Herald 1920s: Eldora Herald? 1930s: Eldora Herald-Ledger? 1940s: Eldora Herald-Ledger? 1950s: James L. Cameron, lawyer (1951-1967)		Storefront: brick/glass Architectural details: brick detailing around entry, storefront cornice and upper wall Modifications: Non-historic: roof modified
1210 12th Street (1214 12th Street; 117 N. Jefferson) State #42-01250 Map #21 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Dr. R.E. Gray and Dr. E.O. Koeneman offices	1941 20th century brick commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Gray, R.E. and E.O. Koeneman bought in May 1941 1941 - Dr. R.E. Gray and Dr. E.O. Koeneman offices 1950s: Dr. R.E. Gray office (until 1964)		Storefront: brick/glass Architectural details: arch window openings, parapet wall in front of gable roof Modifications: Non-historic: windows replaced within original openings, new door
1202 12th Street State #42-01249 Map #22 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)	Margarite Beauty Shop	1957 Mid-20th century commercial	Height: Two story Walls: hollow tile block
	Owner at construction: Monaghan, Frank (1946-1963; built new in 1957) 1950s: Margarite Beauty Shop, 2-BR apartment		Storefront: small windows Windows: 1/1 windows, some wood
1126 12th Street (1114 12th Street; or 1200 12th Ave) State #42-01371 Map #23 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Kramer Implement Building	1948 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: hollow tile block
	Owner at construction: Kramer, Harold and Alice (5-1947), Lester and Reika 1948 - Kramer Implements - Pontiac automobiles and Oliver farm implements, Eldora Magneto Service 1950s: 1951 - Eldora Consolidated School bought building - moved voc-ag dept. G.I. on farm classes, adult Farmers Evening School here in 1953, 1952 - Pine Lake Motor Company		Windows: Plate glass windows Architect/Builder: Crandall Construction (contractor) Modifications: Historic: Large entries filled with block, probably c.1950 when sold to school

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Address (Historic address/es) State #, Map # ~ district status	Historic name	Date, Style/type	Height, Wall cladding
	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1209 12th Street (1209 12th Street; 120? N. Jefferson) State #42-00460 Map #24 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C) (Listed - C - 12/4/1996)	First Congregational Church	1893-94 Romanesque Revival	Height: One story - church Walls: limestone (LeGrand hammer dressed)
	Owner at construction: First Congregational Church 1894 - First Congregational Church 1900s: First Congregational Church 1910s: First Congregational Church 1920s: First Congregational Church 1930s: First Congregational Church 1940s: First Congregational Church 1950s: First Congregational Church		Windows: arch stained glass windows with protective storms Architectural details: Corner square tower/belfry, round corner towers Architect/Builder: Dunham, Charles A. (architect, Burlington, IA); Atkinson, John F. (contractor, Marshalltown) Modifications: Non-historic: 1967 - interior remodel of sanctuary
1100 12th Avenue (1101? 12th Street) State #42-01158 Map #25 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Eldora Public School	1916-17, 1958-59 Classical Revival	Height: Three story - school Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Eldora School District (since 1863) school 1920s: Eldora Consolidated High School 1930s: Eldora Consolidated Independent School 1940s: Eldora Public High School 1950s: Eldora Public School		Windows: (originally 8/8 double-hung wood windows) Architectural details: Stone details - entry, belt courses, accents Architect/Builder: Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson (architect, Des Moines); White, F.X. (contractor) Modifications: Historic: unknown Non-historic: 1950s/60s? - windows reduced and replaced
1105 Washington Street ((1215 11th Ave) 1105 Washington Street) State #42-01207 Map #26 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church	1928, 1958, 1963 Late Gothic Revival	Height: One story - church Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 1928 - St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 1930s: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 1940s: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 1950s: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church		Windows: pointed arch stained glass windows Architectural details: corner towers, stone accents Modifications: Historic: 1958 - education building constructed on rear (east) Non-historic: 2008 - interior remodel, 1968 - interior remodel, 1963 - front addition
1109 Washington Street (1123? Washington Street) State #42-01208 Map #27 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Parsonage of St. Paul Lutheran Church	1931 House - Foursquare	Height: Two story - house Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 1931 - new parsonage built 1930s: parsonage (Rev. C. Hesse, 1931-1948) 1940s: parsonage 1950s: parsonage (Rev. John Zimmerman, 1948-1974)		Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung windows Architectural details: gable-front house with triangular brackets, enclosed porch Modifications: Historic: 1955 - improvements - kitchen remodeled
1113 Washington Street State #42-01209 Map #28 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Carriage House Apartments	1974	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	1974 - Carriage House Apartments		Architect/Builder: Langfritz Construction (contractor, Eldora)

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1306 11th Avenue (1300 11th Avenue) State #42-01372 Map #29 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Eldora Ideal Laundry	1951 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: hollow tile block
	Owner at construction: Gilbert, Raymond June 1951 - Eldora Ideal Laundry opened in new building west of corner 1950s: Eldora Ideal Laundry		Storefront: hollow tile block/glass Modifications: Non-historic: two windows converted to second overhead door opening
1102 Washington Street (1100 Washington Street) State #42-01206 Map #30 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Maltby Welding	1946 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: concrete block
	Owner at construction: Maltby, Lauren and Lois (1944-1966) 1946 - Maltby Welding 1940s: Maltby Welding (1946-1951) 1950s: Farmer Bros. Welding (1951-1966+)		Storefront: Concrete block, multi-light windows Architectural details: Stepped parapet front, overhead door on front also Modifications: Non-historic: Roof modified from round to gable
1118 Washington Street State #42-01205 Map #31 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Frontier Vet Clinic (Dr. Samp)	1990	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: -		
1122 Washington Street (1118-1120 Washington Street) State #42-01373 Map #32 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Schaa Produce Station warehouse	c.1950 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: hollow tile block
	Owner at construction: Schaa, T.H.? Schaa Produce Station warehouse? 1950s: Schaa Produce Station warehouse?		Architectural details: gable roof, small side windows Modifications: Non-historic: roof modification?
1126 Washington Street (1124 Washington Street) State #42-01204 Map #33 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Ned Fagg's Dairy	1932-33 20th century brick commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick, hollow tile block
	Owner at construction: Fagg, Ned 1933 - Ned Fagg - dairy (equipment installed 2-1933) 1930s: Fagg's Dairy (1933-1945) 1940s: Fagg's Dairy (Ned Fagg sold to Carnation in 9-1945), Carnation Company 1950s: Carnation Company (1124 in 1953)		Storefront: brick/glass Architectural details: large windows with transoms, brick detailing on upper wall
1138 Washington Street (1128 Washington Street) State #42-01203 Map #34 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Groth Plumbing Company	1938 20th century commercial	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Dickson, Ralph 1938 - Groth Plumbing Company (12-29-38 article) 1940s: Eldora Bottle Gas Company, Inc. 1950s: Stone Electric Company (1949-2008+)		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Centered set of windows Architectural details: Brick detailing around and above storefront area

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1150-1156 Washington Street (1138-1142 Washington Street; 203-205 N. Washington; 534-535 Washington) State #42-01201 Map #35 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Farmers Hotel (James L. Ridgeway grocery/restaurant)	c.1880, 1980s Italianate (clad)	Height: Two story Walls: vinyl siding (over brick)
	Owner at construction: Way, John? 1883 - Farmers Hotel (J.L. Ridgeway - grocery/restaurant) (S), 1886 - billiards (north) 1860s-70s: unknown 1880s: 1883 - Farmers Hotel (J.L. Ridgeway - grocery/restaurant) (S), 1886 - billiards (north), boarding house (2nd) 1890s: part of Mel Watts Wagon & Carriage Works (N), vacant (S) 1900s: part of M. Watts Wagon & Carriage Works - painting (N), notions (S) 1910s: 1920s: Lamprechet & Babcock (1926+), Shafer Café (1926+) 1930s: Dickson Tire and Battery (1931+), Archer Café (1931+) 1940s: International Supply (1942-1958) 1950s: International Supply (1942-1958, both)		Storefront: vinyl siding / glass Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Metal cornice with brackets Modifications: Non-historic: 1980s - vinyl siding added, new windows
1162 Washington Street (1146 Washington Street (also 1322 12th Avenue); 201 N. Washington (also 105? W. Hardin); 533 Washington) State #42-01200 Map #36 ~ 1 non-contributing building	James Bachman Restaurant & Bakery	c.1880, c.1975 (remodeled)	Height: Two story Walls: stucco
	Owner at construction: Bachman, James (?-1879, 1881-1896) 1880s: restaurant 1890s: 1893 - James Bachman restaurant and bakery 1900s: Speers Dry Goods? (Geo. Speers bought 1901) 1910s: Speers Dry Goods, Speers and Ziesman Men's Clothing store (1910-15), (Charles Speers bought in 1915) 1920s: Speers Paint & Wallpaper 1930s: Speers Paint & Wallpaper 1940s: Speers Paint & Wallpaper 1950s: Large Upholstery		Storefront: paneling, shake pent roof Windows: 1/1 double-hung Modifications: Historic: early 1910s - rear/side addition along 12th Avenue Non-historic: c.1975 - storefront remodel, stucco added
1201-1209 Washington Street (1201-1209 Washington Street; 120? N. Washington) State #42-01210 Map #37 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	H.W. Emeny Auto Company (Wisner Building)	1912 Classical Revival (simplified)	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wisner, Gilman H. and Lois W. Bloomquist (sister) 1912 - H.W. Emeny Auto Company and Garage (40 car capacity, repairs on 2nd) 1910s: H.W. Emeny Auto Company 1920s: Eldora Motor Company (by 1926) 1930s: Eldora Motor Company; 1938 - Joe B. Smith opening bowling alley (2nd?) 1940s: Eldora Motor Company 1950s: Eldora Motor Company (still in 1953), Infanseat, Inc. (2nd)		Storefront: large openings filled with brick (with random protruding bricks) Windows: large openings filled by panels and small windows Architectural details: "Wisner 1912" in parapet, brick pilasters with decorative brick near top, gable roof Architect/Builder: Reed & Stem (architect, St Paul, MN) Modifications: Non-historic: infill of window and entry openings

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<p>1215 Washington Street (1215 Washington Street; 116 N. Washington) State #42-01211 Map #38 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Dr. H.W. Emery Building Owner at construction: Emery, H.W. & Fannie W. 1912 - Hardin County Ledger, offices 1910s: Hardin County Ledger office 1920s: W.H. McDonald Billiard Room, Dr. Harry W. Emery (osteopathic), E.A. Bloomquist office, Gilman H. Wisner office, Wisner boiler room 1930s: Dr. Harry W. Emery (osteopathic), E.A. Bloomquist office 1940s: unknown 1950s: American Legion Club (1956-now)</p>	<p>1912 20th century brick commercial</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: large opening filled with brick, door, windows Windows: large opening filled with brick and small windows Architectural details: decorative brick work, crest panel centered in parapet (Hardin Co Ledger?) Architect/Builder: Reed & Stem (architect, St Paul, MN) Modifications: Non-historic: infill of storefront and window openings</p>
<p>1221-1225 Washington Street (1217-1223 Washington Street; 112-114 N. Washington) State #42-01212 Map #39 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Larson Building Owner at construction: Larson, Thomas bought from Gilman Wisner in 1918 1915 - plans for billiards, meat 1910s: W.H. McDonald Billiard Room, C.E. Hough Meat Market 1920s: barber, C.E. Hough Meat Market 1930s: Greenberg Barber Shop, City Meat Market 1940s: barber, City Meat Market (-1948) 1950s: Anway's Flower Shop</p>	<p>c.1915 20th century brick commercial</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: wood?/glass (remodeled) Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: "Larson" centered on frieze as name plate, contrasting brick around windows and across frieze Architect/Builder: Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson (architect, Des Moines) Modifications: Non-historic: storefront remodel</p>
<p>1227 Washington Street (1227 Washington Street) State #42-01213 Map #40 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)</p>	<p>Rubow & Wilcox Barber Shop Owner at construction: Rubow, George & Wilcox - Wilcox, W.C. bought all in 10-1962 1957 - Rubow & Wilcox Barber Shop</p>	<p>1957 Mid-20th century commercial</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: block/brick Storefront: brick/glass</p>
<p>1235 Washington Street (1231 Washington Street; 108 N. Washington) State #42-01374 Map #41 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Mrs. J.A. Landis Millinery Store Owner at construction: Landis, Julius & Ida 1910s: Mrs. J.A. Landis Millinery Store (operated for 25 yrs) 1920s: Mrs. J.A. Landis Millinery Store 1930s: E.H. Lundy Law Office, H.W. Kennedy Law Office 1940s: Dr. Norman Kunath, optometrist 1950s: Dr. Norman Kunath, optometrist</p>	<p>c.1911 20th century brick commercial</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: wood?/glass (remodeled) Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung, resized Architectural details: Brick corbelling bands along frieze Modifications: Non-historic: storefront remodel, upper windows resized and replaced</p>

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<p>1226 Washington Street (1210-1212 Washington Street; 117 N. Washington; 529 (17) Washington) State #42-01197 Map #42 ~ 1 non-contributing building</p>	<p>Alfred C. Harris Grocery and Restaurant Owner at construction: Reuillard or Fuller? 1878 - A.C. Harris started grocery/restaurant business (bought bldg in 1881) 1880s: A.C. Harris Grocery 1890s: A.C. Harris Grocery, china 1900s: 1900 - dry goods 1910s: 1915 - theater, 1911 - Harris restaurant 1920s: Smith Variety Store (1212 in 1926) 1930s: Smith Variety Store (1212 in 1931) 1940s: Smith Variety Store 1950s: Smith Variety Store</p>	<p>c.1875, 2007 Italianate (clad)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: vinyl siding (over brick) Storefront: metal/glass Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung (historically arch windows) Modifications: Non-historic: 2007 - building clad in vinyl siding after demo of building to north, windows replaced, cornice removed earlier; storefront remodel earlier and cornice previously removed</p>
<p>1234-1240 Washington Street (1216-1220 Washington Street; 113-115 N. Washington; 527-528 (13-15) Washington) State #42-01196 Map #43 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Whitney & Meader Building Owner at construction: Whitney, S.E. & Allen Meader, Skinner, Richard (contractor); began 8-1894 1894 - J.D. Hunter - music, Whitney & Meader - hardware - also? 1900 - grocery, J.A. Borsack Meat Market (13 N. Wash. in 1901) 1910s: M.D. Wilcox Grocery (by 1909) 1920s: Schafer Grocery (1216 in 1926); M.D. Wilcox Grocery (1224 in 1926) 1930s: Schafer Grocery (1216 in 1931); Wilcox Grocery (1224 in 1931) 1940s: Dr. Hoyt W. Stonebrook, dentist (bought in 1944), 1940 - grocery, store 1950s: Dr. Hoyt W. Stonebrook, dentist; Dr. E.W. Burke, dentist; Dr. Tom Stonebrook - dentist</p>	<p>1894 Queen Anne (modified)</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: Vinyl/glass Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Metal cornice with brackets; "1894" center pediment removed; brick corbelling Modifications: Historic: c.1944 - second story windows remodeled - bay window removed and brown brick installed around new openings, stone bands infilled Non-historic: storefront remodel (c.1981)</p>
<p>1250 Washington Street (1226 Washington Street; 111 N. Washington; 526 (11) Washington) State #42-01195 Map #44 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Smith Harness Company Owner at construction: Lewis, E. M. (carpenter) bought in 1857 - died early 1860s - family (Lewis/Furman) owned until 1892 1870s-80s - meat market 1890s: Andrew E. Smith, harness (remodel and addition in 1892) 1900s: A.E. Smith, harness 1910s-20s: A.E. Smith Harness Company 1930s: Smith Harness Company; McDonald, W.H. bought in 1937 - had billiard room across street 1940s: unknown (W.H. & Agnes McDonald owned 1937-1966) 1950s: pool hall - City Club? (McDonald)</p>	<p>c.1860, 1892, 1950s? One-story commercial</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: brick Storefront: brick/glass Modifications: Historic: 1892 - Smith bought, remodeled, and built addition; 1940s? - upper sign replaced with brick, storefront remodel?</p>

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<p>1258 Washington Street (1228 Washington Street; 109 N. Washington; 525 (9) Washington) State #42-00520 Map #45 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>George W. Richards & Co. Owner at construction: Furman, Frank (built in 1891; owned by mother Delia) 1892 - George W. Richards & Co (books, stationery, wallpaper, paints), American Express Company 1860s-70s: 1875 - D.G. Meader, saloon 1890s: G.W. Richards & Co (books, stationery, wallpaper, paint) 1900s: Fred Edgar Jewelry (1901: 9 N. Wash), telephone office (2nd) 1910s: 1911-1915 - grocery; 1915 - Edgar bought bldg 1920s: F.J. Edgar - music; W.B. Derr - jewelry (1920 - Edgar retired and jewelry taken over by Derr) 1930s: Edgar & Kunath - jewelry, optometry, music 1940s: Edgar & Kunath (Fred Edgar retired in 1945) 1950s: Cleveland's Jewelry</p>	<p>1891 Italianate</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: paneling / glass Windows: Aluminum single-light, decorative window hoods Architectural details: Metal cornice with brackets; "Edgar" in cement by entry Modifications: Non-historic: storefront remodel, part of cornice clad in metal</p>
<p>1274-1280 Washington Street (1232-1238 Washington Street; 105-107 N. Washington; 523-524 (5-7) Washington) State #42-01194 Map #46 ~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Graham's Department Store (Speers & Lewis Block) Owner at construction: Lewis, George H. and Speers, George built 1890-91 1892 - Geo. Speers (dry goods and millinery), G.H. Lewis (groceries, sewing, boots and shoes) 1890s: George H. Lewis (grocery, boots & shoes, sewing machines), Lee Moran - photographer (2nd), Speers Dry Goods and Millinery, Elon Burlingame - billiards (2nd) 1900s: Lewis Shoe Store, photo-2nd (R.V. Adams Photo Studio?); Speers Dry Goods and Millinery, billiards-2nd 1910s: 1915 - Hall & Ward Shoes, photos, George Starr drug store (1904 - Starr bought Wilson Drug Store), 1911 - boots & shoes, dry goods 1920s: Ralph C. Marks & Co - drug store (1238 - Starr sold to Marks in 1920), Hall & Edwards Shoe Store (1234). Ray Adams Photo Studio (2nd - 1232) 1930s: Graham's Department Store (1238 - opened 3-1-1930), Starr & Reed - real estate & Insurance (2nd - 1236), Hall's Bootery (1234), Dr. J.A. Staads, chiropractor (1234), R. Adams Photo Studio (2nd - 1232) 1940s: Graham's Department Store (both storefronts in 1945) 1950s: Graham's Department Store (both storefronts)</p>	<p>1890-91, c.1961 Mid-20th century commercial</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Modifications: Historic: 1950s - upper windows resized, cornice still on building Non-historic: c.1961 - new façade brick</p>

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1300 Edgington Avenue (1300-1310-1318 Washington; also 1240-1246 Edgington Avenue) State #42-01193 Map #47 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	First National Bank Building	1917, 1934 Classical Revival	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: First National Bank 1917 - First National Bank 1920s: 1917-c.1934 - First National Bank, several professional offices, barber shop 1930s: First National Bank, several professional offices, barber shop, 10-1934 - Diamond Brothers bought and remodeled for local store, professional offices continue on second story 1940s: Diamond Brothers Grocery (1934-1953) 1950s: Harrison Dime Store (1953-57), Darzes Restaurant (1958-?); Darzes Candy (in Harrison bldg in 1953)		Storefront: brick Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Stone frieze with "The First National Bank", stone cornice with brackets, stone accents on walls, decorative brick/stone panels under windows Architect/Builder: Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson (architect, Des Moines) Modifications: Historic: 10-1934 - first story remodeled for storefront windows, by 1953 - later storefront remodel (part of current) Non-historic: 1980s - corner entry remodeled
1320 Edgington Avenue (1322 Edgington Avenue) State #42-01261 Map #48 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Carpenter Building	c.1913 Queen Anne (modified)	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Carpenter, Nathan (lawyer) & Eva (?-1919) 1915 - restaurant 1910s: 1915 - restaurant 1920s: E.E. McFarland office - real estate and insurance 1930s: unknown 1940s: unknown 1950s: unknown		Storefront: Windows: Architectural details: Name plate on parapet says "Carpenter" Modifications: Historic: unknown Non-historic: bay window removed
1334 Edgington Avenue State #42-01146 Map #49 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Eldora Post Office (3)	1939 Art Deco (simplified)?	Height: One story Walls: brick (buff)
	Owner at construction: United States 1939 - post office 1940s: Eldora Post Office 1950s: Eldora Post Office, extension office (basement)		Storefront: large multi-light windows with limestone Architectural details: Limestone frieze with "United States Post Office Eldora, Iowa" Architect/Builder: Simon, Louis A. (architect, treasury dept); James Thompson & Sons (contractor, Ames) Modifications: Non-historic: 1984 - remodel of building, replaced windows/doors, basement steps modified
1321-25 Edgington Avenue (1325-1335 Edgington Ave) State #42-01263 Map #50 ~ 1 non-contributing building	H.J. Janssen Implements	1919, c.1985 20th century commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Janssen, Henry J. (1919-1961) 1919 - Henry J. Janssen, implements 1920s: H.J. Janssen, implements 1930s: H.J. Janssen Implements 1940s: H.J. Janssen and Son Implements, Goodyear Tire Store (1946-1949 - west side) 1950s: Janssen Equipment Co (until 1973)		Storefront: brick/glass Modifications: Non-historic: c.1985 - second story removed, red awning/siding accents, doors/windows
1317 Edgington Avenue State #42-01264 Map #51 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Wubbena Building 2	c.1978	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wubbena, W.D. 1978 - Mike Crosser Insurance		Storefront: brick/glass

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1310 Washington Street State #42-01216 Map #52 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Wubbena Building 1	c.1978	Height: One story Walls: brick (with random protruding bricks)
	Owner at construction: Wubbena, W.D. 1978 - Gallery Photography (Rempp)		Storefront: brick/glass
1314-1318 Washington Street (1308-1314 Washington Street; 104-106 S. Washington; 517-518 Washington) State #42-01217 Map #53 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)	Joseph H. Smith Block	c.1896 Queen Anne	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Smith, Joseph H. 1898 - J.F. Coveny & Co, drug store (north); clothing (south); Todd Riley, barber (basement) 1900s: 1900 - drugs, clothing, barber - basement, billards - 2nd 1910s: Ridout Furniture, Glenn Drug Store (1920 - Glenn sold drug store to Rice) 1920s: L.J. Rice Drug Store (1308), Albert Steinberg law office (1310), Wyatt Johnson General Store (1312) 1930s: Rice Drug Store (1308), Johnson Dry Goods Store (1312), Diamond Brothers grocery (1314) 1940s: Harrison Variety Store, Anderson Drug Store (AE Anderson and FH Geesamen bought Rice Drug in 1940; Anderson bought out in 1946), 1940 - furniture, barber, general store 1950s: Harrison Variety Store (-1952), H.H. Bickenbach Co. (1953-?), Anderson Drug Store, W.R. Protheroe, C.W. Haase - insurance		Storefront: paneling/glass Windows: bay window intact on south, others modified Architectural details: Metal cornice with bracket - middle pediment removed by early 1950s Modifications: Historic: by early 1950s - north bay window replaced with current window configuration, pediment removed on cornice, 1959 - north storefront remodel Non-historic: storefront remodel (south), middle second story window resized
1342 Washington Street (1324 Washington Street; 112 S. Washington) State #42-01219 Map #54 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Bowman Pool Hall	c.1920s 20th century commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Bowman, Agnes 1920s: Bowman Pool Hall 1930s: Bowman Pool Hall 1940s: Bowman Pool Hall, basement in 1948 - Whink Products, Inc. 1950s: Bowman Pool Hall		Storefront: wood/glass Modifications: Non-historic: unknown
1350 Washington Street (1328 Washington Street; 114 S. Washington; 513 Washington) State #42-01220 Map #55 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Post Office (1)	1887 Italianate	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Mooman, J.C. (1884-91) 1887 - post office 1890s: Post Office, 1893 - J.W. VandeWalker barber shop under post office 1900s: Post Office (1887-1903; previously in one-story building here), 1901 - School of Harmonic Science (2nd) 1910s: 1915 - Fred Edgar Jewelry (1904 - Edgar bought old PO bldg - redecorating and moving; 1920 - retired, taken over by Derr - moved?) 1920s: James L. Brown Shoe Store (operated in Eldora from 1917-64) 1930s: J.L. Brown Shoe Store 1940s: J.L. Brown Shoe Store 1950s: James Brown Shoe Store, Claude Pflanders Jewelry		Storefront: metal?/glass Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung, center large window Architectural details: Elaborate cornice with pediment, continuous decorative window hoods Modifications: Non-historic: storefront remodel?

