NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

	UNID INC. 10024-0018	
RE	CENCED	
	MAY 1 2 2000	701
۰.	ONAL REGISTER, HISTORY & EDUCATION ATIONAL PARK SERVICE	

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 an 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 Neillsville Downtown Historic District other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street	& number	500 Block Hewett Street and 118 West Sixth Street			Sixth Street		N/A	not for p	ublication	
city or	town	Neillsville						N/A	vicinity	
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Clark		code	19	zip code	54456

# 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  $\underline{X}$  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  $\underline{X}$  meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally\_ statewide  $\underline{X}$  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia Z. Col	May 4, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

#### 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 official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

OMB No. 10024-0018

Neillsville Downtown Histo	oric District	Clark		Wisconsin
Name of Property		County	and State	
4. National Park Servi I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register.	ce Certification	a Boak	) Į	6/15/873
<ul> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined eligible for the</li> <li>National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined not eligible for the</li> <li>National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> </ul>				
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	1 24		·	
·	Signature of th	he Keeper	·····	Date of Action
5. Classification	•			
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		<b>Resources within P</b> lude previously listed at)	
X private	building(s)	contribu	•	ributing
public-local	X district	14	2 building	-
public-State	structure		sites	<u></u>
public-Federal	site		struc	tures
	object		objec	ts
		14	2 total	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property not listing.			contributing resour ly listed in the Natio	
N/A			00	
		·		·
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions		<b>Current</b> Functio	ons	
(Enter categories from instr	uctions)	(Enter categories	from instructions)	
COMMERCE: Specialty St		COMMERCE: S		······
COMMERCE: Financial In	stitution	COMMERCE: R	lestaurant	
COMMERCE: Restaurant				
<u> </u>	<u></u>			
7. Description				
Architectural Classificatio		Materials		
(Enter categories from instr	uctions)		from instructions)	
Late Victorian	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Foundation Sand		
Late 19th and 20th Century		walls Brick		
Late 19th and Early 20th Co	entury		estone	
American Movements		roof Asp		
		other Met	al	

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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 1

#### Setting

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District is in the center of Neillsville, the county seat of Clark County. Neillsville, located in the south central part of the county, is the crossroads where Highway 10 (east/west) meets Highway 73 (north/south). Highway 73 goes directly through the main street of town, Hewett Street.

Originally, Hewett Street was called Main Street, and it was the heart of the commercial district, as it still is today. When accessed from Highway 10, there are three blocks of lovely residential houses, including the monumental Tufts Mansion. The mansion was given to the city of Neillsville by the Tufts family, but was subsequently sold to Joe and Stacie Boe who today run it as a museum. Originally, the historic structure was built by Emery Bruley in 1885. Because of these lovely residences, the entrance to the city is very impressive.

The Carnegie Public Library is on the northeast corner of Hewett and Fourth Streets, and on the opposite end of the block is a new Victorian-styled gazebo. Inbetween the band shelter and the library is an open public area that has park benches and flower gardens. It is called the C.C. Sniteman Town Square Park. The west side of 400 block, while commercial, is not eligible because all of the buildings have been completely redone with no semblance of their originality.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 2

North of the historic block, (the 500 block of Hewett Street) is another block of commercial buildings. All of the buildings on the 600 block have been remodeled or replaced by non-historic structures. The post office is located where the O'Neill House once stood, the local boarding house. The huge Merchants Hotel is across the street on the corner of Hewett and 7th Street. This hotel was originally built across the creek, but was moved in 1906 and two large additions were put on at that time. Adjacent is the bridge which spans O'Neills Creek, a tributary of the Black River.

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District is the 500 block of Hewett Street. The road is 43'10" in width from curb to curb, and allows for parallel parking on both sides. The west and east sides of the block are not symmetrical: the west side is 224'6" in length while the east side measures 300 feet. Consequently, the block jogs on 6th Street. The sidewalks for each block differ in width also; the west side of the block has sidewalks that are 5'5", while the east side is 5' 10". Both sidewalks have two feet of decorative brick between the concrete and the curb. People's names have been imprinted on some of these bricks. Traditional lamp posts have been installed on both sides of the street, giving the area a more historic look.<sup>1</sup>

#### Description

Today the Neillsville Downtown Historic District includes 15 properties all facing on Hewett Street, except for the one included

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This was done in 1989 by the Neillsville Improvement Corporation. Citizens bought bricks as a way of donating to the improvements made. At that time, the Victorian gazebo and town park were added. Total cost for these improvements was \$350,000.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 3

in the district at 118 W. 6th Street. This building faces north.

There are two noncontributing buildings in the district. They are both one story and have replaced razed structures. Both are on the east side of the block. Both were built after 1950 and are non-contributing.

The west side of the 500 block of Hewett Street contains the only extant block in Neillsville of contiguous historic commercial buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century.

Several styles of architecture are represented in this side of the block: Romanesque, Italianate, Classical Revival, Prairie School, and Commercial Vernacular. The east side of the block consists of historic buildings in the Italianate and Commercial Vernacular style of architecture. The historic buildings on the east side of the block have been interrupted by noncontributing buildings that are one story modern replacements.

The single building in the district on 6th Street is of the Commercial Vernacular style.

Several of the buildings in the district have pressed metal cornices and window heads. These metal additions were used at the turn of the century to add style and ornamental details to the buildings. Cast iron had its heyday in 1870 and later zinc, galvanized iron, and pressed tin came into use.

The brick storefront in a vernacular design was the most popular storefront used for the longest time period. Most of the buildings in this district are faced with brick, except for the Commercial State Bank, which has limestone facing. The early brick was manufactured by King and Vine, a local brick yard. This brick was known locally as the "soft brick." It was used for the 1876 Clark

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 4

County Courthouse and the first high school built the same year. In 1884, a harder brick was manufactured by A.W. Schoenguard.<sup>2</sup>

The commercial buildings follow a pattern here of being two stories, with flat or stepped roofs, and are narrow across the front and deep in length. Commercial lots have traditionally been at premium, therefore, frontage dimensions have historically been limited. The result is that most commercial buildings tend to be long and narrow because of the costly frontage. The narrowest building in this district is the Commercial State Bank at 534 Hewett Street, #7. The widest storefront is #11, at 541 Hewett Street, the Emery Bruley Clothing Store. The longest building is at 512 Hewett Street, Mark Kappelan, #10. It is almost 80 feet in length.

