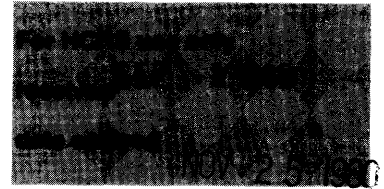


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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

historic Canby Commercial District

and/or common Canby Commercial District

2. Location

street & number U.S. 75 and MN 68 ___ not for publication

city, town Canby ___ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Minnesota code 22 county Yellow Medicine code 173

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds - Yellow Medicine County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Granite Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Canby Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1978 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records MECCA

city, town Canby state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Canby Commercial District is comprised of twenty-four commercial structures ranging in date from the early 1890s through the 1930s. The nucleus of the district is the intersection of First Street and St. Olaf Avenue North. The general style of the buildings could be considered a commercial vernacular in that the majority of the buildings are one story in height with simple detailing which cannot be ascribed to any one particular style. Several of the older buildings in the district are representatives of the Italianate style. The principal material for construction is brick; stone is infrequently used for trim and highlights. All of the buildings in the district are occupied and presently serve commercial functions.

107 First Street East - CAS Plumbing and Heating: This is a one story brick structure executed in a combination of creme and brown brick. Although the storefront has been altered to accommodate large plate-glass windows in metal frames, the original stained glass transom remains. The parapet takes the form of a false gable.

105 First Street East - Schrunk Building: This is a one story brick structure with simple architectural design detailing. The store front is divided into three sections defined by plate glass windows and transoms in metal frames. The frieze area is decorated by a band of creme brick in a diamond pattern. The parapet takes the form of a false gable.

101-105 St. Olaf Avenue North - Canby Crafts and Variety and the Kyds Stable (formerly Judge Oliver Ostensoe Office and Chester Franks Furniture): This is a two story brick structure which occupies a corner lot. It is simple in detailing, the primary features being dividing pilasters and a rudimentary corbel. The building retains original fenestration and storefronts.

109 St. Olaf Avenue North - Canby Theater: This is a two story structure with buff-colored stone facing. It is Art Deco in design. The principal facade consists of two commercial spaces which flank the centrally located entrance to the theater. The central bay projects slightly above the end bays and is accentuated by the marquee.

113 St. Olaf Avenue North - E.B. Coil Jewelry (formerly N.K. Snortum Grocery): This is a one story brick building with simple brick parapet. The storefront has been altered to provide a glazed sign panel above two projecting display windows.

115 St. Olaf Avenue North - ACE Recreation (formerly A. Gilbertson Drugstore): This is a one story brick structure with corbelled cornice, central pediment-gable, and balustrade-type parapet. Name and date stones are located directly under the pediment. Although the storefront has been altered the brick retains its original red finish.

117 St. Olaf Avenue North - Severson, Qualley and Boulton (formerly P.A. Larson's Clothing): This is a one story brick structure with corbelled cornice. The storefront has been altered by closing the window area and the brick exterior has been painted. A shingle awning has been constructed to shield the storefront.

(See continuation sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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)

Specific dates 1892-1930s **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Canby Commercial District is significant as a well-preserved example of second generation ("post fire") commercial districts common in western Minnesota. The district is also significant as a regional center of commerce since the town's platting in 1876. The brick commercial buildings which dominate the district are testimony to the truth of the prairie saying, "A town must burn down before it will build up substantially."* In the case of Canby the buildings were constructed within several years of a disastrous fire in 1893 which destroyed nearly all of the town's commercial center -- two blocks of frame buildings. The uniformity of materials and design of the present buildings reflects the boom which immediately followed the fire as the town's early businessmen, primarily Norwegian immigrants, rebuilt their businesses, using more fireproof materials. Canby, which had, by the time of the fire, become a regional center of commerce, continued its role virtually without interruption, and has continued to play an important commercial role in the area to the present day.