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	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1360 Washington Street (1334 Washington Street; 116 S. Washington; 512 Washington) State #42-01221 Map #56 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	J.A. Borsack Meat Market (Julia Wisner Building)	1892 Queen Anne	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wisner, Julia A. (built in 1892) 1892 - J.A. Borsack Meat Market (1875 - T. Wells Meat Market) 1900s: J.A. Borsack Meat Market 1910s: J. A. Borsack Central Meat Market 1920s: Central Meat Market, Nissen Bros Meat Market; Will Nissen residence 1930s: Nissen & Son Meat Market; John Nissen residence 1940s: Nissen & Son Meat Market, Community Grocery 1950s: Community Grocery		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Smaller openings with paneling, bay window Architectural details: Elaborate cornice with brackets, decorative window hood Modifications: Non-historic: 1980s? - storefront remodel, upper windows resized
1366-1376 Washington Street (1336-1340 Washington Street; 118-120 S. Washington; 510-511 Washington) State #42-01222 Map #57 ~ 1 contributing building (A & C)	Edgington & Hammond Building	c.1879, c.1920s 20th century brick commercial	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Edgington, Joseph? (1875 - dry goods, drug store) 1880s: 1886 - dry goods, drug store, Edgington House hotel on 2nd - connected to main bldg on corner 1890s: 1893 - Fannon & Caraway (dry goods / boots and shoes / groceries), J.H. Hammond drug store 1900s: 1900 - restaurant (Eldora Lunch Room - 1901?), drug store 1910s: 1915 - Ed Carpenter's Cafe (1336), variety store (1340); 1911 - restaurant (1336), drug store (1340) 1920s: West Side Café (1340 in 1926), Sam Gervich Dry Goods (1336 in 1926), residences on 2nd 1930s: Famous Café (1340 in 1931), dry goods (1336), residences on 2nd 1940s: Bremmers's Pharmacy; general store? 1950s: George's Pharmacy; general/hardware store?		Storefront: brick/paneling/glass Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung - resized on north half Modifications: Historic: 1920s? - new façade brick and window openings (after c.1915) Non-historic: 1980s? - storefront remodel
1384 Washington Street (1344 Washington Street; 122 S. Washington) State #42-01223 Map #58 ~ 1 contributing building* (A)	Post Office (2)	c.1904 Classical Revival (simplified)	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Hardin, D.S. & C.D. (1893-10/1904) 1904-07-01 - post office opened here (Moir 1911: 241) 1910s: post office, 1917 - Darzes opened confectionary here (ice cream and candy kitchen) 1920s: Eldora Candy Company; Dr. A.W. Adams - dentist (2nd) 1930s: confectionary; Dr. A.W. Adams - dentist 1940s: A & P Store (grocery) 1950s: Gamble's (1951-1960s), Harold's Food Store (1949-51)		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Vinyl 1/1 double-hung - resized Architectural details: Metal cornice wraps around front and side Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s - storefront remodel, awning (Langfritz Construction); windows replaced
1318 14th Avenue (1318-1320 14th Avenue; 109-111 W. Jasper) State #42-01224 Map #59 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Eldora Mutual Telephone Office	1908 Classical Revival	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Eldora Mutual Telephone Company 1909 - Eldora Mutual Telephone Office 1910s: Eldora Mutual Telephone Company 1920s: Eldora Telephone Company 1930s: Central Iowa Telephone Company 1940s: Central Iowa Telephone Company 1950s: Central Iowa Telephone Company		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Aluminum 1/1 double-hung windows Architectural details: Stone entry surround, 1908 above door, water table, sills, and frieze detail Modifications: Historic: 1958 - addition for dial equipment; Non-historic: unknown

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<p>1415 12th Street (1401 12th Street; 201? S. Jefferson)</p> <p>State #42-01241 Map #60</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>First Methodist Episcopal Church</p> <p>Owner at construction: First Methodist Episcopal Church 1891 - First Methodist Episcopal Church 1890s: First Methodist Episcopal Church 1900s: First Methodist Episcopal Church 1910s: First Methodist Episcopal Church 1920s: First Methodist Episcopal Church 1930s: Methodist Episcopal Church 1940s: Methodist Church 1950s: Methodist Church</p>	<p>1891, 1929-30, 1965, 2001 Late Gothic Revival</p>	<p>Height: One story - church Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: brick/glass Windows: pointed arch stained glass windows Architectural details: stone accents on brick walls, corner square tower Modifications: Historic: 1929-30 - remodel of entire building, stonework added, windows/entry/steeple changed, east wing added Non-historic: 1965 - south addition, 2001 - east addition</p>
<p>1201 14th Avenue (1205 14th Avenue)</p> <p>State #42-01240 Map #61</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Eldora Memorial Hospital</p> <p>Owner at construction: City of Eldora 1939 - Memorial Hospital 1940s: Eldora Memorial Hospital 1950s: Eldora Memorial Hospital</p>	<p>1939, 1949 Art Deco? Mid-20th century?</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Wood? 1/1 double-hung (originally 6/1) Architectural details: soldier brick courses Architect/Builder: Beuttler, William (architect, Sioux City, 1939 and 1949) Modifications: Historic: 1949 - rear addition built Non-historic: large window on façade resized, new door</p>
<p>1209 14th Avenue (1223 14th Avenue; 112 E. Jasper; 127 Jasper)</p> <p>State #42-00471 Map #62</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C) (Listed - C (5/23/1983))</p>	<p>Eldora Public Library</p> <p>Owner at construction: City of Eldora 1903 - Eldora Public Library - \$10,000 given by Andrew Carnegie 1900s: Eldora Public Library 1910s: Eldora Public Library 1920s: Eldora Public Library 1930s: Eldora Public Library 1940s: Eldora Public Library 1950s: Eldora Public Library</p>	<p>1902-1903 Late Gothic Revival</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: brick/glass Architectural details: contrasting stone used to accent brick walls, cross gables with parapets Architect/Builder: Patton and Miller (architect, Chicago) Modifications: Non-historic: windows/door replaced c.1976, tile roof replaced</p>
<p>1217-1225 14th Avenue (1225-1229 14th Avenue)</p> <p>State #42-01239 Map #63</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building (A)</p>	<p>Lynn Electric Company</p> <p>Owner at construction: Lynn, Herbert; Strickler, Joe 1931 - Lynn Electric Shop (1227), Pine Lake Produce (1231) 1930s: Lynn Electric Shop, Pine Lake Produce 1940s: Lynn Electric Company, printing? 1950s: 1953+ - Eldora Electric (1227)</p>	<p>1930 20th century brick commercial</p>	<p>Height: One story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: paneling/glass Architectural details: inset brick panels, stepped parapet wall Architect/Builder: Stebe, Henry (contractor) Modifications: Non-historic: storefront remodel</p>
<p>1233 14th Avenue (1233 14th Avenue; 106 E. Jasper)</p> <p>State #42-00472 Map #64</p> <p>~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)</p>	<p>Y.M.C.A. Building</p> <p>Owner at construction: Y.M.C.A. Association 1890s: Y.M.C.A., public library 1900s: Y.M.C.A., public library (until 1903) 1910s: 1911 - laundry, 1913 - Y.M.C.A disbanded, 1915 - restaurant; 1920s: Owl Café 1930s: Owl Café (4-1934 - bldg sold & proceeds to YMCA investors) 1940s: Grill Café (1940 - Roy Halleck bought Owl - open as Grill Café), 1944-47 - Grill Café ran by DeBaggios 1950s: Grill Café</p>	<p>1890 Italianate</p>	<p>Height: Two story Walls: brick</p> <p>Storefront: wood/glass/metal columns Windows: Wood 1/1 double-hung Architectural details: Metal cornice with bracket (deteriorated), brick corbeling, original storefront columns</p>

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Address (Historic address/es) State #, Map # ~ district status	Historic name	Date, Style/type	Height, Wall cladding
	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1245 14th Avenue (1237 14th Avenue) State #42-01238 Map #65 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Ward Hat Shop	between 1915-1920 20th century brick commercial	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wintermute, James H. (1907-1936) 1920s: Ward Hat Shop (?-1931) 1930s: Modern Fashion Shop (1931-1944) 1940s: Modern Fashion Shop (1931-1944), Young's Music Store? (1947-?) 1950s: unknown		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Wood? 1/1 double-hung Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s - storefront remodel (Langfritz Construction)
1247-1249 14th Avenue (1243-1247 14th Avenue; 100-102 E. Jasper) State #42-01237 Map #66 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Lewis-Stebe Block	1936 20th century brick commercial	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wintermute, James H. built after 7-36 fire, then sold to Lewis & Stebe 1938 - Elva's Café (1249), unknown 1940s: Young's Sandwich Shop? (1946-48), McWherter? (1948-?), 1940 - restaurant, store 1950s: Crossan Food Market (west), James L. Brown Shoe Store		Storefront: brick/glass Windows: Aluminum? 1/1 double-hung windows Architectural details: Patterned brickwork around windows and across frieze Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s - storefront remodel (Langfritz Construction)
1409 Washington Street (1411 Washington Street) State #42-01230 Map #67 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Wintermute Building	1921 20th century brick commercial	Height: Two story Walls: brick - multi-color (over block)
	Owner at construction: Wintermute, James H. (1907-1936) 1920s: unknown 1930s: unknown 1940s: Crosley Hatchery (started in 1944), Stern second hand store (early 1940s), Dillavou radio shop (early 1940s) 1950s: Crosley Hatchery		Storefront: paneling/glass Windows: boarded over Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s? - storefront remodel, awning
1413 Washington Street (1419 Washington Street; 207? S. Washington) State #42-01229 Map #68 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	W.C. Baker Feed Store	early 1910s, c.1943 20th century brick commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: Wintermute, James H. (1907-1936) 1910s: unknown 1920s: W.C. Baker Feed Store (1926) 1930s: Crosley Farm Store, Potgeter Feed Store? (1931) 1940s: Crosley Farm Store 1950s: Crosley Farm Store		Storefront: paneling/glass Architectural details: patterned brick on extended parapet Modifications: Historic: early 1940s - new façade brick Non-historic: 1970s - storefront remodel, awning; 1980s? - storefront remodel
1413 (rear) Washington Street State #42-01375 Map #69 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Quality Automotive, Inc.	c.1984 -	Height: One story Walls: metal
	1984 - Quality Automotive, Inc.		

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Address (Historic address/es) State #, Map # ~ district status	Historic name	Date, Style/type	Height, Wall cladding
	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1425 Washington Street (1439-1447 Washington Street) State #42-01228 Map #70 ~ 1 contributing building* (A)	Fowler Buick Company (1921 Larson Building)	1921 20th century brick commercial	Height: One story Walls: brick/wood paneling
	Owner at construction: Larson, Thomas 1921 - Fowler Buick Company, Willard (Eldora) Storage Battery Co, milk station - Omar Weigand 1920s: Fowler Buick Company (1445 in 1926), Eldora Storage Battery Company (1441 in 1926), City Sanitary Dairy (1439 in 1926) 1930s: Fowler Buick Company (1445 in 1931), Purity Dairy (1439 in 1931) 1940s: unknown 1950s: unknown		Storefront: wood paneling?/glass Architectural details: "1921" in stone panel on frieze, decorative brick work Architect/Builder: Tower, D.W. (contractor) Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s? - paneling on storefront and sides, large entry covered
1402 Washington Street State #42-01225 Map #71 ~ 1 non-contributing building	First National Bank	c.1968 -	Height: One story Walls: concrete/glass
	Owner at construction: - 1967 - F & M Bank		
1442 Washington Street State #42-01226 Map #72 ~ 1 non-contributing building	City Hall	1985 -	Height: Two story Walls: brick
	Owner at construction: City of Eldora 1985-2000s - City Hall		
1502 Washington Street State #42-01227 Map #73 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Nazett Auto Service	c.1946 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: concrete block
	Owner at construction: H.H. Nazett 1946 - H.H. Nazett 1940s: H.H. Nazett Auto Service (Nazett Body and Fender Shop) (1946-1951) 1950s: Way Garage (1952-1968), Stannard Auto Service (1951-52)		Storefront: concrete block/paneling Architectural details: stepped parapet in front of gable roof Modifications: Non-historic: windows covered or resized, rear metal addition
1317 15th Avenue State #42-01236 Map #74 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Emmert Locker Service (Meat market)	1947 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: concrete block?
	Owner at construction: Emmert, Wes & Les 1947 - Emmert Meat Locker & Market 1950s: Emmert Meat Locker & Market		Storefront: concrete block?/glass Architectural details: pilasters on front
1510 14th Street State #42-01376 Map #75 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Eldora Gospel Tabernacle	1942, 1946 Vernacular	Height: One story - church Walls: concrete block
	Owner at construction: Eldora Gospel Tabernacle 1936 - Eldora Gospel Tabernacle 1940s: Eldora Gospel Tabernacle 1950s: Eldora Gospel Tabernacle		Storefront: concrete block Architectural details: concrete block vestibule Modifications: Historic: 1942 - basement constructed, 1946 - second story and south portion built Non-historic: deck on west side

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Address <i>(Historic address/es) State #, Map # ~ district status</i>	Historic name	Date, Style/type	Height, Wall cladding
	Owner at construction Historic businesses/uses		Architectural information Modifications
1318 15th Avenue (1308-1310 15th Avenue; 105 (104) W. Newton; 203 Newton) State #42-01377 Map #76 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	House	c.1890 (between 1886 and 1893) House - hip-roof	Height: One story - house Walls: frame/aluminum siding
	Owner at construction: Carpenter, N.S. (1890-1917) 1890s: dwelling - rental? 1900s: dwelling - rental? 1910s: dwelling - rental? 1920s: dwelling - rental? 1930s: dwelling - Ida (and Tom) Meader (1924-43) 1940s: dwelling - Ida Meader (1924-43), Robert Meader (son, 1943-) 1950s: dwelling		Windows: Wood 1/1 windows Architectural details: Hip-roof house Modifications: Historic: front porch Non-historic: siding
1326 15th Avenue (1314 15th Avenue; 107 (106) W. Newton; 202 Newton) State #42-01378 Map #77 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	House	c.1890 (between 1886 and 1893) House - upright and wing	Height: One-two story - house Walls: frame/vinyl siding
	Owner at construction: Dolph, John (1888-92) 1890s: dwelling - rental? 1900s: dwelling - rental? 1910s: dwelling - Frisbe family (1909-23) 1920s: dwelling 1930s: dwelling - P.C. Molgard (1926-35) 1940s: dwelling 1950s: dwelling		Windows: Some wood 2/2 windows, other replaced Architectural details: Up-right and wing house Modifications: Non-historic: siding, windows, west side addition
1425 14th Street State #42-01232 Map #78 ~ 1 contributing building* (A & C)	Smith Motors Olds Dealership?	1947, 1963, 1971 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: concrete block
	Owner at construction: North, Dale (1947), Warren, Floyd? 1948? - Smith Motors Olds Dealership 1950s: Jerry Noble shoe repair (1951-1959), E&L Service (1959- 60?), (Smith Motors Olds Dealership (bought in 1951 by Claude Smith, Jr.))		Storefront: concrete block/glass Architectural details: parapet in front of gable roof Modifications: Non-historic: c.1963 - south addition, c.1971 - rear addition
1413-1421 14th Street State #42-01231 Map #79 ~ 1 contributing building (A)	Building	1947, c.1978 Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: concrete block
	Owner at construction: Garles? 1947 - Garles plumbing and heating? 1950s: 1951 - Red Kramer repair shop?		Storefront: concrete block/glass Architectural details: stepped parapet in front of gable roof Modifications: Non-historic: c.1978? - south metal building addition
1317 14th Avenue State #42-01234 Map #80 ~ 1 non-contributing building	Noble Building	1947, c.1970s Utilitarian	Height: One story Walls: brick, steel siding
	Owner at construction: Noble, Jerry 1947 - Jerry Noble Shoe Store, Harper lunch room 1940s: Jerry Noble Shoe Store (1947-1949), Hardin County Farm Supply Co (1949-1951) 1950s: Hardin County Farm Bureau (1951 to present)		Storefront: brick/glass Modifications: Non-historic: 1970s? - new façade brick/design

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architect/Builder (continued)

Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson
Beuttler, William
Dunham, Charles A.
Hunter, Harry Edgar
Boeke, Eugene
Reed & Stem
Patton and Miller
Simon, Louis A.
Stebe, Henry
Thompson, James, & Sons
Tower, Dewey W.
White, Frank X.
Crandall Construction

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Eldora Downtown Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its key role in the commercial history and development of Eldora, Iowa, and locally significant under Criterion C for its excellent collection of local commercial architecture. The Eldora Downtown Historic District meets the registration requirements of the "Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture" National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document, completed in July 2002. The district is significant under Criteria A as defined for Property Type I (commercial districts). This district encompasses the historic, as well as current, commercial core of the community, centered on the public square. This area initially developed around the public square in the 1850s and 1860s. Second generation building development began in the early 1890s and was anchored by the construction of the current courthouse on the square in 1893. In addition to the courthouse, other community buildings were constructed within one block of the square, including the library, school, hospital, and churches. Thus, the Eldora Downtown Historic District historically served as the true center of all types of community activities. It continues to serve as the center of commercial, retail, service, public, educational, and religious activities in Eldora today. Additionally, the district is significant under Criteria A and C as a collection of historic commercial buildings with several properties meeting the registration requirements for contributing properties under Property Type III (second generation properties and reconstructing

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Main Street), Property Type IV (specialized buildings, structures, and objects), and Property Type V (remodeling Main Street). The district as a whole includes architectural examples within each of these property types. Most of the buildings represent second generation and later buildings, with the majority of the buildings dating to the 20th century. Specialized buildings found in the district include the courthouse, libraries, fraternal/social halls, post offices, a school, a hospital, and churches. Finally, a number of buildings reflect remodeling efforts in the post-World War II period from 1945 to 1961, including modernized storefronts as well as façades. Collectively, the buildings represent historic commercial architecture combined with upper level residences, updated with changing trends in the 20th century. The buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District represent the largest and most significant collection of commercial buildings in Eldora. Few historic commercial buildings in Eldora are found outside of this district.

The period of significance for the Eldora Downtown Historic District spans from 1853, with the significant platting of the community around the public square and construction of the earliest buildings, to 1961, the conclusion of building activities in the late 1950s and remodeling efforts that continued through 1961. The significant history and development of this period is divided into three chronological periods: 19th Century Growth and Development (1853-1899); Community Development in the early 20th Century (1900-1935); and Commercial Expansion and Growth in the middle of the 20th Century (1936-1961). Only seven extant buildings date to construction in the period from 1853 to 1886, several with 20th century exterior modifications. The majority of extant 19th century buildings were built between 1887 and 1894, accounting for 13 buildings. Construction slowed in the first decade of the 20th century, with six buildings standing including the library and a post office. Prosperity after 1910 led to the construction of 16 extant buildings from 1911 to 1921 and the complete exterior remodel/reconstruction of three 19th century buildings. Construction again slowed, with 10 extant buildings dating to 1922 to 1935 including four built as a result of fires in earlier buildings. By the late 1930s, construction picked up again and would continue strong through 1951. Fifteen buildings date from 1938 to 1951, representing a large collection of middle of the 20th century commercial architecture. Storefront remodeling was also popular in this period, continuing through the end of the 1950s. The last two buildings were constructed in the district in 1957, followed by two significant additions to earlier buildings in 1958-1959 and remodeling efforts complete by 1961. No significant construction occurred in the downtown again until the late 1960s and 1970s, so the period of significance ends at 1961, the end of this development of the district and near the 50-year cutoff for historic significance per National Register of Historic Places standards.

The Eldora Downtown Historic District retains a sense of cohesion as a historic district. Historically, the district has been united by function and use, and this feeling and association remains intact with similar function and uses today. Non-contributing buildings in the district also reflect these uses, contributing to the cohesiveness of the district even if not to the historic significance. These commercial uses historically and currently distinguish the downtown from the surrounding area, and these uses unite the historic district. Public and community buildings on the edges of the district mark the transition from the public downtown to the private surrounding neighborhoods. Overall, the Eldora Downtown Historic District retains good integrity. It retains its historic location and setting as the center of Eldora surrounded by residential neighborhoods. The overall design of the district also remains intact, centered on the public square. Main streets run on the platted grid with alleys crossing in the middle of each block. Each block continues to be dominated by two-story brick buildings, with some one-story and three-story buildings mixed in. The design of the district reflects the period of significance from 1853 to 1961, with construction and modifications occurring throughout this period in response to changing economic conditions and tastes. The handful of non-contributing buildings and vacant lots do not significantly detract from the overall character of the

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historic district. Overall, there are 84 resources, including 65 contributing buildings (including three previously listed), three contributing objects, one contributing site, and 15 non-contributing buildings. Brick and glass continue to be the dominant materials in the district for buildings dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries with a transition to hollow tile block, concrete block, and glass for buildings dating to the middle of the 20th century. The appearance of the Eldora Downtown Historic District continues to reflect its historic associations with the growth and development of Eldora from 1870 to 1961, as further illustrated in the following sections. Overall, even with the alterations and some demolitions, the feeling of the district continues to convey an understanding of a historic downtown as the center of commercial and community activities. The district retains its sense as the historic and current commercial center of Eldora, reflected and provoked by the visual dominance of brick commercial buildings throughout this district. Thus, the Eldora Downtown Historic District retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance associated with the commercial history and architecture of Eldora.

19th Century Growth and Development (1853-1899)

The period from 1853 to 1899 represents the early development and maturation of the town of Eldora. The platting of the town in 1853 set up the structure of the downtown centered on a public square that continues to define the design and layout of the Eldora Downtown Historic District today. First generation, small frame and log buildings, were constructed in the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s. By the early 1870s, these buildings began to be replaced by more substantial second generation, usually two or three story brick, buildings. The population grew slowly from 1,268 in 1870 to 1,577 in 1890. Seven extant buildings in the district date to construction by 1886. Additionally, two objects were placed on the square in 1885-1886, which contribute to the district. The period from 1887 to 1895 marked significant new construction on all sides of the square, construction of the courthouse on the square itself, and construction of three substantial churches anchoring three quadrants diagonal from the square. Fourteen extant buildings from this period represent the significant development of the Eldora Downtown Historic District in the period and the community efforts to improve the town. The population also increased significantly, reported at 2,233 in 1900. By 1900, building had occurred on nearly all the lots within the district, though later construction would replace numerous earlier buildings.

