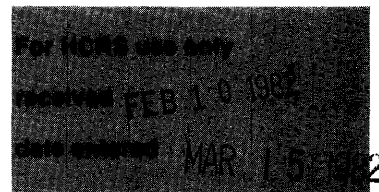


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

Lyon County Multiple Resource Area

historic Historic Resources of Lyon County (Partial Inventory - Historic Properties)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number The County Limits of Lyon County, Minnesota N/A not for publication

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Minnesota code 22 county Lyon code 083

**3. Classification** -- see individual inventory forms

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	N/A
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u> N/A	<u>occupied</u>	<u>agriculture</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>private</u>	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>	<u>private residence</u>
<u>site</u>	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>entertainment</u>	<u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>	<u>scientific</u>
N/A	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>	<u>transportation</u>
	N/A	<u>no</u> N/A	<u>military</u>	<u>other:</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership - see inventory forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office -- Lyon County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Marshall state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1980 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

## 7. Description

-- see individual inventory forms

### Condition

N/A

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☐ altered

N/A

### Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

See Area Description

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1982

DATE ENTERED

Historic Resources of Lyon County, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of standing structures conducted in Lyon County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination to the National Register at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Lyon County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Lyon County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Herrington, HCRS, and Russell Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979)

## LYON COUNTY

### Standing Structures

The basis of the survey for this nomination is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of the county's history. Structures were identified and inventoried during a county wide survey conducted during the spring of 1980.

Selection of structures for the inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history.) County histories, individual community histories, and photographs from both the state society and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

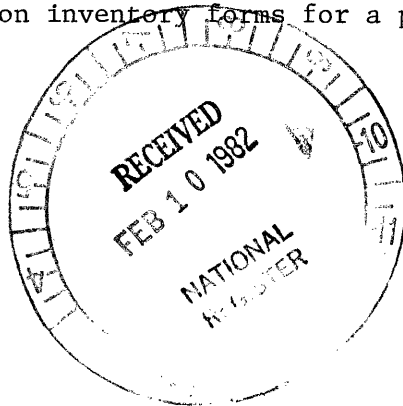
Township maps from the Lyon County Atlases were copied for field use. Plat maps on file in the county recorder's office were researched for original plat information (proprietors, survey and filing dates) and for addition dates. The filing dates for the various platted areas were noted on current highway department city maps. This collection of maps was useful in gaining a localized sense of development for areas of the county.

All city streets were walked or driven. All rural non-farm structures, pre-identified sites, and locally suggested buildings were visited. The roads connecting these dispersed sites provided a strong sampling of the rural landscape. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried. In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each region of the county, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were most often helpful in locating information on selected properties, but also in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of 170 sites, 9 individual structures were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance within the county. Information and photographs on all sites are recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.



Survey Method

## LYON COUNTY

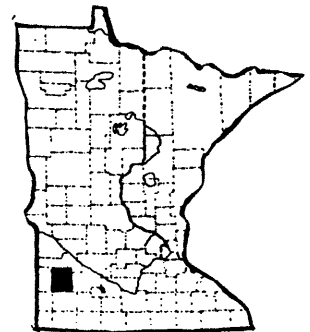
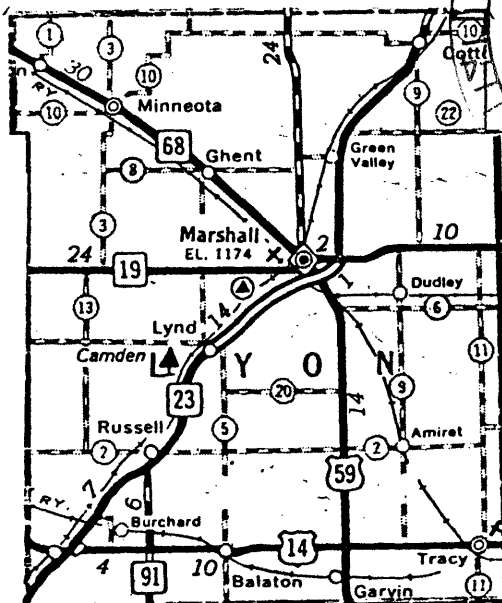
The area known as Lyon County is located in the southwest area of Minnesota. The county is bordered on the north by Yellow Medicine County, on the east by Redwood County, on the west by Lincoln County and on the south by Murray County. Boundaries follow the straight lines of the county survey system begun in 1858 and completed in 1867. Organized in 1870, the county is named for Civil War General Nathaniel Lyon.