These historic buildings were not designed by architects, at least none could be found in this research. Even though many were highstyled Victorian, they were undoubtedly copied from pattern books and built by local unidentified builders. As a group, these buildings in the Historic District represent the continuous evolution of commercial buildings from 1872 to 1948 in Neillsville. They also represent the optimism that was present in the 1890s in many Wisconsin towns and cities. Many had become prosperous because the railroads had reached them and virtually changed their economy. It arrived in Neillsville in 1881.

All of the buildings in the Historic District have had their storefront altered. The Neillsville Bank, #8 at 538 Hewett Street,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Clay & Clay Industries. <u>Wisconsin Geological & Natural Historic</u> <u>Survey.</u> W.A. Buge, Duestor. Bulletin #7, Part I. Compiled by Ernest Robertson Buckley, Madison, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 5

has probably remained the most original. In most all of the other buildings, second floor windows and door openings have been boarded over or have had window replacements.

The fourteen contributing buildings included in the Historic District are:

Hewett and Woods General Store - 502 Hewett Street - Map #1.

This Italianate Commercial Vernacular style building was constructed in 1872, according to the date plate at the top of the building. The building was constructed by James Hewett and O.S. Woods for \$10,000. It is located on the northwest corner of Hewett and Fifth streets and is the oldest building in the district. It is also the first commercial building to be built of brick in Neillsville. The brick used was probably the locally known "soft brick," which was manufactured in the area by King and Vine.

The two story rectilinear-shaped structure has a flat, stepped roof and the main facade, facing east, is 28 feet in width. The south elevation is 79'6" in length. An addition was added to the rear of the building at some time. The fieldstone foundation is only visible in one spot where the pargeting has come loose.

The red brick has been covered over with a cream colored paint. It is evident from historic photos that the building had a course of decorative corbeled brick below the roof line.

The brown brick now surrounding the storefront was added at a later date to frame the large plate glass display windows on either side of the recessed center entrance. The same brick frames the transom, which has been filled in with wood. Below this is a cloth awning.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 6

The front elevation has three elongated double hung windows on the second story. All of the windows are: surmounted by a brick surround that is intercepted by a keystone; in a recessed area between brick pilasters, with brick dentils across the top of each recessed area; and, all have limestone sills and are one over one. The fenestration on the south elevation is similar, however, there are no pilasters. The only openings on the first story of the south elevation are two square-shaped windows, one at each end of the building; both with roundheads. They are covered with wooden shutters.

The center door is recessed and has small tiles on the slanted entryway. There are tell-tale yellow and black tiles on the outside of the store which indicated that the J.C. Penney Company was once housed here. According to local historian, Dee Zimmerman, the company was there from the late 1930s to the 1960s.

This building has always been used as a retail store. According to the Sanborn-Perris map of 1897, the Masonic Lodge occupied the second floor. Hewett and Woods sold their store in 1892 to the Marsh Brothers, who remained there until 1938 when Penneys moved into the building. In 1998, Diane Murphy, the mayor of Neillsville, purchased the building to show her support of the Historic District.

Lowe Brothers - 508 Hewett Street - Map #2

The 1896 Lowe Brothers building is one of the most outstanding buildings in this district. The Romanesque influenced commercial style is unique in Neillsville, and would be a great addition to any historic district. The arcaded parapet cornice of iron rises above the buildings on either. Within the arched cornice are continuous decorative brackets. At either end of the cornice

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:7 Page: 7

is a stepped bracket with a pommel. Beneath the brackets is a semi-circular band of metal with decorative rivets.

Two different shades of brick were used on the front facade, which faces east. The main color is a stronger hue of orangish-red and is contrasted by a tan-colored brick. The only place the lighter brick is used is in the recessed area under the arch. There are three arched windows on the second story, each outlined by brick. The center window is the largest of the three. Within each opening there are replacement windows; the center window has two. All of these windows are one over one, double hung. Because the window does not fill the entire opening, wood inserts have been added. The frames of the windows are painted green.

Below the second-story fenestration, a cedar shingled roof begins and extends over the transom and the ground floor store. The name plate has been mounted in the center of this overhanging roof.

The store front, which measures 24 feet across the front facade has been remodeled and features large display windows with a centered and recessed entrance. A slanted approach leads to the glass entry door. Board and batten siding is under the display windows and this siding has been painted green. A street level door between 502 and 508 leads to a stairway to the second floor. This stairway appears as an outside stairway on the 1892 Sanborn-Perris map, but when this 1896 building was constructed it was enclosed.

The Red Owl grocery chain store came to Neillsville in 1927 and located in this building, by the account in the June 18, 1997 <u>Clark</u> <u>County Press</u>.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 8

Bast Bakery - 510 Hewett Street - Map #3

This Italianate commercial building was constructed in c1890 as a meat and flour retail store. The two-story structure has a metal parapet cornice with paired brackets, four pairs total, each pair intersected by dentils. The second story is faced with a light tan brick and is three bays wide; the building width is  $22'1^{1}/_{2}$ ".

The center window is larger than the two side ones and has an arched transom that has a wooden insert. All three windows have corbeled brick surrounds and all are double hung. The two side windows are two over two while the center one is one over one. A continuous sill runs the width of the building.

The cornice is painted a cream color while the trim is painted burgundy. A curved awning of rose-colored canvas covers the transom and extends over the storefront. The entrance is recessed at the south side with a concrete step up to the glass door. Below the large glass storefront window is board and batten siding painted tan.

August Snyder Clothing Store - 518 Hewett Street - Map #4

This Italianate commercial building was constructed in 1900 by Auqust Snyder. The roof line matches the building at 510, just south of this one and is similar in style. It differs from the others in this district because it has a projecting bay on the This is the dominant architectural detail. second story. The bay has a red shingled roof, with brackets under the eaves. The center window in the bay is the largest and has a transom. Each angled window is one over one, double hung. The bottom of the bay window extends below the second story. Once this portion had decorative detailing, but has been covered over with wood and is painted gray. Matching windows on either side of the projecting bay, are roundheads with brick surrounds that end with brick corbels. The

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 9

intersecting keystones are also of brick.

Beneath the fenestration is a stepped brick belt course intersected by short rounded pilasters.

Brick pilasters frame the building and end with a bracket at the roof line. A large patera is on each bracket. The metal cornice has decorative rivets evenly spaced. There are several brick belt courses unevenly spaced between the fenestration and the cornice.

The storefront which faces east is 29'9" in width and has a centered, recessed entrance, with a slanted concrete entry leading to a glass door with side lights. Short display windows are on either side. Underneath the windows is board and batten siding. The sign band has been covered over. A flat, rectangular-shaped roof extension of aluminum is found over the display windows. Metal rods connected to the building support this extension.

A wooden door at the south end of the building has a concrete step and is recessed. This doorway leads to the second floor residence.