In 1851, Hardin County was formed, though not until 1853 did the state seek out a location for the county seat. At the time, the population of Hardin County was centered in the southeast portion of the county, and a level site was selected west of the Iowa River. The commissioners stopped at the pioneer farm of Colonel Samuel and Lois B. Edgington, and they asked Lois to select a name for the new town. She named it Eldora in memory of a daughter who died in infancy. John Shepherd surveyed and platted the town in July. He selected a standard layout for a community, laying out a five by five grid of 25 blocks with the center reserved for the public square. The sale of lots in the new town of Eldora began on July 25. The nearby dry goods business of Edgington Brothers quickly decided to move to town, building the first frame building in Eldora by December on the west side of the square. Mortimer Hulbert established the first hardware and tin shop in the county in Eldora, building a log building in October 1853. The Edgingtons and John Ellsworth petitioned for postal service for the community in 1854. John Ellsworth decided to move his hotel into Eldora, constructing a building in 1854 that burned and was rebuilt in 1855. Likewise, the first courthouse burned in 1855, and the second one was built in 1857 on the east side of the square (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 594, 613-16, 632; Moir 1911: 234-36, 241; HCHS 1981: 6).

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Though no buildings remain intact from the 1850s or 1860s the growth of the community in this period set the stage for the later development of the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Traditional early community organizations formed in this period, such as the Methodist Episcopal Church (1854), Christian Church (1855), Eldora Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows (1855), and Montague Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (1857). Several other communities developing in Hardin County challenged Eldora's place as the county seat. Eldora's position was not helped with the arrival of the first railroad in Hardin County at Ackley in 1865, extended through to Iowa Falls and Alden in 1866. However, strong businessmen took the lead in developing Eldora. The Central Iowa Railway Company was formed in January 1866 to connect Eldora to Ackley, with the line completed in July 1868. Meanwhile, the Iowa Supreme Court considered the challenges to the county seat location, and they ruled in Eldora's favor also in July 1868 (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 626, 641; Moir 1911: 171, 237, 246). With status as a county seat confirmed and a railroad connection, Eldora began to truly grow. W.J. Moir later wrote that with the arrival of the railroad, Eldora "took on a new lease of business activity" (Moir 1911: 237). W.H. Crawford and Jonathan Edgington built a warehouse to store and ship grain on the new railroad and in December the Hardin County Bank incorporated, primarily by men directly involved in the railroad construction. Lyman F. Wisner was elected president, an office he held until his death in 1889. In 1869, the town of Eldora officially incorporated. A site to the west of Eldora was selected in 1873 for the Iowa Reform School for boys, partially due to the donation of land by private citizens (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 641; Moir 1911: 237; HCHS 1981: 392).

Maps from the 1870s and 1880s show the development of Eldora in this period. Businesses surrounded the central public square by 1875 (Figure 1). On the north side of the square, Porter and Moir's Block was constructed around 1873, a three story building with an auditorium on the third story (1212-1220 Edgington Avenue, Map #9, State #42-01255, 1930s facade). This hall served as the venue for various performances and speeches, including Governor John Gear in September 1879 ("Events of Yesterday," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, September 6, 1949, 2). The Ellsworth Drug Company also built their two-story brick building on the north side around 1872 (1274 Edgington Avenue, Map #3, State #42-01260, 1910s facade). Community organizations continued to form, with the Knights of Pythias organizing in 1878, along with a private library (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 628; Moir 1911: 172, 237, 241-42). The 1886 Sanborn map shows business development throughout the majority of the Eldora Downtown Historic District, with uses similar to the present though not many extant buildings (Figure 2). Small commercial buildings are found on all sides of the public square, with more substantial commercial buildings on the north side and further north one block on Washington. While seven buildings in the district date to construction by 1886, they generally have later historic or non-historic facade modifications that have significantly altered the appearance of the buildings. Industrial uses are found at the north end along Washington Street as well. The "star" school, built in 1878 at a cost of \$20,000, is located in the northeast corner of the district (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 626). Likewise, the Congregational Church is located on the corner to the south of the school (1875 building depicted), the Methodist Episcopal Church is at the southwest corner of the square (1869 building depicted), and four other churches are within or slightly outside the district (*History of Hardin County, Iowa* 1883: 619, 623, 625-26; HCHS 1981: 38).

In 1882-83, Judge John Porter led the efforts to construct a second railroad line through Eldora, the Chicago, Iowa & Dakota, or "Slippery Elm". Interestingly, though served by two railroads, neither depot is located within the downtown area. The Iowa Central Railroad depot is about four blocks west of the square while the Chicago, Iowa,

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- Eldora in 1875 -

— Notice South is at top of map below, present day maps have north at the top. —

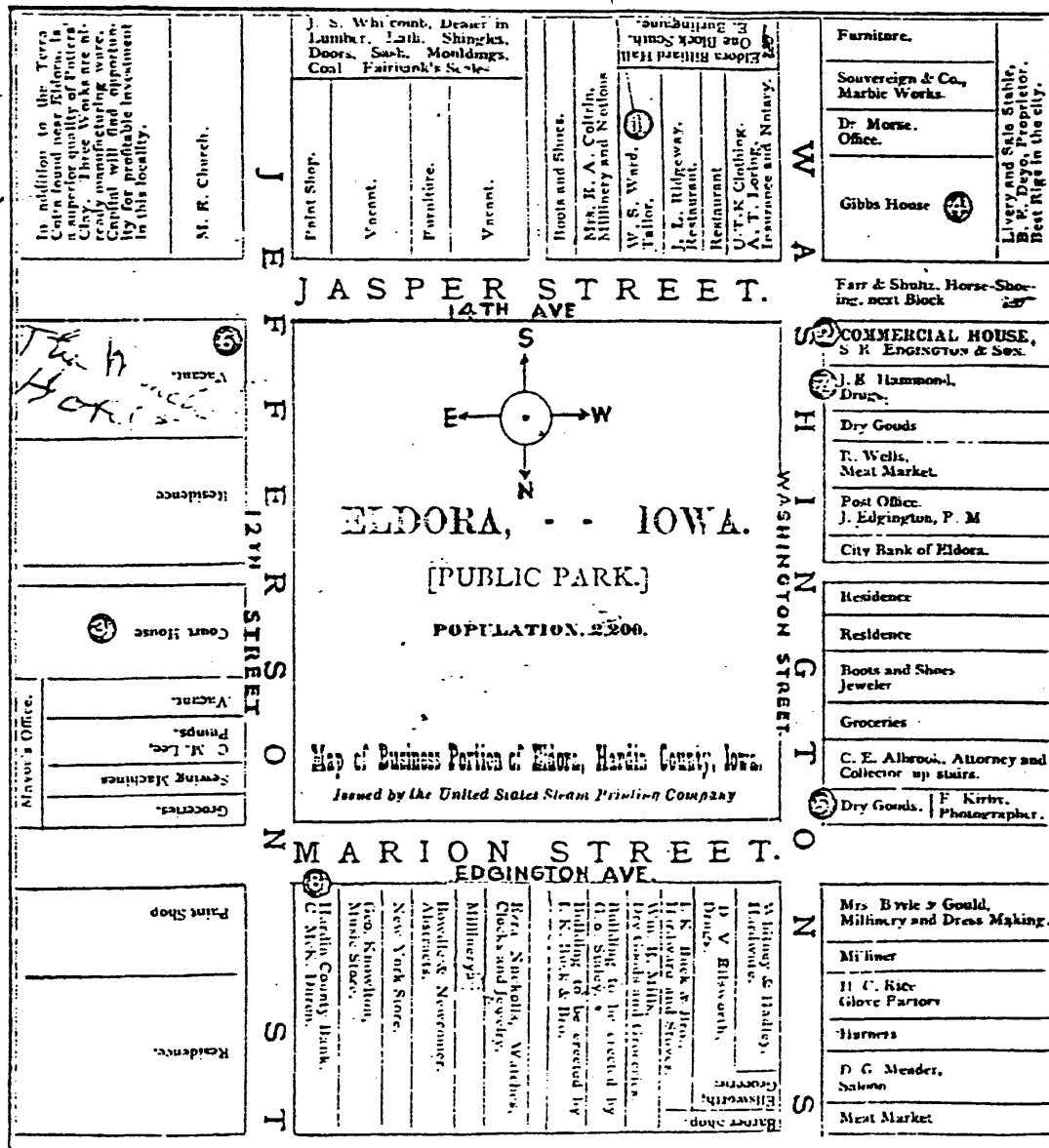


Figure 1. Map of businesses in Eldora in 1875 (Eldora in 1875).

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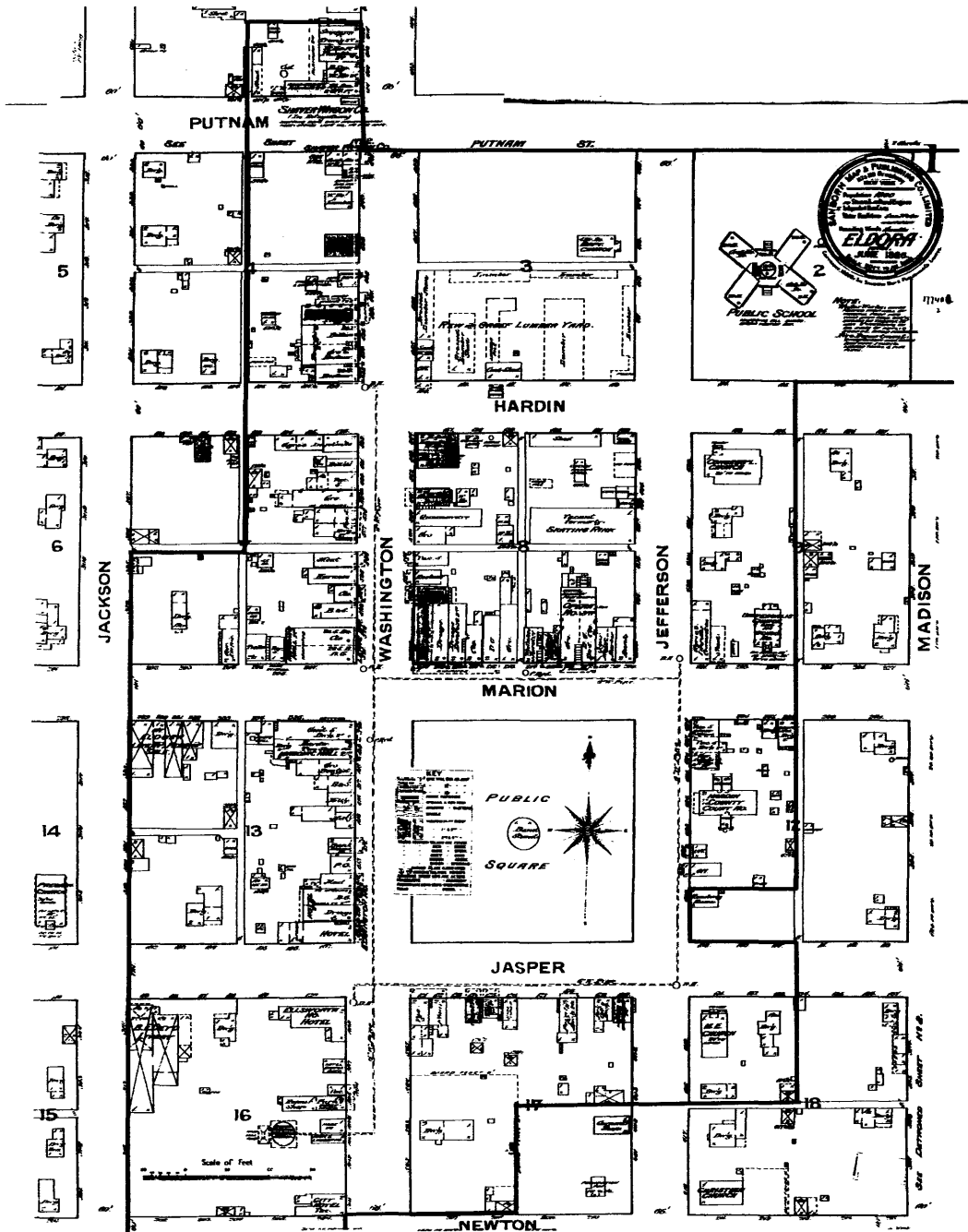


Figure 2. Sanborn map of Eldora in 1886, with district boundary overlaid (Sanborn Map Company).

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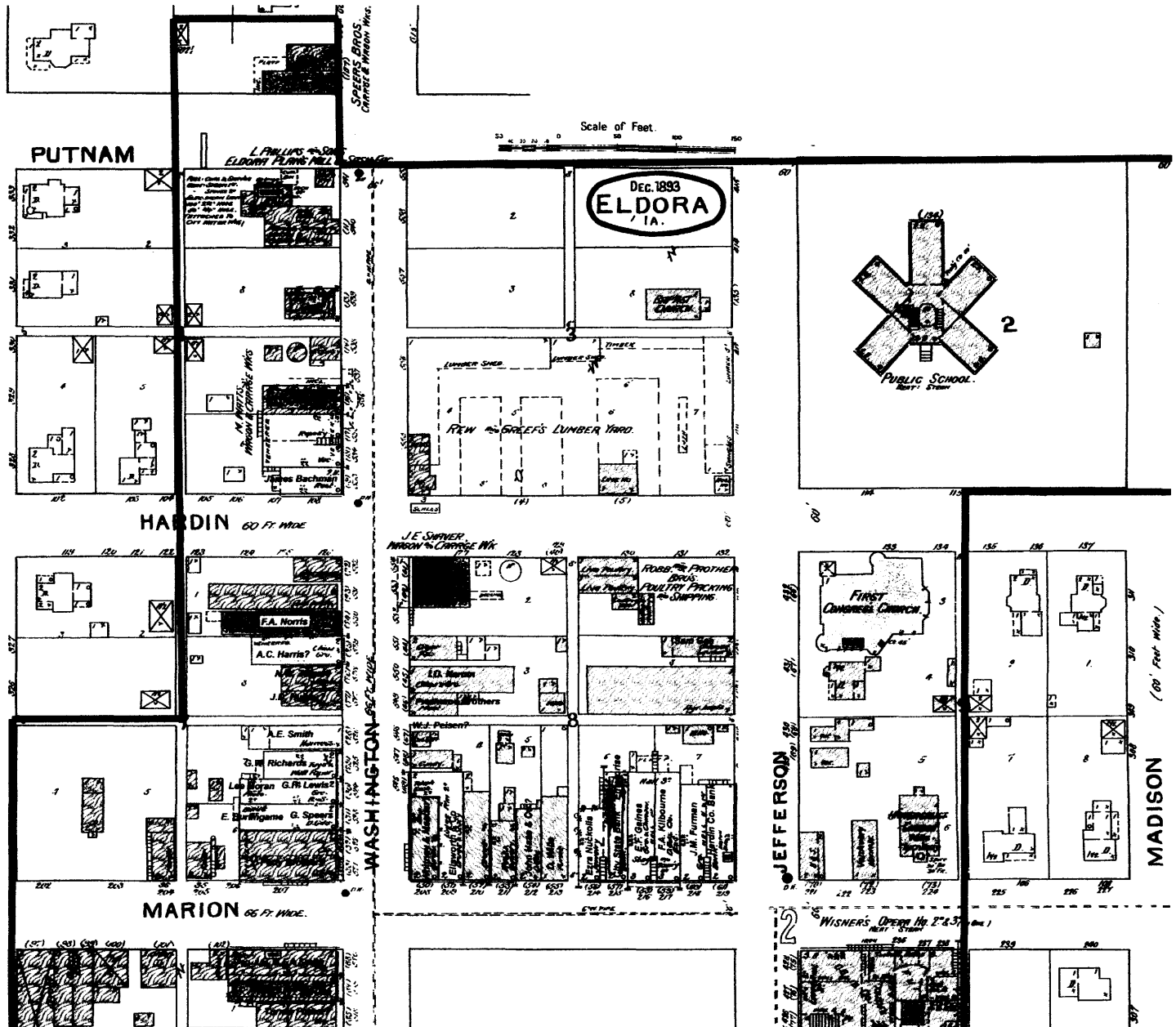


Figure 4. North half of downtown Eldora in 1893 with known business names added (Sanborn Map Company).
(shaded buildings are demolished)

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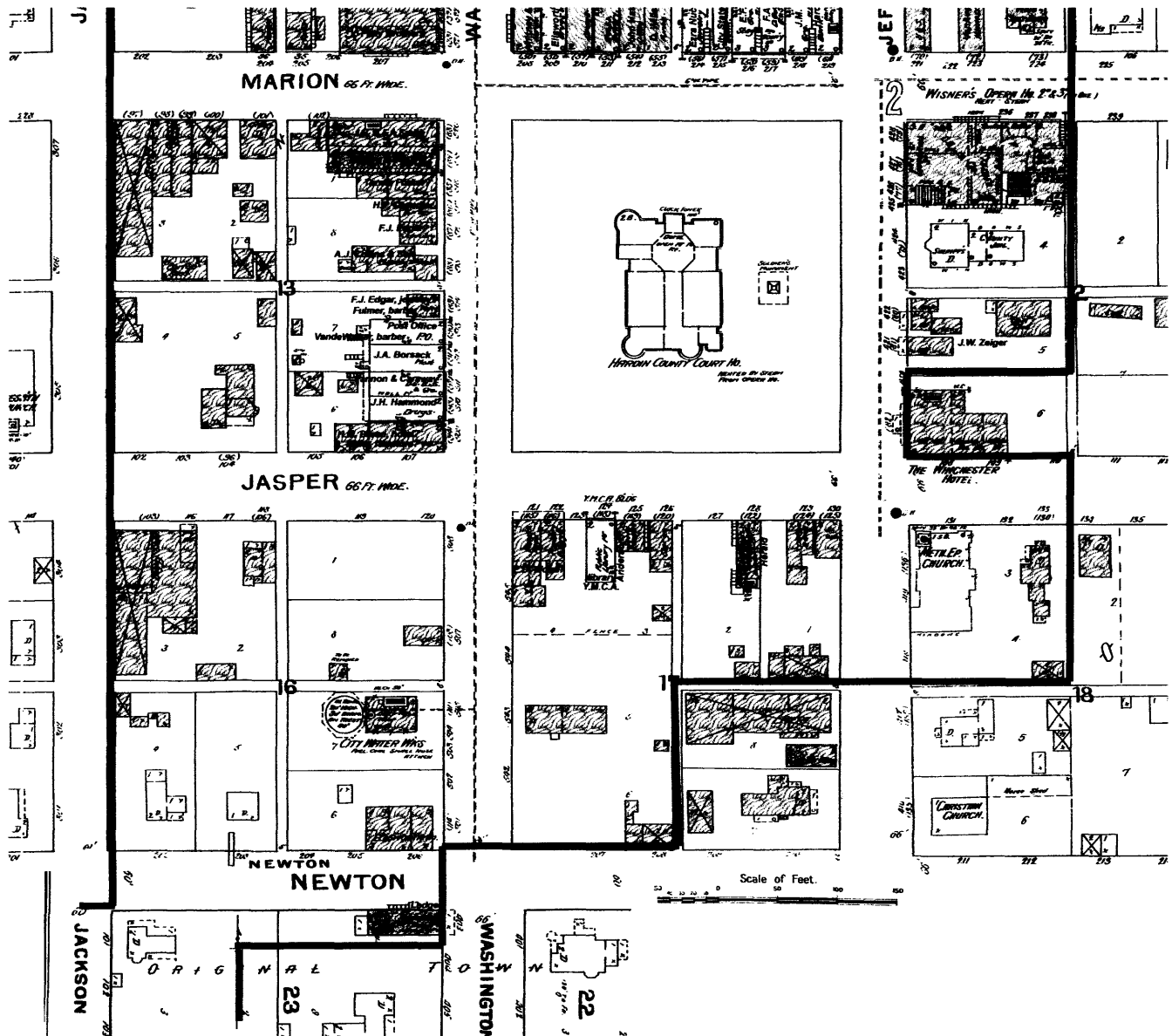


Figure 5. South half of downtown Eldora in 1893 with known business names added (Sanborn Map Company).
(shaded buildings are demolished)

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& Dakota depot is about three blocks east of the square (Figure 3). By the middle of the 1880s, building construction in Eldora picked up, with more substantial second generation brick buildings replacing the earlier buildings. Moir later wrote that the "town took another growing spell which has never slackened until the present decade, when more good buildings and better stocks of goods have been had than at any time before" (Moir 1911: 237). Fourteen extant buildings were constructed from 1887 to 1895 in the Eldora Downtown Historic District, including six commercial buildings, a post office, the courthouse, the jail and sheriff's residence, the Y.M.C.A./library, two churches, and two houses. Additionally, three significant non-extant buildings on the east and southeast sides of the square were built, the Wisner Opera House, Winchester Hotel, and Memorial Hospital.

It is these fourteen extant buildings constructed from 1887 to 1895 that define the 19th century appearance within the Eldora Downtown Historic District and represent the strong spirit of development of the downtown in this period. The mixture of commercial and other community buildings represent the nature and focus of improvements for Eldora as it matured as a railroad community and county seat. Town services and amenities in particular were targeted in this period, starting with the construction of a new post office on the west side of the square in 1887 (1350 Washington Street, Map #55, State #42-01220). The post office had been in a smaller building in this location previously, and the new two-story brick building was described in 1893 as the "finest postoffice [sic] building in central Iowa" ("Improvements," *Souvenir Edition, Eldora Herald*, January 1893). This effort was followed by the construction of the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) and library building in 1890 (1233 14th Avenue, Map #64, State #42-00472). Property was donated in May 1890 to the Y.M.C.A. on the south side of the square, and the first story of the building was designated as a free reading room and public library, leased to the City of Eldora for 99 years (Moir 1911: 242; HCHS 1981: 52-53).

Building efforts continued strong in the early 1890s as plans for constructing a new courthouse in the public square took shape (1215 Edgington Avenue, Map #1, State #42-00486). After much discussion, a special election was held on March 12, 1891 to approve \$40,000 from Eldora citizens for the construction, matched by \$20,000 from the county. Architect T.D. Allen of Minneapolis designed the structure, and the contract was let to John F. Atkinson of Marshalltown for the construction on August 12. Construction of the Bedford limestone and St. Louis pressed brick courthouse soon began and was completed on January 30, 1893, with the cornerstone laid on April 20, 1892. In 1893, the contract for concrete walks on the square was let at a cost of \$.12 per square foot. With construction on the square, the Civil War monument and cannon, placed in the public square in 1885 and 1886, were moved to their locations on the east side of the courthouse. The obelisk Civil War monument was crafted in Des Moines at a cost of \$3,000 in 1885 and placed in a ceremony in 1886. With the courthouse underway, construction also began in spring 1893 on a new jail and sheriff's residence on the east side of the square on the site of the earlier courthouse, also built by John F. Atkinson (1309 12th Street, Map #17, State #42-00461). This Romanesque brick building, which included quarters for the jail as well as a good residence for the sheriff and his family, was completed in September 1893 (Moir 1911: 63-65; HCHS 1981: 6; HCHS 1987: 1; "Civil War Monument Dedicated," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1978, sec. D, p. 8; *Hardin County Civil War Statue*. Pamphlet. Hardin County Historical Society).