*The Canby News editor concluded history of the fire with this prophecy: "This disastrous blaze will, of course, seriously cripple the town for the time being, but it is going to build right up again, and in a much more substantial manner than before. Perhaps we ought not to say it, nevertheless, the old saying is that 'a town must burn down before it will build up substantially' holds good."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Navestad, Carol and Amy. A History of Yellow Medicine County, Granite Falls, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 7.5

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED 7.5

Quadrangle name Canby Quad, MN

Quadrangle scale

UMT References

A

1	4	7	1	5	6	2	0	4	9	5	4	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	4	7	1	5	8	0	0	4	9	5	4	1	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	4	7	1	5	8	8	0	4	9	5	4	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	4	7	1	5	8	0	0	4	9	5	3	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 6

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Skrief and Charles Nelson

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date May 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 612/296-9070 or 296-9073

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/14/80

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce

date 11/25/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda Flint McMillan

date 11-25-80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Canby Commercial District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

121-125 St. Olaf Avenue North - Production Credit Association and Karen's Step and Style Beauty Salon (formerly Westby and Savold Meat Market and Spornitz Cafe): This is a one story brick and stone structure which is divided into two individual stores. A central doorway enframed by pilasters divides the two storefronts. Storefronts consist of large plate glass windows with transom panels. The cornice area has three recessed decorative brick panels, the center of which has a diamond motif.

129 St. Olaf Avenue North - Canby Mens' Wear (formerly Turbak Dry Goods and Grocery and Paulson and Kittleson Sample Room): This is a two story brick structure. The entire street facade has been totally obscured with a large metal sign and a bank of plate glass windows. Now a single commercial facility, the building was formerly divided into two stores.

133-137 St. Olaf Avenue North - Cobblers Corner and Color Center (formerly A.M. Olsen's General Store and E.E. Swenson Hardware Store): This is a two story brick structure with Romanesque Revival design features. It is a double building, housing two stores on the first floor. Second floor is divided into three bays, the outer bays with semi-circular windows and the central bay with a paired window under a false gable. Brick corbelling decorates the cornice area. First floor store fronts have been altered.

139 St. Olaf Avenue North - Dairy Store (former Citizens State Bank): This is a two story brick building with combination of Romanesque and Italianate features. The first story openings are semi-circular and segmental with keystones. A dominant architectural feature is two story corner tower with pyramidal roof; also corbelling in cornice area. A name plate "BANK" is located above second story tower window.

130-134 St. Olaf Avenue North - Paulson Drug and Laundro 20¢ Wash (formerly A. Williams Jewelry and P.C. Scott's Furniture and Undertaking): This is a two-story double commercial structure constructed in brick in the Italianate mode. The first story is divided into two storefronts (both of which have been altered) by a central doorway which provides access to the second floor. The second story is divided into three sections: two sections of three bays each and one central section of one bay. All windows are capped with rusticated stone lintels. The frieze area is slightly corbelled and supports a metal cornice and decorative brick parapet. The center of the parapet is adorned with a false gable with finials, fan or sunburst, and date stone 1894. The second story retains original fenestration.

128 St. Olaf Avenue North - Insurance Service (formerly Eichinger Drug): This is a one story brick structure; the brick has been painted red. The storefront has been altered by new windows and large sign. The frieze is decorated with dentils and the parapet is accentuated by a central false gable (pediment).

(See continuation sheet)

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Canby Commercial Distirct

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

126 St. Olaf Avenue North - Old Darrell's Coiffures (formerly C. Anderson and Son Tailor Shop): This is a one-story buff-colored brick structure. The original three bay storefront has been altered by the installation of mock colonial windows in metal frames. A mock gable awning obscures the transom area. The frieze area is decorated by a band of dentils. The parapet has a stone coping and a centrally positioned nameplate.

124 St. Olaf Avenue North - Lage Catalog Sales (formerly O.H. Aslakson's Bargain Store): This is a one story brick structure similar in design and proportion to Bud's Rec next door. The storefront has been altered by the installation of large-pane windows in metal frames and by the blocking in of the transom area. The upper brick areas are highlighted by corbels, pilasters, a false gable and date stone.