<u>Clark County Bank</u> - 522 Hewett Street - Map #5

This elaborate commercial building, 26'1" in width, was originally built in 1887. It was redone in 1890 according to the April 29, 1890 <u>Neillsville Times</u>: "The plans of the new building show iron, pressed brick, cut storefront with plate glass and double doors. The building will be much taller than the old one with handsome modern style of trimmings, rich but not gaudy. Iron cresting and arched iron frames for the building will be used."

The elaborate iron parapet cornice has a clipped gable with architrave under the gable. There is raised ornamentation within

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 10

the gable. Four elaborate brick corbels are evenly spaced. Each has a decorative finial surmounted of metal, with a patera on the face. Between the corbels is stepped brick within a herringbone design.

The recessed area between the end pilasters contains the fenestration. The windows are elongated in the second story. The center window is almost twice as large as the single windows on either side. A segmental brick arch with extensions, ends in corbeling. A small semi-circle under the arch has decorative scrolls. The glass area has been boarded over.

The two smaller side windows are surmounted by metal pediments with a sunburst design within the pediment. The brick corbels at either side are at the same height as the center window. Small windows have been installed and the rest of the area has been covered with wood. The entire building is painted gray except for the wood under the continuous sill.

Below the sill are inappropriate vertical boards, painted white, on the face of the building. Attached to this wood area are metal rods which support the flat metal awning which extends over the storefront. A recessed entrance to the south has a cement step up to the glass door. A rectilinear glass plate window, divided down the middle by a metal strip, is framed by rough plaster.

C.C. Sniteman Drug - 528 Hewett Street - Map #6

The Sniteman Drugs is a fine example of an Italianate commercial building. The decorative metal cornice painted silver rises above the buildings on either side. The date plate gives the date of 1895. That was the year pharmacist Sniteman reconstructed the original one-story building. Rectangular in shape, it is 26'6" in

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 11

width.

The Sniteman Building at 528 Hewett Street makes a monumental statement in this town. It is extremely elaborate and makes a visual display of prosperity. When the building was redone in 1895 another story was added and a new facade was put on the building. This storefront is higher than any other on the block. The pressed metal is painted a shiny silver and helps to highlight the architectural details. When Sniteman redid his building, five years after 522 Hewett Street, he wanted it to be the tallest.

The full gabled metal pediment has three finials: one on either side that surmount decorative brackets, these finials are called pommels; the third one surmounts the peak and does not have a pommel. There are four brackets under the eaves, plus the Sniteman name and date, 1895. The brackets on each edge of the building have the pommels missing. There are also three smaller brackets under the eaves, three on each side of the centered pediment.

Brick pilasters frame the second story connecting the stepped brick corbeling. The main area between the pilasters has an expanse of red brick uninterrupted except for the four identical windows. The double hung, one over one windows have brick surrounds with keystones. The window trim is painted white.

A sign, Sniteman Pharmacy, is perpendicular to the building and is supported by wires attached to the red brick.

Beneath the fenestration is a large rectangular board painted white. A flat metal awning extends over the storefront. The storefront has large display windows with a slanted cement entrance to the recessed centered glass entrance. Tan brick is beneath the plate glass windows.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:7 Page: 12

Commercial State Bank - 534 Hewett Street - Map #7

The Commercial State Bank is the narrowest storefront facing on Hewett Street, measuring only 20'4" in width. Constructed of red brick in 1887, it was once a dry goods and grocery store. This brick is still visible at the rear elevation. The new facade was added in 1917 when it became the Commercial State Bank.

The limestone block facade has a cornice and a balustraded parapet, making it a Classical Revival-styled building, with dentils below the cornice. The balustrades are sandwiched between two limestone blocks of equal height.

A large centered segmental arch has a limestone eagle surmounted on the voussoirs. Originally this recessed area was filled with multipaned windows and decorative panels. Today, the arched area has been filled with vertical boards painted brown. Within the boarded area are two double hung windows, one over one. Below the boarded area is a burgundy canvas awning. A plate glass display window with a wooden base is on the street level. A glass door, on the north side, is flush with the display windows. Aqua paint has been used to trim certain areas.

Neillsville Bank - 538 Hewett Street - Map #8

Known as the Gates Block when it was built in 1887, it is located at the end of the 500 block of Hewett Street on the southwest corner. Originally, the red brick building had a corner entrance and was a general store.

In 1909 the exterior was changed drastically to become what it is still today. Remodeled in the Prairie Commercial Style, in 1909, it was a popular style for banks in that era. The exterior was

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:7 Page: 13

covered in tan brick with limestone decoration.

The rectilinear shaped building is 72'4" long on W. 6th Street and 34" wide on Hewett Street.

The slightly projecting main entrance, which faces east, has a notched limestone surround with a limestone base, painted brown today. A lantern is mounted on either side of the doorway. The bank name has been covered over above the doorway. The door is glass with a transom and one sidelight, on the south side. There is a concrete step.

A notched limestone belt course separates the two stories. Limestone is found in the continuous sill and the decorative rectangles at each end of the sill. A large centered limestone patera is on the front elevation, framed by brick. Below this was where the alarm box was originally mounted, (now gone). A limestone cornice is at the roof line.

The fenestration is not symmetrical. On the first story, front elevation, two similar, large plate glass windows flank the main entrance, with a narrow lug sill of limestone. Two layers of brick frame these windows.

Above, on the second story, is a band of six double hung windows, one over one, surrounded by a layered frame of brick. Brick corbeling is found between the windows.

The north elevation has one large window at the east and west ends which mimic the windows on the front facade. In between are seven windows boarded over with limestone lug sills painted brown.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: <sup>7</sup> Page: <sup>14</sup>

There are 13 windows on the north elevation, similar to the east elevation; three have been boarded over and four have had smaller replacement windows installed.

The west elevation (rear) still retains the red brick facade. The arched windows here have iron bars on them.

The land slopes gently from Hewett Street along W. 6th Street. As the land slopes, basement windows are visible at the west end of the north elevation. They become progressively larger at the west end.

Varieties Store - 118 W. 6th Street - Map #9

The only building in the historic district not on Hewett Street is this brick Commercial Vernacular building. Constructed in 1886, it faces north, is rectilinear in shape, 52'6" in length and 18'4" in width. An outside stairway on the east side leads to the second floor. A simple denticulated cornice is on the north elevation.

There are two windows on the second story, double hung, two over two with brick surrounds.