Perhaps spurred by the courthouse construction and other improvements, several prominent Eldora residents constructed commercial buildings in this period as well. The January 1893 souvenir edition of the *Eldora Herald* noted: "During the years 1891 and 1892 Eldora underwent an architectural metamorphosis. Nearly all the buildings erected were handsome, costly and of modern design. The business portion vied with the residence part in the

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erection of fine buildings. In the business portion the buildings erected are all of brick and are of a most substantial character" ("Improvements," *Souvenir Edition, Eldora Herald*, January 1893). On the west side of the square next to the post office, widow Julia A. Wisner built a two-story brick building in 1892 at a cost of \$3,000, occupied by the meat market of J.A. Borsack (1360 Washington Street, Map #57, 42-01221). Her son, George H. Wisner, president of Hardin County Bank since his father's death in 1889, led the construction of a new bank building on the east corner of the north side of the square in 1890 (1202 Edgington Avenue, Map #10, State #42-00487, remodeled in 1920) and built the Wisner Opera House at the north corner of the east side of the square in 1892 at a cost of \$62,000, a three story brick building with a dry goods store on the first story and theater on the upper stories (site of Map #16, demolished by fire in 1921). Ironically, the first event in the opera house was the funeral of Wisner, who died unexpectedly at age 28 on January 11, 1893 leaving his mother Julia, wife Fannie, son Gilman H., and daughter Lois J. Businessmen Ezra Nuckolls and W.S. Porter built a two-story building of St. Louis pressed brick on the north side of the square, with Nuckolls' jewelry store located in the west half, City State Bank in the east half, and offices on the upper stories (1228-1236 Edgington Avenue, Map #7, State #42-01256). John Porter sold land at the south corner of the east side of the square to W.G. Winchester in 1890, who formed the Winchester Hotel stock company with W.J. Moir and C.E. Greef to construct a three-story brick hotel on the site (demolished, vacant lot). A few years later on the west side of the square, retired businessman Joseph H. Smith constructed a double-storefront building around 1896 (1314-1318 Washington Street, Map #53, State #42-01217). ("Opera House was Project of Geo. H. Wisner," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 3, p. 4; Moir 1911: 237; "Improvements," *Souvenir Edition, Eldora Herald*, January 1893, HCHS 1981: 42).

Several brick buildings were constructed on Washington Street north of the northwest corner of the square in this period as well, reconstructing nearly the entire west side of this block. George H. Lewis built the corner building in 1890 (demolished and replaced in 1916), and he teamed with George Speers to construct the double-storefront adjacent building to the north in 1891 for his business (groceries, boots and shoes, sewing machines) and that of Speers (dry goods, millinery) (1274-1280 Washington Street, Map #46, State #42-01194, c.1961 façade). Lewis's half-brother Frank Furman built the two-story brick building next to the north in 1891, occupied by the book and stationery business of G.W. Richards & Company and the American Express Company (1258 Washington Street, Map #45, State #42-00520). The earlier one-story building adjacent to the north owned also by the Furman family was sold in 1892 to Andrew E. Smith, who remodeled it and built an addition for his harness shop (1250 Washington Street, Map #44, State #42-01195). In 1894, S.E. Whitney, Allen Meader, and Richard Skinner built the two-story double-storefront brick building to the north (1234-1240 Washington Street, Map #43, State #42-01196) ("Improvements," *Souvenir Edition, Eldora Herald*, January 1893; Hardin County Transfer Books).

Three landmark churches, a high school, and a hospital are included as major construction projects as well in this period in Eldora. In spring 1891, the Methodist Episcopal Church moved their earlier building at the southwest corner of the square, building a new church of St. Louis pressed brick on the site at a cost of \$10,584 that would seat 1,200 (1415 12th Street, Map #60, State #42-01241, remodeled in 1929). In the block to the north of the northeast corner of the square on 12th Street, the Congregational Church also built a new stone church with frescoed walls and ceilings in 1893-1894, designed by Charles A. Dunham of Burlington and built by John F. Atkinson of Marshalltown (1209 12th Street, Map #24, State #42-00460). Julia A. Wisner donated \$10,000 in February 1893 to sway the vote to construct a new building rather than remodel, as well as promising to also present a pipe organ in memory of her son George. The church was dedicated on April 8, 1894, reaching a cost of \$21,500 plus the \$5,000

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organ. Across the street to the north, a new high school was built to the east of the 1878 school at a cost of \$25,000 (demolished in 1950s for new addition). To better serve his patients, Dr. N.C. Morse built a 21-room emergency hospital on the east corner of the south side of the square in 1896 at a cost of \$16,000, with an addition constructed in 1904 for six additional room and cold storage (replaced by new hospital on site in 1939, Map #61). This marked the first hospital and improved health services for Eldora, which would continue to operate in this location into the 1960s. Finally, at the southwest corner of the square, the First Baptist Church built a new church in 1899 also, which was used until the church moved in 1968 (demolished) ("First Eldora Methodist Sermon Delivered in Log Cabin," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 28; "Congregational Society Organized Here in 1868," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 26; Stiles 1995; HCHS 1981: 5, 36-38; "Pottery Hill was Site of 1854 School," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 8, p. 1; Moir 1911: 245).

With the new construction, "the business portion of the city is almost entirely composed of brick, stone and steel" by 1900 (*Eldora, Iowa* 1900). Images from the period show the maturity of the community, now dominated by two story and some three story brick buildings (Figure 6). The Sanborn map from 1900 also shows the development of these second generation buildings throughout the downtown (Figure 7). Commercial buildings are found around the square, as well as north along Washington Street. Large churches now anchor three quadrants of the downtown, built in the 1890s. More industrial/manufacturing and service interests are located in the north end and west edge of the downtown. Leading business firms in Eldora by 1900 included the Haas Brothers (dry goods, Wisner Opera House), D. Wills (furniture, 21 years), T. Forker (grocery, 20 years), J.W. Zeiger (wood, coal, and ice, 20 years), Ellsworth Drug Company (reliable drug house, old established firm), Frank Near (livery and transfers), Carter & Shafer (implements and buggies), W.H. Minton (painter & decorator), J.D. Newcomer (real estate), J.F. Hardin (abstracts, farm loans, real estate), J.H. and F.A. Smith (merchant tailors), A.E. Smith (harness and saddlery), W.H. Johnson & Co (flour, feed, and hay), G.V. Close (Close's short order restaurant and lunch counter), F.G. Brennecke (meat market), George W. Schoenhut (hair tonic), N.S. Carpenter (lawyer), C.C. Gethman (physician), George E. Diehl (dentist), S.E. Watters (artistic photographer), W.S. Porter (manager of Chicago, Iowa & Dakota Railway) (*Eldora, Iowa* 1900).

The business community also worked on attracting industry to support the community, with the 1893 souvenir edition noting: "Not satisfied with the erection of fine business blocks, palatial residences, magnificent churches, and hotels, one of the finest opera houses in Iowa, etc., they are reaching out to secure a large sewer pipe and paving brick factory" ("Business Firms, *Souvenir Edition, Eldora Herald*, January 1893). The Eldora Pipe and Tile Company would become the most important industry in Eldora by 1910 (Moir 1911: 245-246). Other industry in town by 1900 included the Eldora Spring Manufacturing Company (wind mill springs, regulators, and repairs), Eldora Clay Manufacturing Company (pottery), five brick and tile works, one flour mill, one planing mill, one foundry, and one cigar factory (*Eldora, Iowa* 1900). A 1900 publication observed that "the business men of Eldora are a hustling, energetic, and enterprising class of men and if you want a home or business location in one of the prettiest towns in the state, write to any of the firms listed below and they will be pleased to give you any information you may desire" (*Eldora, Iowa* 1900). This enterprising spirit would carry Eldora into the 20th century.

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Figure 6. Post card of north side of square around 1900 looking east to Wisner Opera House (Farmer collection).

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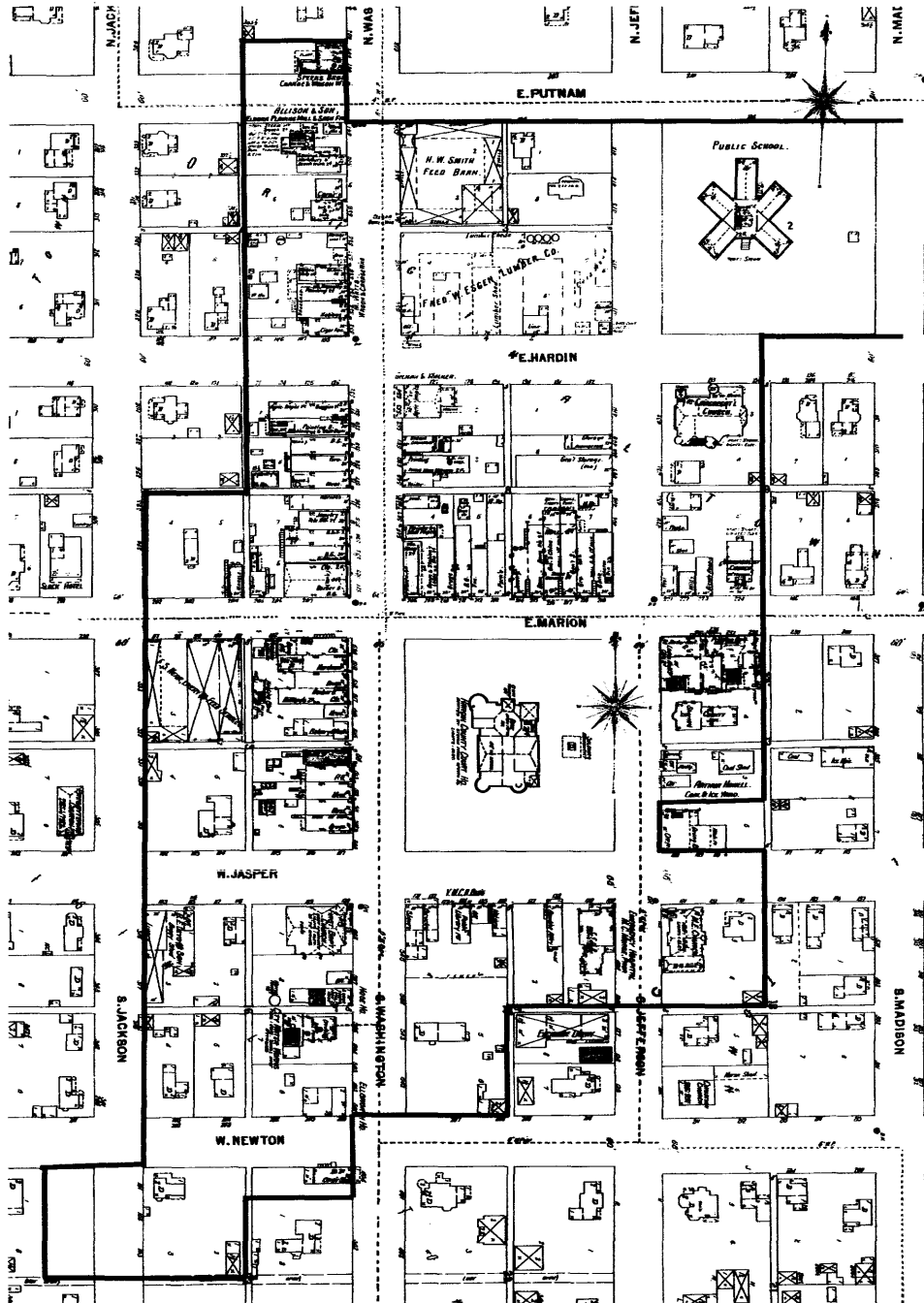


Figure 7. Sanborn map of Eldora in 1900, with district boundary overlaid (Sanborn Map Company).

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Community Development in the early 20th Century (1900-1935)

The years from 1900 to 1935 marked a period of community development in Eldora that continues to characterize the historic buildings in and appearance of the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Construction was not steady through this period, but it was concentrated in the decades from 1911 to 1931, with 17 extant buildings dating to this period. Many of these buildings are now considered prominent landmarks in the community, defining the appearance and feel of the district. Six buildings date to the period from 1900 to 1910 while seven commercial buildings, two churches, and a parsonage date to the period from 1922 to 1933. An additional four earlier buildings had significant exterior changes in this period. Overall, these buildings account for 34 of the 72 historic buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The population decreased from 2,233 in 1900 to a reported 1,995 in 1910 before rebounding to 3,189 in 1920 and remaining nearly steady at 3,200 in 1930, mirroring the spurt of construction activity in the middle of this period. By the end of this period, the majority of the first generation buildings composing the early appearance of Eldora were replaced with more modern, substantial buildings, creating a mature look for the community and the downtown.

In 1901, Eldora was described as a "prosperous and rapidly increasing city, beautifully located in the midst of rich farming land" with "great enterprise and boundless public spirit are stamped on every feature" (*Pictorial Souvenir* 1901: 61). The town had an "active and enterprising class of business people, no undertaking being too great or too grand for them to carry to a successful end" (*Pictorial Souvenir* 1901: 61). Additionally, "one of the certain signs of material progress of Eldora is its good business houses and substantial business blocks. They are nearly all built of brick and are of a substantial character" (*Pictorial Souvenir* 1901: 72). The community had a large number of secret and civil societies, fine system of waterworks, good volunteer fire department, two excellent railroads (Iowa Central and Chicago, Iowa, & Dakota), and electrical service, including 3,400 incandescent lights and street lights. The State Industrial School for Boys was a mile west of Eldora, and the scenic Iowa River was a mile east of downtown. Deposits of clay near Eldora sustained the three large brick and tile plants: Eldora Pipe and Tile, Eldora Tile Works, and XYZ Plant. Two grain elevators and a large flour mill served Eldora and the surrounding agricultural country. Similarly, the dairy and creamery business was listed as one of the leading and rapidly developing industries in Eldora (*Pictorial Souvenir* 1901: 63-67, 72).

After the significant construction of the 1890s, construction was slower in the first decade of the 20th century in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Three extant commercial buildings were built in the north half of town, and three other buildings were constructed in the south half of town. The two-story brick Brown Dry Goods building was constructed at 1258 Edgington in 1900 (Map #5, State #42-01258), replacing an earlier building on this lot. Similarly, next door the Citizens Savings Bank replaced an older building with their new two-story brick building shortly after they organized on February 1, 1902 (1242-1250 Edgington Avenue, Map #6, State #42-01257; Moir 1911: 203). This brought the total number of banks in Eldora to three, with Citizens Savings Bank joining the Hardin County Bank and First National Bank. Around the corner at 1235 Washington, a two-story brick building was built and occupied by the millinery shop of Mrs. J.A. Landis (Map #41, State #42-01374). Though neither the library nor post office was 15 years old, both sought new buildings in this period. Mayor Ellis D. Robb requested a donation of \$10,000 in 1902 to partially fund a new library in Eldora from philanthropic businessman Andrew Carnegie, and he agreed to provide the funds. Patton & Miller, library architects of Chicago, designed the new building, situated on the south side of the square. The library was dedicated on May 11, 1903 (1209 14th Avenue, Map #62, State #42-

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00471). At this time, Eldora was one of over 300 libraries in the country funded by Carnegie and one of at least 20 libraries in Iowa (Moir 1911: 242-243; "Andrew Carnegie's Gifts Nearing \$100,000,000 Mark," *New York Times*, May 17, 1903). The post office also moved a few doors down, into its new building on the corner in 1904 (1384 Washington Street, Map #58, State #42-01223; Moir 1911: 241). New technology also arrived in Eldora in this period, with C.E. Greef buying the first automobile in 1904 and the first motion picture theater opening in 1906. At the rear of the post office lot on the corner of Washington and 14th Avenue, the Eldora Mutual Telephone Office moved into their new two-story brick building in 1908 (1318 14th Avenue, Map #58, State #42-01224).

Images from the early 20th century and the 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map show that the appearance of the Eldora Downtown Historic District as it was 100 years ago is similar to today. The downtown is focused around the public square, dominated by the courthouse with the Civil War monument and cannon on the east side (Figure 8). Primarily two-story brick commercial buildings are found on the two blocks of Washington to the northwest and west of the square and on the block of Edgington on the north side of the square (Figures 9-11). The south side of the square had more of a mixed group of buildings, with the emergency hospital, Carnegie library, and Y.M.C.A. building standing out between frame buildings (Figure 12). Likewise, the east side of the square had the large Wisner Opera House, jail and sheriff's residence, and Winchester Hotel with a couple smaller buildings (Figure 13). The Methodist Episcopal Church anchored the southeast corner with the Christian Church slightly further south, while the First Baptist Church anchored the southwest corner. The Congregational Church was located one block north of the northeast corner of the square, and the school was located across the street to its north.



Figure 8. Looking south at the courthouse square, c.1910 (Farmer collection).

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Figure 9. West side of Washington looking south from corner of 12th Avenue, 1902 postmark (Farmer collection).



Figure 10. West side of square looking north on Washington from corner of 14th Avenue, c.1905 (Farmer collection).

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Figure 11. North side of square looking east to 12th Street, 1907 postmark (Farmer collection).



Figure 12. South side of square looking southeast from Washington, 1907 postmark (Farmer collection).

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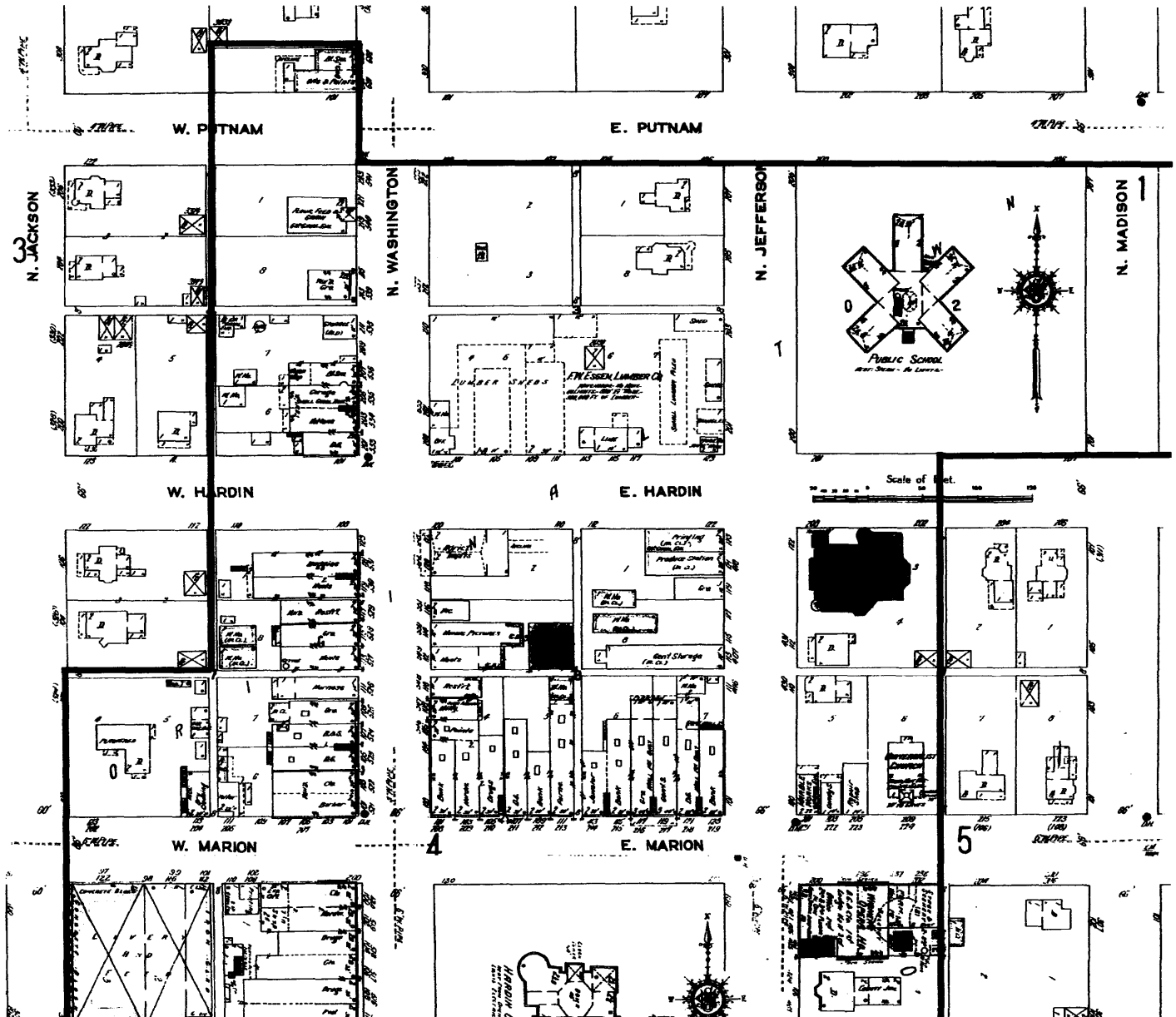


Figure 13. North half of downtown Eldora in 1911, with district boundary overlaid (Sanborn Map Company).

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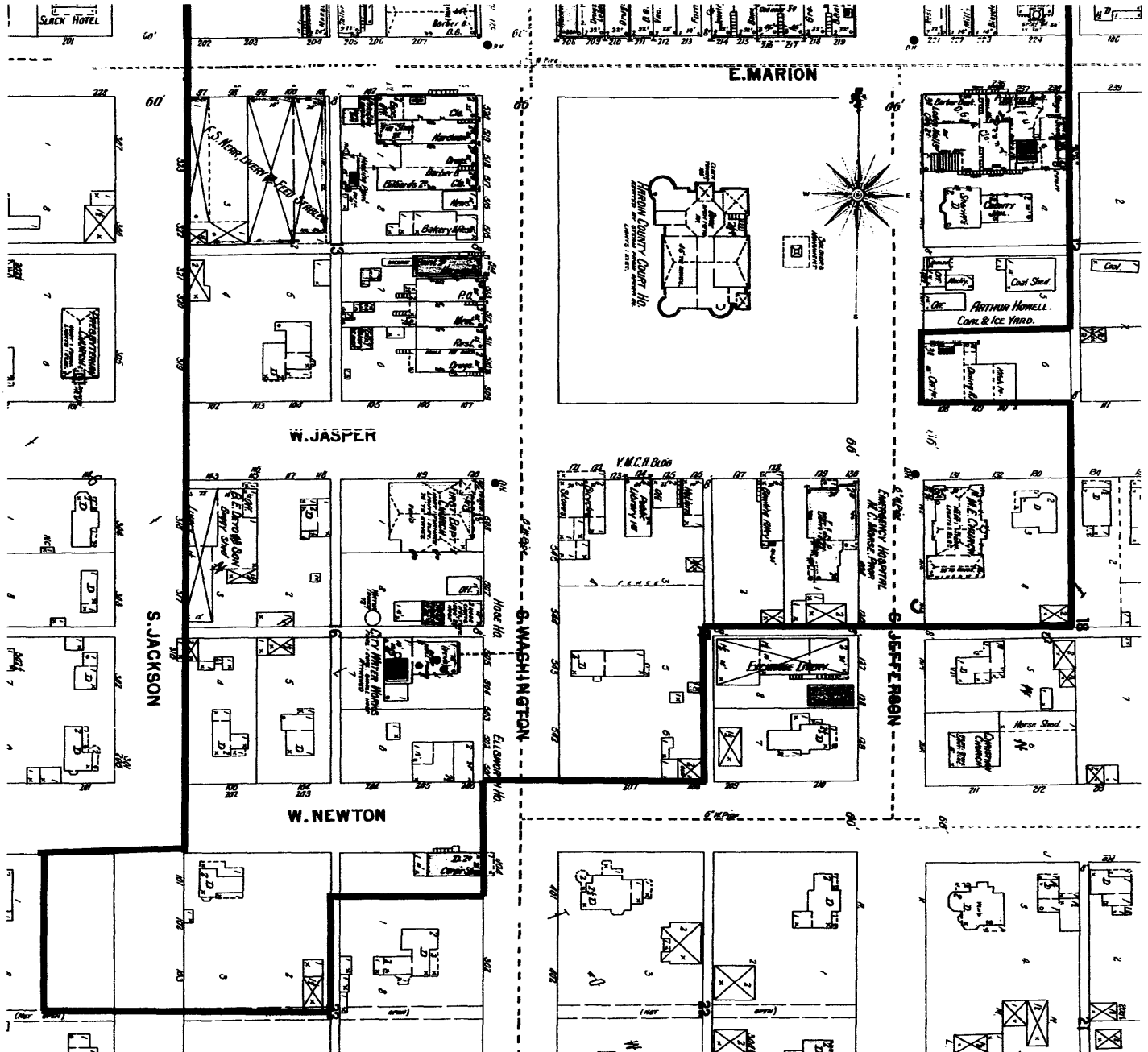


Figure 14. South half of downtown Eldora in 1911, with district boundary overlaid (Sanborn Map Company).