At the time of homesteading, Lyon County vegetation was primarily native grasses, except along streams and lakes where narrow belts of trees were found. Streams and rivers generally drain to the northeast into the Yellow Medicine, Redwood, and Cottonwood Rivers. Lakes in the county are shallow and number below 100. The county is composed of a land area of 453,072 acres and 9,261 acres of water. Over 400,000 acres (88.6%) of the land is used for agriculture. There are 1,181 farms in the county with an average size of 340 acres.

Euro-American settlement of the area began after the Dakota Indians relinquished the land under the 1851 Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota. Access to the area was limited and settlement was confined to isolated areas near the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers. Attempts at full scale settlement were further hindered by the repercussions of the 1862 Dakota War. Like their neighbors in adjoining counties, settlers took flight and did not return in any numbers until the late 1860s.

The population of the county remained widely scattered through the 1800s. First census information available in 1880 lists a total county population of 6,257. In 1900 it had grown to 14,591. The principal immigrant groups of this population included Belgians, Icelanders, Norwegians, Swedes, Flemish, French, Germans and Poles. The township organization was completed in 1883.

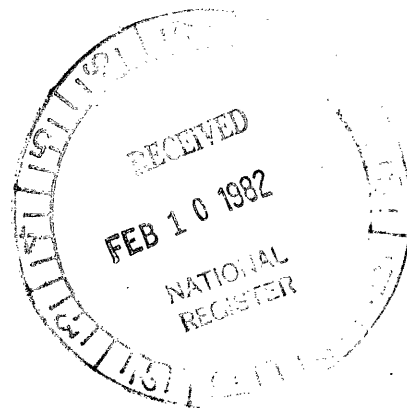
## Area Description



LYON CO.		WESTER-HEIM	VALLERS	Cottonwood
Lynd	Lynd			LUCAS
NORDLAND	Ghent		FAIRVIEW	STANLEY
ISLAND LAKE	LYND		Marshall LAKE MARSHALL	CLIFTON
COON CREEK	LYONS		SODUS	AMIRET
SHELburne	ROCK LAKE		CUSTER	MONROE
Florence	Balaton		Garvin	Tracy

Attempts to establish communities occurred during the late 1860s and early 1870s at Upper and Lower Lynd, on the Redwood River, and at Saratoga Springs, on the Cottonwood River. From 1872 to 1902, a typical change occurred in the county that proved highly significant for the urban settlement of the area. Fourteen platted townsites were located along the four rail lines that were laid across the county from 1872 to 1902 (see map). These townsites were platted both by individuals and directly by railroad interests. The elevators and depots which sprang up along the railroad tracks promoted and encouraged agricultural and commercial development and helped Marshall, which was both centrally located and situated on two competing rail lines, to become the most politically and economically influential city in the county. These rail townsites have remained as Lyon County's basic system of communities; today's populations range from 9886 (Marshall) to 58 (Florence). (Dudley, Amiret, and Burchard have never incorporated.) Complementing the townsites are a scattering of "communities", often no more than a store and gas pump, which have sprung up in remote rural areas along the state highways. Not noted on maps, their names are known, for the most part, only by local residents. The total population of the county has risen to 24,273.

The architecture of the county follows the building patterns and styles of other prairie counties. The earliest Euro-American buildings were sometimes of log construction, although the availability of materials usually led to sod or dugout construction methods. As soon as finished lumber became widely available, domestic, agricultural and commercial structures utilized the standard plans for buildings of the period. Style conscious, architecturally designed buildings have generally been limited to public, religious and a few commercial structures.



## 8. Significance

See individual inventory forms

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

N/A

Specific dates

N/A

Builder/Architect

N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Area Significance

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheets

## 10. Geographical Data - see individual inventory forms

Acres of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name N/A

Quadrangle scale N/A

### UMT References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A see individual inventory forms

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

N/A national state local

see individual inventory forms

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

2/2/82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

see "Inventory sheet"

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



## LYON COUNTY

The significance of Lyon County during its development lies in the inter-relationship of settlement, agriculture and rail transportation. The county's industrial focus on agriculture is supported by towns linked by rail, by settlement of immigrants who established themselves both on the land and in the communities, and by construction of buildings which reflect their collective interests and heritage.