The storefront has a cornice over the sign board. The main entrance is centered and is one step up from street level. The door is framed in wood with one light. There are display windows on either side. A coal chute is on the bottom front of the front elevation. The brick building has been painted red with blue trim. The wood around the door has been painted yellow.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:7 Page: 15

Mark Kappelan Block - 551 Hewett Street - Map #10

Located on the northeast corner of Hewett and Sixth Streets, this building was built in 1893, according to the <u>Clark County Press</u>, October 15, 1997. Originally, the building was three distinct businesses; the front business facing west on Hewett Street was a drug store; the middle section was a barber shop and at the end, a saloon.

When the building was refaced in 1897 it was also adorned with the iron cornice and window treatments. The 31'10" wide storefront has a metal parapet cornice with evenly-spaced brackets which continue around to the north elevation.

There is little ornamental brick except for the raised brick which forms an arch. There are two arches on the east elevation and four on the north elevation. Within the arch is the fenestration. The east elevation is four bays wide while the north elevation is ten bays wide. Each window is surmounted by an iron pediment. Four windows have been replaced with new, smaller, double hung windows; three have been boarded over; seven are original, one over one, double hung. There are limestone sills on all the windows.

The front storefront has been altered. The corner of the building has been covered with diagonal wood strips. An aluminum flat awning extends over the storefront. The recessed south entrance is through a glass door with a transom. A concrete step leads to the entryway. South of this entrance is the entrance to the second floor stairway. This entrance door mimics the store entrance; however, it has one side light to the north.

The foundation is sandstone that has been covered over. At the first story of the north elevation, there are visible signs of

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:7 Page: 16

previous display windows and two doors. Two matching roundhead windows are on this elevation. At the east end are three arcaded half windows with keystones. The middle arcade is bricked. A black iron fire escape has been attached to this elevation.

Emery Bruley's Mens' Clothing - 541 Hewett Street - Map #11

One of the widest storefronts, this Italianate Commercial Vernacular red brick building measures 43'6" across the front facade. Six bays wide, the windows are roundheads with keystones, one over one, and double hung. There is a decorative transom under the arch, and limestone sills. There are several brick belt courses.

The 1882 building has a simple cornice with brick corbeling on the front facade. The north elevation reveals a five-stepped roof and a single chimney. The two-story building has been painted a cream color, but only on the front elevation.

Today the building has been divided into two businesses on the first story. The north half has had lannon stone added with vertical wood siding above. The recessed glass entry is to the north. Two small single lights are within the lannon stone section. Another door, a wooden one with one light, is north of the main entry. This leads to the stairway for the second floor. The three second- story windows in this section are original; the three in the south section have been replaced with smaller ones. The signboard has been covered over.

The south section of the building has a double plate glass window with a recessed entry door, at the south end. Another entry to the upstairs is found south of this, a wooden door with three lights. This facade has been covered over with a stone-coated masonry which

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 17

extends up to the second story belt course. There is a diamond pattern across the top in contrasting color.

A sign perpendicular to the building extends out over the sidewalk.

Republican Press - 531 Hewett Street - Map #12

This 24' storefront is a simple Italianate Commercial building of red brick with a projecting cornice and a limestone frieze. The cornice has paired brackets under the eaves. The decorative cornice, besides running the width of the front elevation, turns the corner and continues on for 36 feet on the south elevation. The building is 72'6" in depth and is separated from the building south by a 17'4" wide alley.

The elongated windows have segmental arches in brick ending in corbeling. The windows have been replaced with much smaller windows, one over one, and double hung. Wood inserts have been added to make up the difference in size. Brick pilasters frame the second floor.

Board and batten siding, painted tan, has been added to the front facade, just below the window sills. A wide recessed center entrance is one step up and has terrazzo tile set into concrete. The door has two lights and two side lights.

<u>Dewhurst Block</u> - 521 Hewett Street - Map #13

On the south side of the alley is the 33'3" wide Commercial Vernacular building built of red brick in 1891. The parapet roof is flat and stepped three times on the north elevation. There are decorative brick corbels beneath the roof line. A name plate notes that the building is the Dewhurst Block and the date is 1891.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 18

The front elevation is four bays wide, while the north elevation has five bays. The windows have segmental arched heads with brick corbeling. A continuous limestone sill is on the front elevation; the north elevation has separate limestone sills. A narrow notched limestone cap runs along the top of the roof.

The windows have been either boarded over or replaced with small, double hung, one over one windows. Wood has been used to fill in the rest of the opening. The storefront has vertical wooden siding extending from the continuous sill to the top of the plate glass windows. A striped awning on a roller is visible.

The brick is found again at the base of the windows, as a column between the two entries and also on the corner over the second floor entry. All of this brick has been painted white.

The store entrance is up one step (carpeted) and is recessed on the right side. The glass door is identical to the one leading to the second floor. The second floor entry is up two steps and has the painted brick above it. The section over this entrance up to the second story window sill is still original. There are dentils under the sill and also a brick belt course.

Hein & Beaulieu's Dry Goods Store - 517 Hewett Street - Map #14

This Italianate commercial building is by far the most architecturally elaborate building on the east side of the 500 block. It faces west.

The decorated pressed metal cornice is influenced by the Queen Anne movement and has evenly-spaced brackets with sunbursts of metal in between the brackets and also embossed metal bands at the top.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 19

A centered parapet pediment is surmounted on the roof line. Embossed metal designs are within the pediment.

The brick 38' wide storefront has been painted tan with burgundy highlighting. The pressed metal is cream colored.

The fenestration is four bays wide with elongated windows that have been replaced by three small, double hung, one over one windows, with wood inserts above. The fourth window has been boarded over.

Segmental arches surmount the window openings with corbels and dentils. There is a continuous sill of limestone.

A large portion of the storefront has been covered over with wood below the continuous sill and the top of the plate glass.

A center door with transom is recessed. There is one step up of concrete. Display windows are on either side. The entrance to the second floor is on the south end of the front facade. It has brick piers and dentils across the top under a small cornice. The double glass door has a transom overhead that has been filled with wood.