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The Eldora Downtown Historic District provided all businesses required for the community. Grocery, meats, dry goods, clothing, and drugs could be bought at several locations. Boots and shoes, harnesses, jewelry, furniture, hardware, paints, and candy were found in other stores. Tailors and barbers provided services to patrons. Upper stories of downtown buildings served as offices for abstract companies, lawyers, insurance agents, doctors, and dentists as well as meeting halls for fraternal and social organizations. Notably, there were no saloons in Eldora in this period. In 1910, "Eldora has twenty-four store buildings, operated by as fine a class of business men that can be found anywhere, and to their credit be it said that no serious failure has happened among them" (Moir 1911: 247). Improvements had been made to many storefronts in the downtown as old ones were taken out and modern ones installed, "giving the city a much more modern and cityfied appearance" (Moir 1911: 248). Paving and cement curb were installed around the courthouse square and one block each way from it. Additionally, "Eldora has the most extensive cement sidewalks, the best conducted telephone and electric light systems, the best heating plant, the most commodious churches, the best school houses, the best opera house, and the best court house that can be found in any city of its size in the United States" (Moir 1911: 249).

Construction in the decade from 1911 to 1921 increased significantly, with 17 extant buildings dating to this period. The Newcomer firm (real estate and loans) completed construction on their building at the northwest corner of Edgington and Washington on the north side of the square in 1911, noted as "the most expensive business building of its size that can be found in the state of Iowa" (Moir 1911: 248). The three-story building clad in terra cotta was built at a cost of \$30,000 (1282 Edgington Avenue, Map #2, State #42-00485) ("1911 was Big Building Year," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 5, p. 2). Two other major building projects were completed over the next two years, the Pythian Building and the H.W. Emeny Auto Company and Emeny office building. In 1911, the Knights of Pythias occupied a leased hall in conjunction with the I.O.O.F., and they began to plan for their own building. The Newcomer family was also involved in these plans, with Caroline and son Carl Newcomer accumulating the parcels in 1911 and 1913 for the building site. The property was then transferred to the Pythian Company in April 1914, who continued to own it until 1944. They built a large two-story brick building at the northeast corner of the square, designed to accommodate meeting rooms and offices on the second story, a business on the west half of the first story, and the Grand Theatre on the east half of the first story (1148-1158 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246). The Brown Department Store soon moved into the first story, operating here into the 1930s. By the 1920s, offices on the second story included Central States Electric, George Ward law, and Frank Diehl insurance. The meeting rooms served the Knights of Pythias as well as several other organizations. The Grand Theatre, after changing hands several times and remodeling, continues to operate in the east half of the building (Moir 1911: 155; "Eldora Had First Picture Show 1906; Early Theatre Known as 'The Bijou,' *Centennial Edition, Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953; "Eldora Rotary Club is 33 Years Old," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 4, p. 7).

With the increasing number of automobiles and demand for new services, related businesses began appearing in Eldora. By 1910, the Eldora Motor Company had built a garage with a capacity of 55 cars south of the courthouse square (demolished, Moir 1911: 247). Plans were released in January 1912 for two buildings on the east side of north Washington. A large garage would be built at the corner of Washington and 12th Avenue by Gilman H. Wisner for the H.W. Emeny Auto Company (1201-1209 Washington Street, Map #37, State #42-01210), and a smaller building next door would serve as the offices for Dr. H.W. Emeny and the *Hardin County Ledger* (1215 Washington Street, Map #38, State #42-01211). Reed & Stem from St. Paul, Minnesota designed both buildings. The auto company was "fireproof" in design with reinforced steel and concrete construction. The show room downstairs could

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fit two cars and the show room upstairs could fit several, while the garage had a capacity of 250 cars with 75 on the first story. The machine shop was equipped to make parts for various automobiles, reportedly the only shop west of Chicago equipped to complete such work. The auto company provided service to motorists traveling the Trans-Continental Highway (south of Eldora) and the St. Paul to St. Louis Short Line (east of Eldora) and was reportedly termed the "Motor Palace" of Iowa ("Garage & Newspaper Office for Dr. H.W. Emeny, Eldora, Iowa," *Eldora Herald*, January 25, 1912; "1912 - The H.W. Emeny Auto Co.," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2, p. 2; "Emeny Garage 'Modern' in 1912," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1978, sec. E., p 11). Over the next decade, several other garages would also be built in Eldora. The 1920 Sanborn map shows in addition to the Emeny garage, there were new garages at the corner of Edgington and 14th Street, Washington and 15th Avenue, and 11th Street and 14th Avenue. This development was located on the edges of the older downtown area (Figures 16, 17). Additionally, there was a garage in an earlier building at 1156 (1140 in 1920) Washington Street (Map #35), and a gas station at the corner of Washington and 11th Avenue. The five garages employed six people as owners or salespersons, eight in offices, and 22 in shops ("The Auto Industry," *Eldora Herald*, June 30, 1921). Many of these early automotive businesses combined service and parking with sales of automobiles and parts. In 1921, Thomas Larson built the garage at the corner of Washington Street and 15th Avenue for the Fowler Buick Company, who operated a garage and sales room (1425 Washington Street, Map #70, State #42-01228). The Willard Storage Battery Company and milk station of Omar T. Weigand moved into the two small storefronts in the north portion of the building ("New Fowler-Buick Home," *Eldora Herald*, August 4, 1921, 1; Moved to New Garage," *Eldora Herald*, November 24, 1921).

More traditional businesses also continued to prosper in this period as well. Nine additional one or two story extant brick commercial buildings were constructed from 1911 to 1921 in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Only two were built facing the square itself, the two-story creamery and electric company building replacing an older building on the east side (1317 12th Street, Map #18, State #42-01244, 1938 façade remodel) and the two-story Ward Hat Shop built on a vacant lot on the south side (1245 14th Avenue, Map #65, State #42-01238). Within a block to the south on Washington, the one-story building for the W.C. Baker Feed Store was built in the early 1910s (1413 Washington Street, Map #68, State #42-01229, 1940s façade), and James H. Wintermute built a two-story building adjacent to it in 1921 (1409 Washington Street, Map #67, State #42-01230). Next to the Dr. H.W. Emeny Building on the block north of the square on Washington, the two-story Larson Building was under construction by 1915, and C.E. Hough Meat Market moved into it shortly (1221-1225 Washington Street, Map #39, State #42-01212). Though demolished, the Doctors Building was built across the street at the corner in 1919 for and by doctors Ralph Gray and E.O. Koenemen with two dentists on the second story. In the block west of the square on Edgington Avenue, the two-story Carpenter Building also replaced an earlier small building on the north side by 1915, with a restaurant moving into the space (1320 Edgington Avenue, Map #48, State #42-01261). Next to a new garage on the south side (demolished), Herry J. Janssen constructed a new brick building for his implements business in 1919 (1321-1325 Edgington Avenue, Map #50, State #42-01263, reduced to one story in 1980s). Two additional one-story buildings were built to the northeast of the square, the *Eldora Herald* building (1218 12th Street, Map #20, State #42-01251) and the office of the American Railway Express (1120 Edgington Avenue, Map #14, State #42-01254).

Construction in this period is rounded off by the school and two banks. A modern school constructed in 1916-1917 at a cost of \$63,000 replaced the 1878 building for the Eldora Consolidated Independent School. For a few years, all grades attended school in this building, with the 1895 high school building used for other purposes. However, when further consolidation in 1920 included a 26 square mile area around Eldora, this building became the junior

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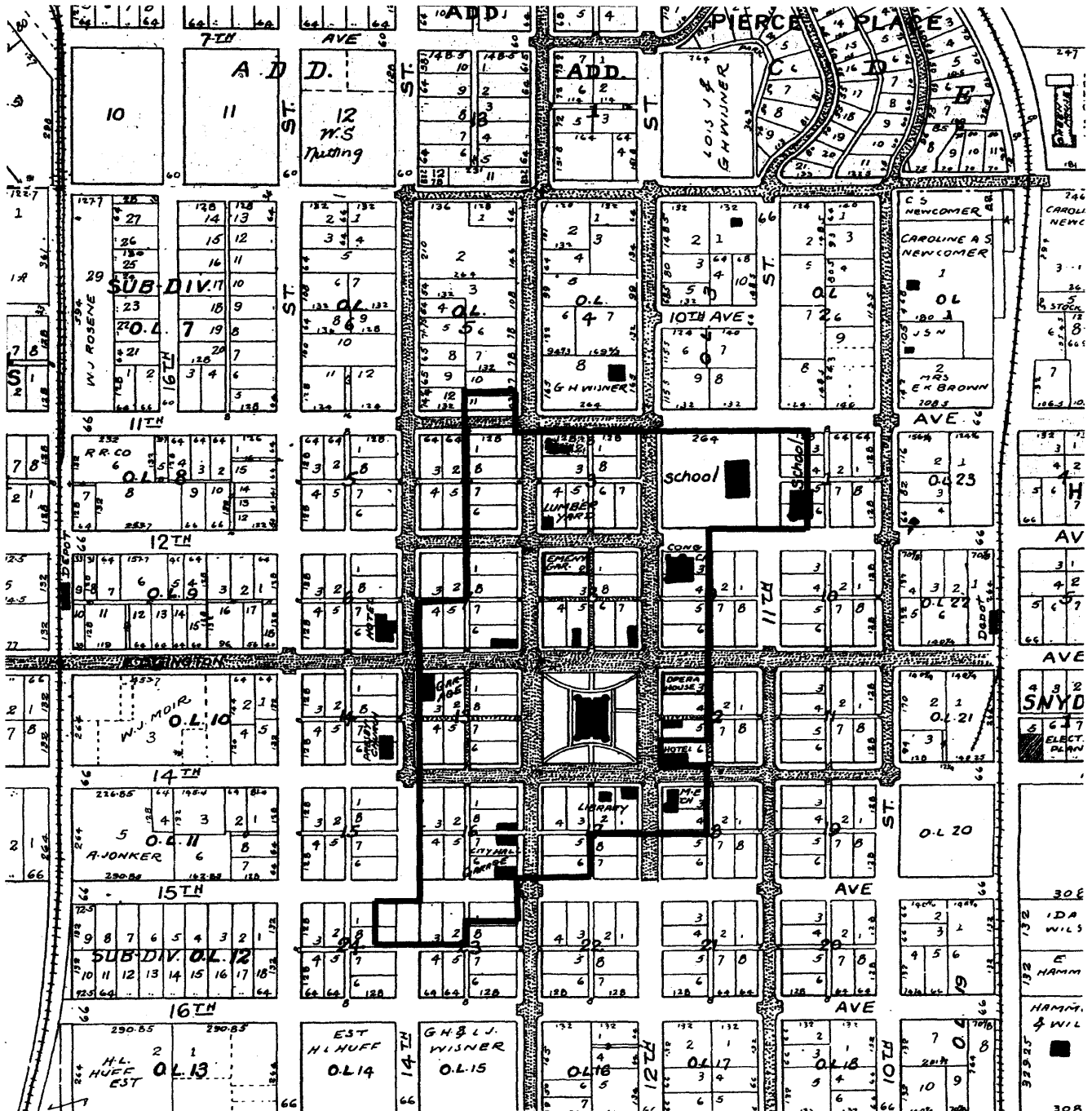


Figure 15. Eldora in 1918, with district boundary overlaid (Hardin County Ledger 1918: 36).

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Figure 16. North half of downtown Eldora in 1920 (Sanborn Map Company).

(shaded buildings are demolished)

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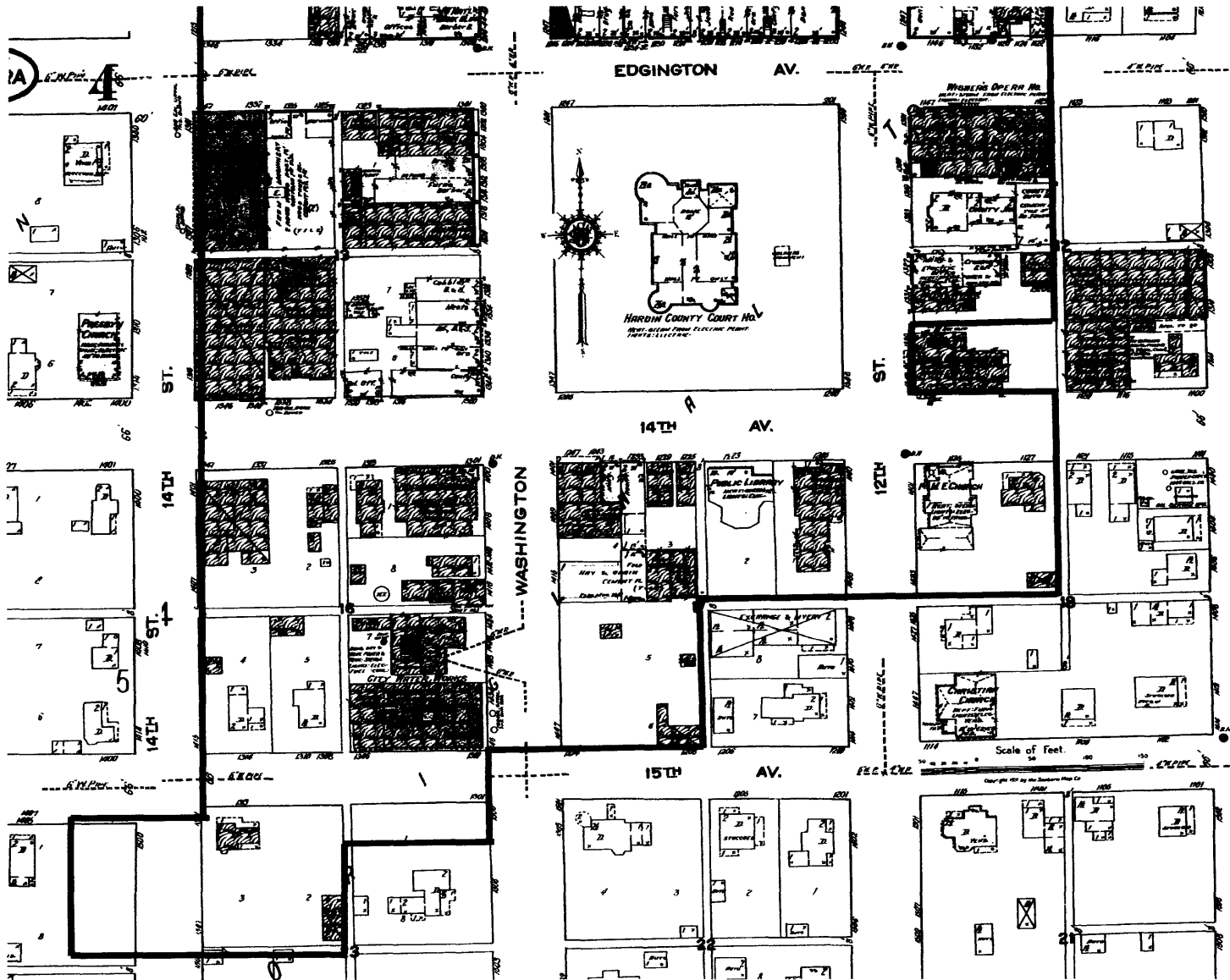


Figure 17. South half of downtown Eldora in 1920 (Sanborn Map Company).
(shaded buildings are demolished)

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Figure 18. West side of courthouse square looking north on Washington, c.1915 (Farmer collection).



Figure 19. Looking north on Washington from northwest corner of square, c.1920 (Farmer collection).

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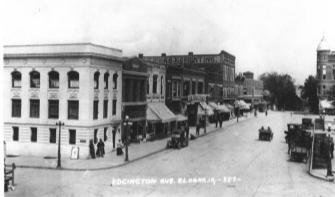


Figure 20. North side of courthouse square looking east on Edgington, c.1915 (Farmer collection).



Figure 21. South side of courthouse square looking west on 14th Avenue, c.1915 (Farmer collection).

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Figure 22. Panoramic view of buildings around square in c.1920, portion looking west (Farmer collection).



Figure 23. Panoramic view of buildings around square in c.1920, portion looking north (Farmer collection).

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Figure 24. Panoramic view of buildings around square in c.1920, portion looking northeast (Farmer collection).



Figure 25. Panoramic view of buildings around square in c.1920, portion looking southeast (Farmer collection).

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high and the new building served as elementary and high school ("Pottery Hill was Site of 1854 School," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 8, p. 1; HCHS 1981: 42). Also in 1917, the First National Bank moved west to the corner of Washington and Edgington, constructing a new two-story brick building in this prominent corner location to the northeast of the square (1300 Edgington Avenue, Map #36, State #42-01193). On the east corner of the north side of the square, the Hardin County Savings Bank updated their c. 1890 building with a new Neoclassical façade (1202 Edgington Avenue, Map #10, State #42-00487). They were not the only business to update their appearance with a new façade design. On the north side of the square, Larson Hardware moved into the L-shaped Ellsworth Drug Store building in the early 1900s, and they remodeled both façades with new brick and a "modern" design around 1910 (1274 Edgington Avenue, Map #3, State #42-01260). On the west side of the square, the Edgington Building was updated with new façade brick and design in the 1920s (1366-1376 Washington Street, Map #57, State #42-01222).

With the construction complete by the early 1920s, a significant number of the smaller first generation buildings were replaced with more substantial second generation buildings, which continue to define the oldest buildings in downtown Eldora. Fire also continued to spur replacement of earlier buildings. The largest fire that Eldora had witnessed to date took place on August 1, 1921, destroying the Wisner Opera House at the northeast corner of the square and damaging the courthouse tower and roof, walls on the jail and sheriff's residence to the south, and fronts of the Pythian Building, the express office, and the old church building used by H.H. Nazett for storage on the north side of Edgington Avenue. It displaced several businesses in the block, including the Hass Dry Goods, American Legion Hall, Post Office, bottling works, barber shop, and offices of Wisner & Bloomquist. In December, the lots were sold to Harold E. Bateson who built a new business block in spring 1922 ("Opera House was Project of Geo. H. Wisner," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 3, pg 4; "Eldora's Worst Fire – Wisner Opera House," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, June 16, 1953, sec. 3, p. 4, reprint from August 4, 1921; "Opera House Lots are Sold," *Hardin County Ledger*, December 8, 1921; HCHS 1981: 6). Sometime after this fire with the damage to the old Universalist Church used for storage, the church building was demolished and replaced by two small one-story buildings, between the Pythian Building and American Railway Express office (1134 Edgington Ave, Map #12, State #42-01252; 1128 Edgington Avenue, Map #13, State #42-01253). The Western Union Telegraph company soon moved into the building at 1134 Edgington Avenue.

In addition to construction, a number of other changes in downtown Eldora occurred throughout the 1910s and 1920s. Paving projects resulted in improvements for nearly all the streets in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. With an effort to clarify street names, new names were issued in April 1913 for the community. North-south roads were labeled as streets and numbered from east to west while east-west roads were labeled as avenues and numbered from north to south. Washington remained as Washington (instead of 13th Street), and Marion (renamed Edgington) briefly became 6th Avenue before being renamed again as Edgington (instead of 13th Avenue) with the renumbering of the avenues in 1916 ("Ordinance No. 71," Publication of *Eldora Herald*, Hardin County Historical Society). With the death of Dr. Morse in 1917, the continuation of the hospital was in limbo. In March 1921, a group of citizens purchased the property on the south side of the square, incorporating as a public hospital in 1923 to insure continued services for Eldora (HCHS 1981: 39). Improvements about one mile to the east of Eldora were also forefront in the minds of businessmen in this period. The new "high bridge" opened over the Iowa River, and Eldora businessmen led efforts to build the Pine Lake recreation area in the early 1920s.

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Many downtown businesses had operated since the last quarter of the 19th century, with owners looking to move on. For example, the jewelry store of Ezra Nuckolls on the north side of the square (1234 Edgington Avenue, Map #7, State #42-01256) was bought by employees Will and Ethel Leslie around 1915, and they continued to sell jewelry, watches, and eye glasses in this location into the late 1950s ("W.G. Leslie Now in 42nd Business Year," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2, p. 4; HCHS 1981: 47). Earlier abstract firms, including J.F. Hardin, formed a partnership and incorporated as the Hardin County Abstract Company in 1919, joined by J.D. Leonard (2nd story, 1242 Edgington Avenue, Map #6, State #42-01257; HCHS 1981: 44). On north Washington, Charles Marks and Ralph C. Marks purchased the pharmacy business of George A. Starr in 1920, including all stocks of drugs and goods, furniture, and fixtures, and agreed to not to sell liquor (1280 Washington Street, Map #46, State #42-01194; "One-Half Century of Service," *Hardin County Index*, January 16, 1970). In January 1920, K. Hall and E.R. Protheroe purchased the business of the Eldora Motor Company, announcing that they would continue to handle Cadillac, Overland, and Dodge cars from the location on north Washington (1201-1209 Washington Street, Map #37, State #42-01210; "Events of Yesterday," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 24, 1950, 2). In fall 1923, Leo. F. Wolcott bought the Grand Theatre from Mark W. Moir, who had merged Diamond Theatre with it in previous years (1148 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246). He made improvements to the theater over the next several years ("Down Memory Lane," *Hardin County Index*, October 16, 1953; "Eldora Had First Picture Show 1906; Early Theatre Known as 'The Bijou,' *Centennial Edition, Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953). While several restaurants had operated in downtown Eldora, in 1924 Harry and Lottie DeBaggio bought Busy Bee Café on the north side of square and operated it until food rationing closed it in November 1942, marking it as one of the longest runs of continued ownership for a local restaurant (1228 Edgington Avenue, Map #7, State #42-01256).

In addition to serving as the commercial center of Eldora, the Eldora Downtown Historic District also continued to serve as the nexus of community and fraternal organizations. The I.O.O.F., Masonic, and Knights of Pythias lodges continued to meet in the downtown. In 1913, the City Federation organized, later becoming the Eldora Woman's Club in 1947 (HCHS 1981: 52). Women also established the first Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) chapter in Eldora in 1915. In September 1918, they placed a memorial consisting of a boulder with bronze tablet "in memory of our honored Hardin County Pioneer and Mrs. Lois Edgington of Eldora, who named the city" ("Mrs. S.R. Edgington Named City "Eldora" after Lost Daughter," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2, p. 1; HCHS 1981: 50). Following World War I, the Walter Sayer Post #182 of the American Legion organized in September 1919, meeting in the Wisner Opera House until the fire in 1921. The American Legion Auxiliary then organized on November 21, 1921 (HCHS 1981: 48; "Legion Auxiliary Organized in 1921," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 1, p. 6; "Local American Legion Post Founded in 1919," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 4, p. 4). On April 28, 1920, the Eldora Rotary Club organized at a meeting at the Pythian Hall, sponsored by the Marshalltown club ("Eldora Rotary Club is 33 Years Old," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 4, p.7). The Masons purchased the Porter & Moir building on the north side of the square in 1920, with the auditorium on the upper story used as their meeting hall (1212-1220 Edgington Avenue, Map #9, State #42-01255). In the early 1930s, they also updated the façade of this building with new brick and a more streamlined design. The majority of these organizations met in the Masonic building, Pythian building (1148-1158 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246), or new Bateson Building on the former site of the Wisner Opera House. Another community organization formed in 1930. The purpose of the Eldora Community Club was to market Eldora and Pine Lake, attract new industry, and sponsor community events. It later became the Chamber of Commerce (HCHS 1981: 41; "Eldora Chamber of Commerce has Served Community since 1930," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1978, sec. C, p. 24).