122 St. Olaf Avenue North - Bud's Rec (formerly Carrie Landru's Dry Goods): This is a one story brick structure in near original condition. The three bay storefront with central entry is defined by cast iron columns. Above the storefront is a thin band of brick corbels. The frieze is divided into three bays by brick pilasters, each of which end in call-type finials. The two outer bays are decorated with brick corbels whereas the central bay, in the form of a false gable (pediment) has corbelled eaves and a semi-circular date stone. New windows in metal frames have been inserted in original window openings.

120 St. Olaf Avenue North - Anthonys (formerly M.A. Eaton's General Store): This is a one-story brick structure constructed of yellow brick. The three-bay storefront is a modern alteration, as is a horizontally projecting metal awning and a large sign which obscures approximately one-half of the frieze area. A thin band of decorative brickwork is visible above the sign.

116 St. Olaf Avenue North - Canby Home Bakery (formerly John Swenson's Bank of Canby): This is a two story brick structure executed in a simple Renaissance Revival style. Although the first story storefront has been painted, the stone detailing at the entrance portal has been left in a natural state to preserve the original polychromatic effect. The entrance portal is one story in height with a modillioned cornice; the arch is semi-circular with radiating voussoirs supported by polished granite squat columns with foliate capitals. The second story remains in its original state with four windows separated by circular tuscan columns and capped with rusticated stone lintels. A dominant cornice and frieze decorate the roofline.

110 St. Olaf Avenue North - Lindrud Building (formerly J.O. Peterson's Hardware and Ben Dubak's Barber Shop): This is a one-story brick building which was originally divided into two separate stores, each three bays in width with central entry. Decorative brick quoins (now painted red) separate the building from its neighbors and divide the storefronts. A large metal signboard obscures the original frieze and parapet.

(see continuation sheet)

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Canby Commercial District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

108 St. Olaf Avenue North - Swennes Arcade (formerly J.G. Koch's Hardware Store): This is a one story brick structure with three-bay front. The entry is centrally located. Although the storefront has been altered, the building retains original simple decorative brickwork in the frieze and parapet areas.

102 St. Olaf Avenue North - National Bank of Canby: This building occupies a corner site. It is a rectangular two story brick structure with stone veneer on the two street facades. Detailing is classical and takes the form of doric pilasters (which divide the facades into bays) simple frieze, cornice and parapet. An addition to the rear of the building repeats the general massing and cornice line of the original section. Windows on the first floor have been altered by inserting panels in the upper sash; windows on second floor retain original fenestration.

115-125 First Street West - Midway Cafe, Canby Appliance, Sears Roebuck & Co., and Canby News (formerly Nelson and Nelson Implement, George Fox Pool Hall, Bracken and Hendrickson Shoe Store, and Canby News): This building is a large two story brick structure which was designed to house four commercial units with apartments and/or offices on the second floor. It is Italianate in styling. The first story storefronts have been extensively altered by installation of new windows with metal sign panels immediately above. The second story level retains original architectural design integrity. This level is divided into ten bays, eight of which are arranged by pairs of windows. A stone band forms a continuous sill for the narrow one-over-one double hung windows. The cornice is highly articulated by two bands of corbels separated by projecting stone-capped finials. The central bays of the two major sections of the facade are further accentuated by a false parapet which incorporates a recessed niche motif.

127 First Street West - Ted Rotenberger's Building (formerly Citizens Light, Heat and Power Company): This is a narrow two story brick structure, a single bay in width. The first story storefront is totally devoted to window and door area. A horizontal metal awning separates the window-proper from the transom. The second floor consists of three windows capped by a continuous stone lintel. The parapet projects slightly in the center and is provided with a stone coping.

201 First Street West - Canby Ford-Mercury (formerly Canby Auto Company): This is a large two story structure constructed of quarry-faced ashlar block. The first floor storefront is divided into three bays of large plate-glass windows for display of automobiles. The second floor formerly functioned as an auditorium/roller skating rink. It is now divided into apartments. The original tall windows have been reduced in size by the installation of masonry filler panels. The roof of the building is concealed behind a segmentally arched parapet restrained by heavy corner piers.