#### CONCLUSION:

The buildings in this Historic District are all sound and stable buildings, but they need to be rehabilitated on the street level and also on the second story. The second story restoration would be very easy as it is, in most cases, a matter of installing compatible windows. They are, in spite of the fact that some work is needed, very significant buildings architecturally and are historically important to the commercial history and development of Neillsville.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

# National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 7 Page: 20

Name of Property County and State Neillsville Downtown Historic District Clark, WI

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

MAP	ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE
#1	502 Hewett Street	Hewett & Woods General Store	1872
#2	508 Hewett Street	Lowe Brothers	1896
#3	510 Hewett Street	Bast Bakery	1890
#4	518 Hewett Street	August Snyder Clothing Store	1900
#5	522 Hewett Street	Clark County Bank	1887/1890
#6	528 Hewett Street	C.C. Sniteman Drug Store	1895
#7	534 Hewett Street	Commercial State Bank	1903/1917
#8	538 Hewett Street	Neillsville Bank	1887/1909
#9	118 W. 6th Street	Varieties Store	1886/1892
#10	551 Hewett Street	Mark Kappelan Block	1893
#11	541 Hewett Street	Emery Bruley's Men's Clothing	1882
#12	531 Hewett Street	Republican Press/Post Office	
#13	521 Hewett Street	Dewhurst Block - General Stor	
#14	517 Hewett Street	Hein & Beaulieu's Dry Goods S	tore 1897

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

501 Hewett Street	Elroy Investments	1959
545-547 Hewett Street	Ratsch Engineering	1954/1980

Neillsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property

Clark

County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

#### **Criteria Considerations**

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

#### Property is:

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

# **Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

**Period of Significance** 

1872-1949

#### **Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:88 Page: 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District is significant to the city of Neillsville and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under both criteria A and C. The 500 block of Hewett Street is a good representation of commercial architecture from the late 19th and early 20th century. It is also a testament to the evolution of the development of commerce in Neillsville during this time period. The west side of the block is the only contiguous block of historic commercial buildings still extant in Neillsville. These buildings represent the wealth and prosperity of a thriving community during the period from 1872 to 1949, the National Register cutoff date.

HISTORICAL:

Clark County, situated a little northwest of the center of the state, was created out of territory taken from Jackson County. It was approved by the legislature on July 6, 1853. The Black River, which runs north to south, divides the county into two nearly equal parts. The county has gently rolling terrain and contains swamps, prairie and forest. The dense forests were what encouraged settlement. The pineries were located along the Black River and its tributaries. In 1881 they annually cut two to three hundred million feet of lumber.<sup>3</sup>

Due to the advance of glaciers, the region known as the pinery, was served by an ideal transportation system of lakes, streams and rivers. The waterways of Wisconsin were probably the most important

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Western Historical Company, <u>History of Northern Wisconsin</u>, Chicago: 1881, p. 227.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 2

factor in the early and sustained growth of the industry in the state."4

Neillsville was settled in June of 1845 when James and Henry O'Neill, E. Brockway and Samuel F. and William Ferguson came from Black River. They had to cut the first road in order to get there.<sup>5</sup>

"The village of Neillsville is situated near the junction of O'Neill Creek with the Black River and is usually conceded to be one of the best built villages in the state. It has mostly been built up within the past ten years. The builders have indicated in all that they have done, that they were intent alike in tasteful and permanent work."<sup>6</sup>

In 1850 about 50 acres were cleared by James O'Neill, Jr. for the village site. He appropriated four acres for the village proper and had the village platted by Allen Boardman, a surveyor in 1855. It was the first village to be laid out in the county.<sup>7</sup> It was replatted in 1921 by C. Stockwell.

<sup>4</sup>Wyatt, Barbara. <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>. Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Madison, 1986. Volume II, p. 5 - 1.

<sup>5</sup>Western Historical Company, <u>History of Northern Wisconsin</u> (Chicago: 1881), p. 228.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid, p. 233.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid, p. 230.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 3

James O'Neill, Jr. was known as the proprietor of the village. He was born in Lisbon, N.Y. in 1810 and came to Wisconsin in 1836 and began in the lumbering business. The first mill was built on the banks of O'Neill Creek soon after James O'Neill built his rough cabin. The pine was cut first along the banks of the creek and floated down the creek to the Black River.Village dwellers received all the lumber they required from the primitive sawmills that sprang up in every partially-urbanized community. As villages used up the local supply, settlers had to go further into the more remote areas.<sup>8</sup>

The first post office was established in 1856 with S.C. Boardman as the first postmaster. The first newspaper began in 1857 by William C. Tompens under the name of the <u>Clark County Advocate</u>. Another newspaper that began in 1867 was the <u>Clark County Journal</u>.

In 1860 the population in the village of Neillsville was less than 250. The first substantial building to be built in the commercial district was the first brick building at 502 (504) Hewett Street. A part of the Historic District, it was constructed by James Hewett and O.S. Woods for \$10,000.

James Hewett was born in New York State in 1830. He began working in the lumber business in 1859 with O.S. Woods under the firm name of Hewett, Woods and Company. The street name was changed from Main Street to Hewett Street in the 1860s. Hewett became the first mayor of Neillsville after it was incorporated by an act of the legislature March 28, 1882. Hewett built a mill on Wedge's Creek in a place known as Hewettville. It was destroyed by fire in 1886. He had a township and the main street named in his honor. He is

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 233.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:8 Page: 4

also credited with being responsible for the railroad coming to Neillsville in 1881.

The railroad brought new prosperity to the village. Because of the railroad's arrival, manufacturers sprang up as a marriage with the lumbering business: a stair factory, a wagon spoke factory, a turning lathe factory and a sash and door factory. Neillsville prospered a great deal between 1871, the date of the Chicago fire, and 1900. A huge demand for lumber arose because of the fire and this affected the economy in Neillsville.

During this prosperity in Neillsville, from 1870 to 1900, fine buildings were constructed, such as the two-story courthouse in the Italianate style and a two-story brick high school. Both were constructed in 1876, built of the same type of brick and both were designed by the LaCrosse architect, C.J. Ross. Both have been demolished.

Other important men connected with the commercial business in the 500 block of Hewett Street were: Daniel and James Gates, Emery Bruley, Richard Dewhurst, the Marsh Brothers, Mark Kappelan and C.C. Sniteman.

Daniel Gates moved to Neillsville in 1861 and bought 20 acres of land. With Joseph Head he started a feed store and a meat market on the northwest corner of 6th and Hewett streets. This was the first meat market in Neillsville and later a grocery store was added. In 1884 the two men moved their business to 508 Hewett Street.

Mr. Gates, with his son, James, founded the Neillsville Bank in 1879. In 1893 the private bank was sold to Richard Dewhurst who secured a state charter and continued the bank under the same

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:8 Page: 5

name.<sup>9</sup>

Charles C. Sniteman was born in New York in 1851. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1871. He came to Neillsville in 1879 to manage the Henry Meyer Drug Store. In 1891 he bought Meyer out.