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The strong tradition of churches anchoring the edges of the Eldora Downtown Historic District also continued in this period. The Congregational Church continued to operate in the northeast corner of the district, south of the new school, with the First Methodist Episcopal Church in the southeast corner across from the square and the First Baptist Church in the southwest corner across from the square. In 1928, St. Paul's Lutheran Church decided to move into the center of the community, purchasing land one block west of the new school at the north end of the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Construction began in May, and the church was dedicated on November 18, 1928 at a cost of \$55,000 (1105 Washington Street, Map #26, State #42-01207). The two-story gable-front Foursquare house for the parsonage was then completed immediately to the south in 1931 (1109 Washington Street, Map #27, State #42-01208) (HCHS 1981: 23, 38; "Missionaries Accent Early Lutheran Church History," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 26; "First Lutheran Services," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 9, p. 6). As part of their Diamond Jubilee celebration, the First Methodist Episcopal Church at the southeast corner of the square launched a massive remodeling effort in August 1929, reducing the corner tower, accenting and remodeling the exterior walls, installing a new organ in the east end of the sanctuary, and building a three-story addition with nine new classrooms, basement, and Ladies' Parlor (1415 12th Street, Map #60, State #42-01241). Dedication of the remodeled building, complete with a new cornerstone, occurred in March 1930 ("First Eldora Methodist Sermon Delivered in Log Cabin," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 28; HCHS 1981: 38).

The majority of businesses in Eldora in this period continued to be locally owned and operated, though chains were becoming more popular in communities in Iowa. One Iowa company opened a branch in Eldora in 1930. The Graham Department Store, headquartered in Ottumwa, opened on north Washington in a completely remodeled store with G.E. Hoover of Shenandoah as manager (1280 Washington Street, Map #46, State #42-01194) ("Graham's Marking 23rd Anniversary of Eldora Store," *Hardin County Index*, May 15, 1953, 1; "Graham Store," *Hardin County Ledger*, March 6, 1930, 1). They joined another larger company in Eldora, as the J.C. Penney Company also operated a store in the Bateson Building in this period. Additionally, local businesses offered similar goods, including the C.M. Haas Dry Goods Store, Johnson Dry Goods Store, Modern Fashion Shop, Smith Variety Store, Blackmun & Brown Clothing, and Burrows Clothier. The business subscribers in the 1931 telephone directory show other typical businesses in Eldora, including two abstract companies, a bakery, three banks, two barber shops, three beauty shops, a blacksmith, six cafés/restaurants, two cleaners, one confectionary, three dray lines, two drug stores, one electrical shop, one finance company, two funeral homes, two furniture and undertakers, six grocery stores, two hardware stores, a harness company, one hotel, one insurance firm, two jewelers, one laundry, nine lawyer firms, two lumber companies, three meat markets, one millinery, one music store, one news stand, a paint and wallpaper store, a photographer, a pump shop, two shoe stores, a tailor, a telegraph office, a telephone company, a theater, and two veterinarians. The automotive industry had spurred eight automobile dealers, two tire and battery stations, four tire stores, ten oil/gas stations, and one auto salvage company in Eldora. Health needs of the community were served by one hospital, 12 doctors, two chiropractors, and five dentists. The agricultural nature of the area was reflected in downtown businesses as well, including a feed store, two implement dealers, two creameries, three dairies, three produce stations, three hatcheries, two farm loan companies, and a sale barn. Outside of the downtown, the Eldora Greenhouse provided plants and the Farmers Co-op operated elevators at both depots (Central Iowa Telephone Company 1931).

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Only a handful of extant buildings date to the late 1920s or early 1930s. Two small extant buildings were constructed in this period. On the south side of the square, Herbert Lynn and Joe Strickler partnered to construct a two-storefront one-story brick building for the Lynn Electric Company and Pine Lake Produce Company, replacing two earlier buildings including the home of Lynn Electric (1217-1225 Edgington Avenue, Map #63, State #42-01239) ("To Erect a New Building," *Hardin County Ledger*, April 19, 1930; "Will Erect New Building," *Hardin County Ledger*, May 1, 1930). In the early 1930s, Ned Fagg constructed a new one-story brick building for his dairy business on the west side of Washington two blocks north of the square (1126 Washington Street, Map #33, State #42-01204). Fire continued to open space for further construction activity. A fire in 1928 on the north side of the square led to Charles Marks purchasing and completely remodeling the remaining structure for his pharmacy business, moving to this location (1266 Edgington Avenue, Map #4, State #42-01259) ("Marks Has 50th Anniversary Event Underway," *Hardin County Index*, January 16, 1970). In November 1932, fire again struck the northeast corner of the square, burning the Bateson Building constructed in 1922 after the Wisner Opera House fire. It housed several businesses at time – the J.C. Penney Store, Wehrman and Andrie Furniture Store, E.J. Ryan law offices, Dr. J.R. Winnett offices, post office, R.R. Bateson law office, Kozy Café, and American Legion, which lost its original charter, guns, and equipment. Widow Ella Bateson, along with son Rex R. Bateson, built again on the site in 1933, beginning with a building for the post office and a store at the east end of the lot and following with a store building on the corner a few months later (1123 Edgington Avenue, Map #15, State #42-01247; 1301-1305 12th Street, Map #16, State #42-01245, 1970s façade) ("Bateson Building Burned in 1932," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 5, p. 5; "Local American Legion Post Founded in 1919," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 4, p. 4; "City Purchased Fire Fighting Equipment," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 3, p. 2; "Past in Pictures," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, August 23, 1949, 2; "Bateson to Rebuild Post Office Building on its Former Site," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 20, 1933, 1; "Bateson Corner to be Entirely Rebuilt," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, July 20, 1933, 1).

With an economic slowdown across the county by 1931, business growth was affected in the first half of the 1930s. Though operated by the same management for several years, the *Eldora Herald* officially merged with the *Hardin County Ledger* in 1931 to create the *Eldora Herald-Ledger* (HCHS 1981: 44). Perhaps to provide a second perspective through local journalism, E.L. Gardner and A.J. Miller launched the *Hardin County Index* in January 1933, though they only owned it for a brief period of time ("Ledger is Now in 88th Year," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2, p. 6). These newspapers continue to operate in Eldora currently. Interestingly, the Eldora Business and Professional Women's Club (B.P.W. Club) organized in April 1934, originally as the Wa Tan Ye Club. The membership was composed of 75% of women actively engaged in business or a profession and 25% who were retired from business or a profession. The first president was Mrs. Lottie DeBaggio, owner/operator of the Busy Bee Café ("B.P.W. Club was Organized in Eldora Nineteen Years Ago," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 5, p. 7). Some firms did continue to prosper. For example, the Diamond Brothers, an Iowa grocery store chain based in Cedar Falls since 1920, bought the First National Bank Building and remodeled the first story to open a local store in October 1934 (1300 Edgington Avenue, Map #36, State #42-01193). They had expanded to over 30 stores in Iowa by this date, and this building was the fourth bank building remodel for one of their stores ("Diamond Bros. Gain Title to Bank Building," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, October 25, 1934, 1).

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Commercial Expansion and Growth in the middle of the 20th Century (1936-1961)

The commercial expansion and growth from 1936 to 1961 included focus on new areas within the Eldora Downtown Historic District and new businesses within the area. Construction was spurred in the late 1930s by the construction of two major buildings, a new hospital and post office. Improvements followed over the next five years, including construction, façade and storefront remodels, and street paving. With the end of World War II, ten buildings were built in the Eldora Downtown Historic District from 1946 to 1951. These buildings were located outside of the lots immediately around the courthouse square, concentrated in the north quarter and southwest quadrant of the district. Population varied slightly in this period. It was recorded at 3,553 in 1940, 3,107 in 1950, and 3,225 in 1960, all around the population of 3,035 in Eldora in 2000. The last two historic buildings were constructed in 1957 in the historic district, with remodeling efforts continuing over the next few years ending with a major façade change in 1961. Overall, 19 of the 78 historic buildings date to construction in this period or reflect significant remodeling between 1936 and 1961. They represent the final phase in the development of the Eldora Downtown Historic District.

Building in the late 1930s continued the trends of the first half of the decade and then shifted with the construction of two major community buildings in 1939. Initially, construction was as needed, such as when fire claimed the building at the west corner of the south side of the square in July 1936, leading businessman James H. Wintermute to finance construction of a new double-storefront two-story brick building at the corner prior to selling it to Ray Lewis and Henry Stebe in the fall (1247-1249 14th Avenue, Map #66, State #42-01237) (photo in November 5, 1936 newspaper of old and new, clippings notebook, Hardin County Historical Society). However, with projects to stimulate the economy and provide jobs across the country, construction in Eldora became spurred by discussion of the construction of a new hospital and post office in Eldora by 1937. With some Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds available, the American Legion sponsored the building of a new hospital on the south side of the square by pledging \$22,000 to be matched by a \$22,000 bond issue. The bond issue was approved in December 1937, and the Eldora Hospital Corporation deeded the property to the city for the construction of the Eldora Memorial Hospital (1201 14th Avenue, Map #61, State #42-01240). By the end of 1938, the \$50,000 two-story building with elevator and basement was near completion. An open house of the hospital was held on February 4-5, 1939 ("Local American Legion Post Founded in 1919," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 4, p. 4; HCHS 1981: 39; "Down Memory Lane," *Hardin County Index*, February 3, 1949, 2). As construction ended on the hospital, it was ready to begin on the post office. In September 1938, the treasury department architect Louis A. Simon drew plans for a new post office building in Eldora, located on Edgington Avenue in the block west of the square (1334 Edgington Avenue, Map #49, State #42-01146). Construction spanned from March to December in 1939, with the \$80,000 building dedicated on December 21 (Naumann 1999: 3-4; "Test Free Rural Mail Delivery in 1900," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2, p. 3).

With two major construction projects under way, smaller construction and remodeling projects followed over the next five years. On north Washington, Ralph Dickson built a small two-story tile block building with a brick façade in 1938, soon occupied by the Groth Plumbing Company (1138 Washington Street, Map #34, State #42-01203). Storefronts were remodeled in one building on the west side of the square and in the building occupied by the Busy Bee Café on the north side of the square. Remodeling also occurred in the Winchester Hotel, Masonic Building, Pythian Building and City Hall. On the east side of the square, Herb Soballe sold the Jensen Building to Central

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States Electric Company, with possession given in March 1939 ("Good Year is Reported in Building Here," *Eldora Herald*, December 29, 1938, 1). The entire façade of the building was remodeled, creating a Spanish Revival design for Central States Electric Company (1317 12th Street, Map #18, State #42-01244) (clippings notebook, Hardin County Historical Society). Northeast of the square, the Grand Theatre underwent a major remodel, enlarging it to 540 seats, eliminating the cigar store, moving the box office forward to the sidewalk, adding a structural glass storefront and canopy with neon lights, and adding a new booth, new stage and sound, new seats, carpet, decorating, and air conditioning (1148 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246) ("Eldora Had First Picture Show 1906; Early Theatre Known as 'The Bijou,' *Centennial Edition, Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953). In 1939, Eldora undertook a sidewalk project, using W.P.A. labor with property owners paying for the cost of materials. Over the course of the year, 14,631 feet of sidewalk and 11,758 square feet of driveways, parking walks, and curbs were laid in Eldora ("153 Property Owners Get New Sidewalks Here," Clippings notebook, Hardin County Historical Society). Finally, Dr. R.E. Gray and Dr. E.O. Koeneman constructed a new building one block to the east of their Doctors Building in 1941 (1210 12th Street, Map #21, State #42-01250).

The 1940 Sanborn fire insurance map continues to show similar uses throughout the Eldora Downtown Historic District as in prior years and as would continue in future years (Figure 26-27). Stores are found around the square and extending north and south on Washington Street. The library and hospital are depicted on the south side of the square, with the courthouse centered on the square and the county jail and sheriff's residence on the east side. Churches are found in the northwest, northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the district, providing a transition from the public downtown into private residential neighborhoods. The newly formed Gospel Tabernacle is depicted in their initial converted building at the southwest corner. Large garages are also located near the edges of the district, slightly removed from the area immediately around the square. Photographs from the 1940s also show a similar appearance to the current district, with buildings constructed and updated in the first decades of the 20th century (Figures 28-31). Two-story brick commercial buildings dominate the core of the Eldora Downtown Historic District.

Though no extant buildings were constructed in the early 1940s in the Eldora Downtown Historic District, remodeling efforts and business changes continued, often in a chain effect. For example, the closure of the Busy Bee Café on the north side of the square in November 1942 by the DeBaggios due to wartime rations opened this space for the Modern Fashion Shop to remodel it in spring 1944 and move from the south side of the square ("Modern Fashion Shop to Move to New Quarters May 1," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 6, 1944). With changing conditions, Harry and Lottie DeBaggio then bought the old Y.M.C.A. building on the south side of the square in June 1944, living upstairs and opening a café on the first story ("The DeBaggios Return to Eldora," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 1, 1944). The Woodward Department Store opened at the north corner of the west side of the square in August 1942, later bought by the C.R. Anthony Company in 1954 (demolished) (HCHS 1981: 44). Graham's Department Store doubled its space by expanding into the north storefront of the building as well in fall 1944 (1274-1280 Washington Street, Map #46, State #42-01194) ("Down Memory Lane," *Hardin County Index*, October 28, 1959, 2; "Graham's Marking 23rd Anniversary of Eldora Store," *Hardin County Index*, May 15, 1953, 1). The Crosley Farm Store announced in June 1943 that they would open a hatchery in the building immediately to their north on south Washington. Remodeling efforts included connecting the buildings on the interior, rearranging and redecorating departments, and likely the remodel of the façade of the original building (1413 Washington Street, Map #68, State #42-01229) ("Crosley to Open Hatchery," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 3, 1943, 8; "Crosley Opens

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Figure 26. North half of downtown Eldora in 1940 (Sanborn Map Company).

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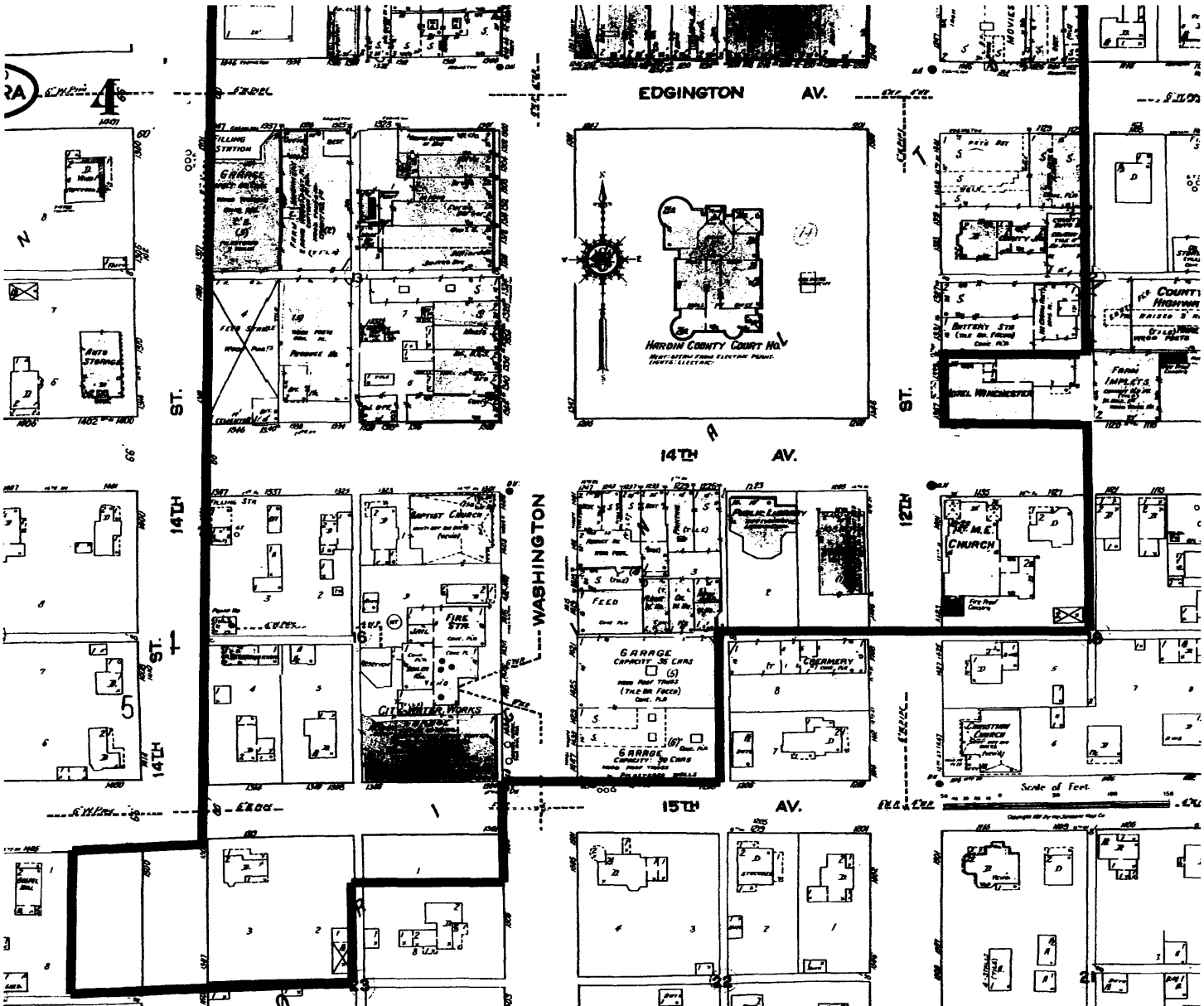


Figure 27. South half of downtown Eldora in 1940 (Sanborn Map Company).

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Figure 28. North side of courthouse square looking east on Edgington, 1940s (Babcock collection).



Figure 29. Looking north on Washington from Edgington, early 1950s (Farmer collection).

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Figure 30. West side of courthouse square looking south on Washington, 1940s (Babcock collection).



Figure 31. West side of courthouse square looking north on Washington, early 1950s (Farmer collection).

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New Hatchery Next Saturday," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 6, 1944, 1; "Crosley Farm Store Modernizes Quarters," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, March 23, 1944; "Crosley Farm Store," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 6, p. 6).

With the conclusion of World War II and increase in availability of materials, construction picked up significantly in the second half of the 1940s. With substantial buildings on most lots near the square, construction focused in areas at least half a block away, particularly in the northwest and southwest portions of the Eldora Downtown Historic District. In the district on opposite ends of Washington Street, two one-story concrete block buildings were constructed in 1946. Lauren Maltby built the one-story concrete block building at 1102 Washington Street in 1946 for his welding and machine shop, soon joined by Farmer brothers Gene and Robert who took over the business in 1952 (Map #30, State #42-01206) (HCHS 1981: 46). H.H. Nazett also constructed a new tile block and steel building for his automobile service business at 1502 Washington Street in 1946 (Map #73, State #42-01227) ("Many Others Plan to Build," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 10, 1947, 10). This area of the downtown witnessed the construction of four other buildings over the next year. Immediately to the west of the Nazett garage, C.T. Emmert built a new fireproof building of tile and steel for the Emmert Locker Service in spring 1947, which had been sharing space at the rear of the Farmers' Cooperative Creamery ("Locker Plant, Farmers Creamery Plan Expansion Program in '47," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 3, 1947, 1). On the block to the north, diagonal to the southwest of the square, Jerry Noble moved his shoe store to his new one-story building at 1317 14th Avenue in July 1947 (Map #80, State #42-01234) ("Noble Moves," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, July 3, 1947, 1). On the west side of the block south of Noble's building, Harvey Garles built a new concrete block plumbing and heating building, and Floyd Warren constructed a concrete block building for a garage in spring 1947 (1413-1421 14th Street, Map #78, State #42-01231; 1425 14th Street, Map #79, State #42-01232) ("Many Others Plan to Build," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 10, 1947, 1).

Continuing the tradition of churches anchoring corners of the downtown, the Eldora Gospel Tabernacle Church completed their building at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 14th Street in 1946, within this area witnessing post-war construction (1510 14th Street, Map #75, State #42-01376). The church was formed in August 1936, after a tent revival by evangelist R.P. Elliot. They converted a house near the corner initially for their meeting hall, working to raise funds and increase membership to construct a building. The concrete block "basement church" was built from July to November 1942 at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 14th Street, with plans to enlarge the building at a later date. In 1946, the upper story was added above the basement for the main auditorium and a two-story 28-foot extension with basement garage was completed at the south end of the building for use as a parsonage, primarily with donated labor. Dedication of the new building was held in October. The Gospel Tabernacle later joined with the Assembly of God ("Gospel Tabernacle Founded in 1936," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 9, .p. 5; "Assembly of God Burns Building Mortgage in 1960's," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 24; HCHS 1981: 35-36). The Congregational Church in the northeast corner of the district also excavated in 1947-1948 for a new kitchen and dining room in the basement ("Dig Basement under Church," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, December 18, 1947, 1). With the merger of the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Churches North and South, the church at the southwest corner became the Methodist Church in 1948 (HCHS 1981: 38).

Additional construction activity occurred from 1947 to 1951 in the north quarter of the Eldora Downtown Historic District as well. At the northwest corner of 12th Street and 12th Avenue, across from the school, the Kramer

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Implement company started construction on a modern one-story garage and sales building in early 1948. Upon completion in early March, Harold Kramer sold Oliver implements in one portion of the building and Pontiac automobiles in the other portion, merging old and new business types. A repair shop was also located in the building ("Latest addition," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 15, 1948, 1; "Implement Co. in New Home," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, March 4, 1948, 1). On the west side of Washington Street, Dr. W.G. Tietz completed his veterinarian office and hospital north of the Schaa produce station in spring 1947 (demolished; "Many Others Plan to Build," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 10, 1947, 1). In this period, the Schaa produce station also expanded their space with the construction of a new warehouse behind their building (1122 Washington Street, Map #32, State #42-01373) ("Business Moves, Remodeling Up to Par in 1951," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 1, 1952, 1). Finally, the Eldora Ideal Laundry had operated at the corner of Washington Street and 11th Avenue for several years prior to Raymond Gilbert taking over the business in 1946. In early 1951, he built a new 40 by 70 foot hollow tile block building just west of the old laundry site, moving into the new building in June (1306 11th Avenue, Map #29, State #42-01372) ("Business Moves, Remodeling Up to Par in 1951," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 1, 1952, 1).

In addition to building, street improvements brought changes throughout the Eldora Downtown Historic District in the late 1940s. A plan was approved in February 1947 to widen the streets around the square, accommodating more automobile traffic. The east side was widened by nine feet, south and west by 6.8 feet, and north by six feet, in conjunction with a plan to save large trees around the courthouse. New street lighting was also proposed for the area as part of the project, as it required removing the old lighting. To create revenue from downtown parking on the widened streets, meters were established around the square in November 1948 ("Street Widening Plan," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, February 20, 1947, 1; "As Eldora Parking Meters Went into Effect," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, November 18, 1949, 1). Parking continued to be an issue, as the *Eldora Herald-Ledger* reported: "The present city council has been concerned over the parking problem ever since it took office. It was determined to eliminate some of the traffic congestion around the courthouse square without causing too much inconvenience to motorists. The installation of parking meters in the business district is doing much to eliminate congestion around the square and the providing of diagonal parking on the streets just off the square will permit a lot more cars to be parked within easy reach of the shopping district" ("A Good Start," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1949, 2). To permit diagonal parking on the side streets, 12th Street was widened from Edgington north and 12th Avenue from the Congregational Church west two blocks, in conjunction with a water main replacement project ("Plans call for 2 more blocks to be improved," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 9, 1949, 1). Central States Electric Company also reported on June 9, 1949 that 20 of the 56 new steel pole street lights were installed in the business district. Street widening continued in the fall, with 15 feet added on 15th Avenue from Washington to 12th Street, permitting angled parking on one side ("Delay Street Work until after Fair," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, August 23, 1949, 8). An editorial noted that the widening and lighting improvements add "to the general attractiveness, especially in the business district" ("Making Progress," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, August 9, 1949, 2).