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Canby Commercial District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 4

Ownership List

Lloyd Cleveland
103 9th St. W.
Canby, MN 56220

Marion Schrunk
RFD
Canby, MN 56220

Ralph Armitage
806 Lyon Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Ken Holley
109 St. Olaf Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Everett B. Coil
307 6th Street West
Canby, MN 56220

Pesek-Kraft
Ronald Pesek
RFD
Taunton, MN 56291

Keith Kraft
RFD
Canby, MN 56220

Severson-Qualley-Boulton Attorneys
117 St. Olaf Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Gordy Gentz
RFD 3
Canby, MN 56220

John Kreuzer
310 Pine Street North
Canby, MN 56220

Viola Knutson
301 Ring Avenue South
Canby, MN 56220

Canby Masonic Lodge
% Francis Hanson
407 5th Street West
Canby, MN 56220

Canby IOOF Building
% Ralph Armitage
806 Lyon Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Marti Gas Company,
Canby 20¢ Wash
% Marti Hardware
Lake Benton, MN 56149

Robert Paulson
510 3rd Street East
Canby, MN 56220

LeRoy Frank
210 Ring Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Lyon County Federal Savings & Loan
126 St. Olaf Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Harry Floto
207 Pine Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Vernon Hansen
511 Haarfager Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Myrtle E. Leverenz
307 St. Olaf Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Seymour Loftus
102 Walnut Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

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Canby Commercial District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

Bernie O. Lindrud
2210 South 14th
Moorhead, MN 56560

Robert L. Swennes
108½ St. Olaf Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Howard Reiter
103 Walnut Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Maynard Tollakson
702 Service Drive East
Canby, MN 56220

Joe Waltz
Canby, MN 56220

Don Nemitz
214 5th Street West
Canby, MN 56220

Ted Rotenberger
108 Walnut Avenue North
Canby, MN 56220

Kermit Olson
301 5th Street West
Canby, MN 56220

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DATE ENTERED	NOV 25 1980

Canby Commercial District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 6

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the intersection of the ~~centerline~~^{inner-curb line} of Second Street and the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the N/S alley of Block 3 of the Original Plat of Canby; thence southeasterly along the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of Second Street to the point of intersection with the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the N/S alley of Block 2 of the Original Plat of Canby; thence southwesterly along the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the N/S alley of Block 2 to the point of intersection with the centerline of the E/W alley of Block 2; thence southwesterly along the easterly lot line of lot 6 of Block 2 to the point of intersection with the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of First Street; thence northwesterly along the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of First Street to the point of intersection with the extension of the westerly lot line of lot 9 of Block 4 of the Original Plat of Canby; thence northeasterly along the westerly lot line of lot 9 to the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the E/W alley of Block 4; thence southeasterly along the centerline of the E/W alley to the point of intersection with the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the N/S alley of Block 3; thence northeasterly along the ~~center line~~^{inner-curb line} of the N/S alley to the point of beginning.

amended via telephone
11.10.80 to conform to
nr policy.

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Canby Commercial District - Canby, MN.; Yellow Medicine District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Description:

Nearly all properties were built within several years of the disastrous fire of 1893. These exceptions are:

National Bank, 102 St. Olaf North, c.1910
Swennes Arcade, 108 St. Olaf North, c.1910
Canby Theater, 109 St. Olaf North, c.1935
Canby Crafts, 101-105 St. Olaf North, c.1925
Strunk Building, 105 1st St. East, c.1925
CAS Plumbing, 107 1st St. East, c.1910
Canby Ford-Mercury, 201 1st Street West, c.1915

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Canby Commercial District have been drawn to include those structures which comprise historically the central commercial core of Canby. Properties outside the perimeter of the district either date from a later period of Canby's history, are vacant land, or are structures which have been so altered as to have lost their original integrity. There are no intrusions within the district.