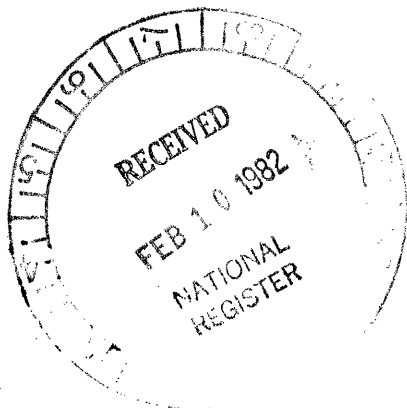
The most notable structure associated with the earliest settlement during the pre-railroad frontier is the Kiel and Morgan Hotel (ca 1871, Lynd Township). Built by two of Lyon County's first permanent settlers, the hotel quickly became a political and commercial focus of the burgeoning county. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parsonage (1891, 1895, Minneota) represents a link with one of the earliest immigrant groups to enter the county, the Icelanders.

The rail system provided improved transportation for agriculture produce and resulted in a series of townsites to be platted along its line. The most visible symbol of the railroad is the depot. A commercially pivotal structure for every community, few remain in the county today. In Marshall, the Chicago, North Western Railroad Depot (1918), a second generation depot, represents the economic prominence Marshall achieved by the early 20th century. Marshall's growth as a regional industrial center is further evidenced in the William F. Gieske House (ca 1900-1905) built by a central figure in Marshall's milling industry.

Two notable structures are associated with different aspects of the commercial development of the smaller trackside towns. The O.G. Anderson and Co. Store (1901, Minneota) is a distinctive and pristine example of the "Main Street" buildings constructed in these towns around the turn of the century. The Martin Norseth House (c. 1898, Cottonwood) represents the local prominence that many initial commercial developers achieved.

Three houses in the county are architecturally significant in that they represent typical building styles adapted on a local scale. These include the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival J. S. Anderson House (ca 1895, Minneota), the Georgian Martin Norseth House (ca 1898, Cottonwood), and the Stick Style William F. Gieske House (ca 1900-1905, Marshall). All three are locally distinctive.

Two commercial structures are architecturally significant for their individual designs. The Romanesque First National Bank (1897, Tracy) reflects a strong adaptation of style made by local builders and craftsmen. The Masonic Temple/Delta Lodge No. 119 (1918, Marshall), by F. H. Ellerby, is outstanding in its representation of Second Egyptian Revival features in a community where far less pretentious designs prevail.