With strong building and business activity in town, the Eldora Memorial Hospital looked to expand their facilities by adding five private rooms and a solarium (1201 14th Avenue, Map #61, State #42-01240). In February 1949, they announced a gift of \$10,000 from Washington D.C. attorney and Eldora native E.B. Burling toward their project. Architect William Beuttler of Sioux City, who designed the original building, designed the new addition, which was completed at a cost of \$37,300 ("Announce \$25,000 Addition to Hospital Here," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, February 10, 1949, 1; HCHS 1981: 39; "Eldora Hospital Built Nearly 60 Years Ago," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 2,

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p. 2). Changes to business conditions also led the newspapers in town to reexamine their structure. By July 1949, George R. Stauffacher published both the *Eldora Herald-Ledger* and the *Hardin County Index*, both issued on Thursdays. He completed a more unified merger of the newspaper, yet kept them separate, by moving the *Index* into the *Herald-Ledger* building and changing the publication date to Tuesday for the *Herald-Ledger* and Friday for the *Hardin County Index* (HCHS 1981: 44).

Downtown buildings also provided incubator space for new industries in this period. In addition to the new buildings dedicated to manufacturing, such as Maltby Welding, other businesses began in existing buildings in the downtown. Whink Products Company began in 1947 near the Northwestern depot, moving to the basement of Bowman's pool hall in 1948 and then into the larger basement of the Bateson Building in 1949 (1305 12th Street, Map #16, State #42-01245). Not finding the market for Whink soap, Bob Seggerman turned to production of Whink Rust Stain Remover. Marketing expanded from traveling salesmen to statewide efforts in supermarkets after the assembly line was set up in the Bateson building. The company grew at this location, introducing Whink Aluminum Cleaner in 1954, Whink Toilet Tab in 1955, Whink Chrome Cleaner in 1957, and Whink Steam Iron Cleaner in 1959. In April 1959, with over 100,000 bottles of products shipped monthly, the company moved into larger space in the Vilmont building on north Washington (demolished) (HCHS 1981: 48; "Introduce Rust Remover to Iowa Retail Markets," *Hardin County Index*, June 2, 1950, 1, "Growing Industry in Third Location Change," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 21, 1959, 1). Likewise, Infanseat, Inc., manufacturing seats for babies, was begun around the same time by Eldora businessmen. It appears to have been bought by Pyramid Rubber Products of Ravenna, Ohio in 1951, expanding their line of baby products. Infanseat continued to operate on north Washington in this period, in the old H.W. Emeny garage building (Wisner Building) (1201-1209 Washington Street, Map #37, State #42-01210). They apparently operated here until building a new plant in the southwest portion of Eldora in February 1961 ("Business Moves, Remodeling Up to Par in 1951," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 1, 1952, 1; "Infanseat Co. Buys Large Upholstery," *Hardin County Index*, December 22, 1961, 1).

Though the surge in construction died down by the early 1950s, the business activity in Eldora remained strong, with businesses changing hands and moving to new facilities. The Eldora Chamber of Commerce worked to continue to market the community in the 1950s, issuing a publication in 1955. It noted that the city was zoned for commercial and residential areas with the "Business area built around a central courthouse square, and commercial area extend[ing] into the next 2 blocks" (ECC 1955: 4). The town had 80 retail outlets, employing around 500 people. Eldora had nine restaurants, eight grocery stores, eight clothing stores, eight building materials and hardware stores, nine service stations, seven automotive stores, six grain and feed dealers, five farm implement dealers, four department stores, four household appliance stores, four contractors, three drug stores, three shoe shops, two women's apparel and accessories stores, two furniture stores, one meat market, one bakery, and one motion picture theater. Additionally, services were provided to residents by five doctors, two osteopathic physicians, two chiropractors, five dentists, two veterinarians, three optometrists, nine attorneys, and two abstract companies (ECC 1955: 13-14). Further, Eldora had 8.4 miles of paved streets, 80 blocks of oiled streets, and 35 miles of sidewalks, along with 68 hydrants and 17 miles of sewer. It was also located on the main line of Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad and a spur of Chicago and Northwestern Railroad (ECC 1955: 3). Clubs in town included the Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Woman's Club (Federated), V.F.W., American Legion, Masonic and Eastern Star orders, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Pine Lake Wildlife Club, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Hi-Y, Tri Hi-Y, 4-H, F.F.A., R.Y.P., bridge clubs, discussion groups, and others (ECC 1955: 12).

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Various construction projects marked the end of the 1950s for the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Two new buildings were constructed in 1957. In April, Rubow & Wilcox opened their long-time barbershop in a new one-story building on north Washington (1227 Washington Street, Map #40, State #42-01213) ("These Pictures & Stories were Top News in Eldora During 1957," *Hardin County Index*, January 17, 1958, 8). Frank Monaghan also built a new small two-story building for his wife's beauty shop one block to the east on 12th Street across from the Congregational Church (1202 12th Street, Map #22, State #42-01249) ("Walls go up on Monaghan Building," *Hardin County Index*, October 4, 1957, 1). With the addition of dial equipment, work began in late 1958 on the addition to the Central Avenue Telephone Company building on 14th Avenue (1318 14th Avenue, Map #59, State #42-01224). St. Paul's Lutheran Church at the north end of the district also began a major addition project in 1958, constructing an educational wing on the lot to the east of their building (1105 Washington Street, Map #26, State #42-01207) ("58 Eldora Construction Totals \$504,000," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 13, 1959, 1). The new wing was complete in April 1959 at a cost of \$100,000 ("The Following Stories and Pictures Made News," *Hardin County Index*, January 1, 1960, 1; "Missionaries Accent Early Lutheran Church History," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 26; HCHS 1987: 23). One block to the southeast, the Congregational Church also marked a change in this period, when the church merged with the Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed churches to form the United Church of Christ in 1957 ("Congregational Society Organized Here in 1868," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. A, p. 26; HCHS 1987: 2).

The Eldora Community School system constructed new buildings and expanded into new spaces in the northeast corner of the Eldora Downtown Historic District in this period as well. In 1951, they bought the Kramer implement building across the street, moving their agricultural department, the G.I. On-the-Farm Classes, and adult Farmers Evening School into the building in 1953. With four rural districts voting to join Eldora in 1953, bringing the area of the school district to about 40 square miles, they needed a new building. A bond issue passed in 1954 to build a new elementary school two blocks to the east of the 1917 school building, completed in fall of 1955 at a cost of \$400,000. The high school offered football, basketball, baseball, and other sports, as well as band, vocal groups, and solo work. To expand their extracurricular facilities, a second bond issue passed in 1958 to build a gymnasium-auditorium addition to the 1917 high school building. Additional renovation of the 1917 building occurred at this time as well, creating a new library, new labs, and new offices. The \$265,000 addition opened for the first basketball game in the new gymnasium on January 27, 1959 ("Pottery Hill was Site of 1854 School," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, June 16, 1953, sec. 8, p. 1; "Present School Facilities," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1979, sec. B, p. 20; HCHS 1981: 8, 42; ECC 1955: 10).

Significant business changes continued at the end of the 1950s and first few years of the 1960s. Older businesses and buildings in Eldora found new owners. In 1957, the C.R. Anthony Company bought the Woodward Department Store (demolished), Robert Meader bought Harrison's variety store, and Louis Darzes bought the Harrison building (1300 Edgington Avenue, Map #36, State #42-01193) ("These Pictures & Stories were Top News in Eldora During 1957," *Hardin County Index*, January 17, 1958, 8). Record construction of \$950,000 in 1960 encompassed several large projects as well as smaller downtown projects. In downtown, remodeling projects were completed on the Blankenship building for United Food Market, Joe's Barn, Anderson Drug Store, Rubow building (Chamber of Commerce), Andrie-Creps building, Hardin County Savings Bank, and Hardin County Abstract ("Record Construction here in 1960," *Hardin County Index*, January 13, 1961, 1). For example, the storefront remodel of the

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Anderson Drug store on the west side of the square spanned from December 1959 to February 1960. The new storefront was designed with Roman brick and porcelain enamel with an aluminum covered canopy ("Anderson Remodeling Work Nears Completion Here," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, February 9, 1960, 1). On the north side of the square, work on the new tile, entrance glass door, and ash steel storefront of the Leuthold Clothing Store was completed in April to May 1960 ("Conclude Remodeling Work at Leuthold's," May 20, 1960, *Hardin County Index*, 1). Maintenance was completed on the exterior walls of the courthouse as well in June 1961. Finally, perhaps the most visible remodeling project was completed by Graham's Department Store. Graham's was a significant business in this location since 1930, expanding into both storefronts and part of the upper story in the 1940s. They had updated their storefront in 1949 and reduced the size of the upper story windows likely around the same period. In 1961, they apparently sought a new streamlined, unified appearance for their building, installing new façade brick on the entire front of the building including the storefront area. In later years they continued more interior remodeling efforts ("Extensive Remodeling Underway at Graham's," *Hardin County Index*, April 17, 1964, 1). This façade remodel represents a major point in the "updating" of the buildings in downtown Eldora.

Though remodeling efforts would continue through the end of the 20th century, only a handful of additional buildings were constructed in the Eldora Downtown Historic District, reflecting minor changes throughout the district. In 1967, the Baptist Church moved from the southwest corner of the square, making way for the First National Bank to build a new building in this location. Four buildings were constructed throughout the area in the 1970s (two due to a building collapse), and Langfritz Construction worked on "Store Front Beautification" throughout the downtown ("Langfritz Construction," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1978, sec. C, p. 7). A new city hall was constructed at the northwest corner of Washington Street and 15th Avenue in 1985, near the traditional location of city services. Finally, a new veterinarian building replaced the 1947 building in the 1100 block of Washington in 1990. In the 1990s and early 2000s, older buildings were demolished for a variety of reasons, but the vast majority of the buildings continue to stand. Through this period, the population held at slightly above 3,000. The Eldora Downtown Historic District continues to be the center of commercial, governmental, and educational activity in Eldora, as well as the location of three active churches.

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Architecture of the Eldora Downtown Historic District, 1887-1961

In addition to historic significance, the Eldora Downtown Historic District also has architectural significance under Criterion C at the local level. The buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District represent the largest and most significant collection of commercial architecture in Eldora, accounting for 60 historic buildings in the district. Additionally, significant public, religious, and educational architecture is found in the district. The district comprises a distinctive and well-preserved group of commercial buildings. Collectively, the buildings represent the typical two-story commercial building type and a range of commercial architectural styles, creating a strong historic commercial district. Individually, many of the buildings stand out as excellent examples of their style or type of architecture. The resources represent three main types: second generation buildings, "remodeling Main Street" buildings, and specialized buildings and objects. Second generation buildings were built as the community matured, replacing early buildings on lots and filling in remaining open lots. As the downtown continued to fulfill its role as the commercial center of the town, buildings reflecting the "remodeling Main Street" ethic remodeled their entire façade to create a progressive, modern look. Specialized buildings were constructed for specific purposes related to civic, religious, and educational uses, and specialized objects were often placed downtown due to civic and commemorative efforts (Nash 2002: F40-F43). The Eldora Downtown Historic District retains significant historic resources in each of these categories. Commercial buildings were constructed and remodeled as the downtown area continued to be utilized as the business district for Eldora, spanning from the late 19th century to the middle of the 20th century. Additionally, the significant architecture of the four churches in the Eldora Downtown Historic District anchors each quadrant of the district, and the significant public and educational architecture is found in the courthouse, jail, library, post office, and school, dispersed throughout the district.

The Eldora Downtown Historic District is characterized by the large number of 20th century commercial buildings, and the majority of the buildings are brick. The architectural significance of the Eldora Downtown Historic District spans from 1887 to 1961. Though seven commercial buildings date to construction prior to 1887, they do not retain the integrity to convey architectural significance from this period. The late 19th century buildings are second generation buildings built in the Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Queen Anne styles. Six commercial buildings constructed in this period are two stories in height, while one is one story and one is three stories. Over half of the 60 commercial buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District date to construction or façade remodeling from 1900 to 1935. Over half of these buildings were built from 1911 to 1921. Some of these early 20th century buildings reflect the Classical Revival style, though the majority followed the basic two-part "20th century brick commercial" style of brick walls with simple detailing. Two-thirds of the buildings were built at the standard two-story height, with the remainder as one story buildings. Brick continued to be the predominant material. Fifteen commercial buildings (25%) were constructed from 1935 to 1957, including nine from 1946 to 1951. The style of these buildings is even more simplified, often with exposed concrete block or hollow tile block construction. Nearly all of these buildings are one story in height.

As noted throughout communities across the country, a railroad connection ensured longevity and growth for a community and governmental function as a county seat brought stability to the community. Development of the town brought replacement of first generation buildings with more substantial second generation buildings. Commercial buildings often had stores on the first story, with housing or offices on the upper stories. Hotels and livery stables

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served travelers, and grain elevators and related shipping buildings connected the surrounding countryside with markets (Nash 2002: E30). By the 1880s, Eldora benefited from its position as the county seat of Hardin County as well as connections to two railroads. First generation buildings lined the streets around the courthouse square, extending north on Washington Street. Eldora reached a point in its growth and development to focus on replacing its early buildings with more substantial second generation buildings and filling in buildings on the remaining vacant lots in the area. Second generation buildings were typically multi-story in height, including one or multiple storefront spaces. Large block buildings were constructed, with multiple storefronts unified by upper story design, cornice, and details. The majority of the buildings were masonry construction, usually with brick that was either locally manufactured or shipped in by rail. Face brick, in particular, was often shipped from larger brick plants in the state or the region. Stylistic influences were greater, reflecting the confluence of national trends, local tastes, and demonstration of business success. Italianate buildings continued to be constructed in the 1880s, though Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne styles also began to be utilized in commercial building designs in the 1880s and 1890s (Nash 2002: F40-41).

Historic images show the dominance of the Italianate style among the early buildings of Eldora, constructed from the 1870s to 1890. Italianate provided the most popular inspiration for architectural style for commercial buildings across the country in this period, and more modest buildings reflect a vernacular interpretation of this style. The commercial Italianate style is characterized by arch windows with decorative hoods, two-over-two-light double-hung windows, wide projecting eaves, large brackets, elaborate metal cornices, and storefronts with cast iron columns and large windows. Two buildings remain as good examples of this style in Eldora. The earliest extant post office building dates to 1887, per the detail in the elaborate bracketed cornice (Figure 32, 1350 Washington Street, Map #55, State #42-01220). This elaborate cornice and the shared decorative hood across the second story windows reflect the Italianate styling of this brick two-story building. The Y.M.C.A. building, built in 1890, continues to demonstrate elements of the Italianate style at this later date through the bracketed cornice, individual window hoods, and tall/narrow windows (Figure 33, 1233 14th Avenue, Map #64, State #42-00472). Though paneling has covered some window area, the storefront retains its slender metal columns and original configuration. With this integrity, it is the most intact 19th century storefront in Eldora, and the only storefront in Eldora with visible metal columns. Metal columns were often shipped to Iowa from the George L. Mesker and Company of Evansville, Indiana, or the Mesker Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri.

By the 1890s, the Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne styles began to influence commercial architecture. Romanesque Revival was the choice for the First Congregational Church and the new courthouse in Eldora in 1893. The 1892 double-storefront building constructed on the north side of the square for the City State Bank and jewelry store of Ezra Nuckolls reflects the Romanesque Revival style as well, through its wide arch windows, distinctive cornices, and decorative brick and stone accents (1228-1236 Edgington Avenue, Map #7, State #42-01256). They used St. Louis pressed brick, a high quality face brick shipped via the railroad connection. The Queen Anne style is often characterized with the addition of oriel (bay) windows on the second story. The buildings typically continued to have decorative cornices similar to the Italianate style, and some buildings incorporated other features often seen in residential architecture, such as decorative surfaces and contrasting decorative materials. Though historic images show that five extant buildings were constructed with bay windows, only two retain these windows today, both on the west side of the square. The single-storefront building constructed by Julia Wisner in 1892 for J.A. Borsack Meat Market retains its oriel window, as well as decorative double-hung window hood and

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elaborate cornice (Figure 32, 1360 Washington Street, Map #57, State #42-01221). Though the size of the window openings on the oriel window have been reduced with paneling, the detail of the metal work on the oriel window remains intact. Further north on the block, retired businessman Joseph H. Smith constructed a double-storefront building around 1896 that originally had two oriel windows as well as a pediment on the cornice. The oriel window on the north half and pediment were removed by the 1950s, the period in which the other three buildings also lost their oriel windows. However, this two-story brick building retains one oriel window complete with tall windows and detail ornamentation, as well as the decorative metal cornice with four finials (1314-1318 Washington Street, Map #53, State #42-01217).



Figure 32. 1360 and 1350 Washington, Map # 56 and 55.



Figure 33. 1233 14th Avenue, Map #64.

The Classical Revival style became popular in the early 20th century, particularly for bank buildings (Nash 2002: F41). Commercial buildings in Eldora reflected this style to varying degrees. The buildings constructed in the first decade of the 20th century tended to be simplified designs. The Citizens Savings Bank, Post Office, Eldora Mutual Telephone Office, and Pythian Building share similar simple Classical Revival details through stone accents. The two story brick Citizens Savings Bank has a stone storefront cornice line with dentils, flared stone window lintels with keystones, and a stone building cornice line with brick corbelling with parapet wall rising above it (Figure 34, c. 1902, 1242-1250 Edgington Avenue, Map #6, State #42-01257). Likewise, the new post office building has stone window sills and lintels and a decorative cornice line with a parapet wall rising above it (c. 1904, 1384 Washington Street, Map #58, State #42-01223). The stone detail on the two story brick Eldora Mutual Telephone Office constructed on the rear of the post office lot is more refined, with an entry surround with 1908 in the pediment, water table, window sill, and detailing along the frieze (1908, 1318 14th Avenue, Map #59, State #42-01224). The large two-story Pythian Building has simpler accents, including a continuous stone sill on the second story windows, continuous stone course slightly above the windows, stone coping with vertical details, and inset square and diamond stone detail symmetrically place on the brick walls (1913-14, 1148-1158 Edgington Avenue, Map #11, State #42-01246). Stronger Classical Revival designs are found in Eldora on the Newcomer Building and First

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National Bank. The Newcomer Building, constructed in 1911, is clad white terra cotta and three stories in height, though only the height of the adjacent two story buildings (1282 Edgington Avenue, Map #2, State #42-00485). Classical Revival details are found in the terra cotta, including the first story blocks, water table, detail between the second and third story windows, keystones, and frieze/cornice detail with a parapet wall rising above it. Across the street, the Classical Revival style is strong on the First National Bank building constructed in 1917, with brick pilasters, stone/brick detail panels between the first and second story windows, stone frieze, and stone cornice with detail with a parapet wall above it (Figure 35, 1300 Edgington Avenue, Map #47, State #42-01193). Interestingly, both these buildings were constructed with offices on the first stories, which were later remodeled to large storefront windows for retail businesses.



Figure 34. 1242-1250 Edgington Avenue, Map #6.



Figure 35. 1300 Edgington Avenue, Map #47.

The early 20th century also marked a transitional period to more basic brick commercial buildings, often merely accented with patterned brickwork. When Gilman Wisner and H.W. Emery built the two buildings on Washington Street in 1912, architects Reed & Stem from St. Paul, Minnesota designed modern buildings. The garage for the H.W. Emery Auto Company (1201-1209 Washington Street, Map #37, State #42-01210) was described as "an expression of that architectural independence which has characterized the building activity of the past several years and displays a breaking away from all historic and meaningless examples. It has been built truthfully without regard to precedent" (reprint, "Emery Garage 'Modern' in 1912," *Hardin County Index*, June 30, 1978, sec. E, p. 11). Though the Emery garage had pilasters with small stone accents at the top similar to Classical Revival elements, the overall design was tasteful yet simple. The auto company was "fireproof" in design with reinforced steel and concrete construction. Likewise, the smaller building next door built for the offices of Dr. H.W. Emery and the *Hardin County Ledger*, simply featured a running diamond pattern in the brick work, with a simple stone crest in the frieze and coping on the parapet wall (1215 Washington Street, Map #38, State #42-01211).

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This style of commercial buildings with patterned brickwork as the primary and often only design element would continue into the 1920s and 1930s. Adjacent to the Emery buildings, Thomas Larson built a double-storefront two-story building in 1915 with contrasting brick detail (Figure 36, 1221-1225 Washington Street, Map #39, State #42-01212). The dark red brick features a basketweave pattern across the frieze, and it is accented by blond brick bands, including a soldier course above the storefront windows, two courses below the second story windows, a continuous sill under and course around the second story windows, a soldier course below the frieze, and several courses at the top of the parapet wall. Likewise, James Wintermute built a smaller two-story building on south Washington with multicolor bricks and inset detail on the parapet in 1921 (1409 Washington Street, Map #67, State #42-01230). Further down the block, Thomas Larson built a more utilitarian building for the Fowler Buick Company, incorporating a stepped parapet and four projected soldier brick rectangles across the frieze (1425 Washington Street, Map #70, State #42-01228). After a major fire on the north side of the square in 1928, Marks Drug Store purchased and rebuilt the two-story building, incorporating a basic brick façade with a soldier brick course above the storefront and soldier brick rectangular detail across the frieze (1266 Edgington Avenue, Map #4, State #42-01259). The detailing was also applied to the smaller one-story buildings. The double-storefront one-story brick building of Herbert Lynn and Joe Strickler on the south side of the square has simple stepped parapet with soldier brick detail outlining the rectangle on the frieze (1920, 1217-1225 Edgington Avenue, Map #63, State #42-01239). Likewise, the building for Ned Fagg's dairy combined red brick with brown brick to create a distinctive façade on north Washington (Figure 37, 1126 Washington Street, Map #33, State #42-01204).



Figure 36. 1221-1225 Washington Street, Map #39.



Figure 37. 1126 Washington Street, Map #33.

The Classical Revival style and simpler brickwork designs were also incorporated into façade remodels undertaken in this period, all on older buildings facing the square. The Hardin County Savings Bank updated its appearance around 1920 with a complete façade remodel for its corner building, using the Classical Revival style to evoke a sense of permanence and stability (Figure 38, 1202 Edgington Avenue, Map #10, State #42-00487). The new façade brick was accented by the stone bands, sills, and foundation on the east side, and a stone veneer façade

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created fluted pilasters, arch, wide frieze, cornice line, and parapet wall with balusters. Thomas Larson, who also constructed two buildings in this period, likely started by updating the L-shaped building for his hardware store around 1910 (1274 Edgington Avenue, Map #3, State #42-01260). The building wraps around the corner Newcomer Building, giving it a façade on Edgington Avenue as well as Washington Street. Both façades were updated with new brick, stone cornice lines with brackets above the storefront and second story windows, and an angled parapet wall. The remodel of the Edgington Building on the west side of the square used a patterned brick design, with soldier brick window lintels and a series of projected brick courses further above the windows and along the parapet wall (1366-1376 Washington Street, Map #57, State #42-01222). In the early 1930s, the Masons modeled their new façade on an even simpler brick design, incorporating stone window sills, soldier brick window lintels, and a soldier brick course below the stone coping of the stepped parapet as the only design elements (Figure 38, 1212-1220 Edgington Avenue, Map #9, State #42-01255).



Figure 38. 1220-1212 and 1202 Edgington Avenue,
Map #9 and 10.



Figure 39. 1317 12th Street, Map #18.

The Mission, or Spanish Revival, style was found less often for commercial buildings in a downtown, typically representing less than 5% of the buildings if appearing at all. Façades were often stucco with a shaped parapet wall and defining clay tile pent roof above the storefront, in lieu of the clay tile main roof found within residential examples. The remodel of the building at 1317 12th Street on the east side of the square around 1939 is an excellent example of the commercial Mission style in Eldora, as well as one of the best within the region (Figure 39, 1317 12th Street, Map #18, State #42-01244). The façade brick was covered in stucco, middle window resized, decorative metal balcony rails added to the outside windows, and storefront remodeled to incorporate decorative multi-color tiles evoking a southwestern feel. Finally, a red clay tile pent roof with large brackets was added across the top of the building and a smaller clay tile pent roof was added above the entry. The bay windows on the north side also received new clay tile roofs. The building retains excellent integrity. Though with fewer elements, the building built on the east portion of the Bateson building site on Edgington Avenue in 1933, after the second fire on this site, also retains elements of the Mission style (1123 Edgington Avenue, State #42-01247). A green clay tile

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pent roof stretches across the top of this tall one-story brick building, and green clay tiles also act as coping along the parapet wall.