Sniteman invented the first fly spray that farmers eagerly bought for 1.00 a gallon. He also invented a "blue ointment used in lumber camps to repel lice."<sup>10</sup>

Emery Bruley built a brick building at 541 Hewett Street that he used for several businesses. The first floor housed a clothing store, cigar store, and saloon. The second floor contained a cigar factory. Born in Ottawa City, Canada in 1845, he came to Neillsville and started a blacksmith shop nine years before he opened a clothing store.<sup>11</sup>

He was responsible for the beautiful mansion at 26 Hewett Street built in 1885. Today, known as the Tufts Mansion, it is owned by Joe and Stacie Boe, and run as a historic house museum.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

<sup>10</sup><u>Clark County Press</u>, November 6, 1996, p. 28.

<sup>11</sup>Cooper, H.C., Jr. & Company, <u>History of Clark County</u>, Chicago: 1918, p. 239.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Cooper, H.C., Jr. & Company, <u>History of Clark County</u>, Chicago: 1918, p. 253.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 6

"Main Street" has always been a creation of centralization for villages, towns, and cities and served as magnets for commerce. It is the civic and commercial heart of the American city.

Not until the early 19th century did the design of strictly commercial buildings emerge as a major component of architecture. As private enterprise was the principal generator of the nation's development, so commercial architecture played a central role in defining the character of its settlements. The size and extent of a community's commercial buildings served as an index to its achievements and potential. Facades served as advertisements for the business within. "The commercial center became a collage, a panoply of competing images embodying the rivalry of the marketplace."<sup>12</sup>

The main street served as the spine for the rest of the community. It was usually the primary route and as the town grew laterally even parallel streets were developed. As for Neillsville, the main route goes right through the proposed Neillsville Downtown Historic District.

The gap between the image of commercial districts and the rest of the community continued to increase as a potent signifier of place well into the 20th century. Neillsville's merchants certainly had confidence in the economy of their village at the turn of the century as witnessed by the exterior facades they placed upon their buildings. The exterior facade is what gives each building its unique qualities and makes each building distinctive from the others. Usually the interior of the building follows the style of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Longstrenth, Richard, <u>The Buildings of Main Street</u>, Washington, D.C: Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987, p. 17.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 7

the exterior, however, most of these buildings have been modernized and the interiors have been covered over or modified.

Many of the buildings in the proposed Historic District are highstyled buildings, especially for a small town. The population in Neillsville in the 1880s and 90s, according to the 1890 <u>Wisconsin</u> <u>Blue Book</u>, was 1,936.

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District is locally significant to the history of commercial development. As the primary focal point for commercial transactions, the district physically embodies the important role of the downtown as commercial center for both the community and surrounding agricultural region. The extant buildings represent the commercial services vital to a robust local economy and reflect a range of services such as banking, dry goods, druggists, newspapers, barber shops, saloons, and general stores that typify late nineteenth and early twentieth small towns. The district followed an evolution typical of small town retailing, such as the expansion of general stores at the turn of the century and the arrival of chain store retailing in the 1920s. Today, the Neillsville Downtown Historic District is the most cohesive concentration of historic commercial retailing in the community and reflects the dominance of the downtown in small town retailing from the late nineteenth century until after World War II.

# ARCHITECTURE:

The label "Vernacular Commercial" is less specific to a visual type than other significant Wisconsin building forms and can be applied generally to supply-designed commercial buildings of the late 19th and 20th centuries. All varieties, if not radically altered, include large retail show windows on the ground story. Upper stories whether meant to serve business or residential uses, are

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:8 Page: 8

characterized by simple window openings. Doors to serve groundstory shops and upper stories are simple and when original are generally of paneled wood with single window above. An emphatic cornice with some decorative treatment (compound brick corbeling, wood moldings or metal friezes, with finials or thick corbels at the ends) and a cornice or I-beam above the storefront are usually the only decorative traces. Simplified period motifs are implied, but without any overt stylistic character. Frequently, Vernacular Commercial buildings, and other commercial buildings, were partially illuminated on the ground floor by a transom across the facade. The transoms were often covered with wooden signage. Although there are free-standing Vernacular Commercial buildings, many are joined by party walls into continuous commercial streetscapes.<sup>13</sup>

Like other building forms, the most significant Vernacular Commercial examples will be those of the highest integrity, retaining original or later period storefronts and interior elements like pressed metal ceilings. Common buildings whose distinguishing characteristic was their simplicity began to be valued as keystones in the architectural history of Wisconsin. As these common buildings begin to disappear the ones still extant gain in their value.<sup>14</sup>

With the exception of the single examples of the Classical Revival and of the Prairie Style, the buildings in the district could be

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Wyatt, Barbara. <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>. Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Madison, 1986. Volume II, p. 3 - 10.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: <sup>8</sup> Page: 9

loosely categorized as Italianate. The influence of other styles are seen, including elements of the Queen Anne and of the Romanesque.

The Italianate was a very popular style of architecture for commercial buildings across the state between 1855 and 1890. The Italianate style began in England as part of the Picturesque Movement as a reaction to the classical ideals that had been popular for 200 years. The style became popular in houses in the United States between 1840 and 1885. Because of the influential pattern book of Andrew Jackson Downing, published in the 1840s and 1850s, the Italianate style overshadowed the Gothic Revival style that was popular in the United States at the same time.<sup>15</sup>

The Italianate style was extremely popular in the expanding towns and cities of the Midwest. It was especially popular for houses so it follows that it would be transposed into the commercial buildings that were being constructed during this period.

The Italianate storefront popular during the 1870s and 1880s, the window treatment (which included the shape and size of the window and the lintel or sill) the cornice line, and the corners of the building offered the most opportunities for detail from the limited design possibilities. Windows were generally long and narrow, and lintels and sills were of metal, brick, stone, or cement. Lintels were visually heavy units, segmented or rounded. Metal pieces had ornamental surfaces."<sup>16</sup> It set a precedent and a design standard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>MacAlester, Virginia & Lee, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 212.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. <u>American Vernacular Design:</u> <u>1870-1940</u>, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State university Press, 1988, p. 239.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:88 Page: 10

that is still evident in the great number of Italianate upper stories in business districts throughout the country.<sup>17</sup>

During the 1850s to 1880s the Italianate Commercial design was used throughout Wisconsin in the newly-developed commercial areas. Nearly every Wisconsin city and village has its examples. Often surviving in near-original form are upper-story wood, stone or iron hoodmolds, brackets and cornices.<sup>18</sup>

After 1855 the Italianate Commercial design was: "On the mercantile palazzo the shopfront has broad expanses of plate-glass windows formed with rich capitals and cornices. Upper-story windows may be headed by round arches with projecting keystones and richly profiled moldings and floor levels expressed by elaborate horizontal coursing.<sup>19</sup> The roof line is flat, emphatically crowned at the eaves by a projecting cornice with medallions or brackets. Alternatively, there may be an elaborately-shaped pediment embellished with molding, finial and inscription."<sup>20</sup>

The most significant example of the style within the district is 528 Hewett Street. This building is defined by its elaborate window moldings and the decorative, stepped pediment cornice. Other examples of the style include 531 and 510 Hewett Street.