Lyon County

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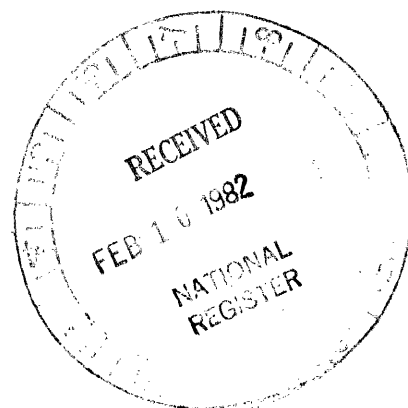
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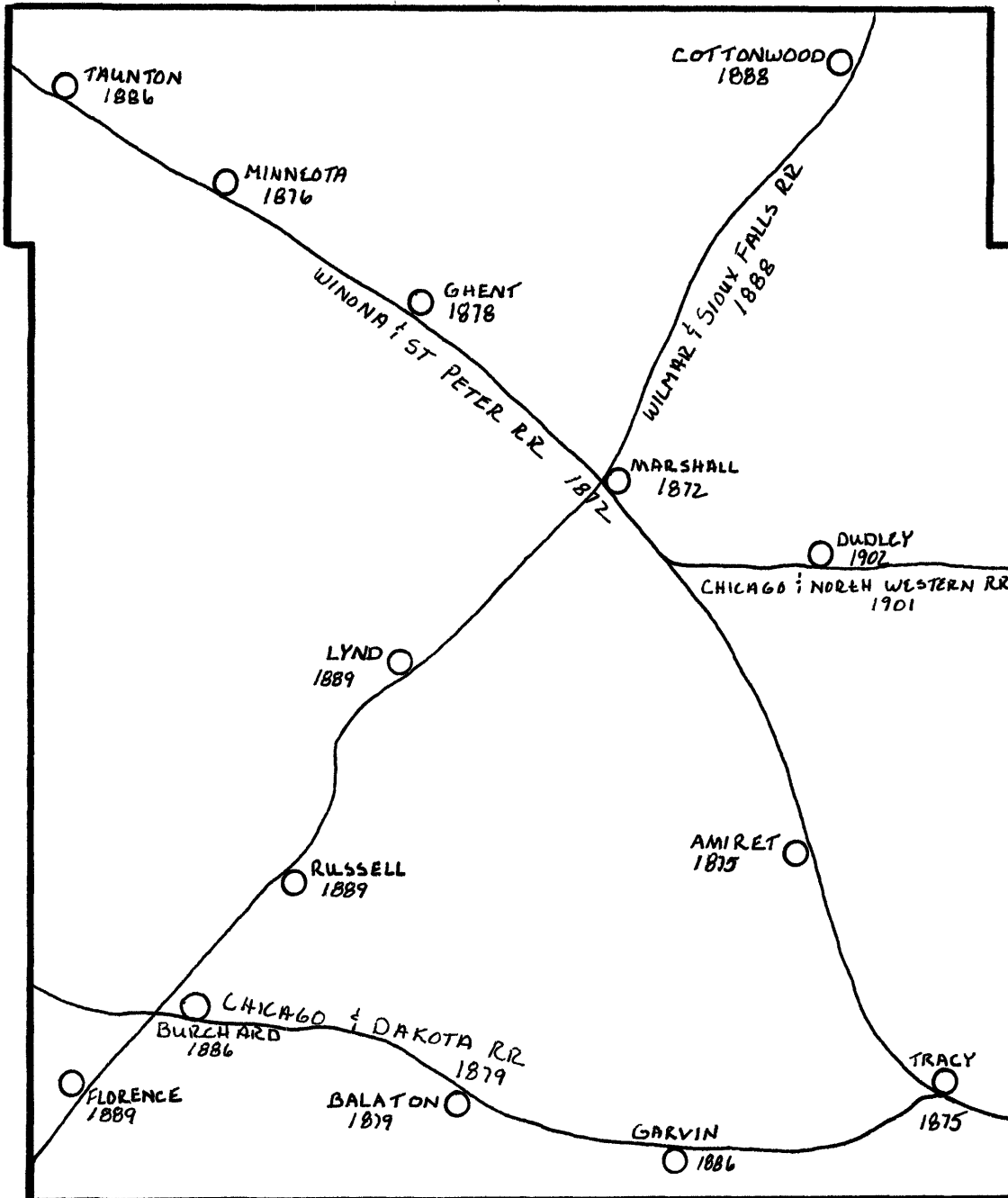
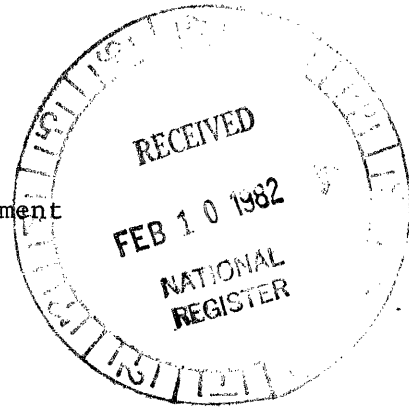
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LYON COUNTY

Railroad and Townsite Development



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lyon County Multiple Resource Area  
State MN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Chicago and North Western Railroad Depot

Keeper

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Attest

William H. Brannan 3-15-82  
Linda M. McClelland 3/12/82

2. Norseth, Martin, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for activity Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 3-15-82

3. Kiel and Morgan Hotel

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

William H. Brannan 3-15-82  
Linda M. McClelland 3-12-82

4. Gieske, William F., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for activity Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 3-15-82

5. Masonic Temple (Delta Lodge No. 119)

Entered in the  
National Register

for activity Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 3-15-82

6. Anderson, J. S., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

William H. Brannan 3-15-82  
Linda M. McClelland 7/12/82

7. Anderson, O. G., and Company Store

Entered in the  
National Register

for activity Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 3-15-82

8. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
and Parsonage

Entered in the  
National Register

for activity Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 3-15-82

9. First National Bank

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Attest

William H. Brannan 3-15-82  
Linda M. McClelland 3/14/82

10.

Keeper

Attest