The late 1930s and early 1940s were a transitional period with a mix of architectural styles and building materials for commercial buildings. Tile block began to be used more commonly as the structural material, though the façade often continued to be clad with brick. Three extant commercial buildings date to this period in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. After a fire on the south side of the square in July 1936, James H. Wintermute financed construction on a new double-storefront two-story brick building at the west corner prior to selling it to Ray Lewis and Henry Stebe in the fall (1247-1249 14th Avenue, Map #66, State #42-01237) (photo in November 5, 1936 newspaper of old and new, clippings notebook, Hardin County Historical Society). Multi-colored brown-red bricks were used as the façade brick, with accents in redder brick around the windows and in and around the basketweave panel across the top of the front and side of the building. Likewise, when doctors Ralph E. Gray and E.O. Koeneman decided to construct their new building in 1941, they used brick detailing and stone squares to create arches within the wall over the façade windows (1210 12th Street, Map #21, State #42-01250). In the same period, Ralph Dickson built a two-story tile block building with a brick façade in 1938 for the Groth Plumbing Company (1138 Washington Street, Map #34, State #42-01203). A soldier brick course extends across the top of the first story openings, with rowlock bricks under the windows. Inset panels are found under the windows and between the two stories. Beecher Crosley also installed a new brick façade on his one-story feed store on south Washington, using brickwork to create a basic design element of a hexagon outline flanked by diamond outlines on the upper portion of the façade (1413 Washington Street, Map #68, State #42-01229).

The five years following World War II brought new construction and materials to the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Nine buildings were built from 1946 to 1951 – one third of hollow tile block construction and two thirds of concrete block construction. All were one story in height. These buildings were constructed further north and southwest of the traditional retail commercial buildings within the district, and they serve purposes ranging from small industry to automotive to retail. In the southwest quadrant of the district, H.H. Nazett built a one-story concrete block garage and shop at the corner of Washington and 15th Avenue around 1946 (1502 Washington Street, Map #73, State #42-01227), the first of a series of buildings in this area. It is utilitarian in appearance, with the simplest of design details focused on the parapet wall. The concrete block parapet has three steps on the Nazett garage, a design element reflected in the nearby 1947 concrete block business building at 1413 14th Street as well (Figure 40, Map #79, State #42-01231). The business building to the south on 14th Street also boast a tall, two-step parapet wall in concrete block in front of the gable roof (Figure 40, 1425 14th Street, Map #78, State #42-01232). Wes & Les Emmert built their meat locker west of Nazett's garage in 1947, including block pilasters in their design as well as a stepped edge to the parapet (1317 15th Avenue, Map #74, State #42-01236). In the north quarter of the district, Lauren Maltby built a one-story concrete block building at Washington Street and 11th Avenue in 1946 for his welding and machine shop (1102 Washington Street, Map #30, State #42-01206), and Harold Kramer built a one-story hollow tile block agricultural implement and automobile sales and service building at the corner of 12th Street and 12th Avenue in 1948 (1126 12th Street, Map #23, State #42-01371). The stepped parapet was found also on the Maltby building, while the Kramer building lacked even this detail. Likewise, the hollow tile building constructed by Raymond Gilbert for the new home of the Eldora Ideal Laundry was a basic utilitarian design (Figure 41, 1306 11th Avenue, Map #29, State #42-01372).

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Figure 40. 1413 and 1425 14th Street, Map # 79 and 78.



Figure 41. 1306 11th Avenue, Map #29.

Construction slowed in the middle of the 1950s in the Eldora Downtown Historic District, with two buildings constructed in 1957 and two major additions in 1958-1959. Frank Monaghan built a two-story hollow tile block building at 12th Street and 12th Avenue for his wife's beauty shop and a rental apartment (1202 12th Street, Map #22, State #42-01249). Rubow & Wilcox built a new one-story concrete block building with a buff Roman brick façade on north Washington (1227 Washington Street, Map #40, State #42-01213). Two major additions were built in the north portion of the district as well, both on specialized buildings. The architecture reflected the simplified lines and designs seen for the commercial buildings, with both additions clad in brick. St. Paul's Lutheran Church built an educational wing on the lot to the east of the church in 1958-1959 (1105 Washington Street, Map #26, State #42-01207), while the Eldora School system built a new gymnasium-auditorium addition to the east of the high school building during the same period (1100 12th Avenue, Map #25, State #42-01158).

Remodeling of older buildings to update their appearance also occurred in this period throughout the Eldora Downtown Historic District. Upper windows were reduced in size on several buildings, with at least three bay windows completely removed and replaced with standard wall windows. Storefronts were targeted as a key remodeling effort to update the appearance of a commercial building throughout the 20th century, and this type of remodeling dominates the building activity in the Eldora Downtown Historic District through the 1950s and into the early 1960s. Storefront remodels dating to this period used a variety of modern materials. Opaque structural glass, popularized by the Vitrolite and Cararra companies, was utilized in storefront remodels. Aluminum framed windows and doors also made their appearance in this period, and they would prove to remain popular for several decades. The buff Roman brick was also popular, used for several storefront remodels combined with aluminum framed windows. The Anderson Drug store on the west side of the square chose to utilize these materials with their storefront remodel complete in February 1960. The new storefront was designed with Roman brick and porcelain enamel with an aluminum covered canopy ("Anderson Remodeling Work Nears Completion Here," *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, February 9, 1960, 1). The buff brick was also utilized for one final façade remodel in 1961. Graham's

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Department Store was a significant business in this location since 1930, expanding into both storefronts and part of the upper story in the 1940s. They had updated their storefront in 1949 and reduced the size of the upper story windows likely around the same period. In 1961, they apparently sought a new streamlined, unified appearance for their building, installing new façade brick on the entire front of the building including the storefront area. In later years they continued more interior remodeling efforts ("Extensive Remodeling Underway at Graham's," *Hardin County Index*, April 17, 1964, 1). This façade remodel represents a major point in the historic "updating" of the buildings in downtown Eldora.

Specialized buildings in the Eldora Downtown Historic District have been integral throughout the development of the district, particularly with Eldora's position as the county seat. The 1857 courthouse was located on the east side of the square, the 1878 school was located in the northeast quadrant, and several churches dating to the 1860s and 1870s were scattered throughout the area. The rebuilding of these resources in the late 19th century and early 20th century within the Eldora Downtown Historic District continued these "other" functions in the downtown district. In 1891, the funds for construction of a new courthouse on the square were approved, and construction of the Bedford limestone and St. Louis pressed brick courthouse began in the fall (Figure 42, 1215 Edgington Avenue, Map #1, State #42-00486). The Romanesque Revival courthouse was designed by architect T.D. Allen of Minneapolis, with construction completed by John F. Atkinson of Marshalltown. Construction also began in spring 1893 on a new Romanesque Revival jail and sheriff's residence on the east side of the square on the site of the earlier courthouse, also built by John F. Atkinson (1309 12th Street, Map #17, State #42-00461). The brick construction of this building was also accented by stone details. Construction on the public square led to the relocation of two significant specialized objects in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The obelisk Civil War monument was crafted in Des Moines at a cost of \$3,000 in 1885 and placed in a ceremony in 1886 (Figure 43). A Civil War cannon was also moved to the east side of the square, near the northeast corner. It was later joined in the 1920s by a naval deck gun in the southeast corner.



Figure 42. Hardin County Courthouse, Map #1.



Figure 43. Civil War monument, Map #1.

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Additional specialized buildings related to governmental functions were constructed in the first half of the 20th century in the Eldora Downtown Historic District. The library was outgrowing its space on the first story of the Y.M.C.A. building on the south side of the square, and Mayor Ellis D. Robb successfully requested a donation of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie in 1902 to partially fund a new library in Eldora. Patton & Miller, library architects of Chicago, designed the new building on the south side of the square, dedicated on May 11, 1903 (Figure 44, 1209 14th Avenue, Map #62, State #42-00471). This Late Gothic Revival building has stone accents contrasting against the dark brick walls. The cross gable design has round stone finials on each gable and each corner of the entry vestibule. A modern school constructed in 1916-1917 at a cost of \$63,000 replaced the 1878 building for the Eldora Consolidated Independent School in the northeast corner of the Eldora Downtown Historic District (Figure 45, 1100 12th Avenue, Map #25, State #42-01158). The Classical Revival design includes stone accents on the brick walls as well as brick quoins. The main entry on the west side has a broken pediment entry surround with engaged round columns. The later 1958-1959 gymnasium-auditorium addition on the west side is connected to the school by walkways, and it reflects the simpler designs of this period. While two extant buildings were constructed by businessmen for use by the post office on the first story, the first building solely dedicated to post office use was constructed in 1939, per plans of the treasury department architect Louis A. Simon (1334 Edgington Avenue, Map #49, State #42-01146). It was located on Edgington Avenue in the block west of the square. Construction spanned from March to December in 1939, with the \$80,000 building dedicated on December 21. The building reflects the simplified brick architecture of the period, with stone accents on the buff brick walls. The vertical stone panels around the window perhaps hint at some Art Deco influence. Likewise, there may be some Art Deco influence in the 1939 two-story buff brick Eldora Memorial Hospital on the south side of the square designed by Sioux City architect William Beuttler (Figure 44, 1201 14th Avenue, Map #61, State #42-01240). However, the commercial designs of basic brickwork accents is also demonstrated in this building, with soldier brick courses along the water table, above the windows, and across the parapet. Though previously privately operated, the property was deeded to the city prior to construction in 1938-1939 to convert it to a public hospital.



Figure 44. Hospital and Library, Map #61 and 62.



Figure 45. Eldora Independent School, Map #25.

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The final category of specialized buildings is the significant collection of churches found within the Eldora Downtown Historic District. These churches were located just outside the core of the commercial activity around the square, serving a public function within the downtown and as a transition to the surrounding private residential neighborhoods. The architecture of the four extant churches provides an interesting collection of religious architecture within the district. The Congregational Church, located in the northeast quadrant, was designed by Charles A. Dunham of Burlington and built by John F. Atkinson of Marshalltown in 1893-94 (Figure 46, 1209 12th Street, Map #24, State #42-00460). The Romanesque Revival stone church has a prominent corner tower, additional smaller corner towers, arch stained glass windows, and frescoed walls and ceilings. The designs of two churches reflect the Late Gothic Revival influences of the early 20th century, particularly popular in churches. The 1891 Methodist Episcopal Church brick building was remodeled in 1929 in the southeast quadrant, adding stone accents to the pointed arch windows, reducing the spired tower to a square corner tower, installing a new organ in the east end of the sanctuary, and building a three-story addition with nine new classrooms, basement, and Ladies' Parlor (Figure 47, 1415 12th Street, Map #60, State #42-01241). In 1928, St. Paul's Lutheran Church decided to move into the center of the community, purchasing land in the northwest quadrant and building their new church (1105 Washington Street, Map #26, State #42-01207). The brick walls are accented with stone on the pointed arch windows, brick buttresses, and two corner square towers. Finally, continuing the tradition of churches anchoring corners of the downtown, the Eldora Gospel Tabernacle Church completed their full building in 1946 in the southwest quadrant, an area witnessing post-war construction. It followed the more basic, functional concrete block designs of this post-war period, with the traditional gable-front design and gable-roof entry vestibule found on church designs for decades (1510 14th Street, Map #75, State #42-01376). The use of the concrete blocks reflects the new building materials in this period, providing an interesting interpretation within religious architecture.



Figure 46. Congregational Church, Map #24.



Figure 47. Methodist Church, Map #60.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References (continued)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
5 <u>15</u>	<u>491960</u>	<u>4689660</u>	6 <u>15</u>	<u>491679</u>	<u>4689565</u>

Verbal boundary description

The map on the following page depicts the boundary for the Eldora Downtown Historic District in Eldora, Hardin County, Iowa, at the required scale of 1 inch = 200 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Eldora Downtown Historic District has been drawn to include parcels that reflect the significant history of the district from 1853 to 1961 as defined through their association with commercial, governmental, educational, and religious uses. Parcels that do not reflect these historic associations have been excluded from the district boundary and assist in defining the edge of the boundary. The boundary has been drawn as contiguous, so these parcels on the edge of the boundary not associated with the significance of the district are excluded from the district. Likewise, if these parcels are found between contributing resources, they have been included in the district as non-contributing resources. The boundary follows the current parcel lines associated with contributing properties.

The overall commercial, governmental, educational, and religious nature of the Eldora Downtown Historic District distinguishes it from the surrounding area, and its historic nature has guided the determination of the district boundary. The district is centered on the public square. The boundary includes nearly the full development of the business district in Eldora from 1853 to 1961, as well as the associated governmental, educational, and religious uses historically in downtown Eldora. Sites of demolished commercial buildings that are now used for surface parking occur in a few instances within the district boundary. The general residential uses and later commercial development on the blocks immediately outside the district boundary assisted in determining the boundaries of the historic district. Parcels facing the side streets that relate to the significant historic associations are included within the district boundary, and the boundary follows the parcel lines for these properties.

Though historic archaeological sites have not been identified at this time, they could potentially contribute to the Eldora Downtown Historic District. If necessary, the boundary could be adjusted to include these sites. A handful of sites of demolished buildings have been included within the boundary. They have not been evaluated for archeological potential or significance.

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Location Map



2006 Aerial photography, National Agriculture Imagery Program
From Iowa Geographic Map Server, Iowa State University: cairn.gis.iastate.edu

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Photographs

The photographs of the Eldora Downtown Historic District in Eldora, Hardin County, Iowa, were taken by Rebecca Lawin McCarley, SPARK Consulting, on March 14, 2008 (#6 on September 29, 2008). The digital photographs were printed with HP 100 photo gray Vivera ink on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper (high gloss). The photographs were also submitted digitally on a CD-R. A sketch map depicting the location of the photographs is found on the following page.

1. Courthouse square, looking southwest from Edgington Avenue and 12th Street.
2. North side of square (1200 block of Edgington Avenue), looking northeast from Washington Street.
3. North side of 1100 block of Edgington Avenue, looking northeast from 12th Street.
4. East side of square (1300 block of 12th Street), looking northeast from near 14th Avenue.
5. West side of 1200 block of 12th Street, looking southwest from 12th Avenue.
6. West side of 1100 block of Washington Street, looking northwest from near 12th Avenue.
7. East side of 1200 block of Washington Street, looking southeast from 12th Avenue.
8. West side of 1200 block of Washington Street, looking northwest from Edgington Avenue.
9. West side of square (1300 block of Washington Street), looking northwest from 14th Avenue.
10. South side of 1400 and 1300 blocks (south side of square) of 14th Avenue, looking southwest from near 12th Street.
11. East side of 1400 block of Washington Street, looking northeast from 15th Avenue.
12. East side of 1400 block of 14th Street, looking southeast from near 14th Avenue.

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Photograph key for the Eldora Downtown Historic District.

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Appendix A: List of Property Owners

The following people were identified as owning property within the boundary of the Eldora Downtown Historic District as of September 2008. A total of 77 distinct property owners are included on this list, which is organized according to address and map number with additional properties owned by the same person included under the first occurrence of the owner.

Property Owner	Mailing Address	Property Address/es	Map #
Hardin County	1215 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1215 Edgington, 1315 12th Street, 201 14th Avenue	1, 17, 61
Backwoods Gallery, LLC	1282 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1282 Edgington	2
Mel-Tim LLC % Melody A. Hoy	PO Box 126 Eldora, IA 50627	1274 Edgington	3
Timothy M. & Melody A. Hoy, Shelley S. Stull	PO Box 126 Eldora, IA 50627	1266 Edgington, 1254 Edgington, 1250 Edgington	4, 5, 6
Donald K. and Virginia Jean Goetz	PO Box 231 Tipton, IA 52772	1242 Edgington	6
David Rubow	PO Box 206 Eldora, IA 50627	1228-1236 Edgington, 1421 14th Street	7, 79
Edward L. and Susan A. Bear	19998 V Ave Steamboat Rock, IA 50672	1236 Edgington	8
Hardin County Savings Bank Building Partnership	PO Box 311 Eldora, IA 50627	1212-1220 Edgington, 1202 Edgington	9, 10
City of Eldora	1442 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1150 Edgington, 1233 14th Avenue, 1442 Washington, 7 lots	11, 64, 72, 7 lots
New Grand, LLC	1202 Edgington Ave, c/o Brown, James Eldora, IA 50627	1158 Edgington	11
Xtreme Investments, LLC % Danielle Butler	706 14th St Eldora, IA 50627	1134 Edgington	12
Gary R. and Linda J. Mc Ewen	1306 4th St Eldora, IA 50627	1128 Edgington	13
Scott M. and Toni M. Nederhoff	18373 Co Hwy S56 Steamboat Rock, IA 50672	1120 Edgington	14
Richard N. Dunn	PO Box 468 Eldora, IA 50627	1123 Edgington	15
Michael A. Smith	1305 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1301 12th Street	16
PJC Enterprises Limited	1305 12th St, PO Box 431 Eldora, IA 50627	1305 12th Street	16
Dan R. and Deborah S. Dye	1501 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1317 12th Street	18
Anargyros M. Hantzeas	1327 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1327 12th Street	19
John Elacqua	2520 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1218 12th Street	20
Gayland R. and Diana H. Wise	1210 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1210 12th Street	21

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Kenneth L. Stock	1202 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1202 12th Street	22
Garland Bridges	1001 11th St Eldora, IA 50627	1126 12th Street	23
Eldora Congregational Church	1209 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1209 12th Street, 1215 12th Street	24, parking lot
Eldora Community School	Eldora, IA 50627	1100 12th Avenue	25
St. Paul Evangelical Church	1105 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1105 Washington, 1109 Washington, 1110 12th Street	26, 27, parking lot
Option Two, Inc. % Dennis Martin	PO Box 425 Hubbard, IA 50122	1113 Washington	28
Richard E. and Donna Steinfeldt	910 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1306 11th Avenue	29
Ben R. Speck	PO Box 45 Eldora, IA 50627	1102 Washington	30
Joan M. Samp	32101 237th St Eldora, IA 50627	1118 Washington, 1122 Washington	31, 32
Robert O. Walther	1126 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1126 Washington	33
Richard E. Stone	1138 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1138 Washington	34
James R. and Denise L. Hazelwood	709 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1152 Washington	35
Deborah K. Donald	1213 4th Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1162 Washington	36
El-Bar, Inc.	1201 Washington St Eldora, IA 50627	1201 Washington	37
American Legion - Post #182	1215 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1215 Washington	38
Kyle F. and Marcia S. Thompson	301 Vinton Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1225 Washington, 1334 (rear) Washington	39, vacant lot
Barbara R. Abrahams	% Barbara Shibe PO Box 182 Liscomb, IA 50148	1227 Washington	40
Chris Perkins	102 W Church St Marshalltown, IA 50158	1235 Washington	41
Leighton L. and Linda J. Weltz	1226 Washington Eldora, IA 50627	1226 Washington	42
Abate Of Iowa, Inc.	PO Box 70 Eldora, IA 50627	1234 Washington	43
Pinnacle Bank	Po Box 553 Marshalltown, IA 50158	1250 Washington	44
Christopher Dean Perkins	102 W Church St Marshalltown, IA 50158	1258 Washington	45
Ho Phi and Tuyen Nguyen	516 Central Ave Estherville, IA 51334	1274-1280 Washington	46
Peggee A. Ellefson	1300 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1300 Edgington	47

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Lila E. Cox (Life Estate)	1600 LA Grant Parkway, #113 Waukee, IA 50263	1320 Edgington	48
U. S. Postal Service	c/o Postmaster 1334 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1334 Edgington	49
U. S. Postal Service	Tina Norwood Facilities Headquarters U.S. Postal Service 4301 Wilson Blvd, Ste. 300 Arlington, VA 22203-1861	1334 Edgington	49
Eldora Building Corp. % Brown, Jim	PO Box 311 Eldora, IA 50627	1325 Edgington	50
Garland E. Bridges Pine Lake Christmas	1001 11th St Eldora, IA 50627	1317 Edgington	51
Jane E. Stickrod	509 17th Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1310 Washington	52
Nancy Kay and Scott Charles Harvey	1314 Washington St Eldora, IA 50627	1314 Washington	53
Nancy Kay and Scott Charles Harvey	1314 Washington St Eldora, IA 50627	1318 Washington	53
Frederick D. and Sandra E. Rosenkrans	1510 14th St Eldora, IA 50627	1342 Washington	54
Scott L. and Tonya M. Kosanke	510 Birch Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1350 Washington	55
Myron L. Kosanke	1505 3rd St Pl Eldora, IA 50627	1360 Washington, 1366 Washington	56, 57
Ronald C. and Marilyn F. Neuerburg	2701 5th St Eldora, IA 50627	1376 Washington	57
Susan K. Granzow	1382 Washington St, Apt 1 Eldora, IA 50627	1384 Washington	58
Tim Walker Insurance Agency	321 Sarah Ave Iowa Falls, IA 50126	1318 14th Avenue	59
Methodist Church	1415 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1417 12th Street	60
Sween & Tilton, P.C.	PO Box 516 Eldora, IA 50627	1209 14th Avenue	62
Shirley A. and Robert F. Shirley	803 9th Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1217 14th Avenue	63
Capital Counsel Corp % Dennis Pederson	#1 56th St Des Moines, IA 50312	1225 14th Avenue	63
Lori J. Strauss	1249 14th Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1245 14th Avenue, 1247-1249 14th Avenue	65, 66
Rodney and Marcia Stahl	16519 185th Street Wellsburg IA 50680	1409 Washington, 1413 Washington	67, 68
Eric J. Ross	302 4th St, PO Box 397 Wellsburg IA 50680	1413 ½ Washington	69
Timco LLC	32117 234th St Eldora, IA 50627	1425 Washington	70

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Security Bank % Colliers International	PO Box 1675 Flint, MI 48501	1402 Washington, 1321 14th Avenue	71, parking lot
Jack D. and Patty Brekke	909 12th St Eldora, IA 50627	1502 Washington	73
Linda K. Goos	PO Box 247 Gladbrook, IA 50635	1317 15th Avenue, 1323 15th Avenue	74, vacant lot
Eldora Gospel Tabernacle Church	1510 14th St Eldora, IA 50627	1510 14th Street	75
Jordan Strait	1318 15th Ave Eldora, IA 506272327	1318 15th Avenue	76
Thomas R. and Kristina M. Pierce	406 Dewey St Radcliffe, IA 50230	1326 15th Avenue	77
James D. Weaver	1425 14th St Eldora, IA 50627	1425 14th Street	78
Hardin County Farm Bureau	1317 14th Ave Eldora, IA 50627	1317 14th Avenue	80
Hardin County Savings Bank	PO Box 311 Eldora, IA 50627	1217 12th Street, 1225 (rear) Washington	2 vacant lots
C. V. Gilkeson, % Wilkeson, Clarence V.	414 60th St Des Moines, IA 50312	1313 14th Avenue	vacant lot
Heart of Iowa Communications	502 Main, PO Box 130 Union, IA 50258	1313 (rear) 14th Avenue	equipment lot
Jessica Risius	30256 Co Hwy D65 Union, IA 50258	1329 Edgington	vacant lot
MPDM, Inc.	30677 Co Hwy D55 Union, IA 50258	1142 Washington	vacant lot
Charles P. Beam	313 Drynan Waterloo, IA 50701	1210 Washington, 1220 Washington	2 vacant lots