There are several examples in the district which may be classified as <u>Commercial Vernacular</u> buildings. These buildings share many

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Wyatt, Barbara. <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>. Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Madison, 1986. Volume II, p. 2 - 6.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 11

features with the Italianate commerical buildings, but the decorative features are generally more simplified. Examples within the Historic District are located at: 502 (#1); 118 W. 6th Street (#9); 541 (#11); and 521 (#13). All brick-front buildings were the most popular vernacular design storefront.

These commerical buildings were usually two to three stories tall and had ground-level store facilities, with storage or living space on the second and third floor. Access from the street through a separate entrance was the norm. These buildings usually shared a wall called a party wall. All of these four stores are narrow and deep. The upper levels had more options for decoration than the first level storefront. Often brick corbeling, string courses and continuous or single sills were present.<sup>19</sup>

Vernacular denotes that it was a common building form during a certain period of commercial development. Because many of these Vernacular Commercial building have been razed, the ones remaining have become more important for they represent a popular building form.

There is one <u>Romanesque Revival</u> influenced building in the district. The brick Romanesque Revival is usually highlighted by the semi-circular arch for window and door openings.<sup>20</sup> The arch is used decoratively at the rooftop on the building at 508 Hewett

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. <u>American Vernacular Design:</u> <u>1870-1940</u>, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State university Press, 1988, p. 240

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Blumenson, John J.-G. <u>Identifying American Architecture</u>, W.W. Norton & Company, New York: 1979, p. 63., p. 43.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:8 Page: 12

Street (#2).

The Romanesque Revival recalled the round-arched medieval style that had preceded the pointed arch Gothic in Europe. Architects James Renwick and Richard Upjohn introduced the style in the eastern United States in the 1840s, although in Wisconsin and other German-settled areas it may have been introduced by German immigrant architects. Like the Gothic Revival, the Romanesque Revival was considered popular for ecclesiastical buildings; it was also a popular style for commercial structures of the period.<sup>21</sup>

The Romanesque Commercial style was not as widespread as the Italianate. The Romanesque was a picturesque mode of expression. Emphasis was always on the round-arch windows and was usually designed in stone and brick.<sup>22</sup>

<u>Classical Revival</u> buildings were being built across the country after the world's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The example of this style in the Historic District is the Commercial State Bank at 534 (#7).

Classicism is based on the Greek and the Roman architectural orders. The buildings created for the Columbian Exposition instilled in the nation a belief in the Classical ideal. The style became extremely popular for public and institutional buildings, as

<sup>22</sup>Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. <u>American Vernacular Design:</u> <u>1870-1940</u>, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State university Press, 1988, p. 246.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Wyatt, Barbara. <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>. Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Madison, 1986. Volume II, p. 2 - 9.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:8 Page: 13

well as commercial structures, especially banks. The style was popular in the United States from 1895 - 1935.<sup>23</sup>

The balustrated cornice at the roof line of the Commercial State Bank as well as the arched recess could also be classified as Beaux Arts, a specialized aspect of the Classical Revival. "Beaux Arts buildings share many of the formal characteristics of their Neoclassical Revival contemporaries, but often include paired monumental columns, blind parapets or balustrades, decorative urns, anthemia, orbs and sculpture."<sup>24</sup>

The term Beaux Arts meaning "Fine Arts" is French. Beaux Arts describes elaborate eclectic styles because these tended to be advocated by Americans who studied at France's Ecole des Beaux-Arts, the premier school of architecture during that period. Classical details ere elaborated by lavish decorative detailing.<sup>25</sup>

The Neillsville Bank at 538 Hewett (#8) closely resembles the <u>Prairie Style</u> buildings that became popular in the Midwest after the turn of the century for smaller commercial buildings. Because of technological advances in the skeletal frame it allowed for larger expanses of windows and limited decoration. Only simple stone capitals in the piers, stone lintels and a plain parapet ornament the building.

<sup>25</sup>MacAlester, Virginia & Lee, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 379 - 380.

 $<sup>^{23}</sup>$ Ibid, p. 2 - 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Ibid, p.2-19.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 14

#### CONCLUSION:

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District is significant because the 500 block of Hewett Street has always been the heart of the retail business in the city. The west side of the block is the only contiguous block of commercial buildings still extant in Neillsville.

Both the west side and the east side of the 500 block, plus the building at 118 W. 6th Street, are the commercial buildings closely linked to the history of commerce in the City of Neillsville.

The buildings in the Historic District are fine examples of the architectural styles that were being built across the country in the late 19th and early 20th century, and should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### PRESERVATION ACTIVITY:

Ordinance #925 was enacted in Neillsville in 1994. Neillsville has a Historic Preservation Commission which began in 1997. Many people in Neillsville realize the importance of their historic buildings and are trying to preserve them. The mayor, Diane Murphy, has purchased the building at 502 (#1) and Patricia Lacey, who is in charge of the local 1897 Jailhouse Museum, has also purchased a building at 118 W. 6th Street (#9).

The Neillsville Improvement Corporation hopes with this nomination to revive interest in the retail area and to fill some of the vacant storefronts.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL:

No archaeological remains have been discovered or any information

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 8 Page: 15

about possible prehistoric remains was found in doing this research.

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service): 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: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.0 acres

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

1	1/5	6/9/0/9/2/0	4/9/3/6/7/4/0	3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Easting ntinuation SI	Northing	

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 Prepar	red By			
name/title	Mary Jane Hettinga			
organization	Librarian, Marathon Co. Historical Society		date	7/20/99
street & number	410 Mc Indoe Street		telephone	715/848-0378
city or town	Wausau state	Wisconsin	zip code	54403

Wisconsin

County and State

Clark

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 9 Page: 1

#### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Books:

Blumenson, John J.-G., <u>Identifying American Architecture</u>. W.W. Norton & Company, New York: 1979.

Cooper, H.C. Jr. and Co., <u>History of Clark County</u>. Chicago: 1918.

- Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan, <u>American Vernacular Design:</u> <u>1870-1940</u>. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.
- Lewis Publishing Company, <u>History of Clark and Jackson Counties</u> Chicago: 1891.

Longstrenth, Richard, <u>The Buildings of Main Street</u>. Washington, D.C: Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987.

MacAlester, Virginia & Lee, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Rifkind, Carole, <u>A Field Guide to American Architecture</u>. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Western Historical Company, <u>History of Northern Wisconsin</u>. Chicago: 1881.

Wyatt, Barbara, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section:9 Page: 2

Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Volume 2.

Maps:

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Limited. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Neillsville. New York, N.Y. January 1887; March, 1903; December, 1914.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Limited. New York, N.Y. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Neillsville, October, 1892; December, 1897.

Newspapers:

Clark County Press, Neillsville.

Oral Interviews:

Dee Zimermann, Patricia Lacey, and Merrill Brunette, residents of Neillsville.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Serive

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

> Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark County, WI

Section: 10 Page: 1

Boundary Description:

The Neillsville Downtown Historic District includes all or part of the following parcels from the original plat and the C.S. Stockwell 1921 Plat, in the City of Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin: Lots 374 and 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382 of Block A; 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402 and 403 of Block 2.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Neillsville Downtown Historic District encompasses the properties on the 500 block of Hewett Street, a one block area located between West 5<sup>th</sup> Street and West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and including one property at 118 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. These are properties historically connected to the commercial center of Neillsville's downtown. Neillsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property

County and State

Clark

**Additional Documentation** 

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

MapsA 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 ite	em at the request of SHPO or FPO	.)		- <u></u>			
name/title	Various, see inventory						
organization			date	7/20/99			
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 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 Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Continuaiton Sheet Neillsville Downtown Historic District Section: Photos Page: 1 Neillsville, Clark Co., WI Photo 1 of 22 West side of 500 block of Photo 5 of 22 Hewett Street Bast Bakery Neillsville, Clark County, WI 510 Hewett Street #3 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neillsville, Clark County, WI October 20, 1997 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neg. at WI State Historical Society June 1, 1998 Camera facing northwest Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west Photo 2 of 22 Hewett and Woods General Store Photo 6 of 22 502 Hewett Street #1 August Snyder Clothing Store Neillsville, Clark County, WI 518 Hewett Street #4 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neillsville, Clark County, WI October 20, 1997 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neq. at WI State Historical Society June 1, 1998 Camera facing northwest Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west Photo 3 of 22 Hewett and Woods General Store Photo 7 of 22 502 Hewett Street #1 Bank & C.C. Sniteman Drug Store Neillsville, Clark County, WI 522 & 528 Hewett Street #5 & #6 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neillsville, Clark County, WI June 1, 1998 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neg. at WI State Historical Society June 1, 1998 Camera facing west Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west Photo 4 of 22 Lowe Brothers Meat/Feed Photo 8 of 22 508 Hewett Street #2 Clark County Bank Neillsville, Clark County, WI 522 Hewett Street #5 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neillsville, Clark County, WI June 1, 1998 Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga Neg. at WI State Historical Society June 1, 1998 Camera facing west

Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section: Photos Page: 2

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark Co., WI

Photo 9 of 22 C.C. Sniteman Drug Store 528 Hewett Street #6 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west

Photo 10 of 22 Commercial State Bank 534 Hewett Street #7 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west

Photo 11 of 22. Neillsville Bank 538 Hewett Street #8 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing west

Photo 12 of 22 Neillsville Bank north elevation 538 Hewett Street #8

Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing south Photo 13 of 22 West side of 500 block of Hewett Street Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing southwest

Photo 14 of 22 Varieties Store 118 W. 6th Street #9 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga February 23, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing south

Photo 15 of 22 East side of 500 block of Hewett Street Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing southeast

Photo 16 of 22 Mark Kappelan Block 551 Hewett Street #10 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing east

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section: Photos Page: 3

Neillsville Downtown Historic District Neillsville, Clark Co., WI

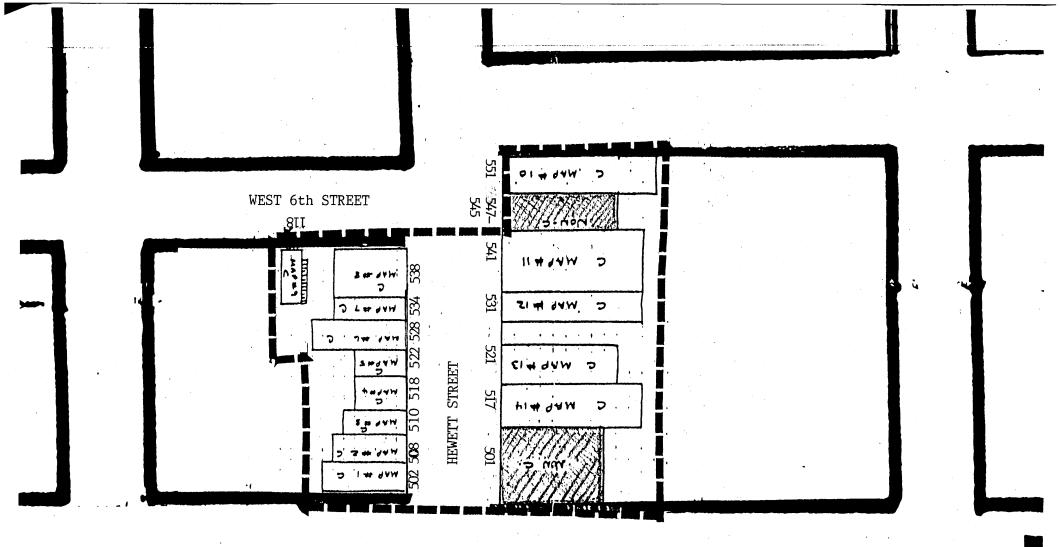
Photo 17 of 22 Mark Kappelan Block - north elev 551 Hewett Street #10 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing southeast

Photo 18 of 22 Emery Bruley Clothing Store 541 Hewett Street #11 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga February 23, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing east

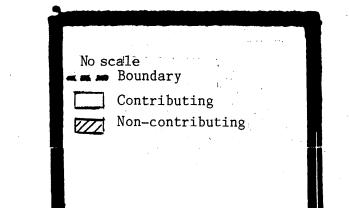
Photo 19 of 22 Republican Press 531 Hewett Street #12 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga February 23, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing east

Photo 20 of 22 Hein & Beaulieu's Dry Goods Store 517 Hewett Street #14 Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing east Photo 21 of 22 East side of 500 block of Hewett Street Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga June 1, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing northeast

Photo 22 of 22 Dewhurst Block 521 Hewett Street Neillsville, Clark County, WI Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga February 23, 1998 Neg. at WI State Historical Society Camera facing east



WEST 5th STREET



North

NEILLSVILLE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT CLARK COUNTY, WISCONSIN